

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY  
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96262

AVDDB-121

31 January 1970

SUBJECT: Operational report - Lessons Learned for the period ending 31  
January 1970 (RCS CS for-65 RI)

Commanding Officer  
2d Brigade, 4th Inf Div  
APO San Francisco 96262

Section I (C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

1. (C) General: During the reporting period, the "Red Warriors" were primarily engaged in search and destroy operations.

a. Task Organization as of 1 November 1969. Companies A,B,C,D,E, 1-12 Infantry with B Battery 4th Bn, 42d Artillery DS and the 2d Platoon Co C 4th Engr Bn attached.

b. Chronological Task Organization changes:

|        |        |              |
|--------|--------|--------------|
| 26 Dec | ADD    | 1C/4-42 Arty |
| 2 Jan  | ADD    | C/1-22       |
| 4 Jan  | ADD    | 1A/1-22      |
|        | ADD    | 3A/1-22      |
| 7 Jan  | ADD    | 2A/1-22      |
| 13 Jan | DELETE | A/1-22       |
|        | DELETE | C/1-22       |
|        | DELETE | 1C/4-42 Arty |

c. Commanders and Principal Staff.

|     |        |                        |                            |
|-----|--------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| (1) | Bn CO  | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70  | LTC John B. Cottingham Jr. |
| (2) | Bn XO  | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70  | MAJ John J. Gaudelli       |
| (3) | Bn S-1 | 1 Nov 69 to 13 Nov 69  | CPT John R. Lovett         |
|     |        | 14 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70 | CPT Frank K. Williams      |
| (4) | Bn S-2 | 1 Nov 69 to 4 Jan 70   | CPT Michael Laberteaux     |
|     |        | 5 Jan 70 to 31 Jan 70  | No Officer Assigned        |
| (5) | Bn S-3 | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70  | MAJ Gordon S. Axelson      |

GP 4 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

*Downgraded at 3 yr intervals*  
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
*Declassified after 12 years*

|      |         |                        |                            |
|------|---------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| (6)  | Bn S-4  | 1 Nov 69 to 21 Nov 69  | CPT Billy S. Tucker        |
|      |         | 22 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70 | CPT Cecil W. Boatwright    |
| (7)  | Bn S-5  | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Nov 69  | CPT James B. Respicio      |
|      |         | 1 Dec 69 to 31 Jan 70  | 1LT Rodney L. Williams     |
| (8)  | CO HHC  | 1 Nov 69 to 28 Nov 69  | CPT Richard D. Myers       |
|      |         | 29 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70 | 1LT Louis J. Perry         |
| (9)  | CO Co A | 1 Nov 69 to 22 Nov 69  | CPT Cecil W. Boatwright    |
|      |         | 22 Nov 69 to 12 Dec 69 | CPT David V. O'Brien       |
|      |         | 13 Dec 69 to 31 Dec 70 | CPT Benjamin D. Koerselman |
| (10) | CO Co B | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70  | CPT James R. Childs        |
| (11) | CO Co C | 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70  | CPT Sterling McColgin      |
| (12) | CO Co D | 1 Nov 69 to 19 Dec 69  | CPT Gary L. Weber          |
|      |         | 20 Dec 69 to 31 Jan 70 | CPT Charles H. Rose        |
| (13) | CO Co E | 1 Nov 69 to 21 Nov 69  | CPT David V. O'Brien       |
|      |         | 21 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70 | 1LT Ernest Jones           |

d. Mission:

(1) The mission of the "Red Warriors" during the reporting period was search and destroy. From 1 Nov 69 to 17 Jan 70 the battalion operated from LZ Tape (48P BS7413) in the An Lao Valley. From 21 Jan 70 to 31 Jan 70, the "Red Warriors" operated in Base Area 226 (BR6480-BR8280-BR6452-BR8254), with the mission of locating and destroying elements of the 18th NVA Division.

2. (C) Intelligence

a. During the period 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70, 1/12 Inf operated in 2 areas (1) East of Kontum (LZ Tape BS7413), (2) area north east of An Khe (LZ Sherida BR6955).

b. From 1 Nov 69 - thru 15 Jan 70 the 1/12 Inf operated East of Kontum with the Battalion Fire Base located at LZ Tape enemy activity for this period was from light to moderate. Intelligence reports generated at all levels added to the activity within the "Red Warrior" AO indicated the enemy was withdrawing to the north. Intelligence reports during this period continued to locate enemy elements of the 3rd NVA Div to the north of the "Red Warrior" AO. Also because of the relative security afforded by the mountainous terrain to the north the enemy had a base of operation for regrouping, receiving supplies and equipment,

replacements, he could also locate stock food and ammo caches for future operations.

c. **Terrain:** From 1 Nov 69 to 17 Jan 70 the "Red Warrior" AO was dominated by the An Lao Valley and bounded on the east and west by mountain ranges. The mountains offer good cover and concealment as the rock formations form natural caves that provide excellent protection. The valley floor has not been cultivated for several years and because of this the grass and brush provides good cover and concealment and limits visibility in most areas.

