



US MARINES

IN "NAM"
(1968)



The background of the entire image is a stylized American flag with a distressed, paper-like texture. The top-left corner features a blue canton with a grid of white stars. The rest of the flag consists of alternating horizontal stripes of red and white. The text is overlaid on this background.

UNITED STATES

HISTORY

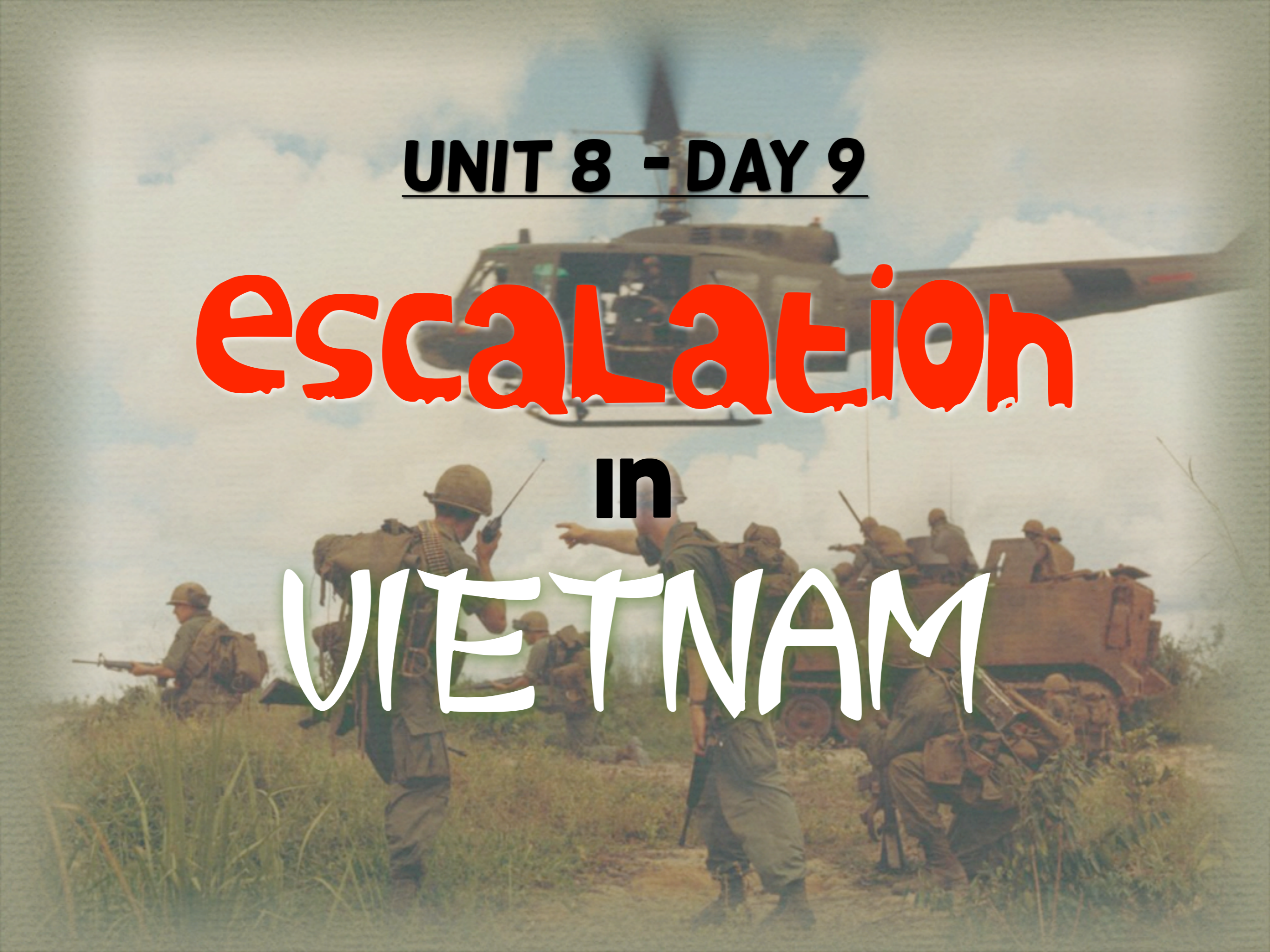
with Mr. Willis

UNIT 8 - DAY 9

escalation

in

VIETNAM





● Haiphong

HAMBURGER HILL (1969)

