

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 11th Infantry Brigade, 23d Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96217

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AVDF-BAOP

24 July 1971

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

Commanding General
23d Infantry Division
ATTN: AVDF-GCHL
APO San Francisco 96374

1. (U) NAME OF OPERATION: Finney Hill

2. (U) DATES OF OPERATION: 010601 March - 011200 July 1971.

3. (U) LOCATION: Quang Ngai Province from the Song Tra Khuc River south to the MR I/ MR II boundary, from the South China Sea west to vicinity the Song Ra River. Map, Vietnam, 1:1,000,000, Series L607, Sheets 6639, 6739, 6738, 6638.

4. (C) COMMAND AND CONTROL HEADQUARTERS:

a. 1 March - 11 April 1971: 198th Infantry Brigade

b. 12 April - 1 July 1971: 11th Infantry Brigade

5. (U) REPORTING OFFICERS:

a. Colonel William R. Richardson, Commanding Officer, 198th Infantry Brigade, 1 March - 18 March 1971.

b. Colonel Charles R. Smith, Commanding Officer, 198th Infantry Brigade, 19 March - 11 April 1971.

c. Colonel Warner S. Goodwin Jr. , Commanding Officer, 11th Infantry Brigade, 12 April - 1 July 1971.

6. (C) TASK ORGANIZATION:

a. 1 March - 11 April 1971

198th Infantry Brigade Control

MHC, 198th Infantry

1-14th Artillery (DS)

B Co, 26th Engineer (DS)

57th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)

87th Chemical Detachment

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GROUP-4

Downgraded at 3 year intervals;
Declassified after 12 years.

Classification

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8d Battalion, 1st Infantry
 1st Battalion, 6th Infantry
 1st Battalion, 20th Infantry
 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry
 1st Battalion, 52 Infantry

b. 12 April - 1 July 1971

11th Infantry Brigade Control

HNC, 11th Brigade
 6-11 Artillery (DS)
 C/26 Engineers (DS)
 1/23 MP Company
 3/B/523d Signal Battalion
 Det 328 Radio Research Unit
 TMI, 635 MI Detachment
 90th Chemical Detachment
 A/23d Support and Transportation Battalion (DS)
 D/723d Maintenance Battalion (DS)
 59th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
 B/23d Medical Battalion

3-1 Infantry	1-20 Infantry
A/3-1	A/1-20
B/3-1	B/1-20
C/3-1	C/1-20
D/3-1	D/1-20
E/3-1	E/1-20
Sqd/C/26 Eng (DS)	Sqd/C/26th Eng (DS)
D/6-11 Arty (DS)	A/6-11 Arty (DS)

4-21 Infantry (1 March - 5 June)	4-3 Infantry (8 April - 3 May)
A/4-21	A/4-3
B/4-21	B/4-3
C/4-21	C/4-3
D/4-21	D/4-3
E/4-21	E/4-3
Sqd/C/26th Eng (DS)	Sqd/C/26th Eng (DS)
B/6-11 Arty (DS)	C/6-11 Arty (DS)

TF 23d Cavalry (5 May - 1 July)
 E Trp, 1st Cav
 H Trp, 17th Cav

7. SUPPORTING FORCES: Artillery fire support was provided by 1st Battalion 14th Artillery and by 6th Battalion 11th Artillery operating in Direct Support for the 198th Infantry Brigade and the 11th Infantry Brigade respectively. Elements of the 1st Battalion, 82nd Artillery supported the Direct Support Artillery Battalions in the General Support Reinforcing role. Air Cavalry support was provided by B Company, 123d Aviation Battalion. Helicopter Support for combat assaults, air

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moves, and routine resupply was provided by the 174th Assult Helicopter Company. Tactical air support was requested thru 23d Infantry Division on an as needed basis. Air strikes were targeted against enemy base areas, known enemy positions, and contact missions to suppress or destroy the enemy as he attempted to disengage from U.S. units.