From 21 Jan to 31 Jan 70, the 1/12 Inf was located in Base Area 226, primarily a mountainous region with elevations ranging from 200 meters to a maximum of 1000 meters. However the southeast corner of the area is a coastal lowland with an average elevation of 50 meters. The vegetation is primarily of multiple canopy, dense undergrowth forest and brushwoods in the mountainous areas.

d. **Weather:** During the period 1 Nov 69 through 15 Jan 70 the weather was very cool with rain showers; visibility was generally poor in the morning hours, and winds were variable 10-25 knots per hour. From 21 Jan 70 to 31 Jan 70 at FSB Sherida the weather was excellent with generally unrestricted visibility and light variable winds 5-10 knots.

3. (C) **Operations:** Between 1 Nov 69 and 17 Jan 70, the "Red Warriors" operated at LZ Tape conducting search and destroy operations in the An Lao Valley.

a. While in this area the "Red Warriors" set-up numerous company size Patrol Bases while conducting sweeps, ambushes and short range patrols.

On 21 Jan 70 the "Red Warriors" operations in Base Area 226 at LZ Sherida targeted against elements of the 18th NVA Division.

b. The following significant events occurred during the An Lao Valley operation PUTNAM WILDCAT:

November

On 1 Nov 69 the 1/12 Inf returned to the operational control of the 2d Bde, 4th Inf Div. This change of control ended the "Red Warriors" participation in Operation Washington Green, attached to the 173d Abn Bde. The change in operational control did not significantly alter the mode of operation of the Battalion and the 1/12 Inf continued intensive search and destroy operations in an effort to interdict the enemies infiltration and resupply routes through the An Lao Valley into the Bong Son Plain area.

On 1 Nov 69, at BS768189, D Co observed 3 enemy crossing a stream from the north, artillery and small arms were employed. When sweeping the area they found 1 KIA, and 1 enemy soldier surrendered bringing with him 1 B40 launcher with sight. Interrogation of the Chieu Hoi revealed that he was a part of a company size element moving through the area, (2d Bn, 2d Rgt). The Chieu Hoi also indicated that 3 other members of his unit had been KIA by artillery in support of D Co.

On 2 Nov 69, (at BS746105 B Co SRP observed an estimated 20 individuals, VC/NVA, with rucksacks and small arms to include 1 light machine gun. Artillery and 4.2" mortar fire as well as small arms were employed. A sweep of the area produced negative results or findings. 3rd Plat C Co found 7 graves at BS695166. 3 were very new and 4 approximately 2 weeks old. All were killed by artillery fired by B Battery 4/42 from FSB Tape, in support of operations conducted by C and D Co's in the immediate area.

On 3 Nov 69, C Co engaged 3 enemy in the vicinity of BS703167 with small arms and gunships. A search of the area revealed fresh blood on a tree but negative further.

On 4 Nov 69, the 2d Plat of B Co engaged 5 enemy in a cave complex at BS754085 resulting in 1 enemy KIA; 3 WIA CIA; 1 Hoi Chanh; 2 AK-47's CIA. The Co CP and 3rd Plat moved in to reinforce the contact. In the vicinity of BS778101 the Recon Plat engaged 3-4 enemy. Small arms fire was exchanged and artillery was employed. A sweep of the area produced negative results.

On 5 Nov B Co(-) continued to work the cave complex, discovering 5 more enemy KIA from the previous day; 1500 lbs of rice CIA which was destroyed. The Recon Plat at BS783098 spotted and engaged 1 individual with small arms. The enemy employed small arms and grenades from 2 or 3 different locations. Artillery was employed on the SEL. Results include 2 possible enemy KIA and 2 US slightly WIA. The US WIA resulted from approximately 6 grenades thrown by the enemy.

On 14 Nov, while conducting a RIF vicinity 757902 the 1st sqd of the Recon Plat surprised and captured 1 VC/NVA carrying 2 US grenades.

On 15 Nov in the vicinity of BS765163 the 3rd Plat C Co engaged 2 enemy observed following the platoon. The enemy fled with unknown results. Shortly thereafter 3 enemy were sighted approximately 150 meters out and were engaged with small arms with unknown results.

On 17 November, in the vicinity of BS783093 the 2d Plat A Co found a fresh grave containing 1 enemy killed by artillery approximately 1 week old. At approximately 1354H A Co initiated contact with an estimated 9-11 enemy; small arms fire was exchanged as were grenades, resulting in 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA. While moving from the landing zone in the same vicinity 2d Plat A Co engaged 1 enemy with small arms. The result was 1 enemy KIA. 2d Plat D Co spotted 4 individuals at BS773182, and artillery was employed. 1st Plat D Co swept the area and captured 1 enemy wearing US fatigues, that had been wounded by artillery. At 1732H the POW died resulting in 1 enemy KIA.

