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1 Aug 69

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

AVDDB-12I

1 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 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 this reporting period the Battalion was engaged primarily in Search and Clear operations, with the secondary mission of the "Roam Flow" operation of searching out and destroying enemy bunkers.

a. Task Organization as of 1 May 1969: Companies A,B,C,D,E and Reconnaissance Platoon 1-12 with B Btry 4/42 Arty DS and Company D 1-22 attached.

b. Cronological Task Organization changes:

5 May	DELETE	C/1-22
6 May	DELETE	B/1-12
12 May	DELETE	2/D/1-12
23 May	ADD	3/D/1-12
	ADD	C/6-29 Arty DS
	DELETE	B/4-42 Arty
4 Jun	DELETE	Reconnaissance Platoon
6 Jun	ADD	Reconnaissance Platoon
8 Jun	ADD	2/C 4 Engr
11 Jun	DELETE	B/1-12
16 Jun	ADD	B/4-42 Arty
	DELETE	C/6-29 Arty
21 Jun	ADD	B/1-12
6 Jul	DELETE	1/D/1-12
9 Jul	ADD	B/1-12
	ADD	2/D/1-12
	DELETE	2/C/4 Engr
	DELETE	1/C/1-12
14 Jul	DELETE	B/1-12
15 Jul	DELETE	B/1-12
18 Jul	ADD	1/D/1-12
19 Jul	DELETE	3/C/1-12
22 Jul	DELETE	C/1-12
25 Jul	ADD	C/1-10 Cav
25 Jul	ADD	C/1-12
25 Jul	ADD	B/1-12
30 Jul	DELETE	1/D/1-12

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c. Commanders and Principal Staff.

(1) Bn CO	1 May 69 to 27 May 69	LTC Robert H Carter Jr
	27 May 69 to 30 Jul 69	LTC Edward F Fiora Jr
	30 Jul 69 to 31 Jul 69	LTC John D Cottingham
(2) Bn XO	1 May 69 to 10 May 69	MAJ Charles H Lyon III
	11 May 69 to 9 Jul 69	MAJ Fielding L Tyler
	10 Jul 69 to 26 Jul 69	No Officer assigned
	27 Jul 69 to 31 Jul 69	MAJ John J Gaudelli
(3) Bn S-1	1 May 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT John R Lovett
(4) Bn S-2	1 May 69 to 6 May 69	No Officer assigned
	7 May 69 to 19 Jul 69	1LT Robert D Stover
	19 Jul 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Philip W Patrick
(5) Bn S-3	1 May 69 to 31 May 69	MAJ Benjamin P Owen
	1 Jun 69 to 6 Jun 69	CPT Emmette Y Burton
	7 Jun 69 to 31 Jul 69	MAJ William T Coffey
(6) Bn S-4	1 May 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Billy S Tucker
(7) Bn S-5	1 May 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT James B Respicio
(8) CO HHC	1 May 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Willard M Mellott
(9) CO Co A	1 May 69 to 27 Jun 69	CPT Raymond E Schumacher
	28 Jun 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Cecil W Boatwright
(10) CO Co B	1 May 69 to 17 Jul 69	CPT Phillip W Patrick
	18 Jul 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT James R Childs
(11) CO Co C	1 May 69 to 1 Jun 69	CPT Richard D Wandke
	1 Jun 69 to 13 Jun 69	1LT Charles R Orndorf
	13 Jun 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Darrel Skubinna
(12) CO Co D	1 May 69 to 6 May 69	1LT Robert D Stover
	7 May 69 to 20 Jul 69	1LT Larry N Boyd
	20 Jul 69 to 31 Jul 69	CPT Gary L Weber

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(13) CO Co E

1 May 69 to 26 Jun 69

1LT James D Rawson

27 Jun 69 to 31 Jul 69

1LT Joe P Sainz Jr.

c. Mission: The mission of the "Red Warriors" during the reporting period was two-fold. From 1 May 69 to 23 May 69 the mission was search and clear the area vicinity of LZ Mile High (48PYA9393). From 24 May to 25 Jul the Battalion moved to LZ Nicole (48PZA1778) for search and clear operations and from 25 Jul (to 31 Jul 69 the "Red Warriors" operated out of LZ Penny (48PZA1172) on search and clear operations. The "Red Warriors" were assigned the additional mission (Roam Plow) of bunker destruction in an area bounded by ZA1279, ZA1579, ZA0776 and ZA0773.