8. (C) INTELLIGENCE: See Annex A (Intelligence)

9. (C) MISSION: To conduct unilateral and combined operations with ARVN forces to locate and destroy the VC Quang Ngai Provincial Headquarters and the 21st NVA Regiment. Additionally, to assist in the GVN Pacification and Revolutionary Development Program by conducting combat operations in conjunction with RF/PF forces to destroy VC/NVA forces and to assist in the Rice Denial Program.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

a. Maneuver: The concept of ground operations for Finney Hill remained essentially the same as in the past. Each battalion, normally, maintained one ~~3~~ rifle company on its fire support base and three rifle companies operating in the battalion's assigned AO. The rifle companies were to find and destroy the enemy in his base areas and to deny him access to populated areas. This was accomplished by employing the techniques of saturation patrols and ambushes. Flexibility in operations was maintained throughout Finney Hill by the extensive use of combat assaults and night movements. Rice Denial operations were conducted in conjunction with RF/PF forces to further enhance the GVN pacification program.

b. Fires: During Operation Finney Hill each maneuver battalion was supported by a 105 mm artillery battery in direct support. In addition, the fires of 155 mm, 8 inch, and 175 mm guns were available on request. When the tactical situation dictated artillery was repositioned by road or air movement to better support the ground operations. Both tactical air support and helicopter gunships were available to all ground units upon request.

11. (C) EXECUTION:

a. 1-7 March: Most of the contacts during the first week of the operation were confined to the lowlands. The enemy made numerous attacks on RF/PF outposts and ARVN Fire Support Bases on 2 March. On 3 March Recon Company, 4th ARVN Regiment at BS 615610 killed 24 NVA. D/1-52 while in ambush position at BS 290585 killed one NVA. On 4 March, D/1-52 engaged and killed four NVA at BS 290585. Also on 4 March, 1/4 ARVN ambushed and killed five NVA. On 5 March, D/1-52 engaged a squad of NVA, killing three and capturing one. The same day, C/1-52 engaged another squad of NVA, wounding and capturing two NVA. D/1 1 Cavalry engaged an unknown size enemy force on 6 March at BS 345445, killing five VC.

b. 8-14 March: On 8 March B/123d Aviation at BS 339802 engaged an enemy force killing five NVA. On the same day, 2/6 ARVN conducted a raid at BS 518763 and BS 506748, killing seven VC and capturing 20 VC, one M16, and 1,000 pounds of rice. C/1-52 engaged an unknown sized enemy force killing 2 VC. On 10 March B/1-52, at BS 396816 engaged one squad of VC killing two. C/1-6 at BS 472894 engaged an unknown size enemy element capturing three VC and three

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AK47's. Again on the 10 March A/1-20 had a mechanical ambush detonate killing one NVA. On 11 March 3/6 ARVN at BS 545774 engaged the enemy resulting in four VC KIA. On 12 March 1/6 ARVN at BS 420800 found the graves of 25 VC KBA. A/4 21 engaged and killed one VC at BS 766357 on 13 March.

c. 15-21 March: B/1-52 at BS 399803 engaged an enemy unit, killing three VC on 15 March. Also on the 15th Recon/1-20 engaged and killed one VC capturing one M16 at grid BS 728453. On 17 March A/4-21 engaged and killed one NVA and captured a 9 mm pistol at BS 777337. On 18 March, C/1-52 engaged 10-15 NVA killing three. On 19 March 1/6 ARVN at grid BS 564762 made contact with two companies of VC resulting in 16 ARVN KIA, two ARVN WIA, and 35 ARVN MIA. Two significant contacts were made on 20 March 1971: First the 3/6 ARVN engaged an unknown sized enemy force at BS 418809 resulting in 28 VC KIA. C/1-52 also made contact at BS 564762 resulting in 15 NVA KIA.

