

The 3d Brigade Task Force and relieved elements of the 2d ROK Marine Brigade on the Batagan Peninsula. Operations were conducted in AO Grant during Operation Muscatine with the Battalion CP located at "LZ UPTIGHT" (BS 731840) Upon the relief of AO Grant, the Battalion moved north on 25 and 26 January and entered Operation Wheeler/Wallowa; establishing a Battalion CP at "LZ COLT" (BS113327). During the reporting period the Battalion had many minor contacts and ambush engagements with a major contact occurring on 17 January. (A detailed explanation of the techniques employed is contained in inclosure #3).

(3) 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the reporting period the Battalion conducted search and destroy operations in two TAOR's. During Operation Wheeler the Battalion, OPCON to the 101st Airborne Division, operated near Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam with the Battalion CP located at "LZ MARY LOU" (BT132203). During Operation Wallowa, the Battalion CP was located at "LZ BALDY" (BT132453). The Battalion reverted to 3d Brigade control on 26 January when the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division assumed responsibility for the northern portion of the Wheeler/Wallowa AO. During the period 26 January - 31 January, no significant contacts occurred.

(4) 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the reporting period the Battalion conducted search and destroy operations in the Baker AO, the Muscatine AO and the Wheeler/Wallowa AO. From 1 November to 18 December 1967 the Battalion CP was located at "LZ LIZ" (BS751436). On 19 December 1967 the Battalion became OPCON to the 198th Infantry Brigade (LT) and established a Battalion CP at "LZ SUE" (BS567877). From 9 January to 31 January the Battalion participated in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa, OPCON to the 196th Infantry Brigade (LT) with Battalion CP s at "Fire Support Base West" (AT990250) and at "LZ ROSS" (BT029341). Throughout the period the Battalion had many minor engagements with one moderate contact.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
3D BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96355

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968

TO: See Distribution

SECTION 1 (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

1. (C) GENERAL: During the reporting period 1 February to 30 April 1968 the 3d Brigade (TF), 4th Infantry Division participated in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa for 28 days and Operation Patrick for 31 days. On 30 March the 3d Brigade returned under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division and participated in Operation MacArthur

for the remainder of the reporting period. The 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division has participated in 722 consecutive days in combat as of 30 April 1968.

a. Mission: The 3d Brigade's TF mission in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa was to assume responsibility of the northern half of the Wheeler/Wallowa AO for:

(1) Offensive and defensive operations designed to locate and destroy NVA elements, Viet Cong main force, local force, guerrilla units, and the well established Viet Cong infrastructure throughout the AO.

(2) Assume responsibility for providing security for the 39th Engineer Battalion repair parties along Highway #535 and convoy escort.

(3) Assume responsibility for security and road clearing of Highway #1 from BT114497 north to BT102510 and south to BT175418.

(4) Provide security for the supporting units at LZ Baldy (BT131452).

b. The 3d Brigade Task Force's mission in Operation Patrick was to assume responsibility within the Patrick AO:

(1) Conduct reconnaissance in force, economy of force, and security operation north of the Bong Son River in close cooperation and coordination with the 40th ARVN Regiment and RF/PF Forces.

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(2) Conduct search and clear operations south of the Bong Son River in close coordination with the 41st ARVN Regiment; RF/PF Forces, and CSF Units to support and provide security for the Revolutionary Development effort and to neutralize or destroy enemy forces throughout the AO.

- (3) Assume responsibility for security of LZ English (BS875010) and LZ Uplift (BR927755).
- (4) Assume responsibility for security of bridge sites from Bong Son Bridge north along Highway #1 to BS922216.
- (5) Secure Highway #1 from ICTZ/IICTZ Boundary north to BS922216.
- (6) Be prepared within 1 to 6 hours to relieve or reinforce USSF, LLDB and refugee camps, District Headquarters, RF and PF outposts, Bong Son Bridge security force, critical signal installations, 3d Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry at Phan Thiet (AN855100) and ROK Forces within their TAOR with forces ranging in size from a platoon to a battalion (TF).
- (7) Be prepared within 2 to 6 hours to provide two (2) rifle companies as a reaction force for MSF Operations in Darlac Province.
- (8) Be prepared to assist in relief/reinforcement of Brigade elements in Patrick A0 by one brigade, 101st Airborne Division, and if relieved of A0 be prepared to deploy by air/land movement elsewhere in IICTZ or 4th Infantry Division TAOR.
- (9) Conduct psychological and Medcap operations in support of tactical operations and Revolutionary Development.

c. The 3d Brigade's mission in Operation MacArthur was to assume responsibility within the MacArthur AO:

- (1) Conduct reconnaissance in force, bushmaster, and security operations designed to detect and destroy VC/NVA forces, extend GVN control, and interdict enemy LOC and infiltration routes within the AO.
- (2) Defend the Provincial capital of Kontum.
- (3) Provide security for 299th Engineer Battalion on Highway #14N.
- (4) Conduct road clearing operations, provide security for mine sweep teams and escort convoys along Highway #511 and Highway #14N.
- (5) Be prepared to provide one (1) infantry battalion within 1 to 4. hours to support and reinforce MSF operations north of Dak Pek.