On 18 Nov, A Co continued to search area of contact of previous day. At BS783097 they engaged 1 individual resulting in 1 KIA. At BS782099 enemy initiated small arms fire. Small arms fire was exchange with negative friendly casualties and unknown enemy losses. Recon Plat while conducting intensive Ivy patrolling in the vicinity of BS753070 sighted 3 VC/NVA, however, while moving toward the enemy location darkness fell.

## December

On 2 Dec 69, the Recon Plat at BS744168, found the remains of 6 individuals approximately 1 month old. The remains were evidence of the 29 Oct 69 contact D Co had in the immediate area. Extensive 4.2" mortar fire has been employed with very significant results. A SRP from C Co at BS749087 found 1 KIA NVA in a hammock that appeared to have been dead for approximately 6 months. Recon Plat at BS702094 on 9 Dec while checking out a trail and a rice field, engaged 2 VC/NVA at a distance of 40 meters, killing one. At BS703092 they engaged another enemy with negative results.

On 10 Dec, the Recon Plat vicinity BS 707099 engaged 1 VC/NVA at 75 meters with small arms, a search of the area produced negative results.

On 14 Dec, A Co at BS787106 received 2 bursts of automatic weapons fire resulting in 1 US WIA. Small arms fire was returned and artillery employed. A sweep of the area produced negative results.

Third Plat C Co engaged 1 individual on 18 Dec at approximately 150 meters, vicinity BS677208. A sweep of the area produced 2 NVA rucksacks with bullet holes in them.

On 20 Dec, 3rd Plat C Co engaged 2 individuals in the vicinity of BS719218 resulting in 1 KIA.

On 22 Dec, 2 Plat B Co while conducting an Ivy patrol in the vicinity of BS770209 engaged 1 individual with small arms. The individual fled in an unknown direction but was believed to have been wounded. 2d Plat C Co while Ivy patrolling vicinity BS667213 observed 5 individuals at approximately 500 meters. They were engaged with 4.2" mortars, gunships and small arms resulting in 2 enemy KIA, 1 CIA and 1 AK-47 CIA.

On 23 Dec, vicinity of BS762212 the 2d Plat of B Co while conducting intensive Ivy patrolling along a recently used path, initiated contact with an unknown size enemy element resulting in 4 enemy KIA. The 2d Plat C Co at BS674213 spotted 3 individuals with weapons at approximately 800 meters. They employed 4.2" mortar fire. A sweep of the area produced 1 Chicom radio similar to a PRC-25.

On 24 Dec, 2d Plat B Co while checking area of contact, (BS764222), found miscellaneous equipment, several bunkers, 2 fresh graves, resulting in 2 more enemy KIA. At BS764219 they received small arms fire and 1 B40 rocket resulting in 3 US WIA and 1 US KIA. The enemy B40 gunner was KIA. A further search and development of the area was delayed due to the Christmas Cease Fire period. One light machine gun CIA.

A Co on 26 Dec while checking a small bunker complex in the vicinity of 756223 engaged and captured a wounded enemy soldier.

On 27 Dec 69, 1st Plat C Co at 675215 spotted 6 VC in the open near the river at that location. Small arms fire was employed and 7 more came into the open. 4.2" mortars were employed resulting in 2 possible KIA. Third Plat D Co at 701220 while checking fresh signs engaged 4 individuals, believed 2 male and 2 female, resulting in 1 enemy KIA.

1st Plat C Co on 29 Dec 69, at BS674207, found a fresh grave estimated to be 1 day old. The individual had been killed by machine gun fire. It is believed the individual was killed during the contact of 27 Dec.

On 31 Dec 69, a sqd size ambush from 2d Plat B Co at coordinates 728148 detected the movement of persons 20-30 meters out. Ambush was sprung employing fragmentation grenades, M-16 and M-79. Automatic weapons fire was directed at the ambush with negative friendly casualties. Enemy losses unknown.

## January

On 1 Jan 70, a sqd size element in a defensive ambush in the vicinity of BS682207 while returning to their Patrol Base, surprised and detained 1 enemy who appeared to be observing the company perimeter.

On 2 Jan, the 1/12 Inf began operations with C Co 1/22 Inf attached, in the northern An Lao Valley. At approximately 1600H vicinity BS677199, 2d Plat C Co 1/12 sighted 5-7 individuals in an open potato field, they were engaged with small arms and gunships. The enemy fled to the treeline and a sweep of the area produced 1 duffle bag and a blood trail leading to the west. The blood trail was followed until lost in a rocky area; a further search was halted due to darkness.