d. 22-31 March: On 24 March the 6 ARVN Regiment accounted for 24 enemy KIA in numerous small engagements throughout their AO. On the same day C/1-52 engaged and killed five VC at BS 347817. On 25 March, D/1-20 conducted a raid at BS 726433 resulting in 4,000 pounds of rice CIA. While conducting operations on the same day B/123 Aviation killed seven VC at BS 492657. On 28 March, two significant contacts were made. C/1-52 at BS 390802 engaged approximately 30 NVA resulting in three NVA KIA and 12 NVA KBA. The 2/6 ARVN at BS 508828 engaged 40 VC resulting in 12 VC KIA. On the 28 and 29 March A/4-21 had two small engagements resulting in three VC/NVA KIA. On the 29th C/4-21 engaged and killed one VC at BS 795260. The last two days of March passed without contact.

e. 1-11 April: The month started off with D/1-1 Cavalry at BS 683584 engaging one squad of VC killing four. On 2 April D/1-52 engaged one platoon of NVA netting five KIA. On 3 April, Night Hawk Saber engaged approximately 20 VC at BS 756530 killing 11. On 4 April, B/1-20 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in one NVA KIA and one AK47 CIA. The next action occurred on 7 April when D/1-52 found an enemy base area. The base area was occupied and the ensuing fight resulted in six NVA KIA. On 8 April, Recon/3-1 engaged a VC moving along the river at BS 485758 resulting in one VC KIA. On 9 April, snipers from B/4-21 captured one VC and one AK47. C/3-1 had a mechanical ambush detonate at BS 459709 resulting in one NVA WIA/CIA. Operation Finney Hill was terminated for the 198th Infantry Brigade on 11 April and the 11th Infantry Brigade assumed control of the operation.

f. 12-18 April: On 14 April D/1-20 found a destroyed NVA base camp containing seven NVA KIA and one destroyed 82 mm mortar tube. The base camp was believed to have been destroyed by an air strike. On 16 April C/3-1 found six graves containing six NVA killed by small arms fire. Credit for the kills was given to C Company for a previous engagement. On 18 April D/4-3 engaged two NVA at BS 438501 resulting in two NVA KIA and two AK47's CIA. Seven additional VC/NVA were killed in the Brigade area in several small engagements.

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g. 19-25 April: This week was costly for the 11th Brigade due to booby traps. A total of seven U.S. were killed and 16 U.S. wounded in two incidents in the AO. In other action, Recon/3-1 killed one NVA and captured two AK47's when a mechanical ambush detonated at BS 471665. On 25 April D/3-1 engaged and killed one NVA and captured one M16. On the same day A/1-20 ambushed one VC resulting in one VC KIA.

h. 26 April - 2 May: The week was highlighted on 29 April when D/3-1 found a weapons cache containing 129 US and foreign weapons. The cache was located at BS 497669. In other action on the same day Recon/4-21 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in two NVA KIA. On 30 April A/1-20 made contact with four NVA resulting in four NVA KIA. Later in the day D/1-20 made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in four NVA KIA. A/4-21 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in one NVA KIA and one AK47 CIA.

i. 3-9 April: Action was light this week but several major changes took place within the 11th Brigade. On 3 May 4-3 Battalion was released from Operation Pinney Hill and moved north to join the 198th Brigade. Then on 6 May Fresh Force 23 Cavalry joined the 11th Brigade and began combat operations to support Pinney Hill. E Troop, 1st Cavalry on 8 and 9 May, operating with a PF platoon captured six VC, three weapons, and 3,000 pounds of rice. On 4 May Recon/1-20 engaged and killed two VC in a brief encounter. A mechanical ambush set up by A/3-1 also accounted for one NVA KIA on 4 May. B/123 Aviation while working in vicinity BS 510823 engaged and killed six NVA.

