

BA LONG AND DA KRONG OPERATION

THE EXTENSIVE OPERATIONS PLANNED FOR THE BA LONG VALLEY AND DA KRONG VALLEY WERE POSTPONED FOR AN INDEFINITE TIME DUE TO THE INCREASED THREAT IN THE NORTHERN LANCASTER II A.O. BEFORE THE BA LONG OPERATION WAS POSTPONED, FIRE BASES HOLCOMB (YD118432) AND HENDERSON (YD080410) WERE PREPARED FOR USE.

THE NINTH MARINES HAVE CONTINUED TO PUSH INTO THAT PORTION OF THE BA LONG THAT FALLS WITHIN THEIR A.O. AND HAVE TWICE BEEN GIVEN EXTENSIONS TO THEIR A.O. TO CONTINUE WORK IN THIS VALLEY.

THERE HAS BEEN NO CONTACT IN THE BA LONG VALLEY, BUT ON TWO OCCASIONS AIR STRIKES RESULTED IN MANY SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS: (1) AT 110856H AUG. IN THE VICINITY OF YD 131417, 39 SECONDARIES WERE OBSERVED: (2) AT 1145H AUG AN AIR STRIKE AT THE SAME GRID RESULTED IN 52 SECONDARIES.

IN THE DA KRONG VALLEY, LZ'S PEACOCK, PIGEON AND PARROT WERE DEVELOPED BY AIR PREPS FOR THE FOURTH MARLES. ONE COMPANY OF 3/4 LANDED IN PEACOCK AND CONDUCTED LOCAL OPERATIONS FOR SEVERAL DAYS WITHOUT CONTACT. ON 24AUG, K/3/4 OPERATED VIC 2 KILOMETERS EAST OF PEACOCK.

ROUTINE 010245Z Z APR68FROM: CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
TO: CG 3D MARDIVINFO: CG III MAF
CG PCV
CG 1ST MAW
CG 1ST ACD
1ST MAR
2D BDE 1ST ACD

004A

1968

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SEARCH AND ^{CLEAR}~~DESTROY~~ OPERATION ^①~~II~~ SCOTLAND II-~~10(u)~~1. THIS MSG SUMMARIZES THE FIRST ^{SEARCH AND CLEAR}~~DESTROY~~ OPERATION CONDUCTED IN OPERATION SCOTLAND II.

2. PLAN. ON 21APR, TWO MAR BNS ATTACK SOUTHWARD, ABREAST, THROUGH AREAS OF KNOWN ENEMY CONCENTRATION ALONG A RIDGELINE FOUR MILES SOUTHWEST OF KHE SANH. LANDING BY HELICOPTERS IN TWO ZONES, ONE PREVIOUSLY SECURED BY ANOTHER MAR FORCE AND ONE CONTESTED BY THE NVA, THE ASSAULT FORCES SEARCH THE RIDGES AND SLOPES FOR ENEMY, THEIR BUNKERS AND FOOD OR AMMUNITION STOCKS. ONE BN OF THE 2D BDE, 1ST ACD ESTAB BLOCKING PSNS 2000 METERS SOUTH OF THE OBJECTIVE AREA. EXTENSIVE USE OF AIR STRIKES AND ARTY BEGINNING ON D-DAY MINUS TWO.

3. EXECUTION.

A. D-2 - EMPLOYING THE THREE 105MM HOWITZER AND ONE 155MM HOWITZER BATTERIES ASSIGNED TO THIS TASK FORCE, 348 ROUNDS OF ARTY WERE FIRED ON 58 SPECIFIC INTELLIGENCE TGTS TO DRIVE THE NVA FROM HIS BUNKERS AND DISRUPT POSSIBLE INFILTRATION. AVIATION SUPT PROVIDED 23 TPQ STRIKES AND 62 VISUAL CLOSE AIR

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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SUPT SORTIES DURING THE DAY. SUPPORTING AIR ATTACKS WERE CONDUCTED AS FAR WEST AS THE CO ROC AREA IN LAOS. DAYTIME AERIAL OBSERVERS ADJUSTED ON VISUALLY ACQUIRED TGTS AND INHIBITED ENEMY MOVEMENT BY DAY. AIR CAUSED 14 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, DESTROYED 1 MORTAR PSN, 4 RKT PSNS, 14 BUNKERS, 4 STRUCTURES AND 10 FIGHTING HOLES.

B. D-1 - ARTY BATTERIES EXECUTED BTRY ONE ROUND EACH ON MORE THAN 50 TGTS ACQUIRED THROUGH INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS. A HEAVY PROGRAM OF H&I FIRES WAS CONTINUED. PREPARATION BY AIR INCREASED WITH 50 TPQ SORTIES FLOWN IN THE TASK FORCE AREA AND 20 CLOSE AIR SORTIES. DAMAGE TO THE ENEMY INCLUDED 3 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 1 FIRE, DESTRUCTION OF 10 BUNKERS, 1 MORTAR PSN, AND 4 STRUCTURES.

C. D-DAY - AT SUNRISE, THE WEATHER IN KHE SANH AND IN THE OBJECTIVE AREA DID NOT PERMIT AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS. CEILINGS WERE LESS THAN 100 FEET AND VISIBILITY LESS THAN ONE QUARTER MILE. TPQ AIR MSNS AND ARTY FIRES KEPT PRESSURE ON THE ENEMY.

BY 0930H, WEATHER WAS IMPROVING, BUT STILL BELOW OPERATING MINIMUMS. L HOUR WAS RESET AS 1300H. BY L-90, FIXED WING WERE ON STATION FOR AN HOUR-LONG PREPARATION OF THE LANDING ZONE AND OBJECTIVE AREA. ARTY COVERED THE LZ FROM L-30 MINUTES TO 5 MINUTES BEFORE TOUCHDOWN WITH 283

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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RDS OF 105/155MM. ~~HELICOPTERS DROPPED TO 11000 FT 2D BN~~
~~3D MAR, ARRIVING OVERHEAD AT 1300H.~~ THE LIFT OF THE FIRST
 TWO WAVES WAS COMPLETED WITHOUT INCIDENT. AT 1332H, A TACTICAL
 AIR CONTROLLER (AIRBORNE) REPORTED ENEMY MORTAR ROUNDS STRIKING
 THE LZ. THE THIRD WAVE WAS HELD WHILE ARTY AND CLOSE AIR SUPT
 ATTACKED THE SUSPECTED MORTARS. AFTER REPEATED ATTACKS
 PRODUCING AT LEAST TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, THE MORTAR FIRE
 WAS SILENCED AT 1520H AND THE THIRD WAVE LANDED. AT 1415H
 AND 1430H, B-52 STRIKES WERE DIRECTED AT PSNS NEAR RTE #9
 AT THE LAOS BORDER.

