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Authority NND 823541
By JW NARA Date 11-25-02*Bn Hist*HEADQUARTERS
2n Battalion 5th Cavalry
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO 96490

AVDAGT-OT

31 May 1967

SUBJECT: Combat After Actions Report - Operation Pershing

TO: Commanding Officer
2n Brigade
ATTN: S-3
APO 96490

1. NAME OF OPERATION: PERSHING
2. DATES OF OPERATION/PHASES:
 - A. Phase I - 12 February 1967 to 03 March 1967
 - B. Phase II - 04 March 1967 to 08 April 1967
3. LOCATION: Binh Dinh Province, RVN
4. CONTROL AND COMMAND HEADQUARTERS:
 - A. Phase I: Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division
 - B. Phase II: 04 March 1967 - Headquarters, 1st Air Cavalry Division

05-08 March 1967 - Headquarters, 3rd Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division

09 March - 1 April 1967 - Headquarters, 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division

02-08 April 1967 - Headquarters, 1st Air Cavalry Division
5. REPORTING OFFICER: Robert D. Stevenson, LTC, Inf, Commanding Officer, 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Division
6. TASK ORGANIZATION:
 - A. Phase I: Btry A, 1/77 Arty (DS) 4 Scout Dog Teams, 2 Pathfinder Teams, 3rd Plt, Co B, 8th Engr Bn.

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B. Arty (DS) 4 Scout Dog Teams, 2 Pathfinder Teams, 3rd Plt, Co B, 8th Engr Bn, 1 Plt, 4th Bn, 60th Arty (Twin 40 MM), 1 Plt, Co C, 1st Bn, 69th Armor

7. SUPPORTING FORCES: Civil Affairs

A. Phase I: Activities were confined to administration of daily sick calls at An Duang Village (BS870015). Approximately 800 bars of soap were distributed within the village and 188 people were treated for minor ailments. 600 pounds of rice captured during the period was turned over to the Brigade S5. No major problems were encountered.

B. Phase II: Activities were again confined to An Duang Village. 486 people were treated for minor ailments and 10 people were sent to the Bong Son Dispensary for further treatment. No major problems were encountered.

8. INTELLIGENCE:

A. See Annex A. - Footprint Overlay

B. See Para 12b for enemy losses

C. See Para 11 for enemy situation

9. MISSION:

A. Phase I:

(1) 2nd Bn, 5th Cav air assaulted and conducted search and destroy operations in assigned AO.

(a) Conducted methodical and deliberate search in AO to find and destroy enemy fighting, hiding and storage areas and to capture or kill enemy therein.

(b) Detain all military aged males for interrogation.

(2) 2nd Bn, 5th Cav later assigned specific mission to:

(a) Conduct extensive platoon sized night patrols in assigned AO to locate and kill or capture enemy forces.

(b) Establish daylight check points along Highway 1 in coordination with 40th ARVN Regiment.

(c) Conduct Bn air assault (4 companies) south of Bong Son River in coordination with 40th ARVN Regiment, block routes of express into NVI SVI LAM Mountain Area.

(d) Provide 1 company to assist in defense of LZ English.

B. Phase II:

(1) 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducts search and destroy operations in assigned AO to locate and kill or capture enemy forces.

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er assigned specific mission to:

- (a) Provide security for engineer work parties in AO.
- (b) Air assault into Nue Meiss Mountain Area and conduct detailed search and destroy operations to locate and destroy enemy in fighting and hiding areas.
- (c) Provide security for artillery fire base and Brigade CP at LZ Anchor.
- (d) Conduct cordon and search operations in AO.
- (e) Provide 1 company to assist in defense of LZ English.
- (f) Provide long range reconnaissance patrols for clandestine surveillance within assigned AO.
- (g) Secure artillery fire base at LZ Sandra.
- (h) Conduct air assault in coordination with 40th ARVN Regiment in mountain area east of Bong Son to destroy caves (Operation Mole 23-24 Mar).
- (i) Secure VDT beach survey team along coast east of Bong Son.

10. CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

A. Phase I: 2nd Bn, 5th Cav initially air assaulted into Bong Son Plain area and commenced detailed search and destroy operations in that area. Limited operations in coordination with ARVN forces were conducted along the mouth of the Bong Son River.

B. Phase II: 2nd Bn, 5th Cav exploited the rapid reaction and striking power of air cavalry techniques, conducted air assaults throughout the Tiger, Crecent and Nui Meiss Mountain areas, searching out and destroying the enemy found there. The majority of operations were conducted in coordination with ARVN forces and in support of the GVN Revolutionary Development effort.

11. EXECUTION: PHASE I

A. Maneuver 12 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP and HQS Co remained at LZ English West. Co A CP group, 1st Platoon and Weapons Platoon initially remained at LZ English West. Co A, 2nd Platoon became opcon to Co C and the 3rd Platoon opcon to Co D. At 1630 hours Co A air assaulted to BS918038 and the LZ was red. The lead lift ship was hit by ground fire and landed with no injuries to the crew. The Company Commander was wounded, not seriously, and other casualties were sustained. Co A remained at the LZ for the night drawing small arms fire sporadically after dark.