j. 10-16 May: Action was light this week in the 11th Brigade AO with TF 23d Cavalry accounting for most of the action. On 12 May E Troop 1st Cavalry captured 10 tons of rice while killing one VC and capturing another. On 16 May A/4-21 engaged and killed one NVA at BS 736286. B/1-20 had a mechanical ambush detonate on 11 May resulting in one NVA KIA, and on 16 May A/4-21 made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in one VC KIA.

k. 17-23 May: On 17 May Recon/1-20, while in an ambush position, engaged and killed three VC. On the same day, E Troop 1st Cavalry found a rice cache containing 5.5 tons of rice. On 20 May B/1-20 made contact with unknown size enemy force resulting in two VC KIA. On 23 May B/1-20 again made contact resulting in two more VC KIA and one AK47 and one carbine CIA.

l. 24-30 May: On 27 May B/1-20 left a mechanical ambush in an old NDP resulting in two VC KIA and two AK47's CIA. On 28 and 29 May B/123d Aviation made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in four NVA KIA and one AK47 CIA. Sniper team from 3-1 accounted for one VC killed on 28 May.

m. 31 May - 6 June: Action this week was light with TF 23d Cavalry accounting for most of the contacts. On 1 June H-17 Cavalry had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in two VC/NVA KIA. On 4 June they captured one VC while operating from a day ambush position. And on 4 June while operating with the RF's from B-20 they engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in two VC/NVA KIA and four VC/NVA CIA. On 5 June 4-21 Battalion departed LZ Bracca for stand down, thus ending their operations in Pinney Hill.

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n. 7-13 June: Action was very light in the 11th Brigade with only two small contacts resulting in three VC/NVA KIA and one AK47 CIA.

o. 14-20 June: Action picked up in the AO this week with the enemy again coming up short. On 16 June E Troop 1st Cavalry operating with RF troops engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in three VC/NVA KIA and one VC WIA/CIA. On 17 June D/3-1 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in three NVA KIA and three AK47's CIA. Snipers from 3-1 also killed one VC on 19 June. On 20 June C/1-20 engaged nine NVA with packs and weapons resulting in two NVA KIA and one AK47 CIA.

p. 21-27 June: Action was again light in the AO this week. In one engagement E Troop 1st Cavalry killed two VC/NVA and captured six VC/NVA. On 21 June A/1-20 had a mechanical ambush detonate resulting in one NVA KIA. On 22 June the 11th Brigade CP moved from LZ Bronco to FSB Dottie.

q. 28 June - 1 July: Negative contacts within 11th Brigade AO.

SUMMARY: The 11th Infantry Brigade's combat operations during Operation Finney Hill were generally characterized by small unit actions. No major unit contacts were made during the reporting period. The enemy continually operated in small units and avoided contact where ever possible. Mechanical ambushes resulted in many enemy kills during the operation and greatly restricted the enemy's freedom of movement.

12. (C) RESULTS:

a. Enemy Losses:

KIA	- 454
CIA	- 19
IWC	- 241
CSWC	- 33

b. Friendly Losses:

(1) 1 March - 11 April

KIA	- 13
WIA(E)	- 122
WIA(M)	- 24

(2) 12 April - 1 July

KIA	- 22
WIA(E)	- 110
WIA(M)	- 16
NBD	- 3

13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

a. Supply: Logistical Support to units in the field and to forward fire

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support bases was accomplished by vehicle convoy and helicopter. UH1H helicopters were the primary aircraft used for resupplying the units in the field. However, forward fire support bases received the bulk of their resupply through vehicle convoy. The exception was in these areas where fire bases could not be reached by road. The CH-47 (Chinook) was utilized for a re-supply of such bases. The re-supply for troop units was taken to the field locations by UH1H aircraft from the forward fire bases. CH-47's were used primarily for hauling Class I and V items, as well as Class II and IV materials. A/23d S&T Battalion coordinated with the Brigade S-4 to establish distribution points for all classes of supply. C/26 Engineers provided engineer support for the brigade as required.