D-DAY AIR SUPT TOTALED 41 CLOSE AIR/DEEP SUPT STRIKES
 57 TPQ DROPS FOR BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF 11 NVA KILLED,
 17 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 3 MORTAR PSNS, 2 RKT PSNS, AND 4
 BUNKERS DESTROYED.

2D BN 3D MAR ENCOUNTERED ENEMY SMALL ARMS, MORTARS AND
 GRENADES BUT CONTINUED SWEEPING THE AREA. THE ENEMY, ESTIMATED
 AS COMPANY SIZED, DEFENDED STUBBORNLY. ~~AFTER DRIVING HIM OUT,~~
~~THE FIELD WAS SWEEPED AND RECOVERY OF FRIENDLY KIA FROM THE~~
~~PREVIOUS ACTION ON 19 APR COMMENCED. THIRTY EIGHT BODIES WERE~~
~~RECOVERED. IN ORDER TO BRING THEM IN, 2D BN 1ST MAR HAD TO~~
 CLEAR ^{ED}20 ENEMY BUNKERS CONSTRUCTED OF DIRT AND LOGS.

THE GROUND ACTION SECURED OBJECTIVE #1 (XD 801406) AT
 1450H AND OBJECTIVE #2 (XD 794398) AT 1655H.

D. D+1 - S&D OPERATIONS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE PERIOD.
 AIRCRAFT PROVIDED 26 CLOSE AIR SUPT/DIRECT AIR SUPT STRIKES AND

PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

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36 TPQ RUNS. DAMAGE INFLICTED BY AIR WERE 2 KIA, 4 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 1 MORTAR PSN, 1 RKT PSN, AND 8 BUNKERS DESTROYED. ARTY SUPT GAVE EMPHASIS TO COUNTER MORTAR FIRES. BY THE END OF THE DAY, BNS WERE PREPARING FOR MOVES TO NEWLY ASSIGNED AREAS: THE AIRCAV BN PREPARING FOR A S&D OPERATION SOUTH, 2D BN 3D MAR FOR HELO LIFT TO THE EASTERN PART OF THE TASK FORCE AO AND 2D BN 1ST MAR FOR RETURN TO KHE SANH BASE.

E. D+2 - UNITS COMPLETED OPERATIONS IN THE OBJECTIVE AREA. 2D BN 3D MAR MOVED BY HELICOPTERS TO NEW PSN IN THE EASTERN SIDE OF AO.

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS.

A. CASUALTIES THIS OPERATION

FRIENDLY		ENEMY	
KIA	6	KIA	41 (NVA)
WIA (EVAC)	34	Individual	8
WIANE	1	Weapons	
		Captured	
		Crew-Served	2
		Weapons	
		Captured	

B. ENEMY MATERIAL CAPTURED: MODERATE QUANTITIES OF S/A AMMUNITION AND 782 GEAR CAPTURED. AMMUNITION AND 782 GEAR DESTROYED.

GP-4

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PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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ROUTINE 2 MAY68CG curtFROM: CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
TO: CG 3D MARDIVINFO: CG III MAF
CG PCV
CG 1ST MARDIV
CG 1ST MAW
CG 1ST AIRCAVDIV
1ST MAR
2D BDE 1ST ACD

C O N F I D E N T I A L

OFFENSIVE SWEEP OPERATION #2, SCOTLAND II AO (U)

A. CG 3D MARDIV 150300Z APR68 (OPORD 11-68)

B. TF HOTEL 221705Z APR68 (OPORD 8-68)

1. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE SECOND OFFENSIVE SWEEP
CONDUCTED ~~IN~~ REF A.

2. PLAN. ON D-DAY (23APR) FIVE COMPANIES OF THE 2D BDE
1ST ACD MOVING IN MUTUAL SUPPORT, CONDUCT AIR/GROUND
ASSAULT ON OBJS: NR1 - XD 789358, NR2 - XD 826343, NR3 -
XD 805315, NR4 - XD 825303, AND ON ORDER ASSAULT OBJS NR5 -
XD 864325, NR6 - XD 846298. THE MISSION IS TO CLOSE WITH
AND KILL THE ENEMY, DESTROY MORTAR/RKT PSNS, AMMUNITION/
FOOD CACHES, AND DETERMINE THE STRENGTH OF ENEMY FORCES IN
THE SOUTHERN ^{PORTION} ~~POSITION~~ OF THE SCOTLAND II AO. REF B APPLIES.

3. EXECUTION

A. D-2 (21APR) MAXIMUM USE WAS MADE OF FIXED WING
AIRCRAFT. LZ PREPS WERE USED AND MORTAR/RKT PSNS AND TGTS
ALONG THE LAOS BORDER WERE HIT. TPQ MISSIONS WERE CONDUCTED

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

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DAY AND NIGHT, TOTALING TWENTY-THREE SORTIES. CAS/DAS SORTIES FLOWN NUMBERED 25. BDA OBSERVED WERE 14 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 1 MORTAR PSN DESTROYED, 4 RKT PSNS, AND 4 STRUCTURES DESTROYED; 14 REINFORCED FIGHTING HOLES/BUNKERS AND 10 FIGHTING HOLES DESTROYED.

D-1. AT 220657H, A&D COMPANIES, 1ST OF THE 5TH CAV, 2D BDE BEGAN MOVING BY FOOT TOWARDS INITIAL OBJECTIVES

AT 221630H, D/1ST/5TH, VIC XD 791389 FOUND 2 NVA/KIA(C), 1 AK-47 AND ASSORTED GEAR AND AMMO.