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Co B continued its mission in its assigned sector. The 3rd and 4th platoons setting up a blocking positions at BS905068 while the remainder of the company started sweeping towards it. At 0946 hours Co B (-) started receiving automatic weapons fire from the south (BS908044) from two VC. One VC was KIA with an AK-47 weapon. The company continued moving south, apprehended two detainees. At 1106 hours fire was received (BS908047) and by 1159 hours Co B (-) was pinned down by automatic weapons fire. The logship resupplying Co B was shot down (BS908044) at 1230 hours and 3rd platoon was diverted to secure the downed ship. The 1st Bn, 5th Cav logships resupplied Co B with ammunition. The 3rd platoon received small arms fire while securing the downed ship. The 2nd platoon moved to join the Co (-). Co B continued receiving fire and suffering casualties throughout the day. Co C continued operations in its assigned sector, and apprehended two detainees during sweep operations. Co C also supplied a reinforced squad to secure the downed lift ship until it was extracted, and then returned to the Co FOB. At 1438 hours Co C was ordered to establish blocking positions from 2nd Bn 12 Cav/2nd Bn 5th Cav boundary to 2nd Platoon Co A location. Sniper fire was received at 1800 hours (BS908050). Co D continued mission in assigned sector, apprehended 4 detainees, and received sporadic sniper fire during the day. At 1109 hours they found a complex of trenches and bunkers (BS905074) with a fence boobytrapped with CBU bomblets and hand grenades. Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav became opcon to the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav at 1358 hours and was air assaulted (BS910030) at 1505 hours. They received sporadic sniper fire, set up assigned blocking positions in southern sector of battalion AO and apprehended VCS. The battalion command and control ship received one round in ship with plexiglass splinters injuring the pilot. The two logships received hits when resupplying Co A after dark. 1400 rounds of 105 HE was fired in support of Co B.

(2) Enemy Contact: Unknown size force

(3) Enemy Action: The enemy firing from trees, hooches, and probably from fortified positions. They did not withdraw, but halted the advance of Companies B & C.

B. Maneuver 13 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy mission in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co A (-) maintained blocking position (BS918038), 2nd and 3rd platoons air lifted to Co location. Co A made a through search of their area taking several prisoners, weapons, and documents. Co B conducted a through search of the area they drew fire from on the 12th of February. Tunnels, bunkers, and wells were searched slowly and carefully. Several NVA/VC prisoners and weapons, ammo and documents were found. Co C maintained blocking position (BS908050) and then was airlifted to a new location (BS909073) to conduct a blocking position and a through search of their immediate area. They apprehended some detainees, and located a large amount of documents and misc supplies. Co D maintained blocking positions (BS902052) and moved southward on a sweep of the area. 1st platoon was airlifted to Co D (-) location (BS904045). Several prisoners, misc supplies, and documents were found and evacuated. All tunnels, caves, and hiding places were searched.

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Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav searched in their assigned sector, and reverted to the control of the 1st Bn, 5th Cav in the late afternoon. Co A 1st Bn, 7th Cav became opcon to the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav at 1300 hours and moved to Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav location (BS910030) to relieve them of their sector.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Action: Avoided contact

C. Maneuver 14 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy mission in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co A (BS913040) conducted search and destroy operations in their assigned sector. The continuation of searching tunnels, wells, and bunkers resulted in locating weapons, documents, and equipment. Co B conducted search and destroy operations in their assigned sector. Numerous weapons, packs, clothing, and equipment were found. Co C continued its search and destroy mission in assigned sector with good results. Co D continued search and destroy operations in their sector. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector and apprehended detainees, and located documents and equipment.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Action: Avoided contact

D. Maneuver 15 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to conduct search and destroy operations in AO. Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English. Co A, B, and C conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sectors. Co D conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector and set up check point (BS886036) on route 1 during daylight hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Action: Avoided contact

E. Maneuver 16 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued conducting search and destroy operations in its assigned AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Line companies continued assigned mission in sectors. A throughout search of tunnels, wells, and caves turned up more NVA/VC personnel and equipment. Co C suffered one casualty, EM was entering a well-tunneled entrance when shot by unknown occupant of well-tunnel. Co C still working on getting the occupant enemy out by continued use of Mighty-Mite and CS.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact except for sniper fire.

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F. Maneuver 17 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroyed operations in assigned AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. The rifle companies continued to conduct operations in assigned sectors. Co C shot one man in early morning hours near the well being searched. Co A, 1st Bn, 7th Cav remain ed opcon to the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav. Co C. continued to search wells and tunnels in area, finding bodies, prisoners and equipment indicating a Bn Hqs element, which developed into the Hqs CP of the 8th Bn, 22nd Regiment.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Action: Avoided contact

G. Maneuver 18 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in assigned AO. Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co A continued mission in assigned sector, and two platoons were airlifted to the shower point for showers and clean clothes and then returned to company FOB. Co B moved by foot to vicoord (BS911032) as a blocking force because of report from scout ship from 1st Bn, 9th Cav that they had one VC pinned down (BS907034) and had one VC KIA in green uniform with pistol belt in rice paddy. Co C reported that five bodies which had been the focal point of one of their ambushes had been dug up and carried away during the night. The bodies were found in graves (BS934052). They continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co D continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector and set up one check point on the highway. A Co 1st Bn, 7th Cav became opcon to the 2nd Bn, 12th Cav at 1430 hours. All companies sent at least one platoon into the shower point. Companies A & B sent two platoons.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided Contact, Hiding

H. Maneuver 19 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to conduct search and destroy operations in the area of operations. Bn CP, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. All rifle companies continued search and destroy operations in their assigned sectors. Popular force guides were furnished to companies A & C.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

I. Maneuver 20 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to conduct search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. All rifle companies continued search and destroy operations

