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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96374

AVDF-BOG

29 July 1970

SUBJECT: OR-42 Quarterly Report

Commanding General
Americal Division
ATTN: AVDF-GODO
APO San Francisco 96374

1. (U) References:

- a. Americal Division Regulation 525-15, dated 8 April 1969.
- b. Unclassified message, Americal Division; Subject: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned, dated 040302Z April 1969.

2. (C) Operations: During the period May, June, and July 1970 activities of the 198th Infantry Brigade were characterized by small unit patrols and ambushes, with emphasis on night operations, pacification support operations, and quick reaction to intelligence on enemy locations.

3. (C) Lessons Learned:

- a. Personnel: None.
- b. Intelligence: None.
- c. Operations:

(1) Observation: On 10 May 1970, an element of an infantry platoon working with a cavalry unit in an area known for its mines and booby traps, ran over a .30 caliber ammunition can. A few men dismounted the vehicle to investigate. One man picked up the can and attempted to open it. The can exploded, wounding the man and two others standing 40 feet away. The first man later died in the hospital. On a previous operation in the same area a member of an infantry unit moving through a hamlet noticed a sun bonnet and decided it would make a nice souvenir. The hat was booby trapped. The incident resulted in one US KIA.

(2) Evaluation: Some forethought and discipline on the part of individuals and their superiors could have prevented these mishaps.

(3) Recommendations: A few basic rules should be followed preclude incidents of this nature.

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(a) Do not pick up any weapons, equipment or items considered to be of souvenir value before having them checked.

(b) When a booby trap is suspected proceed with caution. Check the area thoroughly and blow any device found in place.

(c) Any items lying on trails, roads or in vegetated areas should automatically be considered deadly booby traps. Do not be careless or foolish enough to pick up, kick or disturb the item in any manner.

(d) Beware of and watch for signs on trails. By following the rules mentioned above, incidents of the nature described can be avoided and loss of lives prevented.

d. Organization: None.

e. Training: None.

f. Logistics: None.

g. Communications: None.

h. Materiel: None.

i. Civil Affairs:

(1) Observation: Two types of leaflets and tapes are employed in PSYOPS targeting; general and special. Special tapes and leaflets are used against specific targets, while the use of general tapes and leaflets is not restricted to specific targets. In a special tape, the name of the targeted village or enemy unit is mentioned several times. Also, names of soldiers in the unit, or names of personalities in the village, might be called. A special tape or leaflet is also enhanced if it cites specific events in the recent history of the village or enemy unit. For example: "Attention soldiers of K-51 Company: Your leader KHUONG has given you only suffering and hardship. HIEU, DUOC and BA, why do you follow this man? After your defeat at Binh Ba at the hands of the ARVN soldiers, you must have many wounded comrades. Chieu Hoi now!"

The ideal special tape is made by a "Hoi Chanh." The message is given great credibility when the rallier--safe, unharmed and happy--calls members of his old unit to chieu hoi.

In contrast, general tapes and leaflets designate no village or specific enemy unit:

"Attention Communist Soldiers: Have your leaders given you enough food and medicine, or are you hungry and sick? We have food and medicine for you--now!"

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(2) Evaluation: It has been definitely determined from rallies that special tapes and leaflets for their sense of immediacy and high personal touch and specific targeting are much more effective than general tapes and leaflets.

(3) Recommendations: That special tapes be made and used as often as possible, targeting against specific units and personnel of those units. That the tapes be made by people who have rallied to the Allied side.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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