

Cavmen Kill 40 Of Fortified Enemy Unit

By SP4 John Uhlar

HIGHLANDER HEIGHTS — Five kilometers north of Plei Mrong, Fourth Infantry Division soldiers from Troop C, 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry, clashed with an estimated NVA company and killed 40 enemy troops.

The pitched battle began late in the afternoon as the cavmen began to knock down trees and bamboo thickets to improve fields of fire for their night location.

Twenty-five meters away, NVA soldiers, fortified in their night location of camouflaged bunkers and a network of spider holes, initiated contact with a hail of B40 rockets, CHICOM grenades and small arms fire.

Troop C's 2nd platoon reacted quickly as Staff Sergeant Charles Sokolik of Escondido, Calif., countered with 90mm cannister rounds and a barrage of .50 and .30 caliber machine gun fire.

"I swung my 90mm around to neutralize their largest volume of incoming fire," said Sergeant Sokolik, "Then I aligned my platoon elements and fired in mass."

As Troop C's 2nd platoon

began knocking enemy soldiers down with a wall of automatic weapons fire, the 1st and 3rd platoons maneuvered through the thick jungle undergrowth to outdistance and hammer away at the enemy flanks while mortarmen zeroed round after round of 81mm high explosives at the NVA company's midsection.

Contact with the enemy was broken by the NVA unit as they fled north.

A sweep through the area by the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry's Charlie Company, along with the Troop C Cavmen, discovered the bodies of 40 NVA soldiers.



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