

## 16Sep69-Enemy Toll Heavy After Hamlet Attacks

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SAIGON U.S. and Vietnamese troops killed 116 North Vietnamese Saturday after the Communists had taken a heavy toll in civilian lives and homes during attacks on a refugee camp and a group of hamlets 65 miles southeast of Da Nang, the U.S. military command reported Sunday.

Two Communist companies began the attacks by storming a Marine Combined Action Platoon night camp and a Vietnamese regional forces outpost near An Hoa at 4 a.m.

The besieged allied posts called in Marine jets and Air Force Spooky gunships, spokesmen reported while Americal Div. troops and 2nd Div. Vietnamese soldiers were sent up and reinforced the defenders sometime later.

The Reds reportedly breached the wire of the night position but were repulsed in what was called "heavy" fighting.

While the attack against the allied units was underway, more Communists, estimated by the Vietnamese government to be the balance of a larger-than-battalion-sized force, attacked a refugee camp at the foot of the outpost. The Communists also overran several nearby hamlets.

The Reds burned 260 homes in the refugee camp and Vietnamese spokesmen reported that eight civilians had been killed. It was not certain if the civilians were popular force troops or not.

Fighting continued until about 3 p.m. when the Communists finally withdrew to the west - the same direction from which they had attacked.

U.S. casualties in the fight were listed as two killed and three wounded, all from the Combined Action platoon, which normally consists of 12 Marines, a Navy medic and about 30 Vietnamese militiamen.