On 4 Jan 70, a-1/22 was attached to the 1/12 continuing intensive search and destroy missions in the upper An Lao Valley. A Co 1/12 a patrol Base, coordinates 781193 recieved at 2030H 4 rounds of 81mm mortar fire from the north-east. Artillery and 81mm mortars were employed with unknown enemy casualties. There were 6 US WIA resulting from the enemy attack. D Co 1/12 while conducting intensive Ivy patrols in the vicinity of BS696238 found numerous fresh signs of enemy activity around the bunker complex. 3-6 enemy were observed fleeing from 1 hootch and were taken under fire with small arms. The results were 1 enemy KIA and 1 AK-47 CIA. There were no friendly casualties.

On 5 Jan 1st Plat C Co at the coordinates 667216 sighted and engaged 10-15 enemy with M-16 and machine gun fire, approximately 600 meters away. The KEL was 663215 on a trail running along the An Lao River. Third Plat C Co 1/12 was air lifted to BS662216 and swept through the contact area, finding 7 rucksacks filled with rice. C Co 1/22 along with the TAC CP 1/12 at 687243 recieved 5-6 bursts of enemy initiated automatic weapons fire, and machine gun fire 10-15 meters from the point element. Machine gun and small arms fire was returned with no friendly casualties taken and unknown enemy losses.

On 6 Jan c-1/12 sweeping the area of contact from previous day found 1 enemy KIA, believed from the previous day and 1 more rucksack bringing the total to 8. C Co 1/22 and the TAC CP 1/12 while developing a massive bunker complex vicinity 691240, of 50-60 fighters 1 week old, engaged and 1 enemy soldier with 1 AK-47 CIA. No US casualties resulted.

On 9 Jan D Co conducting intensive Ivy patrols came upon a booby trap at BS703253. Two mine shaped charges were found on an LZ to be command detonated upon the entry of a helicopter. It is noted that though numerous booby traps of the whip variety, punji pits and punji stakes along the trails, this was only the second incident of an explosive booby trap found in the An Lao Valley area. The other was also found by D-1/12 on 6 Jan in vicinity 691241. In that case a trip wire was attached to a Chicom grenade that malfunctioned when tripped. Both the booby traps were in the upper extremes of the An Lao Valley near the II Corp border. The Recon Platoon 1/12 conducting extensive Ivy patrols vicinity 677235 discovered numerous trails recently used. At 675233, 2-3 individuals were engaged by Recon at 20 meters, resulting in 1 enemy KIA and a blood trail indicating another wounded. In vicinity 674232 a large hospital complex was found. Complex was large enough to accomodate 300 people. There were 25 hootches 10x15x30'. C-1/22 and TAC CP 1/12 at BS680250 spotted 2 individuals advancing toward the point element. A Red Leg road runner was employed to drive the individuals into an ambush with negative results.

On 10 Jan, D-1/12, vicinity 705250, initiated small arms fire on 8 individuals. Sporadic enemy fire was returned, negative US casualties. 1 AK-47 was CIA. At 1551H in the same location enemy initiated small arms fire from a bunker. US engaged with small arms, the result was 1 enemy KIA. More fire was recieved from snipers in other positions resulting in another enemy KIA. There were no US casualties. A-1/22 conducting Ivy patrols vicinity 735212 sighted 2 enemy 25 meters out. US initiated fire and recieved AK-47 fire in return. Red Leg was employed, and the area was swept with neg results.

On 11 Jan A Co 1/12 conducting a RIF approximately 11 kilometers to the northeast of LZ Tape for purposes of interdiction of avenues of approach to the 173d Abn Bde's pacification area of operation, in the vicinity of BS710257 initiated small arms fire on 1 individual resulting in 1 enemy WIA, CIA. At the same location D Co initiated fire on 1 individual in a bunker, the result

was 1 enemy KIA. No US casualties resulted.

On 12 Jan D-1/12 conducting a sweep through a bunker complex in the vicinity 711251 received enemy initiated fire from 1 individual in a foxhole 30 meters from the point element. D Co returned a heavy volume of small arms fire resulting in 1 enemy WIA, CIA. The dog handler received enemy small arms wound in the ear.

On 13 Jan, D-1/12 closing the Patrol Base, BS729221, observed 3 enemy on a trail 75 meters away. US initiated small arms fire resulting in 1 enemy KIA with 3 rucksacks CIA. No US casualties were taken. B Co was extracted from Patrol Base BS729221 after D Co closed the location. A-1/22 was extracted and returned to the operational control of 1/22 Inf as was C-1/22.

On 14 Jan, C Co upon extraction from Patrol Base, BS690201 received enemy automatic weapons fire from approximately 800 meters away. C Co(-) conducted a combat assault to SEL and swept the area with negative results.

