

# 3/26 praised

PHU BAI — Major General Hoang Xuan Lam, I Corps Headquarters, conveyed his commendations to the 3rd Battalion Twenty-Sixth Marine Regiment, in a letter sent Jan. 2, to Lieutenant General Lewis W. Walt, commanding general, III Marine Amphibious Force.

General Lam, commanding general of the I Corps Tactical Zone, cited the battalion for its gallant actions during Operation Chinook near the ancient capital of Hue.

During the early part of the Operation, the Viet Cong attacked the battalion perimeter with 60mm mortars from the Phong Dien District, 27 miles north of Phu Bai. The infantry companies sent a counter-attack against the VC, killing 27 and capturing 20 enemy weapons.

Later in the day, the Viet Cong launched another attack on the battalion from the same area. The Leathernecks killed 32 more and captured an additional 21 weapons.

For three nights, the VC lobbed in more than 900 mortar rounds on the battalion positions.

The Twenty-Sixth Regiment Marines, over the three-day period, killed a total of 156 Viet Cong, apprehended five more, and captured more than 50 weapons (including machine guns and mortars), and some 200 grenades.