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in their assigned sectors. Co A received sniper fire and called in two ARA strikes and received no further fire. All companies continued to locate, clear, and destroy wells and tunnels. Co A initiated an ambush in the evening which resulted in two VC KIA.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact except for the sniper fire

J. Maneuver 21 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to conduct search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co's A & B continued search and destroy operations in assigned sectors. Co C assumed the role as the Bn RRF, with the main mission to assist D Co if needed. Co D air assaulted to LZ Dragoon (BS 922019) for Operation MOLE at 0830 hours with the mission to conduct search and destroy operations of all caves, tunnels and bunkers in this area. No contact with the enemy was made. One EM wounded by a land mine. At 1920 hours Co A sprang an ambush with the result of one VC KIA, plus a secondary explosion caused by artillery fire.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided direct contact

K. Maneuver 22 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy mission in assigned AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co's A, B, & C continued search and destroy operations in assigned sectors. Co D was extracted from LZ Dragoon at 1503 hours and air assaulted to BS 903041. Flame thrower training and training on the new XM-148 were conducted for personnel of each company.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper firing after dark

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided direct contact

L. Maneuver 23 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co's A, C, and D continued mission in assigned sectors. Co B was the RRF and committed the 1st platoon at 1320 hours opcon to 1st Sqdr, 9th Cav (BS 920058). At 1700 hours the 1st platoon was airlifted to Co B's FOB (BS 910029) and at 1718 hours Co B air assaulted from the FOB to BS 937019 closing at 1732 hours. Co B received small arms fire and the logships were fire upon while resupplying the company. ARA was called in, and one man was wounded by schrapnel. Training was accomplished on the 106MM Recoilless Rifle.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided direct contact

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M. Maneuver 24 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. All companies continued search and destroy operations in assigned sectors and set up new FOB's. TAC dropped the "Gravel" (72 hour type) land mines in part of the battalion sector. Co D developed contact at 1543 hours at BS 916055 and then later in the evening developed a little contact resulting in the recovery of one BAR.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Tried to avoid contact

N. Maneuver 25 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co's A, B, & D conducted their missions in their assigned sectors. At 0938 hours the 3rd platoon Co A was air assaulted to BS 932046 and conducted a sweep operation and destroyed bunkers, tunnels, and then were extracted back to Co A FOB at 1316 hours. Co C was air lifted to Co A's FOB for a one day standdown. XM-148 firing was conducted for all grenadiers at Co A's FOB.

(2) Enemy Contact: Ambushes and sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Tried to avoid contact

O. Maneuver 26 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO. Bn CP, Trains, and Hqs Co (-) remained at LZ English West. Co A spotted two VC with weapons and pursued them to a village (BS 937040). Two women reported to be the wives of the two VC were held while the search continued. Co B picked up one detainee vic BS 920044. Co C & D exchanged locations starting at 1034 hours finishing at 1106 hours. Co D conducted a standdown at Co A FOB.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Tried to avoid contact

P. Maneuver 27 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav air assaulted simultaneously into four LZ's, moved into blocking positions north of the Nui Sui Lam Mountains (Operation Tuxedo) and maintained surveillance over the routes of excess to the south. At 0901 hours all four rifle companies were picked up by 64 lift ships and at 0930 hours Co A-LZ Jacket (BR931973), Co B-LZ Coat (BR948972), Co C-LZ Belt (BR 959987), Co D-JZ Shirt (BR974987) TD on all four LZ's. Five batteries of artillery supported the air assault. The 2nd Plt, Co B, 8th Engr were released to their company prior to the air assault. Each rifle company moved to its designated blocking positions

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and apprehended any military aged males. All LZ's were green. 2nd Plt Co D secured a downed H-13 (due to mechanical failure) until it was extracted.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper fire-sporadic in Co D area

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

Q. Maneuver 28 February 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to maintain surveillance and block routes of excess to the south in coordination with the 2nd Bn, 40th Regiment ARVN, north of the Tiger AO. Companies A, B, and C continued mission in assigned sectors. Company D was extracted from LZ Shirt at 0930 hours and then air assaulted LZ Shirt at 0951 hours, and continued mission in sector. Co D at 1700 hours became opcon to Division Support Command and was extracted to LZ English at 1738 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

R. Maneuver 1 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav air assaulted from AO south of the Bong Son River to the Bong Son plains to conduct a methodical search and destroy operation in the Bong Son Plains. Co A was extracted from LZ Jacket and air assaulted to LZ Sardine (BS932045) at 0835 hours. Co B extracted from LZ Coat at 0811 hours and air assaulted to LZ Shark (BS945030) at 0816 hours. Co C extracted from LZ (BR 956998) at 0915 hours and air assaulted to LZ Minnow (BR909049) at 0925 hours. Sporadic contact throughout the day with snipers. One EM injured by punji stake trap. The CC received one hit wounding the pilot and the Bn SMAJ - aircraft flew to 15th Med - SMAJ returned to duty. At 1900 hours Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav became opcon to 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, and Co D, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav became opcon to 1st Bn, 5th Cav.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact and probed perimeters during the night.