2D BDE 1ST ACD(-) PREPARING TO CONDUCT OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS WITH 3 COMPANIES, SOUTH OF PRESENT PSNS TO LANG VEI AND AREAS EAST/SOUTH OF LANG VEI.

D-DAY. AT 231325H, VIC XD 781372, SCOUT HELO REC'D 6 HITS FROM 30 CAL MG. HELO KILLED 2 NVA.

AT 231550H, D/1ST/5TH CAV, REC'D SAF FROM BUNKERS ON NW CORNER OF SPEC FORCES CAMP. A/1ST/5TH CAV MADE FLANKING MANEUVER.

AT 231715H, 2D BDE BROKE OFF ATTACK ON LANG VEI AND LAID ON ARTY AND AIR STRIKES.

D+1. AT 241120H, A&D 1ST/5TH CAV COMMENCED ATTACK ON NEW SF CAMP AT LANG VEI. CAMP SECURED AT 241140H.

D+2. NO SIGNIFICANT CONTACT.

D+3. AT 261009H, C/2D/5TH CAV AIR ASSAULTED TO XD 828321. NEG CONTACT.

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

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261300H TO 261340H, D/1ST/5TH CAV CAME UNDER ARTY, MORTAR, AND S/A FIRE. ARTY MISSION, ARA, AND A/S CALLED VIC XD 802328.

D+4. NEG CONTACT.

D+5. 281040H, C/2D/5TH CAV FIRED ARTY & S/A ON 6 NVA VIC XD 835308.

D+6. 290330H, C&D 2D/5TH CAV VIC 828321 REC'D GRENADES, RPG, S/A, AND A/W FIRE. RETURNED FIRE.

D+7. VIC XD 815337 C/1ST/5TH CAV WITH 3D FORCE RECON TEAM (AMANDA) DESTROYED LARGE CACHE OF AMMO AND EXPLOSIVES.

D+8.³¹ NO CONTACT.

D+9. NO CONTACT.

D+10. 030910H, OPERATION SECURED, UNITS RETURNED TO RESPECTIVE CP'S.

4. SUMMARY

RESULTS: 4 FRIENDLY KIA, 36 MEDEVACS; 5 WIA; 29 NVA/KIA; 3 NVA POW; 23 INDIVIDUAL WPNS CAPTURED, AND 3 CREW SERVED WPNS CAPTURED.

65 BUNKERS AND 35 HUTCHES DESTROYED. THE FOLLOWING AMMO WAS CAPTURED: 50 CAL - 12 BOXES, 1 SANDBAG FULL OF LOOSE ROUNDS; 7.62MM - 47 BOXES, AND 4 SANDBAGS FULL; 82MM - 69 RDS; 12.7 MM - 150 RDS; TNT - 150 POUNDS;

PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

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RPG - 10 CASES & 44 LOOSE RDS; RPG-~~2~~ RDS - 16 CASES;
WP RIFLE GRENADES - 4; DIRECTIONAL MINES - 2; 60MM -
50 RDS; BLASTING CAPS - 12; MORTAR PRIMERS - 12 BOXES
AND 50 CANS; CHICOM GRENADES - 706. THE FOLLOWING GEAR
WAS CAPTURED: 5 WATER CANS; 4 NVA HELMETS; 1 PR GAS
MASK GOGGLES.

GP-4

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PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

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ROUTINE Z APR 68

FROM: CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
TO: CG 3D MARDIV

INFO: CG III MAF
CG PROV CORPS VIETNAM
CG 1ST MAF
CG 1ST MARDIV
CG 1ST AIRCVRDIV
1ST MAR
2BDE 1ST AGD

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION #3, SCOTLAND II AO (U)

A. CG 3D MARDIV 150300Z (OPORD 11-68)

1. THIS MSG SUMMARIZES THE THIRD S&D OPN CONDUCTED IAW REF A.
S & D #2 COMMENCED EARLIER THAN THIS OPN BUT STILL CONTINUES.

2. PLAN. ON 27APR68, ONE MAR BN REINF BY ONE COMPANY AND SUPPORTED BY A BN(-) IN SCREENING PSNS CONDUCTS A HELIBORNE ASSAULT OF 4 COMPANIES INTO THE WEST CENTRAL PART OF THE AO IN AN AREA BOUNDED BY XD7743, XD8143, XD8140 AND XD 7740. ONE COMPANY ESTAB BLOCKING PSN AT XD803409. ATTACKING TO THE SOUTHWEST, THE BN DESTROYS EN TROOPS, PSNS AND MUNITIONS. TPQ PREP ON D-2 AND D-1. FIXED WING PREP LZ AND THEREAFTER ARE ON CALL. UHIE GUNSHIPS ESCORT TROOP HELOS; USE ORGANIC ARTY TO MAX EXTENT.

3. EXECUTION.

A. PRIOR TO D-2. EIGHT TPQ CONTROLLED AIR STRIKES AND 294 RDS OF MIXED CAL ARTY WERE FIRED IN SUPT OF THE PLANNED OPERATIONS.

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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B. D-2. DIRECT AIR SUPT STRIKES WERE CONDUCTED ON MORTAR SITES, KILLING 2 NVA AND DESTROYING 3 SITES AND 10 BUNKERS. WEATHER LIMITED DAYLIGHT DEEP AIR SUPPORT (DAS) STRIKES TO 5. FIVE TPQ ~~25~~ STRIKES WERE CONDUCTED IN THE OBJECTIVE AREA AGAINST SELECTED EN PSN. ARTY DELIVERED 162 ~~RDS~~ OF MIXED CALIBER FIRE ON 27 INTELLIGENCE TGTS.

C. D-1. AIR SUPT WAS INCREASED IN PREPARATION FOR D-DAY: A TOTAL OF 14 DAS SORTIES AND 25 TPQ SORTIES WERE CONDUCTED. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT FOR THE PERIOD: 7 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS, 1 MORTAR SITE DESTROYED, 17 BUNKERS DESTROYED, 50 METERS OF TRENCH DESTROYED, 1 STRUCTURE, AND 22 FOXHOLES DESTROYED. THE LZ WAS PREPPED BY 7 FLIGHTS OF FIXED WINGED AIRCRAFT. ARTY DELIVERED 156 RDS OF MIXED CALIBER FIRE ON 25 INTELLIGENCE TGTS.

