

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 52d Infantry
198th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
APO San Francisco 96219

AVDF-BCPC

14 Sep 69

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned - Operations Report

Commanding Officer
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1. The following report of Lessons Learned for the period of 15 August to 15 September 1969, is submitted.

2. Soldiers in a 1/52 unit approached a spider hole, the spider hole was booby trapped at the entrance with a 105mm round pointing outward. The soldier was killed by the round as he approached the hole. Lessons Learned, Spider Holes, are more than likely booby trapped, and should be approached from the rear.

3. Information from Sapper Chu Hoi reveals that VC and NVA Sappers get the largest percentage of their Ammunition Supplies and Ordnance from old US night lager positions. Lessons Learned, positions should be well policed before departing. Also a stay behind patrol should also stay behind and set up an ambush patrol when ever possible.

4. Information from Sapper Chu Hoi reveals that sapper units conduct reconnaissance into defensive positions several nights in advance prior to an attack. Lessons Learned, movement in any defensive area should indicate a forthcoming attack.

5. Information from Sapper Chu Hoi indicates that tightly stretched defensive wire creates large holes in the wire making passage very easy. Lessons Learned, do not stretch wire to tight allowing holes in wire.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

A. L. JAMESON HALL
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By: JN
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6. The primary lessons learned are as follows:
- a. Use of intelligence gathering resources: This battalion has a continuing and expanding program of active intelligence gathering. In remote areas of the TAOR LRPs are inserted to gain information about the enemy, and electronic sensors are placed along possible routes of infiltration.
 - b. Rapid reaction to intelligence: At least one company of this battalion is always on one hour alert for a combat assault in reaction to intelligence. The ability to respond rapidly and violently to hard intelligence is the key to much of the success of the "Ready Rifles."
 - c. Coordination between air cavalry and Infantry elements: In areas of dense vegetation the air cavalry scouts are required to assist the movement of the ground force. Close coordination must be established between the air scout and the Infantry company commander.

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