S. Maneuver 2 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy mission in its assigned AO. Bn CP, Train, and Hqs Co (-) located at LZ English West. Co A found one detainee hiding in pig sty (BS 932047) and one was found hiding in a bunker (BS933054) with papers and a map. Company B received sniper fire (BS 938026) and sustained one WIA with M-79 (incoming shrapnel in leg. They checked area and found blood trail leading to one sandal and one M-1 ammo clip covered with blood. One man was injured after setting off a CBU bomblet boobytrap. Several more were located and destroyed by engineers. Co B, 1st Plt received two rounds of sniper fire (BS 931028). One detainee was picked up (BS944029). 2nd platoon received two rounds sniper fire (BS 936020), and upon investigation they killed 3 VC with grenades and found 3 M-1 rifles, clothing, and web gear.

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Company C saw two figures in front of their position, they opened fire, saw one fire, and the other continued to run (BS 900039). Company D air lifted from LZ English to exchange missions with Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav (BS 912083) and closed that location at 1018 hours. They conducted search and destroy missions in assigned sector.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire and boobytraps

T. Maneuver 3 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. All rifle companies conducted assigned missions in assigned sectors. At 0925 hours Co B had one EM seriously wounded by a CBU bomblet booby-trap. Co B sent in 251 detainees by C-47. Co C's ambush got one VC KIA at 2303 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact except by boobytraps & ambushes.

12. EXECUTION: PHASE II

A. Maneuver 4 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in the 2nd Bde AO. At 0800 the battalion became the Division Reserve. Co's A & B became opcon to DISCOM. At 0805 hours Co B moved to LZ English and closed at 1145 hours. Co A air assaulted into the 1st Bde AO to search towards LZ English. Co's A, B, & C reported VC's KIA and WIA after first light from contact during night. Co C continued search and destroy mission in assigned sector. They found a VC KIA during the search. Co D continued its search and destroy mission in its assigned sector.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact except for chance meetings.

B. Maneuver 5 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO with two companies (C & D). Companies A & B continued opcon to DISCOM. Co A became opcon to 3rd Bde, 25th Infantry Division, and departed LZ English at 1402 hours and closing LZ Uplift at 1545 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

C. Maneuver 6 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations with two companies (C & D). Co A opcon to 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div. Co B opcon to DISCOM. At 1435 hours Co B alerted for move to LZ Carole (BR 957703) and opcon to 1st Bn 35th Inf En upon completion of air assault.

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1st lift of Co B at 1510 hours, closing at 1604 hours. At 1810 hours the battalion (-) went opcon to the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div. A jump TOC CP airlifted to LZ Uplift and Co C was extracted and airlifted to LZ Uplift. Co C and Bn CP closed LZ Uplift at 2034 hours. Co D went opcon to 1st Bde, 1st Air Cav Div.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

D. Maneuver 7 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav, opcon to the 3rd Bde, 25th Inf Div, conducted search and destroy mission in AO. Co A continued opcon to 1st Bn, 35th Inf until 1445 hours when they air assaulted from BR 979894 to BR 999793 at 1611 hours. The LZ was "GREEN". Co B continued opcon to 1st Bn 35th Inf. Co C performed perimeter security at LZ Uplift, 3rd platoon air assaulted at 1050 hours to LZ Bragg in 506 Valley, searched area, and were extracted to LZ Uplift at 1715 hours. The 3rd platoon was alerted for a mission at 1730 hours and air assaulted to BR 887900 for a blocking mission. The 1st platoon, Co C, performed an engineer security mission. Co D extracted from BS 908088 at 0810 hours, and air assaulted to LZ Jolene (BR 997803) closing at 1005 hours. The 3rd platoon air assaulted to LZ Lucy (CR 002815). The light TAC CP remained at LZ Uplift.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

E. Maneuver 8 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued its mission of search and destroy in AO. Also elements of the Bn conducted seven air assaults. Bn CP initially remained at LZ Uplift, then at 1600 hours was airlifted to LZ Anchor (BR942853). Co A initially started searching in assigned sector, and at 1109 hours was air assaulted to LZ Chipper (CRO18778) to conduct search and destroy operation in the low ground. At 1758 hours Co A was extracted (CRO01877) and air assaulted to BR959903 to conduct search and destroy operation in assigned sector. Co B returned opcon to 2nd Bn, 5th Cav at 0800 hours and Co B (-) was air assaulted to LZ Chipper, while the 3rd platoon was air assaulted to BR999772. Upon receipt of a report by a lift pilot seeing 4 VCS running into a cave, Co B (-) was immediately extracted from LZ Chipper to LZ Claudia (BR 002778), Co B (-) was extracted from (BR 999753) and air assaulted to BR933897 at 1655 hours. Co C continued security of LZ Uplift, the 1st platoon secured an APC destroyed by mines (BR834815), while the 3rd platoon continued blocking mission (BR885905). Co D conducted search and destroy mission in AO, and at 1831 hours (CRO02812) was extracted and air assaulted to BR958903. All LZ's were "GREEN".

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire and sightings

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

F. Maneuver 9 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in the Tiger AO under the control of 2nd Bde, 1st Air Cav Div effective

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0800 hours. The Bn CP moved by foot, with Btry A, 1st Bn, 77th Arty to a new location on LZ Anchor. Co A 1st Bn, 35th Inf reverted to the control of its parent battalion. Co C returned to the control of the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav at 1000 hours and was airlifted to LZ Anchor. Co C secured LZ Anchor. Co's A, B, & D continued operations in assigned sectors.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

G. Maneuver 10 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in the southern portion of the Tiger AO. Co's A, B, & D continued mission in assigned sectors. Co D found one VC KIA, packs and clothing in a search of farmer village (BR 965888). Co C (-) continued security of LZ Anchor. 3rd platoon, Co C airlifted (BR 885905) to LZ Anchor at 0839 hours. 1st platoon Co C conducted a patrol (BR 965870) and set up an ambush.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

