

BERET CAMPS TRANSFERRED

Saigon, South Vietnam, Jan. 4 (AP) - The saga of the Green Berets in Vietnam came to an end today with the transfer of the last two Special Forces camps to the South Vietnamese.

The move reflected the Vietnamization of the war and the downgrading of the Green Berets, currently out of favor with United States Army regulars.

At their peak, the Green Berets operated 80 camps in South Vietnam, mostly near the borders of Laos and Cambodia.

At each of the camps, a small team of Green Berets recruited and commanded civilian irregular mercenaries, largely mountain tribesmen.

Some of the camps have been closed in the last two years and others have been turned over to the South Vietnamese border ranger command.

The camps were used as bases to detect North Vietnamese infiltration, to keep an eye on enemy movements in Laos and Cambodia and to make clandestine forays across the borders on hit-and-run raids or for reconnaissance.

(Clipping filed Green Berets.)