17th Parallel

KHE SANH (1968)

GULF OF TONKIN (1964)

Ho Chi Minh Trail

TET OFFENSIVE (1968)

● Saigon

SAIGON (1968)



Vietnam

****TOP SECRET****
MAJOR BATTLES IN VIETNAM

US TROOPS ENTER THE

WAR

1965 - LBJ IS **COMPELLED** TO SEND
180,000 US TROOPS TO FIGHT IN VIETNAM

LBJ VIOLATED A CAMPAIGN PROMISE AND HIS OWN
CONSCIENCE, BUT 61% AMERICANS SUPPORTED IT

**GEN. WESTMORELAND, US COMMANDER IN
VIETNAM, ASKED LBJ FOR MORE TROOPS**

HE BELIEVED THAT SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES
COULDN'T WITHSTAND THE VIETCONG W/O US SUPPORT

THE VIETCONG COULD BE **OVERWHELMED** W/
MORE US GROUND FORCES & SUPERIOR WEAPONRY

**HOPING FOR QUICK VICTORY, LBJ
COMPLIED AND INSTITUTED A DRAFT**

BY 1967, OVER 500,000 US TROOPS WERE ON
THE GROUND IN SOUTH VIETNAM



BUT THE PRESENCE OF SO MANY US FORCES DID NOT RESULT IN EASY VICTORY AS WAS HOPED...

VERY QUICKLY, THE VIETNAM WAR BECAME A WAR OF ATTRITION



determined, The VIETCONG used The TERRAIN TO THEIR advantage



VIETCONG TACTICS WOULD INFLICT MASSIVE CASUALTIES TO US TROOPS



SO LET'S ANALYZE...

VIETCONG TACTICS

THE VIETCONG EMPLOYED **GUERRILLA WARFARE** AND **"HIT AND RUN"** TACTICS

THEY USED THE THICK JUNGLE TO **AMBUSH US TROOPS** & IT MADE IT HARD TO HIT THEM BACK

VIETCONG FORCES LIVED IN THE POPULATION, MAKING IT HARD TO DISTINGUISH WHO WAS WHO

ON THE BATTLEFIELD, THE VIETCONG DUG INTRICATE **DEFENSIVE TUNNEL SYSTEMS**

THESE TUNNELS ALLOWED VIETCONG FORCES TO **WITHSTAND AIRSTRIKES** & LAUNCH SURPRISE ATTACKS

IT ALSO CONNECTED VILLAGES AND ALLOWED **GUERRILLAS** TO HIDE FROM US FORCES OR **SET TRAPS**

THE VIETCONG **DISARMED AND REUSED** US LAND MINES AND BOMBS AS **BOOBY TRAPS**



THE ENDLESS WAR

BY 1966, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT THE US HAD **UNDERESTIMATED** THE VIETCONG

GEN. WESTMORELAND THOUGHT THE VIETCONG WOULD **SURRENDER** IF HIT HARD OVER A LONG TIME TO HIM, THE SOLUTION WAS SIMPLY TO **INCREASE** US GROUND FORCES AND **ESCALATE** AIRSTRIKES

THE **VIETCONG** SAW THE WAR AS A **FIGHT FOR SURVIVAL** AND REMAINED **DEFIANT**

THEY COULD **HIDE FROM AIRSTRIKES**, PATIENTLY SET **AMBUSHES AND TRAPS** AND INFLICT CASUALTIES

WESTMORELAND'S STRATEGY OF **ATTRITION** BEGAN TO **BACKFIRE** & **US MORALE SUNK**

US TROOPS **BECAME WEARY** OF GUERRILLA WARFARE AND GROWING CASUALTIES **ERODED THEIR WILL TO FIGHT**



**PRESIDENT JOHNSON WAS TORN B/W PERSONAL
CONVICTION AND POLITICAL DUTY**

**he FELT immense PRESSURE NOT
To BE The 1ST POTUS TO LOSE a WAR**



**BUT HIS PERSONAL CONVICTIONS made
him WEARY OF LOSING MORE US LIVES**



**STILL, he WAS defiantLY deTERMINed
TO CONTain COMMUNISM IN VIETNAM**



AND THAT LEADS TO...