D. D-DAY. A 35 MINUTE ARTILLERY PREP ENDED AT L-5 MINUTES WHICH STRUCK BOTH LZ'S, OBJ #1 AND #2 AND INTELLIGENCE TGTS IN VIC OF LZ'S. A TOTAL OF 36 RDS OF 155MM AND 90 RDS OF 105MM WERE EXPENDED. 1ST BN 77TH ARTY FIRED SCREENING FIRES TO WEST OF LZ OBJ'S FROM L-HOUR TO L+1 HOUR EXPENDING 96 RDS OF 105MM.

TPQ REMAINED INOPERATIVE HOWEVER, THE LZ WAS PREPARED BY FOUR FLIGHTS OF FIXED WING FROM L-90 TO L-30. AS THE HELICOPTER ASSAULT WAS CONDUCTED, THE PRIMARY TGT AREA WAS TO

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

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THE WEST AND NORTHWEST OF THE LZ, AN AREA OF SUSPECTED ENEMY CONCENTRATION. HELICOPTER ESCORT WAS LATE SO L-HOUR WAS SLIPPED 30 MINUTES. HELILIFT OF ASSAULT FORCES COMMENCED AT 271031H. THE HELICOPTER ASSAULT WAVES WERE UNOPPOSED AND ALL TROOPS WERE IN THE LZ WITHIN L+65. A TOTAL OF 30 SORTIES WERE CONDUCTED DURING THE DAY.

COMPANIES "I", "K", AND "L" OF 3/4 WERE IN THE LZ BY 271136H. THE PICKUP ZONE (HILL 689 AT XD803409) REC'D SPORADIC SHELLING BUT PRODUCED NO CASUALTIES. SEARCHING THE NORTHWEST TO SOUTHEAST CORRIDOR, THE BN CONCLUDED THE OPERATION WITHOUT CONTACT. L/3/4 AT 271732H AT XD797412 FOUND 3 ABANDONED MORTAR PITS AND 4 LIVING BUNKERS AND DESTROYED THEM.

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS: FRIENDLY/ENEMY CASUALTIES NEGATIVE. WEAPONS CAPTURED NEGATIVE.

~~5.~~ REMARKS.

GP-4

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PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

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ROUTINE 090320Z Z MAY68

FROM: CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
TO: CG 3D MARDIV

INFO: CG III MAF
CG PCV
CG 1ST MARDIV
CG 1ST MAW
CG 1ST ACD
1ST MAR
2D BDE 1ST ACD

C O N F I D E N T I A L

OFFENSIVE SWEEP #A, SCOTLAND II AO (U)

A. CG 3D MARDIV 150300Z APR68 (OPORD 11-68)

B. CG TF HOTEL 290220Z APR68 (PRAG O 3-68)

1. THIS MSG SUMMARIZES THE FOURTH OFFENSIVE OPERATION CONDUCTED IAW REF A.

2. PLAN. IAW REF B ON D-DAY (1MAY68) ONE MAR BN, MOVING BY FOOT AND HELO ASSAULT, ESTAB THREE BLOCKING PSNS ACROSS TOP OF OPERATING AREA BOUNDED BY XD 960320, XD 954320, XD 953400, RTE #9, AND XD 860390 AND CONDUCTS AN OFFENSIVE SWEEP. ONE BN(-), 2D BDE 1ST ACD, HELO ASSAULTS ON D+1 INTO TWO LZ IN SW PART OF OPERATING AREA AND CONDUCTS OFFENSIVE SWEEP TO NE TO KILL OR CAPTURE ENEMY, DESTROY FORTIFICATIONS/FOOD CACHES.

3. EXECUTION.

A. D-2 (29APR68). FIXED WING FLEW TWO MISSIONS IN DAS OF OPERATION. NO TROOPS IN CONTACT. TGTS OF KNOWN AND SUSPECTED ARTY AND MORTAR PSNS WERE HIT. 20 TONS OF ORDNANCE EXPENDED RESULTED IN 2 SEC FIRES ON ARTY PSNS.

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

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B. D-1 (30APR68). FIXED WING FLEW 5 MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS. NO TROOPS IN CONTACT. DAS MISSIONS CONDUCTED ON KNOWN AND SUSPECTED ARTY PSNS THREATENING THIS OPERATION. 10 TONS OF ORDNANCE WERE DELIVERED WITH 2 SEC EXPLOSIONS AND 8 MORTAR PSNS DESTROYED.

C. D-DAY. INCLEMENT WEATHER LIMITED CAS TO ONE MISSION IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION. 10 TONS OF ORDNANCE WERE DELIVERED BY TPQ. AT 011155H, F/2/1 SECURED REGTL OBJ #1 (XD 874390); AT 011215H, E/2/1 SECURED REGTL OBJ #2 (XD 904386). THERE WAS NO ENEMY OPPOSITION AND OUR FORCES CLEARED THE AREA, DESTROYING 2 REIN FIGHTING PSNS AND 4 TUNNELS.

D. D+1 (2MAY68) NO FIXED WING CAS/DAS MSNS WERE FLOWN DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. SIXTEEN FIXED WING SORTIES DELIVERED 51 TONS OF ORDNANCE BY TPQ ON ARTY PSNS, BUNKERS, AMMO DUMPS, INFILTRATION RTES, ~~AND~~ SUSPECTED RKT PSNS, AND ASSEMBLY AREAS. NO BDA DUE TO WEATHER. H/2/1 SECURED LZ PELICAN (XD 919379) WITH NEG CONTACT. AT 021500H G/2/1 SECURED REGTL OBJ #3 (XD 925379).

AT 021016H B 2D OF THE 5TH, HELO LIFTED TO LZ WHARTON EAST (XD 884363). NO CONTACT ON ARRIVAL BUT THE HELOS TOOK SMALL ARMS FROM THE SOUTH WHILE ENROUTE.

