

AVDF-3000

14 April 1972

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned
Reporting Period 4 - 31 March 1972

into the DA HANG Rocket Belt, interdicted enemy LOC, conducted frequent airmobile operations to disrupt enemy movement, and planned operations to detect and destroy enemy base camps and cache sites. Artillery fires, tactical flame drops and air cavalry teams were used extensively to exploit intelligence gains. During 16 - 31 March, 1-46th Inf conducted 13 airmobile operations and reported six (6) enemy sightings or incidents.

b. Significantly, the operations of B Co, 1st Bn 46th Inf resulted in the capture of numerous documents outlining enemy plans for recruitment, propaganda, and operational activities. The documents revealed the names of committee members and other organizations in HOA VANG and NIEU DUC Districts. The documents were found in four (4) base camps located in AO extension "KILO" northeast of Charlie Ridge. The AO extension is located at AT 9266 to 9264 to 8766 to 8764.

c. An airmobile insertion by B Company, 1-46th Inf on 23 March, disrupted the kidnapping of some twenty (20) villagers from NIEU DUC District. All escaped unharmed due to pressure from proximity of friendly forces and gunship fire. Artillery fire was placed in the area within 30 minutes of the time the kidnap report was received and the airmobile insertion was conducted within two (2) hours. Two (2) recently used overnight sleeping positions were located.

d. Current operations of the 1-46th Inf are being conducted in order to deny freedom of movement for the 575th Rocket Bn along the Happy Valley, Charlie Ridge routes of infiltration into the DA HANG Rocket Belt.

SECTION II: Significant Activities

1. 162400: OP #48, via AT 928760, received small arms fire from an unknown number of enemy resulting in the wounding of one (1) US. Assisting Night Hawk was fired at by enemy forces. The helicopter received one (1) hit with minimal damage.

2. 120710: Recon Platoon, 1-46th Inf observed two (2) enemy with weapons via AT 908834. The enemy fired 2 - 3 rounds and evaded east. The Recon Platoon returned fire with negative results.

3. 171805: 1st Platoon, C Co, 1-46th Inf, via AT 820625, observed one (1) enemy armed with an unknown type weapon. He was engaged with small arms fire with negative results.

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4. 191350: The daily resupply helicopter received small arms fire of 5 to 10 rounds, vic AT 860629. Gunships were employed with negative results.
5. 211435: 3d Platoon, D Co, 1st Bn 46th Inf, HHC reported radio transmissions in broken English. "Come on I want you, I have number one for you." The transmissions were monitored for possible identification with negative results.
6. 231530: A Cobra Gunship reported receiving small arms fire during a prep mission, vic AT 912658. Artillery was employed with negative results.
7. 301830: 1st Platoon, D Co, 1st Bn 46th Inf observed two (2) enemy with unknown type small arms, vic AT 893647. They were not engaged because of proximity of friendly troops; enemy evaded to the west.
8. 3 Company, 1-46th Inf summary of operations.

a. 24 Mar (AT 906654): Two (2) documents found loosely buried outside a cave complex. Additionally, at grid AT 913653, a series of small caves were found with a large amount of debris in the vicinity. Found were two (2) bags of documents, 200 lbs of rice and fish, cooking utensils, two (2) 60mm mortar rounds, clothing, personal letters, a canteen, and a small chest of medical supplies. All items were hastily buried and the area showed signs of recent use.

b. 27 Mar (AT 903641): A base camp was found among small caves used in sleeping positions for 15 to 20 personnel.

c. 27 Mar (AT 903639): A base camp was found with numerous sleeping positions recently used with a trail leading west. Five (5) to six (6) AK-47 rounds, documents, sandals, 50 lbs of rice and miscellaneous debris was also found in the area.

d. 28 Mar (AT 913638): A base camp was found containing 150-200 lbs of rice, a small amount of documents and two (2) ORION hand grenades in waterproofed bags. A trail, recently used, ran east - west from the base camp which contained sleeping positions for ten (10) personnel.

SECTION III: Lessons Learned

None

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b. Intelligence: None

c. Operations: None

ANDREW D. PERKINS JR.
LTC, Infantry
Commanding