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. During the period 1 May 69 to 31 Jul 69, 1-12 operated in 3 areas (1) West of Kontum (LZ Mile High (48PYA9393); (2) Southeast of Kontum (LZ Nicole ZA1778); (3) Southeast of Kontum (LZ Penny ZA1172)

b. From 1 May 69 thru 23 May 69 the 1-12 operates West of Kontum with the Battalion Fire Base located at LZ Mile High. During this period there were no significant enemy activities or sightings. The lack of enemy activity for this period indicated that the "Red Warrior" mission of denying the enemy access to his normal supply routes through this area was most effective.

c. The terrain in this area of operations is mountainous with heavy vegetation. Cover and concealment was excellent, while observation was limited to 25-50 meters in most areas.

d. The weather was normally clear, with some early morning ground fog and occasional late afternoon and evening showers. The winds were moderate 3-10 knots during this period.

e. From 23 May thru 31 July, 1/12 operated South southeast of Kontum, with the Bn Fire Base located at LZ Nicole and LZ Penny. Intelligence reports dating back into the month of April indicated a large enemy element located in the western and southwestern portion of the "Red Warrior" area of Operations. These Intelligence reports tentatively identified the enemy element as part of the 24th NVA Regt and possibly an element of the 40th NVA Arty Regt furnishing direct support. Through captured enemy documents and interrogation of POW's it was determined that the mission of this enemy force was to interdict Highway 14 between Pleiku, and Kontum with possible ground attacks and attacks by fire on the cities of Kontum and Plei Mrong.

f. Significant activity occurred in this area on 27 May when Company C, 1/12 ZA125767 initiated contact with an estimated NVA Battalion, resulting in 40 NVA KIA. The main body of this enemy force was in well fortified bunkers, the bunkers were well concealed and all had 1 to 3 feet of overhead cover made of logs and dirt. Captured documents and markings on clothing confirmed the enemy as the K6th Bn, 24th NVA Regt. The condition of the equipment, in some cases practically new, indicated good resupply or that the enemy element had recently received replacements. During this contact the enemy engaged the "Red Warriors"

- g. During the period 28 thru 30 May, 1/12 continued search and destroy missions in the southwestern part of the area of operations. Numerous bunker complexes and trail networks were discovered confirming the area as a staging area for the enemy to launch attacks on the many targets in the immediate area. There were numerous sightings of small enemy elements during this period resulting in 2 NVA KIA.
- h. On 31 May, Company B, 1/12 ZA 097761 initiated contact with an estimated reinforced NVA Company sized element, resulting in 89 NVA KIA. As in the earlier contact, the main enemy element was in well constructed bunkers, all with overhead cover. Documents captured and markings on clothing again identified the enemy as the K6th Bn, 24th NVA Regt. During this contact the enemy engaged B Company with Automatic Small arms, Grenades, B-40 Rockets and 82mm Mortars.
- i. From 1 thru 4 June, 1/12 continued to search out the southwestern portion of the area of Operations, with no significant contacts or sightings. However, the "Red Warriors" continued to find bunker complexes and well used trails. Intelligence reports for this period indicated the enemy was attempting to withdraw to the south southwest.
- j. On 5 June, Company D, 1/12 ZA 148768 initiated contact with an estimated Company sized NVA element, resulting in an estimated 60-70 NVA KIA. This enemy element was in bunkers that were well fortified, well concealed and all had 1 to 3 feet of overhead cover consisting of logs covered with dirt. During this contact the enemy employed automatic small arms, grenades, B-40 rockets and 82mm mortars.
- k. From 6 June thru 31 July, 1/12 continued to cover the Area of Operations with company and platoon size patrols, with no significant contacts or enemy sightings.
- l. During the last half of June and the month of July the "Red Warriors" were involved in, Operation Roam Flow". During this period, 1/12 located and completely destroyed 1376 bunkers. The 4th Engineers furnished heavy charges and equipment to use in the complete destruction of these bunkers, thereby denying the enemy ready made fortifications to use in any future operations.
- m. The terrain throughout the Area of Operations is flat to rolling hills. Vegetation consists of elephant grass, 2 to 4 feet high and bamboo thickets. Observation varies from unlimited in the open areas to 50 to 100 feet in wooded areas and those areas of tall elephant grass and bamboo thickets.
- n. The weather through the first half of June was mostly clear with occasional late afternoon and early evening rain showers. From the middle of June through 31 July saw the beginning of the Monsoon season start, this period was marked by early morning ground fog and light to heavy rain showers through the day.
3. (C) Operations: Between 1 May 69 and 23 May 69, the "Red Warriors" operated Vic of LZ Mile High (48P YA 9393) in search and clear operations.
- a. During this period the Battalion set up numerous Company and Platoon size patrol bases.