H. Manuever 11 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A began the day's operations at 0515 hours by moving (vic BR 973945) to search a village. They apprehended 27 detainees. At 1622 hours Co A received orders to be prepared to move. The first lift departed (vic BR965943) at 1702 hours and closed at 1736 hours (BR969784). Co A moved into a blocking position and apprehended 6 detainees. Co B was extracted from BR932893 at 1523 hours and closed LZ Anchor at 1527 hours with the mission of securing LZ Anchor. Co C 1st & 2nd platoons were air assaulted to BR947823) and Co C (-) was air assaulted (BR 958793) to act as a blocking force for the 40th ARVN Regiment at 0800 hours. At 1043 hours Co C, 3rd platoon reported receiving small arms fire (BR970791). One VC with hand grenade tried to evade capture, was hit, wounded and captured. The 3rd platoon was pinned down BR968786 by automatic weapons. The 2nd platoon was extracted (BR 946920) and air assaulted (BR 975787) to assist the 3rd platoon, at 1236 hours. Then the first platoon was extracted (BR947823) and air assaulted (BR977783) at 1513 hours. The contact continued and casualties increased. Co D was extracted from vic BR 966886 at 1354 hours and air assaulted (BR 987786) to assist C Co. At 1416 hours D Co began a search of the area and received fire from vic BR 969784. The 1st platoon was partially pinned down and suffered casualties. CO, Co D was KIA, and The Bn CO with SMAJ landed and assisted in the reorganization of Co D and remained overnight with them.

(2) Enemy Contact: Unknown size and type force

(3) Enemy Actions: Remained and fought with automatic weapons from dug-in positions. All Medivacs complete by 2400 hours.

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I. Maneuver 12 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in area of contact of 11 March and around LZ Anchor. Co A continued to search and destroy in assigned sector suffering two casualties from a CBU bomblet boobytrap. The Bn CP with Co B securing remained at LZ Anchor. Co C reorganized, located their MIA who were KIA, evacuated all KIA's. Then they conducted search and destroy operations in area of contact. Co C located a well dug trench work and evidence of NVA hastily evacuating the area moving to the south. Co D was joined by CPT Eugene Currier, who assumed command, reorganized the company, located the MIA who were KIA, evacuated all remains, and then conducted search and destroy operations in area of contact. At 0945 hours the 2nd platoon of Co D was taken under fire (BR 980786) from a cave. The cave was taken under fire by a B trp, 1 Sqdn, 9th Cav Scout Ship with rockets and the firing ceases. The area was searched with negative results.

(2) Enemy Contact: Estimated squad force

(3) Enemy Actions: Broke contact when engaged with rockets

J. Maneuver 13 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO. The Bn CP and Co B remained at LZ Anchor. Co A continued mission in assigned sector, set up new FOB (vic BR 998781), and apprehended detainees. Co B secured LZ Anchor, and the fwd 2nd Bde CP, 1st Bn, 5th Cav CP, 2nd Bn, 5th Cav CP, and Btry A 1st Bn, 77th Arty, also conducted local patrolling. Apprehended 9 detainees. Co C conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector, found four new 82mm rounds, destroying them in place, and apprehended a detainee. Co D conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector, apprehended 3 detainees, and set up a blocking position (CR 010779) to ambush any VC fleeing north from Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Cav. The Div CG presented 3 silver stars, and 6 bronze stars for valor to personnel of Co's A, C, & D.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

K. Maneuver 14 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued to conduct search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A continued to conduct search and destroy operations in assigned sector. At 1710 hours Co B had four EM wounded by a mine (CBU bomblet), medivaced. Co C continued to conduct search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co D airlifted from FOB (BR 990780) to LZ Anchor closing at 1141 hours and assumed security mission. At 1830 hours, Co A received sniper fire from a boat (BR 997806), fire returned and boat sank.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper fire and boobytraps

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

L. Maneuver 15 March 1967

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(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A continued operations in the eastern portion of the AO. One VC WIA from area of air strike (BR 995 822) collapsed and died as he approached perimeter of 1st platoon, Co A. A VC medical kit containing penicillin, vitamin pills, cat-gut and misc medicine was found (CRO13810). Co B moved (BR 983788) to where contact had been made the night before and found 1 VC KIA. No VC's were picked up vic BR 987786. Eleven VC were found in a cave (BR992792). Also found in the cave was a 7.65 pistol, 2 transistor radios, and medical supplies. Co C was extracted from BR972780 and air assaulted to BR 990868. Co D continued securing LZ Anchor and sent out four long range patrols (5 men each -BR918845, Br 931879, BR 865772, and BR 873904).

