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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS

5TH SPECIAL FORCES GROUP (AIRBORNE), 1ST SPECIAL FORCES
APO San Francisco, 96240

AVGE-G

15 June 1968

SUBJECT: Monthly Operational Summary for the period 1-31 May 1968 (U)

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BY RAKEIRZ ON 3 Jun 86

Attached as inclosures are summaries of the activities, troop disposition, and statistical data of the 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne), for the month of May 1968.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

for B. L. Rames, CPT
PAUL J. MC CARTHY
Major, AGC
Adjutant

5 Incl

1. Monthly Opnl Data I CTZ
2. Monthly Opnl Data II CTZ
3. Monthly Opnl Data III CTZ
4. Monthly Opnl Data IV CTZ
5. Statistical Recapitulation

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1. (C) MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS - I CTZ

a. On 2 May, a company size clearing operation from Camp THUONG DUC, A-109, Quang Nam Province, was ambushed by an unknown size NVA force from an unreported distance. The 15th MSF Company was committed as a reaction force to the operation. There was one CSF soldier killed; one USASF and 11 CSF soldiers wounded and one USASF missing. There were two NVA soldiers from the 2d NVA Division captured.

b. On 3 May, a platoon size operation from Camp MINH LONG, A-108, Quang Ngai Province, conducted a raid on a village. Contact was made with a squad of VC from a distance of 20 meters. There were five VC killed; one VC and one small arm captured.

c. On 8 May, a company size clearing operation from TIEN PHUOC, A-102, Quang Tin Province, made contact with one company of VC from an unreported distance. There were 20 VC killed; one VC, one PRC-25 radio and two small arms captured. Later contact was made with one enemy squad. There was one VC and one small arm captured.

d. On 5 May, Camp THUONG DUC, A-109, Quang Nam Province, came under heavy mortar attack. The camp received 50 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. An outpost of the camp also received a mortar attack. There was one VNSF killed; one USASF and one US Marine wounded. On 5 May, a company size clearing operation from THUONG DUC made contact with a company of NVA from an unreported distance. After a brief fire fight the NVA broke contact and withdrew northwest. One PF was killed; seven NVA were killed; one NVA, five small arms, one 60mm mortar, five mines, one Ohicom blasting machine, one NVA film and numerous leaflets were captured.

e. On 6 May, at 1000 hours THUONG DUC received four rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter mortar was fired with unknown results. There was no damage or casualties reported. At 1050 hours the camp received an unknown number of 82mm mortar rounds. There was no damage reported; two CSF soldiers were wounded.

f. On 6 May, a local security patrol from HILL 52, 10 kilometers east of THUONG DUC, made contact with a squad of NVA from an unreported distance. Results of the contact were five CSF soldiers wounded. There were three NVA killed and one small arm captured. At 2130 hours the camp received three rounds of unidentified rocket fire, possibly 122mm rocket. Two of the rounds failed to explode. There was no damage or casualties reported.

g. On 7 May, a company size reconnaissance operation from HILL 52, made contact with a battalion of NVA from a distance of 600 meters. After a four hour fire fight the NVA broke contact and withdrew south and southeast. There were two MSF soldiers wounded. Enemy casualties were one NVA killed; one NVA wounded; one NVA and 17 rounds of 82mm mortar ammunition captured.

h. On 8 May, a company size reconnaissance operation from THUONG DUC made contact with an NVA battalion from an unreported distance. After an 11 hour fire fight the NVA broke contact and withdrew northeast. There were two CSF soldiers killed and 16 CSF soldiers wounded. Enemy casualties are unknown.

i. On 10 May, at 0900 hours Camp THUONG DUC received five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. There were no casualties or damage reported. At 1430 hours the camp received five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. There was no damage or casualties reported. At 1800 hours the camp received five rounds of 82mm mortar fire. There was one CSF soldier killed; one USASF and one MSF soldier wounded.

j. On 6 May, a platoon size reconnaissance operation from NGOK TAVAK FOB, eight kilometers southwest of Kham Duc, made contact with a squad of NVA from a distance of 30 meters. There were two MSF soldiers wounded. At 1815 hours a reaction force enroute to the contact area was ambushed by 20 NVA from a distance of 30 meters. There was one HT-1 radio and one stretcher lost.

