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3 May 69

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY
4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96262

AVDDDB-12I

3 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1969
(RCS CS for-65 RI)

Commanding Officer
2nd 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 engaged primarily in search and clear operations.

a. Task Organization.

- (1) From 1 Feb to 17 Feb the "Red Warriors" were OPCON to 3rd Bde, 4th Inf Div, with A, B, C, D, E, Companies & B Btry 4/42 Artillery DS.
- (2) Effective 17 Feb OPCON of the 2nd Bde, 4th Inf Div, with HHC, A, B, C, D, E Companies, B Btry 4/42 Artillery DS.
- (3) Effective 19 Feb OPCON to the 1st Bde, 4th Inf Div, with A, B, C, D, E Companies B Btry 4/42 Artillery DS.
- (4) Effective 23 Feb, OPCON to the 2nd Bde, 4th Inf Div, with HHC, A, B, C, D, E Companies, B Btry 4/42 Artillery DS.
- (5) Effective 10 March, add B Company 1/14.
- (6) Effective 14 March, Delete B Company 1/14.
- (7) Effective 15 April, add 3d Plat D 1/22.
- (8) Effective 21 April, add D Company 1/22.

b. Commanders and Principal Staff.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) En CO | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | LTC Robert H. Carter Jr. |
| (2) En XO | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | MAJ Charles H. Lyon III |
| (3) En S-1 | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT John R. Lovett |

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| | | | |
|------|---------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| (4) | Bn S-2 | 1 Feb 69 to 15 Apr 69 | CPT William A. McDonough |
| | | 15 Apr 69 to 30 Apr 69 | No officer assigned in S-2 slot |
| (5) | Bn S-3 | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | MAJ Benjamin P. Owen |
| (6) | Bn S-4 | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT Billy J. Tucker |
| (7) | Bn S-5 | 1 Feb 69 to 14 Apr 69 | 1LT James A. Walsh |
| | | 14 Apr 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT James B. Respicio |
| (8) | CO HHC | 1 Feb 69 to 21 Mar 69 | 1LT Michael C. Laberteaux |
| | | 21 Mar 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT Willard M. Mallett |
| (9) | CO Co A | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT Raymond E. Schumacher |
| (10) | CO Co B | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT Philip W. Patrick |
| (11) | CO Co C | 1 Feb 69 to 28 Feb 69 | CPT Floyd A. Brownfield |
| | | 28 Feb 69 to 24 Apr 69 | CPT Donald D. Blair |
| | | 24 Apr 69 to 30 Apr 69 | CPT Richard D. Wendke |
| (12) | CO Co D | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | 1LT Robert C. Stover |
| (13) | CO Co E | 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69 | 1LT James D. Rawson |

c. Mission: The mission of the "Red Warriors" during the reporting period was search and clear operations in the Chu-Pa Mountains (YA 9568), and West of Kontum, LZ Patt (ZA 8093), LZ Mile High (YA 9393).

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. During the period 1 Feb to 30 Apr, 1st Bn, 12th Inf operated in 3 areas

(1) Chu-Pa Mountains (YA 9568), (2) LZ Patt (ZA 0983), and (3) West of Kontum, LZ Mile High (YA 9393).

b. February Intelligence reports indicated the presence of elements of the 24th NVA Regiment in the "Red Warriors" AO. Contact with these elements was limited to engagements with an estimated 2 reinforced squads armed with automatic weapons and B-40 rockets. The "Red Warriors" had two such engagements with these elements.

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large ammunition cache consisting of 122mm rockets, B-40's, B-41's, 60mm mortar rounds, Chicom Claymores, rifle grenades, hand grenades, small arms ammunition and misc. explosives and equipment.

d. The terrain in the Chu Fa area was mountainous with heavy vegetation. Cover and concealment was excellent, while observation was restricted to 25 - 50 meters.

e. The weather was generally clear, with some early morning ground fog.

f. During the period 17 Feb - 22 Feb the Battalion made several moves with negative enemy contacts or sightings.

g. During the second half of February, intelligence reports indicated the presence of a large enemy force moving into position for a major attack on the Polei Kleng-Kentum area. The "Red Warriors" moved to LZ Mile High (YA 9393) on 23 Feb to engage and block the eastern movement of elements of the 66th NVA Regiment and 40th Arty Regiment (NVA).