contact was established. On 14 May a resupply helicopter was

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fired upon while resupplying the Reconnaissance Platoon at LZ Roberts (48P YA 891948). Negative damage or casualties.

c. On 16 May 69 LTG Milburne, Deputy Commander MACV visited LZ Mile High.

d. On 22 and 23 May 69 the "Red Warriors" were airlifted from LZ Mile High (48P YA 9393) to LZ Nicole (48P ZA 173786).

e. On 27 May 69 Company C initiated contact with 7 NVA at Coord 48P ZA 125767. Company B was sent to reinforce Company C and was met with small arm and 82mm Mortar fire. When contact was broken by the enemy, his casualties numbered 40 KIA. LTC Robert H Carter Jr. Bn CO 1-12 was KIA in this action.

f. On 28 May and 29 May the Red Warriors swept the contact area finding enemy bodies and drag trails.

g. On 29 May Company B ambush killed 2 NVA at ZA 108773.

h. On 31 May 69 Company D on a sweep (48P ZA 112753) contacted an unknown force and killed 15 NVA. B Company sighting 10 NVA (48P ZA 097761) opened fire. The NVA withdrew to a secondary bunker complex (48P ZA 114758) which contained a larger force and opened fire with mortars and B-40's. Company B assaulted and took the bunker complex with an NVA body count of 68 KIA. Company A on the way to reinforce Company B accounted for 5 NVA KIA.

i. From 1 Jun 69 to 3 Jun 69, the Red Warriors swept the bunker complex and brought the total body count for 31 May to 89 NVA KIA.

j. On 5 Jun 69, Company D on a sweep entered a vast bunker complex and were fired upon. Company C was airlifted to reinforce. Both units assaulted and secured the area (48P ZA 148768), with an estimated 60-70 NVA KIA.

k. From 8 Jun 69 to 7 Jul 69, in conjunction with 2nd Platoon Company C, 4th Engineers Phase I and II of the secondary mission (Roam Plow) was successfully carried out with 1408 bunkers found and 1376 destroyed.

l. From 8 July 69, to 14 July 69, the "Red Warriors" conducted numerous company and Platoon size sweeps within its area of Operations with negative contact.

m. From 15 July 69 to 24 July, the "Red Warriors" maintained blocking positions on the Southern boundary of its Area of Operations in conjunction with a Brigade Operation Sweep.

n. On 25 July 69, the "Red Warriors" Battalion moved from LZ Nicole (48P ZA 173768) to LZ Penny (48P ZA 115728) and enlarged its area of operations.

o. On 25 Jul 69, Phase III of the secondary mission (Roam Plow) was initiated with a total count as of reporting time of 236 bunkers found and destroyed.

p. On 28 Jul 69 C troop 10 Cav upon to 1-12 contacted an unknown size force at ZA 073724. The NVA used SA and B-40 one PC was hit with minor damage. 3 NVA were KIA

q. On 28 July 69, a change of command ceremony was held at LZ Penny (48P ZA

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115728) and the "Red Warriors" Colors were Presented to LTC John D Cottingham.