INCL 1
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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO
YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED ON 31 DECEMBER

DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS - 1 CTZ (CONT)

k. On 8 May, a platoon size operation from KHAM DUC ambushed four VC from an unreported distance. One CSF soldier was wounded; two VC were killed; one VC, two small arms and one gas mask were captured. On 9 May, the same operation was ambushed by an unknown size enemy force. There were two CSF soldiers wounded.

1. On 10 May, KHAM DUC came under heavy mortar and recoilless rifle fire. Initial casualties were reported as two CSF soldiers killed; five CSF soldiers wounded and one USASF seriously wounded. The mortar fire ceased at KHAM DUC at 0630 hours. NGOC TAVAK FOB came under heavy mortar fire and ground attack at 0315 hours. At 0329 hours KHAM DUC relayed that two Marine 105mm howitzers at the FOB were lost to enemy action. Spooky was on station at the FOB and firing into the FOB. TAC air and FAC were on station at the FOB, but not firing at that time. Helicopters were on request to move MSF Co 12 from KHAM DUC to NGOC TAVAK as reinforcements. MSF Co 12 was helilifted into the FOB at 0715 hours. The 6th MSF Company from NHA TRANG was on immediate stand-by as back up to KHAM DUC, NGOC TAVAK or THUONG DUC, A-109. At 1000 hours the FOB appeared to be surrounded. Two Marine CH-46 helicopters were shot down by automatic weapons fire. The situation at 1100 hours was extremely critical, personnel on the ground had destroyed everything possible. The two Marine 105mm howitzers were destroyed by friendly forces. The enemy force was estimated to be one reinforced battalion. At 1140 hours personnel at the FOB were forced to evacuate the FOB, since extraction helicopters were not due until 1400 hours. At 1140 hours KHAM DUC came under mortar attack and as of 1600 hours had received a total of 80 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. At 1740 hours the camp again came under mortar attack and firing ceased at 1850 hours. Extraction of personnel from NGOC TAVAK evading to KHAM DUC was completed at 1850 hours. All personnel were taken to KHAM DUC. A battalion from the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was airlifted into KHAM DUC and assumed OPCON of all US Forces at KHAM DUC. Casualties at that time were two USASF missing; two USASF wounded; 12 Marines killed; 21 Marines wounded; 33 MSF soldiers wounded and 65 MSF killed. Enemy losses were 22 NVA killed; 200 NVA killed unconfirmed; 40 small arms, one 12.7 heavy machine gun, two US M60 light machine guns, one flame thrower, and three B-40 rocket launchers captured. At 1130 hours on 10 May MSF Company 4 from NHA TRANG was deployed to Company C. During the 11th of May the KHAM DUC camp received spordic mortar attacks resulting in negative damage or casualties. On the 12th at 0335 hours a mortar and ground attack was launched against the camp and its outposts. By 0945 hours all outposts had either been overrun or withdrawn and were in the hands of the NVA. At this time all equipment including classified and crypto material was destroyed. At 1130 hours a C-130 aircraft attempting to start the evacuation of the camp was hit by shrapnel from a mortar round and had to be abandoned on the airstrip. Intensive TAC air was employed on the suspected enemy positions and at 1230 hours the evacuation was started using CH-46, C-123, and C-130 aircraft. The evacuation was completed at 1623 hours with over 1600 personnel being airlifted out of the camp. During the last phase of the extraction the enemy did not press the attack. The following reinforcements were airlifted into the camp on 10 May and extracted on 12 May: One MSF company, 2/1 Infantry 196 LIB and "A" Battery, 3/82 Artillery. Friendly equipment losses during the evacuation were five 105 howitzers destroyed, two C-130's, one C-2A, one A-1H, two CH-47, two UH-1C, and two CH-46's lost to enemy ground fire. Friendly suffered ten US and 18 CIDG killed; three USASF, 72 US, 29 CIDG and seven civilians wounded; one USASF, five USAF, 17 US, 31 CIDG and 130 civilians missing. An estimated 200 - 300 enemy killed.

m. On 9 May, a 52 man operation from Camp THUONG DUC, A-109, Quang Nam Province made contact with a company of NVA from an unreported distance. A reaction force from camp was dispatched and made heavy contact before reaching the main force. Results of the contact were 22 CSF soldiers killed; one USASF, one VNSF and 14 CSF wounded. There were nine NVA killed; one NVA wounded; one crew served weapon and one small arm captured.

n. On 12 May, a company size clearing operation from Camp TIEN PHUOC, A-102, Quang Tin Province, was ambushed by a battalion of VC from an unreported distance. After a short fire fight the VC broke contact and withdrew east. There were four CSF soldiers killed and two small arms captured. Enemy losses were 39 VC killed; 23 small arms and 50 Chicom grenades captured.