h. Significant activity occurred in this area on the 24th of Feb when a 3 to 5 man enemy recon patrol was engaged by elements of Company B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf resulting in 1 NVA Soldier KIA. Clothing and equipment identified the NVA soldier as being a member of a recon patrol from the 66th NVA Regiment.

i. On 4 March, the Recon Platoon from 1st Bn, 12th Inf, located on LZ Roberts, received an estimated battalion sized night attack on their defensive position resulting in an estimated 2 companies of NVA soldiers being killed or wounded.

j. On 9 March, Company B, 1st Bn, 12th Inf at (YA 903 933) received mortar and small arms fire from an estimated company size force. All afternoon and into the early evening hours, artillery and small arms fire were employed re-

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... this confirmed the presence of the 66th NVA Regiment and the 40th Arty Regiment in the "Red Warriors" AO. During the remainder of the 1st half of the month of March the enemy made no major advances, but continued to resupply and reinforce their units in the Polai Kleng and Kontum area. Small forward elements continued to seek routes which would enable them to by pass "Red Warrior" elements and gain access East. Contact with enemy forces was frequent, but light. Trails and bunker complexes uncovered by SRP's indicated the continuing presence of the 66th NVA Regiment and the 40th Arty Regiment.

k. Between 4 March and 27 March elements of the 40th Arty Regiment continued to attack the FSB and Company Patrol Bases by fire. During this period LZ Mile High received 371 rounds of various caliber weapons fire.

l. During the last half of the month of March the withdrawal of the 66th Regiment to the West and the lessening threat on Polai Kleng prompted the "Red Warriors" to conduct search and clear operations in its AO. Contacts in the area were few, but numerous large bunker complexes, hospital areas and ammo caches were found and destroyed.

m. During the first half of April, contacts with enemy forces were few and light. Trails and bunker complexes uncovered indicated that major size enemy forces had moved to the West out of the "Red Warriors" AO. Search and clear operations continued throughout this period with over one thousand enemy bunkers and fortifications destroyed.

n. Significant activity occurred in this area on 24 April when Company C, 1st Bn, 12th Inf made contact with an estimated company size force suspected to be a stay behind force to guard and coordinate for a build up of supplies in the area. Results of the contact were 11 NVA soldiers KIA and numerous packs and

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approximately 1/2 lbs. of documents CIA. Documents are now being processed to gain information concerning locations of enemy forces and supplies. Exploitation of that information is in progress at the time of this report.

e. The terrain in this area is mountainous with heavy vegetation. Cover and concealment is excellent, while observation is restricted to 15 - 20 meters. The weather was generally clear with some light rain showers and early morning ground fog.

3. (C) Operations: Between 1 February and 4 February, the entire Battalion was operating out of LZ Delta (Punch Bowl) (YA 9357), in conjunction with elements of the 24th STZ in Search and Clear operations.

a. On 4 February, the Fire Support Base was lifted from LZ Delta to LZ Emery. Operations with elements of the 24th STZ continued.

b. On 6 February, while on a sweep of an area South West of the Chu-Pa Mountains, Company C initiated contact with an estimated 2 reinforced squads with automatic weapons and B-40 rockets. After the contact was broken, a thorough search was made of the area and a large ammunition cache was found.

c. On 9 February, Company B, while on a sweep around LZ Emery made contact with an unknown size enemy element resulting in 3 NVA soldiers killed.

d. On 11 February, the TAC CP of the 3rd Brigade was set up on LZ Emery.

e. On 17 February, the Battalion, with B Battery 4/42 Artillery, moved by air from LZ Emery to Plei Xrong and came under operational control of the 2nd Brigade. From Plei Xrong the unit moved by vehicle to LZ Mary Lou, closing late that evening.

f. On 18 February the entire unit underwent stand down and refitting.