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

M. Maneuver 16 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in assigned AO. Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Then at 1212 hours Co A air assaulted from BR 996835 to BR 005795. The LZ was "GREEN". Co B continued searching in the cave area - located one old shotgun, hand grenades, and 100 rounds 7.62. Co C was extracted (BR908866) and air assaulted to BR 967794 (LZ#1). The 2nd lift to BR 967786 (LZ#2) closing at 1052 hours. They apprehended three detainees. Co D secured LZ Anchor, and then was airlifted to CR 006795 at 1704 hours, and Co A was airlifted to LZ Anchor and assumed the security of LZ Anchor and became the Bn RRF.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

N. Maneuver 17 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in its AO. Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A continued to secure LZ Anchor., the 2nd platoon went opcon to the 1st Bn, 5th Cav as RRF, until 1700 hours. Four LRP's were sent out to relieve Co D's. Co B continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Apprehended several detainees and destroyed caves and bunkers. Co C conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector and then at 1630 hours (BR 972780) air assaulted to LZ Dude BR 963883. 1st lift TD at 1640 hours, closing at 1703 hours. Co D continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Utilized 2-23 ft boats to patrol DAM TRAO Lake.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

O. Maneuver 18 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted three air assaults into a new AO, conducted a cordon and search operation, and then conducted search and destroy operations. Bn CP remained at LZ Anchor. Co A air assaulted from LZ Anchor to LZ Ant (BR 965938) closing at 0840 hours, LZ was "GREEN". Co A conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co B air assaulted from BR 994745 to LZ Bug (BR971941) and LZ Beetle (BR 971954),

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closing at 0805 hours. LZ was "GREEN". Conducted a cordon and search operation, and then conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co C moved by foot to assigned sector and conducted search and destroy operations. Co D air assaulted from BR 997804 to LZ Dude (BR 967881) closing at 0939 hours. Conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

P. Maneuver 19 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav remained at LZ Anchor and controlled operations in AO. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav became opcon to the 2nd Bn, 5th Cav at 0600 hours. Co A found blood stains (BR 974932) where they had fired at a man on 18 March 1967. The first platoon fired at two individuals dressed in black pajamas and carrying weapons. They ran from a hiding place when another man began to beat a drum. The drum beater was captured and blood stains observed in the area where the men were taken under fire (BR 972932). Co A's LRP was extracted (BR 932876) and airlifted to BR 965843. Co A picked up 5 detainees from a Swift Boat. Co B was extracted (BR 953808) and air assaulted to BR 918868. Co B conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector with negative results. Co D reported four boats filled with people (BR 983890). They apprehended 4 detainees (BR 977872), and located a cave complex (BR 969867). Co D moved by foot to LZ Anchor. Co B, 1st Bn, 5th Cav found 16 bunkers, 2-3 man size with overhead cover (BR 913878).

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

Q. Maneuver 20 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav air lifted from LZ Anchor to LZ Sandra (BS 800190) to maintain blocking positions and conduct search and destroy operations in assigned AO. Bn CP, Btry A, 1st Bn, 77th Arty, 2 & 3 platoons Co B, 8th Engr, remained at LZ Sandra. Co A's LRP's 1, 2, & 4 returned to Co A at 0736 hours. Co A's 1st platoon air lifted to LZ English & further air lifted by CH-47 at 0747 hours. At 1042 hours the remaining platoons were airlifted from LZ Anchor to LZ English. At 1019 hours Co A (-) air assaulted from LZ English (BS 824225). One lift ship crashed (mechanical failure) during the move and 1 EM was KIA, and 6 injured. Co B was extracted from LZ Bug at 0853 hours and air assaulted to BS 830203 closing at 0914 hours. Co C was extracted (BR 972896) at 0931 hours and air assaulted to BS 830203 closing at 0948 hours. Co D was extracted from LZ Anchor at 0803 hours in four sorties by CH-47 and air lifted to LZ English for further air assault to LZ Sandra at 1122 hours and closed at 1128 hours with the mission of securing LZ Sandra as an Artillery Fire Base.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

R. Maneuver 21 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued blocking and search and destroy operations in AO. Bn CP remained at LZ Sandra. Co C air assaulted to LZ

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Quarter (BS 887203), 1st lift at 1441 hours and closing at 1505 hours. LZ was "GREEN". Co B air assaulted to LZ Dime (BS 888192) at 1523 hours, closing at 1606 hours with LZ "GREEN". At 1615 hours 2nd Bde advised that Co B would go opcon to the 1st Bn, 5th Cav and to prepare for an air assault. At 1623 hours Co A's 2nd & 3rd platoons were airlifted from BS 836248 and BS 825243, and air assaulted to LZ Nickel (BS 850225) at 1631 hours. Co A (-) was closed in by fog and could not be moved. At 1853 hours Co B air assaulted from LZ Dime to BS 875079 closing at 1808 hours. Due to bad weather condition the air assault of Co C from LZ Quarter was canceled. Co B received automatic weapons at their FOB at 2220 hours. Co D secured LZ Sandra.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

S. Maneuver 22 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted three air assaults, moved the Bn CP, Btry A, 1st Bn, 77th Arty, two platoons of engineers from LZ Sandra to LZ English. 1st airlift at 1320 hours, the Bn CP closed at 1430 hours. Co A initially conducted a patrol by its 2nd & 3rd platoons to BS 961233, with negative results. At 1525 hours the 1st lift of Co A was air assaulted from BS 823229, TD BS 833046, Co A closed at 1629 hours. Co B conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector. They picked up 9 detainees. Co C moved from BS 893217 to BS 900207 where they were extracted from and air assaulted to BS 893047 at 1415 hours, closing at 1449 hours. Co D secured LZ Sandra until all elements had been extracted. Co D airlifted from LZ Sandra at 1723 hours by 3 CH-47's to LZ English; at 1756 hours, the last six sorties by UH-1D air assaulted to BS 833058; the remainder air assaulted from LZ English closing at 1828 hours.