On 15 Jan 70, extraction of the 1/12 Inf from the An Lao Valley was begun in preparation of Camp Radcliff and further to the southern portion of Base Area 226. D Co 1/12 was extracted from Patrol Base, BS729121 to LZ English. A Co was extracted from the vicinity of BS814268 to LZ English.

On 16 Jan C Co and E Co 1/12 were extracted from the vicinity of LZ Tape, BS744130 to LZ English.

On 17 Jan B Co and the TAC CP were extracted from LZ Tape, as 3 Bn 506 Inf 101st Abn Div (airabl) took over operational control of the An Lao Valley.

On 21 Jan 70 after a brief stand-down at Camp Radcliff, the "Red Warriors" began relocating to BA 226 and established FSB Sherida.

C Co was the first co to CA and was inserted at FSB Sherida. They began immediately to reconstruct the Fire Base and conduct local security RIF. When local security was established hook sorties followed from Camp Radcliff to include all essential equipment as well as B-4/42 (DS) Artillery elements.

B Co was inserted next into an LZ vicinity BR703567. They then began a RIF in their general area of interest. They had no significant sightings or contact.

A Co was the next element to CA, however, prior to insertion the gunships received ground to air fire in the vicinity of the LZ. Three sets of guns expended on the SEL, however, just prior to the insertion of the ground troops the flight leader refused to put his ships on the ground. As a result, A Co was returned to Camp Radcliff where they and D Co remained overnight.

On 22 Jan 70 the remaining elements were inserted into Base Area 226, and began their intensive search and destroy operations. Late morning 2/A in vicinity of grid BR700571 found 4000-6000 rounds of 7.62 ammunition, (Russian). At grid BR701570 2/A also found 8 bunkers, reinforced, plus 1 SKS and 1 M-16 rifle. Late that afternoon in the same general area they, 2/A, also found the head of 1 individual at approximately 40 meters. Small arms fire was initiated by 2/A with negative results.

On 23 Jan 70, 2/A in the vicinity of BR701570 found 4 60mm mortar rounds, one of which had been booby trapped with a Chicom grenade. In addition they found 1 82mm mortar round and approximately 100 rounds of AK-47 ammunition. 1/A in the vicinity of BR699576 observed 4 VC/NVA 50 meters to the northeast. They engaged them with small arms fire. A sweep of the area found 1 NVA steel helmet and rucksack. Also found were 14 bunkers in what appeared to be a training area. Late morning 3/A observed 2 individuals vicinity BR697573. Gunships expended on the KBL. Results were 1 VC/NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 CIA and a rucksack with miscellaneous equipment. D Co the same afternoon, encountered a booby trap vic BR734584, which exploded wounding a dog handler and 3 other US EM. At grid BR734581 D Co received sniper fire resulting in 1 US KIA. A sweep of the SEL produced negative results.

On 24 Jan 70, at BR695568, approximately 200 meters to the north of A Co, the element reported about 15 rounds of unknown origin impacted. At vic BR694577 A Co also found approximately 40 bunkers and several fighters; these were all destroyed with the assistance of engineers. From grid BR605577 to BR697577 they found what was believed to have been a hospital complex with approximately 20 beds and various medicine bottles and documents. Early afternoon D Co CP group was hit by 3 B40 rounds, from an unknown enemy location and approximately 20 rounds of AK-47 fire from the south. Artillery and gunships were employed. The gunships reported 1 secondary explosion and observed 1 individual seen running into a cave complex. Because of darkness D Co was unable to exploit the area until the following morning.

On 25 Jan 70 A Co continued to develop the previous days find, locating several additional bunkers. Area could possibly have held 50-60 individuals within the past 3-4 days. In vicinity of grid BR700583 the company found 1000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 2 RPG's and 60 blasting caps. D Co continued to work their area of interest discovering several items to include 1 partially dismantled ariel rocket, 15 water jugs, 9 animal traps and other miscellaneous items. The Recon platoon found in the vic of grid BR680550, 18 bunkers and spider holes. They also found 6 containers for RR rounds and one canister for a 57mm RR.

26 Jan 70, A Co continuing their RIF operation vic BR699588 found 3 hootches 20 rounds of 12.7 link ammunition, 300 lbs of rice all of which was about 1 month old.

On 27 Jan 70 all elements report finding recent enemy activity in areas of interest. A Co found a small cave containing several bloody bandages, used last about 4 days ago. D Co found several hardened packed trails as well as in vic coordinates BR727593 they found 15 bunkers all of which had seen use approximately 2 months ago.