4. (C) Training:

a. Unit training: During the period of this report, all training in the field was conducted by unit officer's and NCO's. Weapons zeroing and firing a Mad Minute were held weekly. All phases of 4.2 Mortar training were given with a weekly written test. Map reading, Adjustment of Artillery Fire, laying of Barbwire and Mines and weapons training of all types was conducted.

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) Div Combat NCO	16	12	9
(2) Leadership	3 currently in school		
(3) Sniper	4	4	4
(4) Flamethrower	4	6	6
(5) Mortar	2	2	2
(6) Pre Recondo	2	2	currently in school

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 124,108 A-rations and 64,582 c-rations.

(2) Class II: Total utilization of Class II items were as follows:

(a) Fatigues	1800 sets
(b) Boots	600 pr.
(c) Ponches	700 ea
(d) Poncho liners	400 ea
(e) Air mattresses	900 ea
(f) Steel helmet with liners	100 ea

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(g) Ruck sacks	250 ea
(h) Underwear	1000 sets
(i) Towels	950 ea
(j) Socks	3200 pr
(k) Blankets	200 ea
(l) Axes	40 ea
(m) Shavels	75 ea
(n) Water containers (plastic)	400 ea
(o) Water containers (55 gal.)	5 ea
(p) Water containers (250 gals)	2 ea

(3) Class III: during this reporting period the following amounts of fuel was utilized.

(a) Mogas	12,500 gal
(b) Diesel	2,700 gal

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

(a) Concertina (boot types)	30 bales
(b) Barded wire	115 rolls
(c) Pickets	8 ft-1500 5 ft-3000 3 ft-1500 2 ft-1000
(d) Sandbags	225,000

(5) Class V. The battalion stayed within its ASR on small arms but exceeded the ASR on 81mm HE and 4.2 HE. During the reporting period, Class V expenditures were as follows:

(a) 5.56mm Tracer	3,280
(b) 5.56mm Ball	384,720
(c) 7.62mm Linked	101,600
(d) Cal. 45 Ball	1,000

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(e)	Cal. 50 Linked	600
(f)	40mm	
	1. 40mm Cann	1,008
	2. 40mm WSP	88
	3. 40mm WSP	44
	4. 40mm CS	96
	5. 40mm HE	10,368
(g)	81mm	
	1. 81mm ILL	1,509
	2. 81mm HE	3,771
	3. 81mm WP	237
(h)	4.2"	
	1. 4.2" HE	3,632
	2. 4.2" ILL	268
	3. 4.2" WP	50
(i)	Grenades	
	1. Green HD Frag.	1,800
	2. Green HD Frag. M-33	150
	3. Green HD Inc.	32
	4. Green HD WP	160
	5. Yellow Smoke	2,308
	6. Violet Smoke	2,190
	7. Green Smoke	32
	8. Red Smoke	112
(j)	66mm Law	90
(k)	Claymores	642
(l)	Clusters HH	
	1. Red Cluster HH	108

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2. White Cluster HH	288
3. Green Cluster HH	36
(m) White Parachute HH	504
(n) Trip Flares	3,744
(o) G-4	9,900
(p) Bangalore	60
(q) TNT	600
(r) Cratering Chg	10
(s) Elect. Blast Caps	42
(t) Shape Chg 15	10
(u) Shape Chg 40	20
(v) N/E Blast Caps	1,150
(w) Det Cord	4,000 ft.
(x) Time Fuse	3,500 ft.
(y) Fuse PD M557	3,632
(z) 7.62 Ball 5/clip	3,360

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

6. (C) Organizations:

a. General: none

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

period were as follows.