GULF OF TONKIN
(1964)

Vietnam



OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER

THE **US** **PUSH** **BEGINS**

1965-1968: US FORCES WAGE THE MOST INTENSE AIR/GROUND BATTLE OF COLD WAR

OVER 800K TONS OF BOMBS ARE DROPPED ON VIETCONG TARGETS (MORE THAN ALL OF KOREAN WAR)

FOR 3 YEARS, US AIRSTRIKES AND **CARPET BOMBING** HIT VIETCONG **BASES** & **CONVOYS**

THE AIRSTRIKES WERE ACCOMPANIED BY GROUND ASSAULTS INTO ENEMY VILLAGES AND DEFENSES

OPERATION ROLLING THUNDER HAD 4 GOALS:

- #1** BOOST US TROOP **MORALE** & PUBLIC OPINION AT HOME
- #2** END SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE **VIETCONG**
- #3** DESTROY VIETCONG INDUSTRIAL BASES AND **SUPPLY ROADS**
- #4** CUT OFF VIETCONG SUPPLY LINES TO THE SOUTH



chemical WARFARE

TO ELIMINATE THE **ADVANTAGE OF TERRAIN**,
US FORCES EMPLOY A **DEFOLIATION ASSAULT**

USING HERBICIDES AND CHEMICALS TO DESTROY JUNGLE
COVER AND EXPOSE ENEMY POSITIONS, KILL VIETCONG

US USED **NAPALM** AND “**AGENT ORANGE**”
FROM THE AIR TO WIPE OUT JUNGLES

BY 1971, 20 MILLION GALLONS OF POISONS WERE
SPRAYED ON SOUTH VIETNAM, LAOS, CAMBODIA

EXTREMELY POTENT, THESE CHEMICALS KILLED
1000S OF CIVILIANS AND GAVE CANCER TO US VETS

THE NEXT PHASE SAW US FORCES USE
“**SEARCH AND DESTROY**” TACTICS

VILLAGES WERE RAIDED, SEARCHED, HOMES & CROPS
BURNED, LIVESTOCK KILLED, CIVILIANS MURDERED



NEW US TACTICS IN VIETNAM



THE TET OFFENSIVE

1/30/1968 - ON THE VIETNAMESE LUNAR
NEW YEAR, THE VIETCONG SURPRISE ATTACK

USING THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL, 10KS OF VIETCONG
SNEAK INTO THE SOUTH & ATTACK CITIES/US BASES
THEY VIOLATED OF A WEEKLONG TRUCE CALLED TO
CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY & USED IT AS A COVER

12 US BASES AND THE US EMBASSY
WERE ATTACKED, 3000 US CASUALTIES
IT TOOK A MONTH FOR US & SOUTH VIETNAMESE
TROOPS TO DRIVE THE VIETCONG OUT (32K NV KIA)

WHILE A MILITARY VICTORY FOR THE US,
IT WAS A DEVASTATING PSYCHOLOGICAL
DEFEAT FOR US (THE WAR WAS NEVER THE SAME)





THE **WAR** TURNS

THE **TET OFFENSIVE** EXPOSED A GROWING **CREDIBILITY GAP** IN LBJ'S WHITE HOUSE

THEY HAD INSISTED THE VIETCONG WERE NEAR SURRENDER, BUT THEY STAGE A MASSIVE OFFENSIVE???

AFTER TET, AMERICAN **PUBLIC OPINION** FOR JOHNSON AND THE WAR **PLUMMET**

MODERATES AND WAR "HAWKS" TURN INTO "DOVES" AND CALL FOR AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL

MOST AMERICANS TORN B/W WITHDRAWAL & DISHONOR

THE MEDIA CRITICIZED THE WAR, SHOWED CASUALTY COUNTS & **COFFINS** NIGHTLY



"IF I'VE LOST WALTER CRONKITE, THEN IT'S OVER. I'VE LOST MR. AVERAGE CITIZEN."



THE VIETNAM WAR

DEBRIEFING

Explain how you might have felt toward the Vietnam War in 1968 and justify the reasoning behind your opinion.