28 Jan 70, 2/B RIF observed 2 enemy armed with AK-47's vic grid BR710559. 2/B initiated small arms contact and received 10 rounds of return fire. As 2/B maneuvered, large organics were employed on the BEL, several secondary explosions were observed. At coordinates BR710559 3/B and the CP made contact with 1 individual. They engaged with small arms. A sweep of the area revealed 1 rucksack with several blood stained spots and bullet holes resulting in 1 possible KIA. In the vic of BR714556, B Co also discovered 2 kitchens and 18 hootches indicating fairly recent activity.

C Co LP in the early evening observed 1 individual near the defensive wire. Illumination and 81mm mortar DT's were fired. However, a sweep of the area the following morning revealed negative results.

On 29 January 70, a RIF conducted by 3/A found 50 hootches in the vic of BR689565, however they had been previously, about 2 months, been partially destroyed. D Co late in the afternoon was extracted from an LZ vic BR708577 and air lifted to Camp Radcliff where they became OPCON to the 1/69 Armor for an indefinite period.

On 30 Jan 70, A Co found a small training sight vic coordinates BR688575 consisting of 4 hootches and triple concertina and double apron strung between trees as a training device. It was estimated 10 individuals had used the area about 6 months ago. C Co in the early afternoon received a Chicom grenade at 15 meters from the point element vic BR699542. Three EM received superficial cuts and were extracted. The remainder of the element closed on the KEL employing frags, small arms and M-79 fire. Results were 1 NVA KIA, and 1 B40 launcher and Chicom grenade CIA. Five fighters were found in the area, all located on top of the ridge facing the trail. Again in the late afternoon C Co took 20 rounds of automatic weapons fire from 250 meters due south, in addition to 2 B40's. 1 US WIA. However, 1 AK-47 and 1 rucksack were CIA. The 7/17 Air Cav



assisted during the contact. The Recon Platoon vic coordinates BR707 65 observed 2 individuals. They were engaged with 81mm mortars, but with negative results. A short while later Recon tripped a home made booby trap. When it triggered 1 EM received a superficial cut on the leg. The device was estimated to be 3-6 months old.

On 31 Jan 70, A Co in the vicinity of BR703576 found several caves in a complex estimated to have been used by 15 individuals 1 week ago. In one of the caves they discovered 18 cases of AK-47 ammunition, (600 rds per case), and 12 cases of SKS ammunition, (500 rds per case), as well as 2 60mm mortar rounds. Early that afternoon A Co found an additional 25 smaller caves with 10 lbs of rock salt, and scattered small arms ammunition. Also in the immediate area 4 graves were found, approximately 3-4 weeks old. The cause of death could not be determined due to decay. At coordinates BR702567 5 additional caves were found approximately 72 hours old. The individuals were killed by the Air Cav on 29 Jan as they worked the area for A Co.

d. Cumulative results of all units for the quarter were: US losses 3 KIA, 24 WIA. Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA; 2 dog handlers WIA 1 dog KIA. US inflicted losses: 50 enemy KIA, (BC); 5 enemy possible KIA; 8 enemy CIA; 34 small arms and miscellaneous equipment CIA, to include Chicom radio CIA; 2000 lbs rice CIA; 300 lbs salt CIA; misc documents also CIA.

#### 4. (C) Trainings:

a. Unit Trainings: During the reporting period, all training in the field was conducted by unit officers and NCO's : weapons zeroing, M-79 and M-60 firing was conducted monthly. Classes on Immediate Action Drills, Ambush Patrols River Crossing; Patrolling and Artillery Adjustment were conducted at FSB and PB's.

b. Schools: The battalion received and filled quotes to Division Schools as follows:

| <u>SCHOOLS</u>                | <u>QUOTA</u> | <u>ATTENDED</u> | <u>GRADUATED</u> |
|-------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (1) Div Combat NCO Leadership | 13           | 12              | 12               |
| (2) Pre Escando               | 9            | 4               | 4                |
| (3) Sniper                    | 1            | 1               | 1                |
| (4) Mine Sweep                | 2            | 2               | 2                |
| (5) Chemical Refresher        | 7            | 7               | 7                |

#### 5. (C) Logistics:

a. General Re-supply operation were generally good during the reporting period. Availability of aircraft was adequate with the only problem being caused by bad weather on several occasions.

#### b. Supply Activities:

(1) Class I: A field mess was in operation on the battalion primary Fire Support Base during the entire reporting period. Three hot meals per day were prepared for all elements at the Fire Support Base, with one hot meal per day prepared for all other forward elements at the Battalion Trains. Total Consumption during the reporting period was 126,228 A-rations and 62,341 C-rations.

(2) Class II: Utilization of Class II was increased primarily due to rugged type terrain and enemy contact. Total utilization during the period was as follows:

- (a) Fatigues - 2000 sets
- (b) Boots - 900 pr.
- (c) Ponchoes - 900 ea.
- (d) Poncho liners - 600 ea.
- (e) Air Mattresses - 1400 ea.
- (f) Steel helmet with liners - 200 ea.
- (g) Rucksacks - 300 ea.