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d. Operational Areas: (See Inclosure #1 for Wheeler/Wallowa AO, Inclosure #2 for Patrick AO, and Inclosure #3 for MacArthur AO.

(1) The area designated as the 3d Brigade AO in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa encompasses Duy Xuyen, Que Son, and Duc Duc Districts in Quang Ngai Province.

(2) The area designated as the 3d Brigade AO in Operation Patrick encompasses Phu My, Hoai Nhon, Hoai An, and Binh Khe District in Binh Dinh Province and part of Duc Pho District of Quang Ngai Province.

(3) The area designated as the 3d Brigade AO in Operation MacArthur encompasses .Kontum District in Kontum Province.

2. INTELLIGENCE:

a. General: During this reporting period, 1 February 1968 through 30 April 1969, enemy activity is categorized in three phases, based on the three separate areas of operations.

b. Phase One: 1 February 1968 -28 February 1968, Que Son-Thang Binh area of operation. The beginning of this phase coincided with the "TET Offensive" which found well armed and well disciplined enemy forces attacking almost all friendly installations in the Tam Ky areas to the south of LZ Baldy and the Hoi An - Da Nang area to the north, Local force units in coordination with NVA elements conducted numerous standoff and harassing attacks in the Que Son - LZ Baldy area during this same period. Intelligence sources indicated that the 2nd PAVN Division Headquarters and its three subordinate segments, the 3rd, 1st, and 21st, had moved north from its normal base areas into Duy Xuyen District in order to continue their part of the offensive. The Brigade launched operations in this area in order to interdict any withdrawal or future attack plans of this division. On 6 February 1968 the 3rd NVA Regiment attacked Hoi An and suffered 103 NVA KIA. Elements of the 1st NVA Regiment were engaged by Task Force Miracle elements north of the Song Thu Bon River on 8 February 1968, resulting in 266 NVA KIA. On 9 February 1968, 1-14th and 1-35th Infantry in separate contacts with elements of the 2nd NVA Division Headquarters and 21st NVA Regiment killed 236 NVA and captured or destroyed approximately 100 weapons. After these contacts the 2 nd NVA Division began to

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withdraw to its base areas in the mountainous jungle area of Que Son and Thang Binh Districts. The remainder of this phase was spent in platoon and company size operations on search and destroy missions directed against the withdrawing enemy. Although the enemy fled in small groups in order to avoid observation and contact, elements of the 3d Brigade killed 129 enemy and captured 32 weapons during the last two weeks of Operation Wheeler/Wallowa.

c. Phase Two: 29 February 1968 - 30 March 1968. On 29 February 1969, the 3d Brigade commenced Operation Patrick in Northern Binh Dinh Province, Although the 1st Air Cavalry Division had inflicted very heavy casualties over a four month period in the AO, it was apparent that the 3d NVA Division was still conducting some offensive operations; probably because they had received numerous replacements during the month of January and February. On 2 March C, 1/50th Infantry OPCON to the 3d Brigade, contacted elements of the 2nd VC Regiment east of their base area in the Nui Miu Mountains and killed 43 NVA and captured 11 weapons. On 4 March 1968 the Phu My District Headquarters came under attack, results: 20 VC KIA, additionally 53 VC PWs were killed when the district jail took direct hits from 82mm mortar and B-40 rocket rounds. On 4 March LZ Crystal received heavy 120mm mortar and RR. fire that resulted in light damage. The same night LZ Moon came under a heavy ground attack from an estimated NVA Battalion and 54 NVA were killed and 15 weapons were captured. On 8 March 1968 a LRP Team in the Cay Giep Mountains spotted an NVA company apparently on a supply mission. Artillery and tactical air strikes were called resulting in numerous secondary explosions, the destruction of a bridge, and 30 NVA KIA. Intelligence sources confirmed that the 22nd NVA Regiment had moved south from the Bong Son Plain area into the 506 Valley area and on 9 March 1968, LZ Litts Vic BR911712, received a ground attack from the 8th Battalion, 22nd NVA Regiment resulting in 36 NVA KIA and 12 weapons captured, The mission of the 22nd NVA Regiment was to reinforce the 2nd VC Regiment in the Phu My Valley area and gain the confidence and support of the population in this area. On 9 March 1968, 1-50th Infantry again contacted elements of the 2nd VC Regiment and killed 23 NVA. The remainder of this phase was spent in platoon and company size recon in force operations against an enemy that withdrew to resupply and refit.