b. Maintenance: B and D Company 723d Maintenance Battalion were in direct support of the Brigades conducting operation Finney Hill. Their primary maintenance mission involved vehicles, weapons, and radios. Vehicle maintenance was of primary importance due to the fact most of the re-supply of the forward fire support bases was accomplished by vehicle.

c. Treatment and Evacuation of Casualties: All combat casualties were treated in the field and evacuated to B/23d Medical Battalion at LZ Bronco. If necessary, they were taken to either 77th Surgical Hospital or 91st Evacuation Hospital in Chu Lai. Complete helicopter facilities were available at LZ Bronco; however, under emergency conditions, evacuation helicopters could be obtained from Chu Lai Dust Off.

d. Transportation: A/23d S&T Battalion was in direct support of the units operating in Operation Finney Hill. They provided 2½-ton, 5-ton, 10-ton S&T's, and POL tankers as required. The units' organic vehicles were generally sufficient for re-supply missions, however, the brigade S-4 had the capability of augmenting transportation when the mission required. The 7th Air Force had daily flights into Duc Pho Airfield carrying personnel, mail, and a limited amount of equipment.

e. Communications: FM radio was the primary means of communications from company to battalion, battalion to brigade, and brigade to division. A VHF system also provided land-line communications between brigade and battalion and brigade and division. RIT nets were also used during the operation to produce a "hard copy" of important messages. Field units used the PRC-25 and PRC-77 radio as their primary means of communication.

14. (C) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES: During Operation Finney Hill units made extensive use of war dogs particularly the scout and tracker dog teams. The units reported these teams to be extremely helpful in most cases. Units also made extensive use of flame drops by CH-47 aircraft to burn off vegetation in known boobytrap areas. The flame drops were also used to uncover bunkers, trenches, and rice caches. Some difficulty was encountered on occasion by inaccurate or premature drops caused by pilot error or equipment failure.

15. (C) COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS:

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a. Operations during Finney Hill were characterized by widely dispersed units, utilizing saturation patrols and ambushes to reduce the enemy's ability to move. Eagle flights were used throughout the operation and were particularly effective in the lowland areas. Combined operations with ARVN and RF/PF forces also met with success, especially in populated areas. In addition, the employment of mechanical ambushes on enemy lines of communications has proven to be an effective means of restricting enemy movement.

b. Armored Cavalry operations with the RF/PF forces proved to be quite effective. Encouraged by the fire power and mobility of the armored vehicles the RF/PF forces were willing to operate away from their fixed defensive positions thus gaining valuable field experience. These combined operations were also quite effective in finding enemy food and equipment caches. This also enabled U.S. and ARVN forces to engage the enemy in the unpopulated mountain regions.

c. Overall the operation must be termed a success. The Brigade successfully limited the enemy's ability to move and thus kept him from massing his forces for a major attack. The RVN Pacification program made significant progress in the last five months and with the state of training of the ARVN and RF/PF at this time it should continue to improve.

16. (C) RECOMMENDATION: Continued emphasis should be placed on the training of junior officers and non-commissioned officers in small unit patrolling and ambush techniques.

Warner S. Goodwin Jr.
WARNER S. GOODWIN, JR.
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

Annex A - Intelligence
Annex B - Map and Overlay

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ANNEX A (INTELLIGENCE) to AFTER ACTION REPORT FINNEY HILL (U)

1. (C) THE AREA OF OPERATION:

a. Weather: The weather during operation Finney Hill was generally seasonal and had very little effect upon the planning and execution of combat operations. Early April was variable with occasional rain. Air operations during April were slightly limited due to restricted visibility in the low ground caused by early morning fog. Early morning clouds usually cleared by mid-morning to become scattered to broken in the late afternoon. The latter part of April brought generally clearer weather with isolated afternoon and evening thunderstorms in the mountains. During the first week of May air operations were again hampered by the effects of tropical storm WANDA. The only isolated thunderstorms in the western parts of the AO causing no significant influence on combat operations.

b. Terrain :

(1) This area of operation is part of the northern highlands of South Vietnam and is characterized by three types of terrain; the wide belt of mountains in the west, a narrow transitional piedmont in the central portion of the AO, and the coastal plains in the east.

