

## Operation Cedar Falls

Dates: 8 JAN 1967 - 27 JAN 1967

**Area of Operations:** Iron Triangle and Thanh Dien Forest Reserve; Binh Duong Province, Hau Nghia Province, Tay Ninh Province; III Corps

**Allied Units:** US Army 2d & 3d Brigades 1st Infantry Division, 3d Brigade 4th Infantry Division, 1st Division 26th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 196th Infantry Brigade, 173d Airborne Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; ARVN 5th Division; VN Navy 3d Riverine Company

**Allied Casualties:** US 72 KIA, 337 WIA; RVN 11 KIA, 8 WIA

**Enemy Units:** VC 165th Regiment, 272d Regiment

**Enemy Casualties:** 720-750 KIA, 280-488 POW

**Objective:** Search and destroy VC elements near Saigon

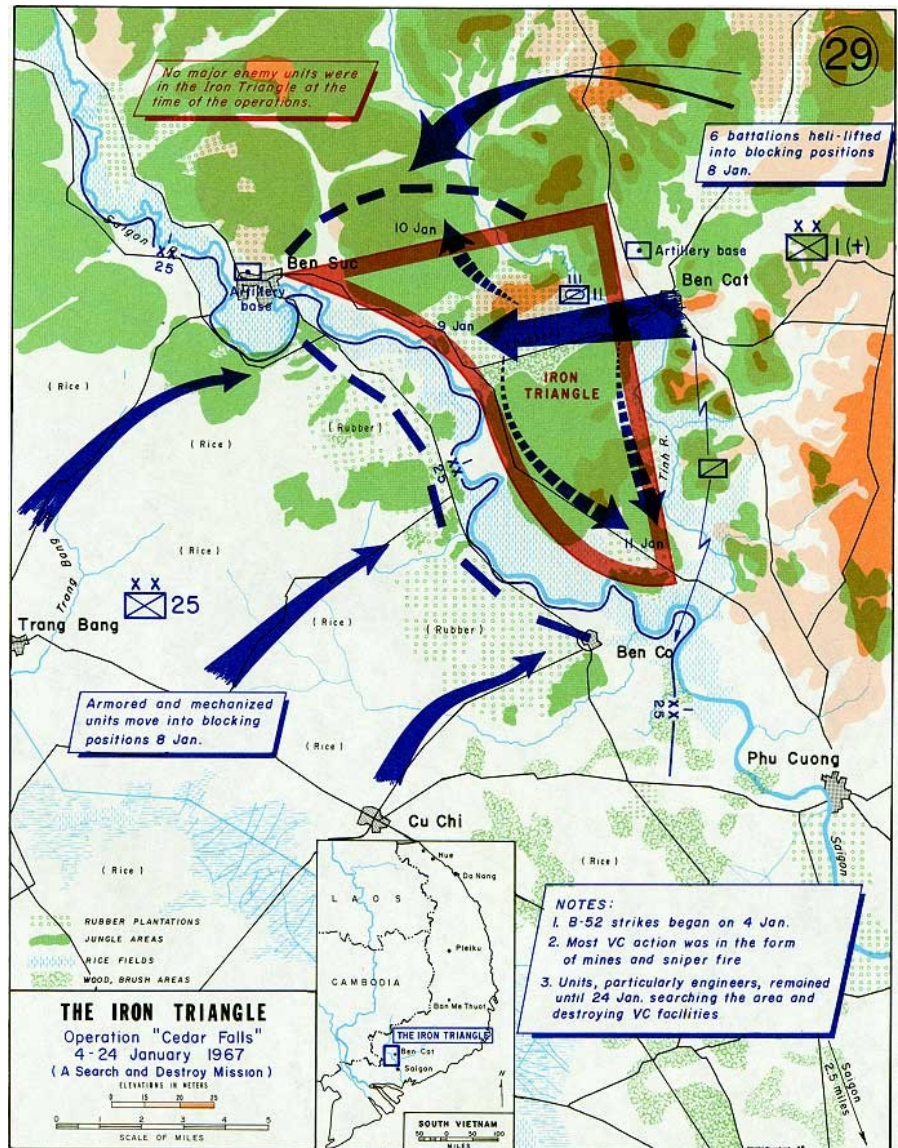
**Significance/Notes:** Operation Cedar Falls was a two phase operation using the hammer and anvil tactic. During the operation, American forces found a widespread and intricate tunnel complex. In the end, Cedar Falls seemed to have little to no long lasting effects on the VC presence in the Iron Triangle area.