g. On 19 February the "Red Warriors" became OPCON to the 1st Brigade and moved by vehicle to LZ Patt, West of Kontum, to set up blocking positions and screen the area East of the Dak-Hla River. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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h. On 23 February the "Red Warriors" again came under control of the 2nd Brigade, and moved from LZ Patt to LZ Mile High, established a Fire Support Base and put out a SRP screen to the North and South of LZ Mile High to detect enemy movement. In addition, at least one Platoon size element from each Company conducted daily sweeps around the Fire Support Base and Company Patrol Bases.

i. On 24 February, the Platoon sweeps proved worthwhile as a Platoon from Company B made contact with an enemy patrol resulting in 1 NVA soldier KIA.

j. The Recon Platoon conducted a sweep from LZ Mile High to LZ Roberts arriving there on 26 February. Upon arrival they established a patrol base and screened from North to South.

k. On 2 March one of the Recon Platoon's sub elements, returning from their night location, ran into three NVA soldiers. They took the enemy under fire resulting in 1 NVA soldier KIA.

l. On 4 March at 0615 hrs the Recon Platoon had 2 or 3 NVA soldiers walk into their perimeter. They engaged the enemy with small arms and the enemy fled to the South. At 0845 hrs the Recon Platoon started receiving incoming small arms fire. At 0940 a sweep was sent out to check the area. An ambush was waiting for them, but it was detected before the NVA element could spring it. During the remainder of the day the Recon Platoon received sporadic sniper fire and incoming mortar rounds.

m. The Fire Support Base at LZ Mile High received 3 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Between 4 and 6 March, the Recon Platoon came under continuous small arms and mortar attack until they were extracted on 6 March.

n. Between 4 March and 27 March, the Fire Support Base and Company Patrol Bases continued with SRP screens and platoon sweeps making regular contact with the enemy. During this period (4 through 27 March) the Fire Support

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Base received 371 incoming rounds of various caliber i.e. B-40, 57MM, 75MM, 60MM, 82MM, 82MM CS, 82MM WP, and Russian 105. The Company Patrol Bases were experiencing similar types of attacks during this same period.

o. Between 27 March through present date the "Red Warriors" have operated in this general location with several changes to our AO enabling our companies to move to new positions and set up numerous LZ's. All of the companies have made regular contact with the enemy and have found large ammunition caches.

p. At the close of this reporting period, Companies B, C, and D are conducting a sweep in an area 11 kilometers to the North West of LZ Mile High (FSB). The companies are sweeping from North to South. Company A is located at LZ Mile High providing security for the Battalion Fire Support Base.

4. (C) Training:

a. Unit training: During the period of this report, all training in the field was conducted by unit officers and NCO's. Weapons servicing was accomplished bi-weekly at the Fire Support Base and at the Company Patrol Bases. Adjustment of artillery, patrolling, map reading, compass, and safety classes were given as the situation permitted.

b. Schools: The Battalion received and filled quotas to Division schools as follows:

| <u>Schools</u> | <u>Quota</u> | <u>Attended</u> | <u>Graduated</u> |
|---|--------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| (1) Division Combat NCO Leadership School | 19 | 19 | 14 |
| (2) Division Reconno Preparatory School | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| (3) Sniper School | 2 | 2 | (Training in progress) |

5. (C) Logistics:

a. General: Due to continual movement by all companies, problems of resupply were encountered on a daily basis. The terrain involved was such

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"kick-out" type re-supply. The non-availability of adequate LZ's, coupled with a shortage of re-supply aircraft cause a continual back-log of items other than those needed to sustain the units in a fighting posture.

b. Supply activities:

(1) Class I: The Battalion established a field mess on its primary Fire Support Base during the first half of the reporting period and prepared two hot meals per day for the units located on the Fire Support Base. During the second half of the reporting period, the tactical situation was such that the mess was consolidated in the Trains area and two hot meals were prepared for the Fire Support Base elements and one hot meal per day for the remainder of the companies and separate platoons. Total consumption during the reporting period was 106,104 A-rations and 72,681 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) Ponchos - 900 ea.
- (d) Poncho liners - 600 ea.
- (e) Air Mattresses - 1400 ea.
- (f) Steel helmet with liners - 200 ea.
- (g) Rucksacks - 300 ea.
- (h) Underwear - 1500 sets
- (i) Towels - 1200 ea.
- (j) Socks - 3000 pr.
- (k) Blankets - 600 ea.

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