

## COMBINED ACTION PROGRAM, VIETNAM

### A Bibliography of MHI Sources

Initiated by U.S. Marines in Vietnam. In theory, a marine rifle squad and a medical corpsman combined with a Vietnamese Popular Force platoon to provide continuous local security for villages in the tactical zone. The marines lived in the villages, trained the local militia, and conducted patrols and ambushes, both day and night. Begun in Aug 1965 with a single platoon, the program expanded as marine volunteers were specially trained and organized into Combined Action Platoons. Squads from the platoons then combined with Vietnamese forces to form Combined Action Companies. By 1969, the number of platoons reached 102, organized into 19 companies under four Combined Action Groups, numbered 1st through 4th. See:

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**NOTE ON ARMY INVOLVEMENT:** The U.S. Army does not appear to have been directly involved in the program. Gen Westmoreland, MACV Cmdr, reported that he encouraged Marine expansion of the program. However, in retrospect, he clearly stated that, despite its success, he had been unwilling to fully implement the program because it would have fragmented American forces. See:

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