

BARKING SANDS

operation is ~~was~~ being conducted by the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division for the pacification of CU CHI and TRANG BANG Districts in KAU NGHIA Province and in PHU HOA District of BINH DUONG Province. Counter ~~guerrilla~~ guerrilla warfare techniques are ~~was~~ being employed to include saturation patrolling, "Checkmates" (road blocks in unannounced locations to check for VC personnel or supplies being moved by surface transportation), bushmaster and cordon and search operations in cooperation with Regional and Popular Forces, and with ARVN units. Engineer units

upgraded Highway PA, leading from CU CHI to PHU CUONG, the capital of adjacent BINH DUONG Province. Daily convoys now run between these locations.

In addition to pacification missions, numerous small unit operations have been staged from dispersed battalion or company size bases throughout the district which have allowed the US units to limit VC capability to move freely during night or day, and therefore VC control of the AO has been reduced. A "Buddy" operation (conducted with the PHU DUC PF and the 494th RF Co), that illustrates the type of operations employed, was conducted on 19 June after intelligence was received through the Combined Operation Center (COC) at TRANG BANG that a VC squad was operating vic XT5130. Through three contacts that day the squad was eliminated, resulting in 5 VC KIA (BC), 3 VC KIA (poss) and 2 VC PW. These operations are continuing. Results of Operation BARKING SANDS to date are as follows: 115 VC KIA (BC), 294 VC KIA (poss), 9 VC PW, 1 HOI CHANH and 12,346 detainees. Enemy material captured was: 48 lbs documents, 6 CHIOM rifles, 6 AK-47s, 7 CHIOM carbines, 1 pistol, 4 RPG-2 rds, 12,000 lbs rice, 2 M1 carbines, 15 lbs clothing, 1 can of 16mm film, 925 Si rds, 2 - 57mm RR containers, 2 Russian carbines, 2 batteries, 2 claymores, 2 sampans, 1 commercial radio, 2 Mauser rifles, 300 meters claymore wire, 1 US protective mask, 1 LAW, 5 homemade blasting caps, 23½ lbs medical supplies, 30 M79 r's, 2 vials penicillin, 4 signs, unk ant medical records & medical booklets, 1 tunnel complex map, unk ant bottles & medicine vials, 1 Thompson SMG, 1 Russian semi-automatic rifle, 1 RPG-2 booster, 1 notebook, 3 wallets, 1 M1 rifle, 1 M79 protective mask, 1 M60 MG, 2-.45 cal pistols, 2 homemade rifles, 1 9mm CHIOM pistol, 1 VC protective mask, 560 piasters, 1 holster, 1-4.2" tube w/elevating mechanism, 24 VC flags, 1 canvas bag, 380 gals of fuel, 700 CHIEN HOI pamphlets. Enemy material destroyed was: 1157 bunkers, 576 military structures, 236 tunnels, 19 trenches, 74 AT mines, 58 booby traps, 46 AP mines, 8 claymores, 25-81mm rds, 8-82mm rds, 18-60mm rds, 3-75mm rds, 3-175mm rds, 12-105mm rds, 13-155mm rds, 10-RPG-2 rds, 272 grenades, 2-4.2" rds, 42 sampans 3 bicycles, 19 CBUs, 23 bombs, 504 lbs clothing, 3150 lbs rice, 1-8" rd, 17,411 Si rds, 1 shaped charge, 14 M79 rds, 145 lbs TNT, 50 lbs propaganda, 1 CHIOM claymore, 2 lbs bandages (soiled), 1000 ft commo wire, 2 RPG-2 chargers, 20 stick mine fuzes, 3 PPS41 Soviet SMGs, 2 unk mines, 1-81mm firing table, 200 sandbags, 2 concertina (rolls), 1-750 lb bomb casing, 1 Arty flare.

(1) Operation BARKING SANDS, conducted by the 1st Brigade in Hau Nghia, southern Tay Ninh and southwestern Binh Duong Provinces, denied the enemy free use of base areas that he once considered safe havens. Numerous small unit actions to include Bushmaster, cordon and search, road runner and Checkmate operations reduced Viet Cong capabilities to move freely day or night. Multi-battalion search and destroy operations conducted in the Iron Triangle in August continued to keep the enemy off balance. Operations in early September denied the enemy access to most of the civilian population during the national election. Jungle clearing operations were initiated in the Ho Bo Woods on 17 September and continued through October. The major objective of the operation was to deny the enemy use of the Ho Bo Woods as a sanctuary. The operation started in the northern and western parts of the Ho Bo area and moved east and south during October. At the end of October 9,645 acres of jungle had been cleared by Rome Plows. Hand tools and Bangalore torpedoes were used in areas inaccessible to the Rome Plows. Operation BARKING SANDS continues.