(a) The western portion of the AO consists of rugged, jungle covered mountains rising to elevations in excess of 4,000 feet and intersected by numerous small river valleys. This area offers maximum concealment while at the same time hindering foot movement of friendly forces making complete searches of the area extremely difficult.

(b) The narrow piedmont consists of undulating hills compartmented by numerous river valleys. These waterways extend like fingers from the eastern highlands through the piedmont into the coastal plains. Throughout the piedmont, the hills range from 30 to 70 meters in elevation, with slopes between 10 and 20 degrees.

(c) The coastal plains are a relatively flat strip, extending the length of the AO. The plains are interspersed with isolated hills and ridges and are sectioned in many areas by rice paddies, bounded by dikes two to five feet high and eight to ten feet wide. The eastern edge of the coastal plains consists of beaches covered by scattered scrub brush.

(2) The principle rivers are the Nuoc Ong (generally runs Northwest to Southeast in the high mountainous area), the Song Tra Bong, Song Tra Khuc, and Son Ve which come from the west and flow eastward through the piedmont and coastal plains to the South China Sea, and the Song Re and Dak Selo which run north-south in the mountainous region.

(3) Evergreen secondary forests are predominant in the mountains. Areas of grass and deciduous trees are interspersed throughout the area and dry cultivation is widespread. Trees range in height from 25 to 30 meters, with a few as high as 50 meters. Tree canopy is continuous in large areas. In the coastal plains, rice and dry crops are the major vegetation. Rice fields are

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flooded to depths of 6 to 18 inches and are drained just prior to harvest in March and August. When mature, rice forms a dense green grass, three to four feet tall. Villages and hamlets are often surrounded by dense vegetation including thick hedges between houses.

(4) In the highlands, the key terrain is generally those sections of high ground from which control can be exerted over the valleys, the cultivated areas and the road or trail networks on the valley floors. In the piedmont area, the key terrain is the high ground which controls the valleys opening out to the east. On the coastal plain, key terrain features include the high ground and those locations which control waterways, roads, and ports of entry.

c. Enemy Situation:

(1) Estimated strength, location and disposition of enemy forces at the start of the operation ;

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
21st NVA Regt Hq	500	BS 4442
60th NVA Bn	300	BS UNLOC
70th NVA Bn	350	BS 5748
80th NVA Bn	300	BS UNLOC
403d NVA Sapper Bn	270	BS 7829
107th NVA Hvy Wpns Bn	168	BS 5157
40th NVA Sapper Bn	190	BS 6349
120th LF Montgd Bn	300	BS 2367
406th MF Sapper Bn	400	BS 3981
38th LF Bn	160	BS 7246
48th LF Bn	200	BS 5486
C-18th LF Co	20	BS 6458
C-19th LF Co	18	BS 7561
C-29th LF Co	75	BS 6434
21st LF Sapper Co	70	BS 4877
P-31 LF Co	20	BS 6390
C-45 LF Co	40	BS 7156
K-51 LF Co	07	BS 6989
C-65 LF Co (may have combined with C-75 LF Co)	09	BS 7271
C-71Z LF Co	25	BS 7286
C-72Z LF Co (T-18)	40	BS 5878
C-75 LF Co	40	BS 7468
95A LF Sapper Co	20	BS 6398
81st LF Co	40	BS 5266
95B LF Sapper Co	40	BS 5092
120th LF Sapper Co	30	BS 8734
C-212th LF Co	70	BS 5390
C-219th LF Co	50	BS 8242
506A LF Sapper Co	65	BS 5875
506B LF Sapper Co	50	BS 6390