LTC Rickard, Div I.G. inspected the battalion at An-Khe and LZ English for the 1st I.G. inspection since the battalion came to Viet Nam.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

T. Maneuver 23 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in assigned AO. Bn CP and Trains remained at LZ English. Co C had light contact at 0055 hours, and again at 0420 hours. Co B received fire at 1045 hours. Then in a coordinated effort with the 40th ARVN Regiment established blocking positions. At 1330 hours Co A located a large tunnel complex which was destroyed by the Engineers. Co D conducted an air assault to LZ Razor (BS 805048) closing at 1418 hours. At 2030 hours Co B ambush had contact - 2 VC KIA, recovery of 1 38 cal. US revolver. Co A received automatic weapons fire and grenades for 15 to 20 minutes at 2135 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

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U. Maneuver 24 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co D, 2nd Bn, 12th Cav opcon at 0730 hours, airlifted to Co C for FOB (BS 873053), conducted search and destroy operations back to LZ English, released to DISCOM at 1540 hours. Co A conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector. At 1600 hours CPT Conlon relinquished command to CPT George Lee. Co B conducted search and destroy operations in AO. One sector of the 4th Bn 60th Arty (Twin 40mm) were attached for the operation. Co C conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire; occasional sightings

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

V. Maneuver 25 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted four air assaults (Co A, B, C, and C2) and conducted search and destroy operations in AO. Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A extracted (BS 833045) and air assaulted to LZ Ax (BR846917) at 0854 hours, and then conducted search and destroy operations to the south and west. Co B extracted (BS 883070) and air assaulted to LZ Bottle (BS895954), TD 1014 hours, and conducted search and destroy operations in sector. Co C extracted at 1044 hours (BS 872052) and air assaulted to LZ Wildcat (BR 948972), the 2nd platoon was extracted from LZ Wildcat, at 1326 hours and air assaulted to LZ Panther (BR958952), at 1700 hours was air lifted to Co C FOB. LZ's were all "GREEN". Co D opcon to 1st Bn, 5th Cav at 0800 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

W. Maneuver 26 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted search and destroy operations in AO. The battalion conducted 3 air assaults, and two air lifts. The Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A airlifted from BR 905914 to air assault LZ Soup (BS 803144) at 1445 hours, with LZ "GREEN". Co B airlifted at 1505 hours (BR898949) and air assaulted to BS 806104 at 1530 hours at LZ Potatoe. The LZ was "GREEN" and at 1705 hours the 3rd platoon Co B air assaulted to BS 833111 closing at 1714 hours. The LZ was "GREEN". Co C was airlifted (BR 940990) at 1244 hours, as the last lift was ready to depart the LZ, enemy sniper fire wounded two men, artillery and ARA were fired on the LZ after the last lift cleared it. Co A (-) airlifted to LZ English and to DISCOM for security of LZ English. 1st platoon Co C airlifted and then air assaulted to BS 930065 LZ Bass to secure the UDT Survey Team at 0734 hours. At 1544 hours the 1st platoon airlifted to LZ English and rejoined the company. Co D air assaulted at 1332 hours (BS 814036 to LZ Sweet TWO (BS 805049) 3rd platoon, and 2nd platoon air assaulted LZ Sweet ONE (BS 804060) at 1359 hours. LZ's were "GREEN". One EM from Co B was bitten by a snake at 2035 hours and Medevaced.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper at Co C PZ

(3) Enemy Actions: Sniper fire

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X. Maneuver 27 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ English. At 0942 hours Co C, 3rd platoon airlifted from LZ English to LZ Resort (BS 923108) for the purpose of securing the UDT Survey Team. Co B, 2nd Squad, 3rd platoon found 3 sleeping positions (BS 915113) and a cave which appeared to have been used within the past 24 hours. Also in the area they found a cave which could sleep a company size force. At 1445 hours Co D, 2nd platoon found a 500 lb bomb (BS 814052). Co C began airlift from LZ English at 1533 hours to replace Co B at LZ Beans (BS 814114) and LZ Potatoe (BS 806103) with the 1st platoon to LZ Beans and Co C (-) to LZ Potatoe. Co B began airlift at 1538 hours from LZ Beans to LZ English. Co C completed lifts at 1655 hours. Co B opcon to DISCOM for security mission. Co D at 1636 hours became the BN RRF on 30 minute alert.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

Y. Maneuver 28 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector until airlifted to LZ English to perform security mission under DISCOM. Co A closed at 1800 hours. 2nd platoon, Co A was opcon to 1st Squadron, 9th Cav at LZ Bass to secure beach-head for tank landing, returned to Co and Bn control at 1531 hours at LZ English. Co B returned opcon to 2nd Bn, 5th Cav and air assaulted from LZ English to LZ Soup (BS 801139) and BS 805127 at 1618 hours, closing at 1808 hours. Co C continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co C air assaulted from BS 809102 and BS 816114 at 1255 hours to LZ Tremendous (BS 820001) at 1354 hours. Co D conducted an air assault from BS 808072 and BS 804044 at 0745 hours to LZ Redleg (BR 932992). LZ was "GREEN". The company conducted search and destroy operations. At 1118 hours Co D received sniper fire counding Co Commander and RTO (BR934999). They were medevaced in the C & C ship. The Ede BLRP was extracted from BS 799075 at 1748 hours to LZ English. Commo had been lost with them. Co D LRP extracted and returned to Co D at LZ Redleg at 1630 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Broke contact when ARA, Arty and Airstrike placed on area.