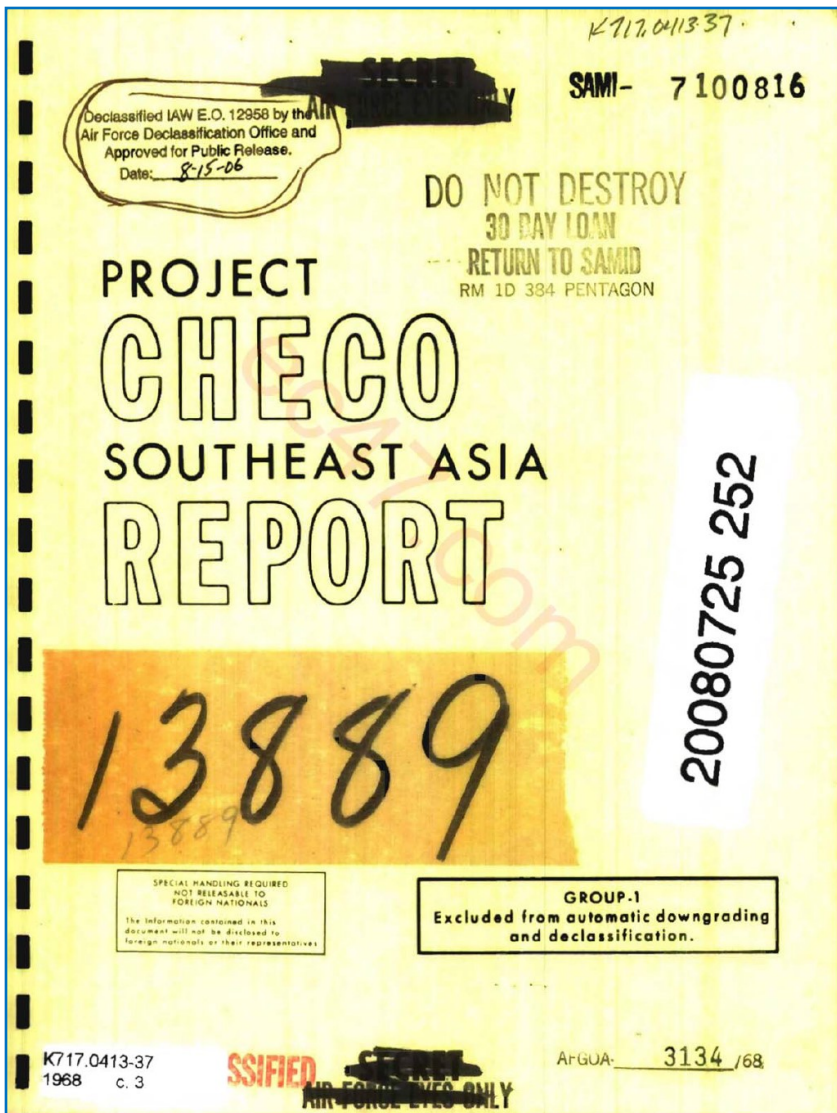
**Sources:**

[The Vietnam Center and Archive](http://www.vietnamcenterandarchive.org/) (at Texas Tech Univ)

*Vietnam War Almanac* by James H. Willbanks

<http://vietnamwarera.com/post/51748627330>





Excerpts from

Chapter 5

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

USAF ARDF Program Matures: 1967-1968

The USAF ARDF program reached its full proportions in 1967, as the programmed 47 EC-47 aircraft became available. They flew 10,891 sorties during 1967, of which 2,574 were flown over Laos and 478 in the area off North Vietnam. By August 1967, the crews would point to a record of 25,000 fixes and 10,000 missions, since the program begun in May 1966.

One report of the effectiveness of the EC-47 came during a conversation between Gen. William W. Momyer, Commander, 7AF, and Col. Robert G. Williams, Commander 460th TRW, in May 1967. Colonel Williams quoted General Momyer to the TEWS personnel:

*"...I want all personnel in this mission to know that the primary and basic source of intelligence in this country comes from COMPASS DART (now COMBAT COUGAR) and I want the people in these squadrons to know it."*

Recurring reports from the ground commanders supported General Momyer's statement. Not all of the reports are used in this study. Only those which give an insight into ARDF in one of its dimensions are considered at length; other typical operations which repeat points already made are summarized.

One of the war's major operations in 1967 was the two-phase Operation JUNCTION CITY in Tay Ninh Province. Several divisions, supported by 5,002 tactical air and 126 ARC LIGHT strikes, hit the enemy in an area reported to be the center of important Viet Cong activities. U.S. and Allied Forces claims 2,728 Viet Cong and NVA dead, 99 prisoners and 137 returnee, plus a considerable amount of enemy material destroyed or captured.

During the first phase of JUNCTION CITY, UASF and Army aircraft contributed 903 "immediate interest" fixes in an 1,558 ARDF total. The II Field Force planners used the fixes to plan their operations. On 5 March, an ARC LIGHT strike hit "the center of a mass of ARDF fixes". As many as 476 rounds of various types of artillery fire hit six fixes over a ten-day period. In the second phase of JUNCTION CITY, there were 1869 "immediate interest" fixes in a total of 2,850. The ARDF information alerted the ground forces to an enemy move culminating in "human wave" attacks on 17 March and on 1 April. The alerted ground forces killed 777 of the enemy.

[http://ec47.com/storage/UserFileFolder/CHECO EC-47 in SEA \[1968\].pdf](http://ec47.com/storage/UserFileFolder/CHECO EC-47 in SEA [1968].pdf)

<http://ec47.com/storage/UserFileFolder/Top 10 04.pdf>