(2) Enemy Situation Anticipated:

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ANNEX A (INTELLIGENCE) to AFTER ACTION REPORT FINNEY HILL

(a) A continuation of the current policy of limited scale offensive activities utilizing local force units and guerrillas with MF/NVA was anticipated in the AO. The offensive was to be directed primarily against the GVN pacification program in the coastal lowlands. It would be characterized by enemy entente into civilian areas to propagandize to the people, collect taxes, terrorize and harass the local population, and upset the GVN program through kidnappings and assassinations of government officials.

(b) A continuation of LOC interdiction throughout the AO. Key bridges along QL-1 were expected to be primary targets for water sapper attacks. The FVMAF/RVNAF attempts to open and maintain inland routes to interior areas would be opposed by the employment of enemy snipers, road-blocks, and both pressure and command detonated mines.

(c) A continuation to conduct harassing, stand-off attacks by indirect fire against both US and ARVN installations as well as other government controlled areas. Such attacks could employ 60 and 82/82MM mortars, 57 and 75MM recoilless rifles, and 107, 122, and 140MM rockets.

(d) A continuation to deploy mines and booby-traps against US and RVN personnel, primarily in the coastal districts but also in protection of food and munition caches in the western areas of the AO.

(e) A continuation to initiate and return fire against US aircraft, particularly in protection of rear base areas and supply caches. Enemy anti-air weapons range from small arms to 51 cal MG's and RPG's.

(3) **Enemy Situation Found:** There were no significant contacts or unit identifications during the operating period. It is believed that the enemy made every effort to avoid contact with US forces. While doing so, the enemy was concerned primarily with political and logistical activities. The enemy increased his infiltration of rice and supplies from the coastal areas using traditional supply routes in the piedmont. Primary targets for ground attacks were RF/PF OP's with simultaneous diversionary stand off attacks against hamlets, villages, and allied fire support bases. Acts of terrorism were common in the AO, especially in Mo Duc and Duc Pho Districts, as the enemy attempted to disrupt the GVN pacification program. There were no significant changes in enemy strength or deployment during Operation FINNEY HILL.

4. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS:

a. Leaflet Drops: Leaflet drops were increased as contacts with the enemy grew more sporadic. Development of the pacification program provided an opportunity for the creation of new themes in both leaflets and psychological broadcasts. Leaflet themes were oriented toward the area of operations; for example, the mountainous areas, with small populations were saturated with "Chieu Hoi, Fair Treatment of Prisoners, and Demoralization" leaflets, all targeted against the specific enemy force known or thought to be operating in the area. In the heavily populated lowlands, leaflets messages were primarily "Rice Denial, Family Re-union,

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ANNEX A (INTELLIGENCE) to AFTER ACTION REPORT FINNEY HILL

Pro-GVN," and those targeted against a specific local force VC element. The Volunteer Informant Program(VIP), a plan where by persons turning in weapons or ammunition or providing information leading to the capture of military hardware would be paid, was also a major theme of the leaflet drops.

b. Broadcast: "Early word" broadcast, featuring tapes emphasizing themes similar to those used in leaflet drops, were flown by helicopters and fixed wing aircraft throughout the 11th Brigade AO. As with the leaflets, their themes were varied according to the area in which the mission was flown. Whenever possible, a recent rallier was recruited to make a broadcast targeted against his old unit. He was usually asked to fly with the psyops helicopter to pinpoint the location of his unit.

c. Medcaps: During Operation Finney Hill the brigade began an intensified effort to train Vietnamese medical personnel. One of the methods used was to require Vietnamese medical personnel to conduct all medcaps, with U.S. personnel acting only as advisors. This method proved effective in giving the civilian population confidence in their native medical personnel. The majority of the medical supplies had to be supplied by the U.S. due to a shortage in the Vietnamese supply system.

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