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

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AT 021130H A & C 2D OF THE 5TH, LIFTED TO LZ TOM
(XD 898348). NO CONTACT.

E. D+2 93MAY68). 030910H OPERATION SECURED AND BDE
UNITS WERE AUTH TO RETURN AT 030945H. F/2/1 LOCATED
BUNKER COMPLEX OF RECENT CONSTRUCTION INCLUDING A CACHE OF
ARMS NEARBY. AT 031445H, F/2/1 SEARCHED AREA OF AIR
STRIKE AT XD 874381 AND DISCOVERED 1 M-16 & 28 NVA/KIA(C).
AT 031600H, VIC XD 875386, F/2/1 FOUND 25 REIN FIGHTING
PSNS, AND 2 MORTAR PITS.

4. RESULTS: NEG ENEMY CONTACT. 32 REIN FIGHTING PSNS
DESTROYED, 4 TUNNELS DESTROYED, FOUND 1 BOX 7.62 AMMO,
6 BOXES 50 CAL AMMO, 12 INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED,
AND 4 CREW SERVED WEAPONS CAPTURED, AND 17 2-PIECE GAS
MASKS, ASST MED SUPPLIES, 1 FLD TELEPHONE, 124 LBS TNT,
56 BLASTING CAPS, 14 AK-47 MAG POUCHES, 6 B-40 RKT RDS,
52 CHICOM GRENADES, WIRE CUTTERS, 20' DET CORD, AND 28
NVA/KIA(C) (KILLED BY AIR).

GP-4

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PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

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180310Z MAY 68
 FROM: CG TASK FORCE HOTEL
 TO: CG 3D MARDIV

INFO: CG III MAF
 CG PCV
 CG 1ST MAF
 CG 1ST MARDIV
 1ST MAF

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OFFENSIVE SWEEP SCOTLAND II AO (U)

A. CG 3D MARDIV 150300Z Apr 68 (OPORD 11-68)

1. THIS MESSAGE SUMMARIZES THE FIFTH OFFENSIVE OPERATION CONDUCTED 1 AW REF A.

2. PLANS: ON D DAY (7 MAY 68) 1ST MARINES CONDUCTS AN OFFENSIVE SWEEP TO CLEAR THE ENEMY VICINITY OF HILL 881 (N) ID 776456.

ONE BN (-) ATTACHES FROM THEIR PRESENT POSITIONS HILL 881 (S) (ID 776438), & HILL 861 (XD 802433), TOWARDS HILL 881 (N).

AFTER CLEARING FIVE INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES, ESTABLISH TWO BLOCKING POSITIONS TO SUPPORT A HELIBORNE ASSAULT ON LANDING ON D-1 ON HILL 881 (N). THE HELIBORNE BN ESTABLISHES A COMBAT BASE AT LZ BLUEJAY (XD 777457) & CONDUCTS EXTENSIVE CLEARING OPERATION THROUGHOUT HILL 881 (N).

.. EXECUTION:

A. D-3 (4 MAY 68) AIR STRIKES WERE CONDUCTED TO DESTROY INTELLIGENCE TARGETS & PREP OBJECTIVE AREA. FIFTEEN MISSIONS (30 SORTIES) OF CAS/DAS DELIVERED 99,300 LBS OF ORDNANCE. TEN TFO SORTIES CONTRIBUTED 42,00 LBS OF ORDNANCE, WHICH INCLUDES 20,000 LBS DROPPED IN "MINI" ARCLIGHTS. OBSERVED BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT: SIX BUNKERS DESTROYED, THREE SECONDARY FIRES, TWO ROCKET STORAGE SITES, ONE MORTAR POSITION, & TWENTY METERS OF TRENCH LINE DESTROYED.

PAGE 1 OF PAGES

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B. D-2 (5 MAY 68) THIRTEEN CAS/DAS MISSIONS WERE FLOWN. TWENTY-SIX SORTIES DELIVERED 103000 LBS OF ORDNANCE. NO BOMB DAMAGE ASSESSMENT WAS MADE.

C. D-1 (6 MAY 68) INCLEMENT WEATHER HINDERED CAS/DAS, HOWEVER, EIGHT TFQ FLIGHTS SATURATED THE OBJECTIVE AREA WITH 45,000 LBS OF ORDNANCE.

D. D-DAY (7 MAY 68) THE INFANTRY BN, 1ST BN, 1ST MARINES (-) LAUNCHED ATTACKS AS SCHEDULED (0700H). INTERMEDIATE OBJECTIVES WERE TAKEN WITH NEGATIVE ENEMY CONTACT. TWO UNITS AHEAD ATTACKED THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES: (1) VIC XD 764441, (2) VIC XD 758446, (3) VIC XD 779441, (4) VIC XD 798442 & (5) VIC XD 788445. BLOCKING POSITIONS WERE ESTABLISHED ON OBJECTIVES (3) & (5) BY DARK. AIR & ARTILLERY SUPPORTED THE ASSAULT OF GROUND TROOPS.

E. D+1 (8 MAY 68) THE LIFT OF THE HELIBORNE BN, 2ND BN 1ST MARINES TO LZ BLUEJAY WAS DELAYED DUE TO HEAVY COMMITMENTS OF HELICOPTERS THROUGHOUT THE DIVISION. AT 1030H, FIXED WING PREPED THE LZ & TARGET AREA, & THE HELIBORNE BN WAS INSERTED IN LZ BLUEJAY SCREENED BY SMOKE FROM FIXED WING AIRCRAFT. APPROXIMATELY 61,000 LBS OF ORDNANCE WAS DROPPED & THE HELICOPTERS TRANSPORTED 791 TROOPS PLUS 67,500 LBS OF CARGO IN THIS HELIBORNE ASSAULT. THE ENEMY COMMENCED MORTAR FIRE ON THE LZ WHICH RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, 1 KIA, 9 WIAE. NO HELICOPTERS WERE DAMAGED. COUNTER FIRE WERE DELIVERED BY ARTILLERY WITH NEGATIVE ASSESSMENT. ^{2ND} BN 1ST MARINES ATTACKED THE FOLLOWING ASSIGNED OBJECTIVES ON HILL 881 (H): (6) VIC XD 779450, (7) VIC XD 764460, & (8) VIC XD 764463.