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MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS - I CTZ (CONT)

o. On 13 May, at 1400 hours a platoon of VC initiated a mortar attack on a company size clearing operation from Camp TIEN PHUOC. There were two USASF and two CSF soldiers wounded. At 1600 hours the same operation called artillery on a platoon of VC resulting in 12 VC killed.

p. On 23 May, an unknown size VC unit conducted a ground and mortar attack against Camp BATO, A-106, and two platoon size operations. There were five RF/PF soldiers, seven CSF soldiers and the Bato District Chief killed; four CSF soldiers, 14 RF/PF soldiers, three National Police and two Montagnard agents wounded; eight small arms and one 60mm mortar were lost by RF/PF units. Enemy losses were 14 VC killed; one flare pistol, two small arms, four bangalore torpedoes, one B-40 rocket and two 57mm RR rounds captured.

q. On 27 May, at 0110 hours an unknown size enemy force initiated a rocket and mortar attack on Camp TIEN PHUOC, A-102, Quang Tin Province. The camp received six 122mm rockets and 20 mortar rounds. Friendly losses were one CSF soldier killed; one USASF, one VNSF, ten CSF and five ARVN soldiers wounded. At 0730 hours, the camp received three mortar rounds with no damage or casualties reported. At 1030 hours, the camp received three 122mm rocket rounds with no damage or casualties reported.

r. On 27 May, four outposts of the HAU DUC FOB, 18 kilometers southwest of Camp TIEN PHUOC, came under ground attack. All outposts withdrew to the FOB. Results were ten RF soldiers and an estimated 50 civilians killed. There were six RF soldiers, 15 PF soldiers and an estimated 60 civilians wounded and six RF soldiers missing. There were 150 homes destroyed; 28 small arms and two HT-1 radios lost. Enemy losses were 17 VC killed; two crew served weapons and three small arms captured.

s. On 29 May, at 0830 hours a company size operation from HA THANH, A-104, Quang Ngai Province, conducted a raid on a suspected VC village. After a brief fire fight the VC broke contact and fled south. There were two VC killed and four VC wounded. Equipment captured was one shotgun, one psyops film, one camera with attachments, two grenades and assorted small arms ammunition. At 0930 hours, the same operation uncovered an enemy cache. The cache consisted of the following items; green uniforms to equip a company size unit; eight gas masks with spare canisters, 200 rounds of small arms ammunition, medical equipment for a company size unit and three magnets for a command detonated mine.

t. On 30 May, a combined USASF/USMC convoy going from HILL 55, 25 kilometers east of Camp THUONG DUC, to THUONG DUC came under small arms and rocket fire. Reaction forces were sent by Marines and from the FOB on HILL 52, six kilometers east of THUONG DUC. Friendly losses were one USASF, two AATT, three USMC and four MSF soldiers killed. There was one USASF, four USMC and 16 MSF soldiers wounded; two crew served weapons, six small arms, 50 hand grenades and 20 gas masks captured.

2. (C) REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT ACTIVITIES - I CTZ

During the month of May, the Company C civic action/psychological operation effort was largely characterized by immediate reaction to emergency situations.

a. Civic Action: Enemy pressure on A-105, KHAM DUC, steadily increased in intensity until 12 May 1968. On that day the decision was made to relocate the camp and its adjacent village. Of the total of 166 dependents and 100 civilians, 66 dependents comprising 28 families and 22 civilians comprising seven families were successfully evacuated. These evacuees were brought to Detachment C-1 where tents, water, and medical care were awaiting them. The evacuees were processed and finally relocated in accordance with their desires.

(1) At Camp THUONG DUC, A-109, enemy pressure steadily increased during May. MACV advisor team #1 found the refugee food and shelter situation growing steadily worse, and their supply channels were failing to support them with necessary material. When a large conventional operation kicked off to relieve pressure on the area, Company C, S-5 procured 400 bags of rice from III MAF G-5 to help the MACV team. This rice is being transported to THUONG DUC in moderate amounts to sustain the people until MACV supply channels can support them again.

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