d. Phase Three: 31 March 1968 - 30 April 1968. During this phase the 3d Brigade returned to the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division and assumed responsibility for the 173rd Airborne Brigade area of operation in southern Kontum Province. The enemy in this area was capable of fighting a more conventional type of war because of their proximity to the Cambodian-Laotian Borders. Also a new enemy road system which extends into southern Kontum Province has enabled the enemy to infiltrate personnel and supplies with much greater rapidity. When the Brigade moved into the MacArthur AO,

the 1st NVA Division Headquarters and its support elements were believed to be located in the vic of YA8287. This was believed to be an indication of an impending enemy offensive, for the 1st NVA Division Headquarters had not been in country since the Battle of Dak To. The newly infiltrated 209th Regiment was located southwest of FSB 14, which it attacked on the 26th of March 1968. The 24th NVA Regiment, directly

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1 Feb-28 Feb 1968 - Operation Wheeler/Wallowa
29 Feb 1968-30 Mar 1968 - Operation Patrick
30 Mar 1968-30 April 1968 - Operation MacArthur

a. Plans

(1) During the period covered by this report the 3d Brigade Task Force was responsible for assisting Americal Division in the relief of 3d Brigade elements from the Wheeler/Wallowa AO and planning the relief of 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division in the Patrick AO effective 291200H February 1968.

(2) During the latter part of the reporting period, the 3d Brigade planned and conducted the relief of 173rd Airborne Brigade in the MacArthur AO effective 302000H March 1968.

b. Operations

(1) General: During the period 1 Feb-30 March 1968 the 3d Brigade participated as a Task Force in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa and Operation Patrick. During Operation Wheeler/Wallowa (1 Feb-28 Feb 1968) the 3d Brigade conducted recon in force operations in its respective area of responsibility with attachments from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Armored Cavalry and the 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery. The contacts during this period were heavy with the most significant action occurring during the Tet Offensive. At this time the 3d Brigade Task Force was employed to exert maximum pressure on the enemies' southwestern flank in order to relieve pressure during the attack on Da Nang, and to block the enemy withdrawal routes into his established base areas. In order to accomplish this mission, 3d Brigade elements were combat assaulted on controlling terrain features, where Battalion fire support bases were established. From the FSB, companies conducted recon in force operations to block enemy routes of egress and deny the enemy access to previously established base areas. The action of the 3d Brigade Task Force in blocking routes of egress, interdicting enemy LOC, and making maximum utilization of extensive harassing and interdicting fires from artillery and air throughout the AO were factors in attenuating the enemy attacks in the Dang Nang - Hoi An area. On 28 February the 3d Brigade Task Force was ordered to pass responsibility for the Wheeler/Wallowa AO to the 196th Infantry Brigade (LT) and relieve the 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division in place and assume the responsibility for the Patrick AO effective 1200H

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29 Feb 1968. During Operation Patrick (29 Feb-30 Mar 68) the 3d Brigade Task Force with attachments from C Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Armored Cavalry and 2nd Battalion, 9th Artillery conducted detailed recon in force, economy of force, and security operations north of Bong Son River and search and clear operations south of Bong Son River in close coordination with ARVN and RF/PF Forces to support the Revolutionary Development effort and neutralize and destroy enemy forces in the AO. Battalion operations were characterized by show of force, maximum utilization of ARVN, RF/PF Forces in combined operations, and the use of rapid reaction forces which continually disrupted the enemy's capability to mount significant operations. Enemy contacts during this period were light due to the continuous Brigade operations which forced the enemy to withdraw in small groups. Operations became a process of methodically searching for, locating, and destroying small groups of enemy in tunnels, caves, and spider holes. On 30 March the 3d Brigade Task Force passed responsibility for the Patrick AO to the 173rd Airborne Brigade effective 301200H March 1968 and assumed responsibility for the MacArthur AO effective 302000H March 1968 and reverted to 4th Infantry Division control. During the period 30 March through 30 April the Brigade conducted reconnaissance in force, bushmaster, and security operations to defend the Provincial Capital of Kontum, interdict LOC, and block enemy routes of egress to the Cambodian Border. The contacts during this period were heavy and in some cases initiated by the enemy; however, in all cases enemy attacks were repulsed. The general plan was to have infantry battalions establish fire bases with the battalion command post and supporting artillery and mortars. The rifle companies were employed to guard the firebase and conduct local operations while the remainder of the infantry elements conducted operations throughout the TAOR. After the enemy was located and fixed, maximum artillery and tactical air power were employed, to repulse attacks and enable the infantry to advance and destroy enemy forces, Arc Lights were also employed and exploited to the maximum extent to harass and destroy suspected enemy base areas and troop concentrations,