PAGE 2 OF 2

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NO ENEMY CONTACT WAS MADE BUT THE ENEMY CONTINUED TO HARASS THEIR ADVANCEMENT WITH MORTARS, ROCKETS & ARTILLERY. FIXED WING CAS & ARTILLERY FIRES WERE CALLED IN. ON OBJECTIVE (8) 9 ROCKETS WERE FOUND WIRED & READY TO FIRE. THE ROCKETS WERE DISARMED & DESTROYED. DURING THE DAYS ACTIVITY 3 NVA BODIES WERE FOUND & MANY BUNKERS, DEFENSIVE POSITIONS & FIGHTING POSITIONS WERE DISCOVERED. LARGE QUANTITIES OF ENEMY EQUIPMENT, AMMO & SUPPLIES WERE UNCOVERED IN THESE DEFENSIVE POSITIONS. FRIENDLY CASUALTIES FOR D+1 WERE: 1 KIA & 9 WIAE. THE BN COMMANDER, LTCOL ¹⁴DEGAN, WAS MEDEVAC WITH SHRAPNEL WOUNDS RECEIVED FROM INCOMING.

F. D+2 (9 MAY 68) ADDITIONAL OBJECTIVES WERE ASSIGNED TO ^{2ND} BN 1ST MARINES SO A COMPLETE SEARCH COULD BE CONDUCTED ON SLOPES OF 881 (N). THE OBJECTIVES ARE: (9) VIC XD 758469 (10) VIC XD 758460, (11) VIC XD 768450, (12) VIC XD 785455 & (13) VIC XD 798459. THERE WAS NO ENEMY SMALL ARMS CONTACT OR VISUAL SIGHTING BUT THE ENEMY CONTINUED ATTACKS BY MORTARS & ROCKETS. 1ST BN 1ST MARINES IN THEIR BLOCKING POSITIONS ON OBJ (5) XD 788445 HAD A SECURITY PATROL & MADE CONTACT WITH 8 NVA. ARTILLERY & AN AIR STRIKE ^{WERE} CONDUCTED. THE AIR STRIKE DESTROYED 2 MORTAR POSITIONS, 7 BUNKERS, 60 METERS OF TRENCH LINE & KILLED 4 NVA. THE PATROL ACCOUNTED FOR 4 ADDITIONAL NVA (C). FRIENDLY CASUALTIES, 1 KIA, 1 WIAE, 1 WIANE.

G. D+3 (10 MAY 68) CONTINUATION OF THE OPERATION REVEALED SEVERAL ENEMY COMPLEXES BUT THE ENEMY HAD VACATED ALL POSITIONS. ONE NVA BODY WAS DISCOVERED APPARENTLY KILLED BY AIR STRIKES. LARGE QUANTITIES OF EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES WERE FOUND. MOST OF COMPLEXES APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN ABANDONED ABOUT A MONTH BUT SOME

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H. D+4 (11 MAY 68) 2ND BN 1ST MARINES CONTINUED THEIR SEARCH OPERATIONS BACK TOWARDS KHE SANH BASE. 1ST BN 1ST MARINES RETURNED TO POSITIONS AT 881 (S) & 861. OPERATION WAS TERMINATED ON THIS DATE.

4. RESULTS: 13 NVA^{VIA} (C) 8 IWC, 10 CASES OF AK-47 AMMUNITION, 2 BOXES M-16 AMMUNITION, 300 RDS 30 CAL LINK, 850 RDS 50 CAL, 24 CHI COM GRENADES, 20 (140MM) ROCKETS, 100 RDS 60MM MORTARS, 78 RDS 82MM MORTARS, 4 PACKS, 6 "E" TOOLS, 1 AMMO POUCH, 2 FLACK JACKETS, 2 HELMENTS, 2 GAS MASKS, 2 CARTRIDGE BELTS, 3 CANTEENS, 17 BAGS OF RICE & A VARIETY OF CLOTHING. THE AIR, ARTILLERY & GROUND UNITS DESTROYED 2 MORTAR POSITIONS, 73 BUNKERS WITH ADJOINING FIGHTING HOLES, 3 ROCKET POSTIONS & SEVERAL METERS OF TRENCH LINES. FIVE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS WERE OBSERVED AT VARIOUS TARGETS.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
2d Battalion, 1st Marines
2d Battalion, 3rd Marines
140800H to 200800H May 1968

Good!
Put in Journal
FILE WITH 314
SUMMARY
mm

The first major engagement with the NVA forces to the south of KSB was a poorly executed ambush on the logistics convoy heading east along Route #9. This occurred at 1045H on 14 May. A small force of NVA attacked the convoy with RPGs and small arms fire. The security force immediately reacted and the reaction company H/2/3 at LZ HAWK responded with exceptional speed and skill. They attacked from two directions and the enemy fled. Oral orders were issued to pursue and exploit this action. "F" and "E" Companies 2/3 were committed. Several brief fire fights were encountered but the momentum of the Marines did not falter. The close team work by air, artillery, and ground accounted for 20 NVA/KIA and 1 wounded NVA POW. Positions were consolidated for the night and at first light the attack was continued. "E" and "H" Companies 2/3 met strong resistance by the enemy fighting from well fortified positions but close air support using napalm enabled the Marines to assault through the positions. The enemy had suffered 34 NVA killed. Meanwhile, F/2/3 met only small pockets of resistance. Additional search of the area gave evidence that the enemy had withdrawn from the area. 2d Battalion, 3d Marines pulled their forces back toward LZ HAWK and continued search operations. It is suspected that this action by the NVA must have been a reconnaissance in force.

No additional contacts were experienced until an early morning probe by an estimated NVA platoon on the 18th. They were repulsed by H/2/3 and a heavy concentration of artillery fire near the friendly lines. Eight NVA were left dead outside the perimeter. The following morning another assault was attempted. Once again the combined Marine firepower devastated the enemy. Six NVA bodies were found and 1 wounded NVA officer was taken prisoner. Interrogation was not completed until late afternoon. A series of events, described in the following paragraph, plus his timely intelligence concerning the attack on KSB developed the order of battle as planned by the enemy.