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- (h) Underwear - 1500 sets
- (i) Towels - 1200 ea.
- (j) Socks - 3000 pr.
- (k) Blankets - 600 ea.
- (l) Axes - 50 ea.
- (m) Shovels - 100 ea.
- (n) Machetes - 200 ea.
- (o) Picks - 50 ea.
- (p) Water Containers (plastic lug-a-jugs) 2000 ea.
- (q) Water Containers (55 gal blivets) 6 ea.
- (r) Water Containers (250 gal blivets) 3 ea.
- (s) Insect repellent - 4,000 cans
- (t) Foot Powder - 2000 cans

(3) Class III. During the reporting period the following amounts of fuel were utilized:

- (a) Mogas - 14,500 gal
- (b) Diesel - 2,500 gal

(4) Class IV: Re-establishing the primary Fire Support Base required the major utilization of Class IV items.

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| (a) Concertina (boot types) | 52 bales   |
| (b) Barbed wire             | 162 rolls  |
| (c) Pickets                 | 2,00 8ft.<br>8,500 6 ft.<br>9,000 5 ft.<br>6,500 3 ft. |
| (d) Sandbags                | 304,000  |

(5) Class V: During the reporting period, Class V expenditures were as follows: 3,320

- (a) 5.56mm Tracer

- (b) 5.56mm Ball 284,600

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|                        |         |
|------------------------|---------|
| (c) 7.62mm Linked      | 140,200 |
| (d) Gal. 45 Ball       | 900     |
| (e) Gal. 50 Linkes     | 500     |
| (f) 40mm               |         |
| 1. 40mm Cann           | 2,175   |
| 2. 40mm WSP            | 649     |
| 3. 40mm WSP            | 62      |
| 4. 40mm CS             | 332     |
| 5. 40mm HE             | 2,476   |
| (g) 81mm               |         |
| 1. 81mm ILL            | 1,570   |
| 2. 81mm HE             | 4,426   |
| 3. 81mm WP             | 3,218   |
| (h) 4.2"               |         |
| 1. 4.2" HE             | 10,440  |
| 2. 4.2" ILL            | 1,675   |
| 3. 4.2" WP             | 3,218   |
| (i) Grenades           |         |
| 1. Green HD frag.      | 2,000   |
| 2. Green HD Frag. M-33 | 1,039   |
| 3. Green HD Inc.       | 25      |
| 4. Green HD WP         | 200     |
| 5. Yellow Smoke        | 616     |
| 6. Violet Smoke        | 3,132   |
| 7. Green Smoke         | 25      |
| 8. Red Smoke           | 110     |

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|     |                     |        |
|-----|---------------------|--------|
| (j) | 66mm Law            | 241    |
| (k) | Claymores           | 902    |
| (l) | Clusters HH         |        |
|     | 1. Red Cluster HH   | 26     |
|     | 2. White Cluster HH | 368    |
|     | 3. Green Cluster HH | 32     |
| (m) | White Parachute HH  | 510    |
| (n) | Trip Flares         | 1,084  |
| (o) | G-4                 | 5,970  |
| (p) | Bangalores          | 500    |
| (q) | TNT                 | 1,000  |
| (r) | Cratering Chg       | 27     |
| (s) | Elect. Blast Caps   | 1,200  |
| (t) | Shape Chg 15        | 12     |
| (u) | Shape Chg 40        | 50     |
| (v) | N/E Blast Caps      | 3,850  |
| (w) | BBT Cord            | 50,000 |
| (x) | Time Fuse           | 3,000  |
| (y) | Fuse PD M557        | 10,440 |
| (z) | 7.62 Ball 5/clip    | 1,200  |

6. Transportations: The Battalion organic transportation is not adequate to move the entire element. Additional transportation must be obtained from DTC for any move than one Company Organic transportation was utilized to the maximum on a daily basis to move supplies and personnel.

6. (C) Organization

a. General: none

b. Strength authorized and assigned strength as of the end of the reporting period were as follows.

| (1) Authorized | UNIT  | OFFICER | W.O. | E.M. | AGG |
|----------------|-------|---------|------|------|-----|
|                | HHC   | 015     | 002  | 147  | 164 |
|                | Co A  | 006     | 000  | 158  | 164 |
|                | Co B  | 006     | 000  | 158  | 164 |
|                | Co C  | 006     | 000  | 158  | 164 |
|                | Co D  | 006     | 000  | 158  | 164 |
|                | Co E  | 004     | 000  | 096  | 100 |
|                | TOTAL | 043     | 002  | 875  | 920 |

| (2) Assigned | UNIT  | OFFICER | W.O. | E.M. | AGG |
|--------------|-------|---------|------|------|-----|
|              | HHC   | 014     | 002  | 149  | 165 |
|              | Co A  | 005     | 000  | 139  | 144 |
|              | Co B  | 004     | 000  | 140  | 144 |
|              | Co C  | 007     | 000  | 142  | 149 |
|              | Co D  | 005     | 000  | 135  | 140 |
|              | Co E  | 002     | 000  | 094  | 096 |
|              | TOTAL | 037     | 002  | 799  | 896 |

c. Replacements and Rotation. The Battalion received a total of 8 officers and 279 enlisted replacements. During the same period, our losses were, 6 officers and 299 enlisted men.