(1) Authorized	UNIT	OFFICERS	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

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	Co D	006	000	158	164
	Co E	004	000	096	100
	TOTAL	043	002	875	920
(2) Assigned	UNIT	OFFICERS	W.O.	E.M.	AGG
	HHC	011	001	155	167
	Co A	006	000	139	145
	Co B	006	000	127	133
	Co C	005	000	134	139
	Co D	006	000	135	141
	Co E	003	000	087	090
	TOTAL	037	001	777	815

c. Replacements and Rotation. The Battalion received a total of 30 officers and 494 enlisted replacements. During the same period, our losses were, 25 officers and 496 enlisted men.

d. Casualties:

UNIT	MAY			JUNE			JULY		
	KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	WIA	MIA
HHC	3	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
Co A	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Co B	8	21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Co C	6	37	0	0	9	0	0	0	0
Co D	0	5	0	8	37	0	0	0	0
Co E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

e. Morale and personnel services - Awards and Decorations

LM	SS	BS"S"	AM	AGM"V"	ACM"S"	BS"V"
1	19	13	12	22	218	44

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7. (C) Others: Civic Action

- a. During the reporting period the "Red Warriors" S-5 Team in the village of Plei Brel Dor worked towards improving the defense of the village by clearing fields of fire, installing wire, claymores and other defensive devices. The team gave intensive training to a 35 man PF platoon in claymores, M-79, M-60 and other US type weapons. It also gave limited training in weapons and defense to 60 home guards in the village.
- b. Bunkers were constructed for each civilian home. In May and June 5 fish ponds were constructed and stocked. These ponds are progressing rapidly toward a future food supply.
- c. An emergency helicopter pad was built in May and three civilians have been Medevac since its construction.
- d. The team has done extensive repair work to the village school, the administration building and the dispensary.
- e. Irrigation of the rice fields has been expedited by the use of 105 and 155 canisters for piping.
- f. The S-5 has several projects planned or pending; to include 4 spillways for washing bathing and drinking, village latrines centrally located, and fire barrels for each hut in the village.
- g. The team has successfully introduced U.S. vegetable seeds into the village and has encouraged the villagers to plant small gardens within the confines of the village.
- h. Since assuming responsibility for the village in February 1969, the "Red Warriors" S-5 has successfully carried out a program of local defense, and civic improvement with the full cooperation of the village chief and his people.

Section II (C) Lesson's Learned: Commanders observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations

1. (U) Personnel - None.

2. (U) Operation - ~~SEE ANNEX A~~

Observation: Drainage ditches are constructed for all Fire Bases with the ditches running out of the Fire Base to 4 main ditch encircling the Base.

Evaluation: Drainage ditches serve the enemy as a means of entry into the Fire Base and as an excellent means of observation travel around the Fire Base.

Recommendation: That all drainage ditches be wired with special emphasize on places the enter the Fire Base from the out side. Wire must be securly fastened to the bottom and sides of the ditch.

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Observation: Concertina wire is laid and stretched without regard to the spacing of the posts or the distance to be wired.

Evaluation: Concertina wire is being stretched to the point it becomes ineffective as a barrier. Single concertina is pulled between posts just to have wire rather than being a barrier. Tripple concertina is being stretched and the bottom roll has large gaps becoming ineffective.

Recommendation: Concertina should not be stretched so as to create gaps. Two rolls should be used for the space now being used by one roll.

Observation: When building bunkers or clearing fields of fire small stumps, holes, or other natural obstalles are left to the front of the bunker.

Evaluation: Small obstacles in the field of fire create dead space which allows the enemy to approach and observe without being dectected. It also gives him protection against small arms fire.

Recommendation: That fields of fire be cleared of all obstacles to the outside wire. That the ground between the bunker line and the out side wire be smoothed and kept raked.

Observation: Fire Bases must depend on arial resupply, which in turn depends on the weather frequently causing a shortage of supplies.

Evaluation: Resupply is creating a shortage of water, rations, and ammunition which during a period of bad weather or an enemy attack could become critical.

Recommendation: During periods of good flying weather, the resupply elements should be used to its full extent and Fire Base stockpile supplies.

3. (U) Training - None

4. (U) Intelligence - None

5. (U) Logistics - NONE

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6. (U) Organization - None
7. (U) Tactical cover and deception. None.

JOHN D COTTINGHAM
LTC, Infantry
Commanding

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