On the same morning 190710H the minesweep force, a platoon of F/2/1, was carrying out its basic mission when attacked by a small NVA unit. Two RPGs were fired at the lead tanks. One tank was damaged and the other received damage to its .50 Caliber Machine Gun. The tanks and infantry opened fire killing 2 NVA. This engagement occurred about 1200 meters south of KSB on the access road. Continuing cautiously down the road, the force once again received heavy contact. Bitter fighting prevailed and the additional units of F/2/1 were sent to the scene. They immediately met stiff resistance. Reinforcements, "G" and "H" Companies 2/1, were dispatched from KSB and E/2/3 with tanks was sent from LZ HAWK to the east flank to envelop the well dug in NVA. The enemy started to withdraw to the south by Ku Bac. The Marine units continued to drive the enemy south using air strikes and artillery.

The Marine forces linked up and then consolidated. This action covered the better part of the day and the Commanding Officer of 1st Marines requested an additional battalion to defend KSB. 3d Battalion(-), 9th Marines arrived to defend KSB proper. The results of this major fight were: 66 NVA/KIA, 8 friendly KIA, 34 WIA (EVAC), and 10 WIANE. The air component contributed as major factor in rooting out the enemy in their defensive positions.

As related earlier, the NVA prisoner gave timely intelligence. He stated, "that a major attack would be conducted on KSB on the eve of 19 May." All indications by the daily activities plus the contacts described on 3d Battalion, 4th Marines summary of operations depicted the scheme. The main thrust would come from the south with adjacent units tying down the flanking forces of KSB. All units were put on 100% alert, 19 TPQs were conducted and 2 ARC LIGHTS dumped their payloads on Co Roc. This attack never materialized. A possible reason may be the premature findings of the enemy plus his resounding losses may have disrupted his plan of attack.

On the 20th all Marine units conducted thorough search operations. G/2/1 discovered 31 bodies and E/2/1 captured 2 POWs and found 6 more bodies. The enemy had definitely withdrawn from the area leaving behind many traces that they had suffered numerous casualties. No contacts were made for two more days but additional NVA bodies were found.

In retrospect, a coordinated attack was planned by a large NVA force. A smaller force of possible battalion had engaged 3d Battalion, 4th Marines to the west with the main effort to come from the south. The enemy was deployed in force and well equipped. They utilized bunkers, fighting holes and trench lines in their offensive thrust. The enemy soldier displayed determination but lacked basic skills, however, the ever apparent adeptness in use of mortar, rockets, and antimechanized weapons was felt.

The results of these contacts are: Enemy, 256 NVA/KIA, 3 POWs, Friendly, 22 KIA, 53 WIA (EVAC), and 45 WIANE.

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SUMMARY OF 3RD BN, 4TH MARINES
ENGAGEMENT WITH NVA FORCES
150800H MAY - 200800H MAY

THIS IS
VERY GOOD!
PLEASE ADD IT
TO DAILY JOURNAL
FOR 19-20 PERIOD
~M

C/S
TF Hotel

Major contact by 3rd Bn, 4th Marines was precipitated by several patrol size confrontations. It appeared that the NVA was using 4 to 6 man teams to recon the terrain and determine the disposition of forces to west - southwest of Hills 689 and 552. 15 May activities resulted in the first major meeting. One platoon of L/3/4 engaged with a unit of NVA. The rest of L/3/4 units arrived and conducted an assault on the NVA unit. The NVA skillfully used mortars and rockets on the assaulting Marines but the combined Marine team of air, artillery and infantry seized the objective. The enemy left 6 comrades dead and large stocks of equipment, weapons and ammunition. Our losses were 4 KIA and 34 WIA (E).

On 16 May K/3/4 made initial contact with NVA forces attempting to close with the Marine forces around Khe Sanh. One platoon of K/3/4 was sent forward of Hill 689 to conduct a Combat Patrol early in the morning. At vicinity XD 792416 the platoon made contact with an NVA unit of unknown size. They were well dug in. All supporting arms, artillery and gunships were employed to destroy the enemy. A flame thrower team was asked for but the platoon could not force the enemy from their positions. The rest of K/3/4 was deployed to assault the finger of the ridgeline. They were immediately engaged in heavy exchange of small arms fire and mortar fire. After fierce fighting K/3/4 had obtained the forward positions of the NVA positions. Air strikes were conducted but the enemy pulled back to reverse slope defense. Upon assault the Marines met heavy volume of small arms fire, grenades and mortars. The battle continued through the day. Towards darkness the order was received to return to Hill 689. Breaking contact was difficult and the lead platoon did not get back to the consolidated position until 162200H. They left a MIA on the hill. For this particular enemy engagement K/3/4 suffered 10 WIA (E), 1 WIANE and 1 MIA. They had killed 11 NVA.

Companies "I" and "M" had returned OPCON to 3rd Bn, 4th Marines on the afternoon of the 16th after being deployed to the KENTUCKY AO. They were helo lifted to KSB and were moving out towards Hills 689 and 552. They received heavy mortar and small arms fire at vicinity XD 813404. The two companies expertly utilized all fire support available and assaulted through the enemy position

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and consolidated on Hill 552. Results of this activity were 5 KIA, 17 WIA (E) and 3 WIANE. They accounted for 10 NVA/KIA.

Numerous spottings of additional NVA were reported throughout the day and night. Air and artillery missions were conducted. After appraisal of the daily activities it was considered that the NVA had at least a company reinforced in the immediate area plus reinforcements. Additional air strikes and artillery missions were conducted to prepare the area between Hills 552 and 689 and the ridgeline to the west of 689. Battalion objectives were assigned and after the pounding by supporting arms K/3/4 assaulted the old position of contact. "I" and "M" 3/4 attacked terrain surrounding Hills 689 and 552. No initial contact was made. K/3/4 found 1 NVA body but the area looked as if the NVA had departed the area taking their dead and wounded. Many blood trails and dragging marks indicated that the NVA had suffered many casualties. The MIA Marine was found. He was KIA. Later in the afternoon I/3/4 again found the enemy dug in on the reverse slope type defense. The supporting arms, air and artillery were effectively called in. The assault seized the objective. Sixteen Marines were WIA (E) but accounted for 22 NVA bodies.