**D. Casualties:**

| UNIT | NOVEMBER |     |     | DECEMBER |     |     | JANUARY |     |     |
|------|----------|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
|      | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
| RHC  | 0        | 1   | 0   | 0        | 0   | 0   | 0       | 8   | 0   |
| Co A | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
|      | 1        | 3   | 0   | 0        | 2   | 0   | 0       | 7   | 0   |
| Co B | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
|      | 0        | 3   | 0   | 1        | 6   | 0   | 0       | 1   | 0   |
| Co C | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
|      | 0        | 0   | 1   | 0        | 0   | 0   | 0       | 2   | 0   |
| Co D | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
|      | 0        | 0   | 0   | 0        | 1   | 0   | 1       | 14  | 0   |
| Co E | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA      | WIA | MIA | KIA     | WIA | MIA |
|      | 0        | 5   | 0   | 0        | 0   | 0   | 0       | 2   | 0   |

**e. Morale and personnel services - Awards and Decorations**

| <u>SS</u> | <u>BSM "V"</u> | <u>ARGOM "V"</u> | <u>PH</u> | <u>PH (1st OLC)</u> | <u>ES "S"</u> | <u>AM</u> | <u>ARGOM "S"</u> | <u>ARGOM "V" (1 OLC)</u> |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|-----------|---------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 8         | 21             | 11               | 29        | 1                   | 12            | 23        | 64               | 9                        |

(1) Promotions. Total promotions by grade during the reporting period were as follows:

| <u>E4</u> | <u>E5</u> | <u>E6</u> | <u>E7</u> | <u>E8</u> | <u>E9</u> |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 210       | 80        | 9         | 1         | 1         | 0         |

(2) Rest and Recuperation. During the reporting period the Battalion received and used 240 R&R allocations.

7. (C) Others: Civic Action:

- a. During this reporting period the "Red Warriors" S-5 team in the village of Plei Brel Dor successfully complete many projects started in the previous report.
- b. The most successful project was the introduction of a new strain of rice. The rice project was an outstanding success and the winter planting is being met with enthusiasm by the villagers.
- c. The medical aspects of the village has grown tremendously. The village has sent 11 students to nursing school in Pleiku. These students, upon graduation will assist the S-5 medical personnel in the village and allow more MEDCAPS to go to the villages around them.
- d. The school has been the target for many projects. Playground equipment is being gathered and the building is being wired for lighting. Adult classes at night are being planned.
- e. Personnel from the local PT Platoon are being sent to ARVN schools for additional training and the platoon is being enlarged.
- f. A new project started during this period is that of buying and raising cattle for dairy purposes. Due to the cost this project is being planned to cover a long period of time. The final outcome will have a marked effect on the nutritional habits of the children.
- g. The period 1 November 69 to 31 January 1970 was another successful program period for the S-5 team at the village of Plei Brel Dor. The cooperation and understanding between the S-5 team and the people of the village has reached a point of mutual agreement in overcoming the fear and superstitions against new or different ways of doing things. In fact the villagers now look forward to new ways of self-improvement.

Section II (C) Lessons Learned: Commanders observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations.

- a. Perhaps the one area in which significant lessons were learned during operation PUTNAM WILDCAT is the one area in which the "Red Warriors" excelled, in finding and fixing the enemy. Operations in the An Lao Valley were generally found to be the most productive when company size elements were broken down to squad and platoon size. Normally, when an element larger than a platoon size element attempted to move in the dense vegetation of the AN LAO enemy contact was at its lowest. However, when the "Red Warriors" conducted small short range patrols and platoon size RIF, maximum results were attained. Movement was more rapid with small elements, and night ambushes could be more easily employed.
- b. In the area of logistics, one very significant method of operating was found in the An Lao Valley. The "Red Warriors" began resupplying the forward elements from FSB Tape on a 3 day ration cycle. Rather than attempting to resupply all elements from the Trains area at English. This method was used to combat the unpredictable weather in the An Lao. It was found that by stocking



sufficient CL-I and CL-V at FSB Tape, a considerable reduction in helicopter flight time could also be realized as a by-product.

JOHN B. COTTINGHAM JR  
LTC, Infantry  
Commanding