

8/30/69

## Reinforcements Pour In To Help Snap Red Trap

SAIGON (AP) — Massive new reinforcements poured Saturday into jungled ridges 31 miles south of Da Nang, virtually doubling the size of an Allied force attempting to trap a North Vietnamese army division.

Just after daybreak about 1,500 U.S. Marines and South Vietnamese troops were moved into the area near the key district town of Hiep Duc where heavy fighting has continued since Aug. 17.

The sudden move essentially placed a task force of about 3,000 Allied troops on four sides of a jungled complex of hill roughly 2½ miles long on the northern edge of Hiep Duc Valley.

First Marine Division sources said sharp fighting in the valley and on the lower slopes in recent days indicates a heavy concentration of enemy, possibly most of the 2nd North Vietnamese Army Division that Allied officers say already has lost up to 1,000 killed in the two weeks of fighting near Hiep Duc.

### Key Target

The key target of the allied task force is the center hill, a 1,270-foot peak called Dzo Ram by the Vietnamese and Hill 381 on military maps.

At dusk Friday, a reinforced Marine reconnaissance team took over abandoned fire support base Ryder which is about two miles north of Deo Ram. Troops and artillery pieces began moving in by helicopter at daybreak Saturday.

Ryder's reactivation will give the U.S. forces three artillery bases within close range of the suspected enemy positions. The others are the American Division's Landing Zones West and Center, which are 2½ miles south and four miles southeast respectively of Deo Ram.