Again during the hours of darkness the enemy probed 3/4 positions. Additional sightings of NVA were reported in the same general area of combat from previous days. TPQs and CAS/DAS strikes were conducted throughout the night and the entire morning of 18 May.

The same units returned to their old battlegrounds. This time there were no incidents. Several platoon size ambushes were left on avenues of approach but the enemy had broken contact.

On 19 May a platoon of I/3/4 moved out to search surrounding area of Hill 552. Contact was made with 6 NVA. Once again air strikes and artillery pounded the area of contact. I/3/4 units joined the platoon and swept through the area. Several NVA in spider holes engaged in small arms fire. After the objective was taken 38 enemy were accounted for. A continuation of the attack resulted in contact with more NVA in spider holes. After a short fierce fire fight, the Marines seized the area. Nineteen additional NVA bodies were accounted. Only 9 Marines were WIA (E).

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Since this engagement the NVA apparently has withdrawn from the immediate area. It is most noteworthy that the NVA utilized supporting arms, mortars and rockets, with skill. They employed reverse slope defense with well constructed bunkers and spider holes. The enemy was well equipped and had sufficient quantities of ammunition. The results of 3rd Bn, 4th Marines actions: Friendly: 9 KIA, 107 WIA (E), 11 WIANE. Enemy: 107 KIA/NVA, 18 NVA/KBA, 3 POWs.

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS
2d Bn 3rd Marines
271600H to 290800H May 1968

I KNOW TACTICS
CONSUME SOME TIME IN
PREPARATION, BUT THEY
ARE EXCELLENT AND WILL
PROVE INVALUABLE IN THE
FUTURE.
I BELIEVE DURING
THIS PEAK
PERIOD WE
SHOULD
PREPARE ONE
EVERY FEW DAYS,
JUST TO BE
SURE WE
DO
THE NVA
NOT GET
BEHIND
WJ

The 2nd Battalion of 3rd Marines assigned AO is generally to the east and south of KSB. Special emphasis in their AO has been placed on offensive activities to the south of Route #9 as a compilation and study of collected intelligence gives positive evidence that one NVA regiment and possibly two are staging and operating in this lower southern quadrant. Each day company size combat patrols have sightings of small NVA units at a distance but normally avoided contact.

On the night of 27 May the NVA changed their tactics. As usual Foxtrot Company 2nd Battalion 3rd Marines had conducted daylight patrolling late in the afternoon they consolidated on a defensible hill and made all preparations for night time combat operations. At 280230H May the NVA initiated a battle that raged for 16 hours. This first contact was a small group of fanatic NVA charging a northern listening post. They were carrying a satchel charge and yelling. The Marines opened fire and the NVA were stopped with the satchel charge exploding in their hands; this killed all of them. Meanwhile, another light enemy probe came from the south. They were repulsed by small arms fire. These attempts must have been "feelers" as at 0300 the major attack by an estimated NVA Battalion commenced. Immediately the final protective fires opened up and the pre-planned artillery concentrations plotted around the perimeter were filled with massive volumes of artillery rounds. By 0415, Spooky with its "mini-guns" and the flareship were on station supplementing the organic fires. Spooky provided small arms fire to within 20 meters of friendly positions. The battle raged on and the NVA were successful in splitting one platoon from the company. The small unit leaders re-positioned their forces and continued to fight.

At first light an aerial observer and UH1E gunships were providing support. The gunship poured small arms fire into the enemy then fixed wing soared in with napalm and 250 pound bombs. Close coordination was required as bombs were being dropped as close as possible. Slowly but surely, the enemy was being defeated. They were splintered into small groups and supporting arms continued the attack. At 1045, Echo Company 2dBn 3dMar moved towards Foxtrot Company. They assaulted through enemy resistance and joined Foxtrot Company perimeter. By now the enemy was reeling back and the supporting arms shifted their fires to avenues of regress. Fifteen more sorties by fixed wing were flown dropping tons of ordnance. The artillery continued to shell the enemy after the fixed wing had cleared the area.

By 1630, F/2/3 had pressed the attack along the ridge line forward of the original defensive positions. The enemy had been defeated in detail. One hundred seventy-six NVA bodies were found on the battle field but a detail search of the battle area was not conducted until the following day.

Foxtrot and Echo Companies consolidated into defensive positions for the night. No contact was made during the night but ~~the~~ could hear the NVA trying to collect equipment and bodies. The supporting arms, artillery, and air (TPQ's) pursued the attack on possible harboring sites and trails.

The next morning the two companies made a detail sweep of all adjacent areas. Another fifty-four bodies were found with large quantities of weapons, equipment and ammunition. Each day a continual search is made of the surrounding areas so it is possible additional bodies and/or weapons may be found. There are many indications that the NVA suffered many casualties.

This action and success strongly validates the Marines' system and usage of all supporting arms to implement the ground units. The close coordination and training by all Marines concerned fully illustrates that this combination of effort is most effective.

A recap of this action: 230 NVA/KIA attacking one Marine infantry company, the artillery fired 4215 rounds on pre-planned and observed concentrations, and the air (fixed wing, gunships, and spooky) added tremendous fire power to within 20 meters of the friendly lines. Their ordnance figures for 26 sorties and on station time, 94,000 pounds, including many tanks of napalm and thousands of rounds fired from smaller caliber weapons. The friendly casualties were: 13 KIA, 44 WIA(Evac).

The intentions or goal of the NVA for this attack ^{ARE} ~~is~~ difficult to speculate. A large force was committed and the troops were well armed with new weapons, RPG's and multiple automatic weapons both light and heavy. It was experienced that the NVA did utilize their artillery from Co Roc on the fighting units plus some on Khe Sanh Base for the first time.

More enemy are in this area so this summary of activity is not necessarily final.