(2) 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry: During the reporting period, the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry participated in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa with the Battalion CP at LZ Hardcore, west of Hoi An Vic AT977501 under the operational control of the 3d Brigade Task Force, 4th Infantry Division. Later in the reporting period the battalion deployed to LZ English and conducted operations from LZ Geronimo (BS880174), the Battalion Fire Support Base, after relieving elements of the 1-8th Infantry, 1st Air Cavalry Division in zone. Operations continued in Patrick/Cochise Area of Operations under the control of

the 3d Brigade Task Force. Upon departure of the 3d Brigade Task Force to Kontum City (MacArthur AO), the Golden Dragons reverted to the operational control of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and continued security missions and reconnaissance in force operations in the Cochise AO, On 6 April 1968, the Golden Dragons were relieved of missions in the Cochise AO by the 3d Battalion, 503rd Airborne Infantry and prepared for deployment to the MacArthur AO. On 10 April 1968 the Battalion conducted multiple combat assaults to LZ No Slack (ZB997067) from Polei Klang airstrip. On 17 April 1968, the Battalion was ordered to establish a new fire

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support base vic YA835965 in order to relieve pressure of LZ Mile High and LZ Incoming (FSB 14) and block enemy approach from the west. On 29 April 1968 the Battalion was ordered to conduct a combat assault and establish a new fire support base at the Chu Do Ridge vic YA899933, During this reporting period the Battalion had many minor contacts and ambush engagements with a major enemy contact occurring on 29 April 1968.

(3) 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the reporting period the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry participated in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa with the Battalion CP located at LZ Baldy (BT132453) and LZ Cacti (BT059479) under the operational control of the 3d Brigade Task Force, 4th Infantry Division. On 19 February 1968 the Battalion moved to Pershing AO and became OPCON to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division. On 29 Feb the Cacti Green returned to the operational control of 3d Brigade Task Force and participated in Operation Patrick with the Battalion CP located at LZ English (BS875010),. On 29 March 1968 the Cacti Green deployed to MacArthur AO and participated in Operation MacArthur and established a Battalion CP at LZ Mile High (YA937931) and at LZ Bass (ZA027934). During the reporting period the Battalion had a number of minor contacts and ambush engagements with 3 major contacts occurring on 9 February, 5 and 15 April 1968.

(4) 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the reporting period the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry participated in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa with a Battalion CP located at LZ Ross (AT025043) under the operational control of the 3d Brigade Task Force, 4th

Infantry Division, On 13 February 1968 the Battalion came under the operational control of the 196th Infantry Brigade (LT), and established a Battalion CP at LZ Ryder (BT947345) and continued to participate in Operation Wheeler/Wallowa. On 20 March 1968 the Cacti Blue came under the operational control of the 11th Infantry Brigade and participated in Operation Champaign and established a new Battalion CP at LZ Thunder (BS874325). On 26 March 1968, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry deployed from LZ Thunder to Fire Support Base 7 (ZA025933) and participated in Operation MacArthur under the operational control of 173rd Airborne Brigade. On 29 March 1968 the Battalion was released from operational control of the 173rd Airborne Brigade and became OPCON to the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division and established Battalion CP s at FSB 7 (ZA025933) and LZ Mile High (YA937931). During the reporting period the Battalion had numerous minor contacts and ambush engagements and 4 major contacts occurring on 1 February, 27 - 29 February, 3 March, and 30 March-8 April 1968.

(5) C Company, 4th Engineer Battalion:

(a) General: During the reporting period 1 Feb-30 Apr 1968, Company C, 4th Engineer Battalion continued to support the 3d Brigade with combat engineer support in the areas of operation and with construction and maintenance support at "LZ Baldy", "LZ English", and "LZ Mickey Mouse".

(b) Operations (LZ Baldy)

1 Clearing landing zones.

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- 2 Destruction of enemy caves, tunnels, bunkers, and defensive positions.
3. Construction, maintenance, and clearing of defensive perimeters.
4. Mine clearing operations on Highway 535.
5. Peneprime distribution,

(c) Operations (LZ English)

- 1 Construction and maintenance of Brigade Forward Base.
- 2 Peneprime distribution.
- 3 Maintenance of helipads,

- 4 Construction of defenses around Bong Son Bridge.
- 5 Mine clearing operations on Highway TL3A and Highway #1.

(d) Operations (LZ Mickey Mouse)

- 1 Clearing and construction of new Brigade Forward Base (LZ Mary Lou).
- 2 Road construction into LZ Mary Lou.
- 3 Destruction of enemy caves, tunnels, bunkers, and defensive positions.
- 4 Clearing and construction of Battalion Firebases.
- 5 Mine clearing operations on Highway 511.
- 6 Maintenance of water supply point.