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INFO CO SECOND BDE NINTH INF DIV

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DAILY INTERNAL INFORMATION SUMMARY 04-18

IN THE MOST SUCCESSFUL ENGAGEMENT IN WEEKS, ARMY FORCES KILLED OR CAPTURED AN EVEN 100 VIET CONG WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY IN OPERATIONS IN THE CAI LAY DISTRICT, 24 KILOMETERS NORTHWEST OF DONG TAM.

FINAL CASUALTY FIGURES SHOWED 97 VC KILLED AND THREE CAPTURED AT A COST OF FOUR U.S. PERSONNEL KILLED AND 33 WOUNDED.

MOST OF THE VC KIA WERE RECORDED IN A NINE HOUR BATTLE THAT BEGAN AT 1100 THURSDAY AND LASTED UNTIL AFTER DARK. OPERATING WITH ARVN TROOPS AND UNITS OF THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION'S FIRST BRIGADE, THE TWO MRF BATTALIONS PARTIALLY SURROUNDED THE VC FORCE OF UNKNOWN SIZE AND THEN CLOSED IN ON THE ENEMY POSITIONS WITH HEAVY ARTILLERY AND AIR SUPPORT.

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THE ENEMY SURVIVORS EXFILTRATED THE AREA DURING THE NIGHT AND CONTACT ON THURSDAY WAS LIMITED TO SEVERAL INCIDENTS INVOLVING ARMY HELO GUNSHIPS. AFTER BEING AIRMOBILED TO PICK-UP ZONES LATE IN THE AFTERNOON, THE TROOPS WERE BACKLOADED ON BOATS OF RIVER ASSAULT SQUADRON NINE AND RETURNED TO THE MRB.

IN TRAINING EXERCISES THURSDAY, BOATS OF RIVER DIVISION III CONDUCTED A PRACTICE INSERTION AND EXTRACTION ON THE SOUTH BANK WITH THE SECOND VIETNAMESE MARINE BATTALION. THE MARINES, WHO ARRIVED IN DONG TAM YESTERDAY, WILL BE WORKING WITH THE MRF IN FUTURE OPERATIONS.

THEY ARE THE FIRST MARINES TO OPERATE WITH THE MRF SINCE THE FIFTH VIETNAMESE MARINE BATTALION COMPLETED AN EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL SIX WEEKS OF OPERATIONS LATE LAST DECEMBER.

THE MRF HAD TWO DISTINGUISHED MILITARY VISITORS THURSDAY-- GENERAL HAROLD K. JOHNSON, CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. ARMY AND A MEMBER OF THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF; AND VICE ADMIRAL CHARLES K. DUNCAN, CHIEF OF NAVAL PERSONNEL. BOTH FLAG OFFICERS RECEIVED BRIEFINGS ON MRF OPERATIONS IN THE DELTA AND PRESENTED AWARDS TO MRF PERSONNEL IN THEIR RESPECTIVE SERVICES. VICE ADMIRAL DUNCAN AWARDED FOUR MEDALS TO FLOTILLA PERSONNEL IN A CEREMONY ON

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THE BENEWAH PONTOONS AT 1400.

THREE NAVYMAN FROM RIVER DIVISION III RECEIVED BRONZE STARS FOR ACTION LAST DECEMBER 4. THEY WERE BMI ROBERT D. JULIAN, BM3 WILLIAM R. WOLVERTON, AND EN3 GERALD R. VINOPAL. A GOLD STAR IN LIEU OF A THIRD PURPLE HEART WAS PRESENTED TO HM1 ROYALE J. PARISEAU OF RIVER SQUADRON NINE STAFF.

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