Z. Maneuver 29 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy mission in AO. Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A opcon to DISCOM until 1500 hours, Then started a standdown period at LZ English. Co B continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co C continued search and destroy operations in assigned sector. At 2118 hours Co C received hand grenades within 2nd & 3rd platoons perimeter. Co D continued search and destroy

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operations in assigned sector until 1300 hours, when airlifted to LZ English. The 3rd CH-47 lift received fire and hits resulting in 3 WIA's. 6 UH-1D's lifted the remainder to LZ English at 1430 hours (BR 930995). Co D opcon to DISCOM security mission. Frag Ord 12-67 published.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper fire

AA. Maneuver 30 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A opcon to 3rd Ede, 25th Inf Div, departing Lion Pad at 0810 hours by CH-47. Co B extracted from BS 908142 at 0904 hours and air assaulted to LZ Hornet (BS 937024), closing at 1010 hours. Co B received sporadic sniper fire throughout the day and night. Punji Stake Pits and boobytraps were prevalent throughout the area. Co C conducted search and destroy operations in assigned sector. Co D remained opcon to DISCOM and conducted local security mission for LZ English. Major General Tolson, new Commanding General effective 1 April 67 visited the Battalion CP and was briefed by LTC Stevenson.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sporadic sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

BB. Maneuver 31 March 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in assigned AO. Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A remained opcon to 1st Bn, 35th Inf of the 3rd Ede, 25th Inf Div. Co B continued search and destroy operations in Thanh Xuan village area. One M-42 Duster hit a mine wounding one man and vehicle lost a track. Co B was joined by a platoon of tanks from C Co, 1st Bn, 69th Armor. Co D continued security of LZ English, opcon to DISCOM. The 2nd platoon of Co D conducted a patrol from LZ English departing at 1027 hours and closing at 1600 hours. Three Long Range Patrols were inserted (BS 833103, CoSB; Co C-BS 822079; Co D-BS 812047) starting at 1718 hours and closing at 1730 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Sniper fire

(3) Enemy Actions: Avoided contact

CC. Maneuver 1 April 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav continued search and destroy operations in AO. The Bn CP remained at LZ English. Co A opcon to the 1st Bn, 35th Inf. Co B continued search and destroy operations in the Thauhn Xaun village area. Co C conducted search and destroy operations in AO, and was airlifted to LZ Dog, closing at 1545 hours. Co D continued to secure LZ English opcon to DISCOM. The LRP's were airlifted to their respective units at 1703 hours.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

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DD. Maneuver 2 April 1967

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav moved to An-Khe for a three day stand-down period. Co C departed LZ English at 0650 hours closing An-Khe at 0825 hours. Co D closed An-Khe at 0840 hours. Bn CP closed An-Khe at 0842 hours. Co A closed An-Khe at 1721 hours., and Co B closed at 1605 hours. The road convoy closed at 1554 hours. No incidents in the move.

(2) Enemy Contact: Negative

EE. 3 April to 5 April 1967

The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted Standdown at An-Khe.

FF. 6 April to 8 April 1967

The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav conducted range firing, small unit training and care and cleaning of weapons at An-Khe. Prepared for movement to LZ English.

13. RESULTS:

A. Friendly Losses:

(1) Personnel:

(a) Phase I:

	<u>U&A</u>	<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>	
		<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>
A Co		0	- 3	1	- 13
B Co		0	- 3	0	- 19
C Co		0	- 1	0	- 4
D Co		0	- 1	0	- 2
HHC		0	- 1	0	- 5
Total		0	- 9	1	- 53

(b) Phase II:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>
A Co	0	- 3	1	- 1
B Co	0	- 1	0	- 10
C Co	1	- 8	0	- 15
D Co	1	- 13	1	- 16
HHC	0	- 0	0	- 3
Total	2	- 25	2	- 45

(c) Totals:

<u>Total Phase I</u>	<u>KIA</u>		<u>WIA</u>	
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>- EM</u>
	0	- 9	1	- 53
<u>Total Phase II</u>	2	- 25	2	- 45
<u>Grand Total</u>	2	- 34	3	- 98

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(2) Equipment & Material

(a) Phase I - 12 Feb - 3 Mar 67

Compass Lcn 7.58	Ea.	11
Compass, M-2	Ea.	2
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	Ea.	1
Pistol, auto cal 45	Ea.	2
Bayonet knife M-7	Ea.	13

(b) Phase II - 4 Mar - 8 Apr 67

Rifle, M-16	Ea.	10
Launcher, Grenade	Ea.	3
Pistol, auto cal 45	Ea.	7
Bayonet, M-6	Ea.	4
Pack bomb ctn	Ea.	10
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	Ea.	4
Machine Gun, M-60	Ea.	1

(c) Combined: Phase I & II

Compass Lcn 7.58	Ea.	11
Compass M-2	Ea.	2
Radio Set AN/PRC 25	Ea.	5
Pistol Cal 45	Ea.	9
Bayonet Knife M-7	Ea.	13
Bayonet M-6	Ea.	4
Rifle M-16	Ea.	10
Launcher Grenade M-79	Ea.	3
Pack bomb	Ea.	10
Machine Gun M-60	Ea.	1

B. Enemy Losses:

(1) Phase I:

31 VC KIA	38 Ponchos	1,380 cal 30 ammo
28 NVA KIA	13 Packs	1 82mm mortar
144 VC Captured	6 57 RR	1 4 cyl Diesel Engine
40 NVA Captured	2 BAR	1 BP-40 RKT Launcher
593 Undetermined	3 M-1	1 Generator 1.5KW
2 Chieu Hoi	1 M-16	2 Shotgun 12gauge
201 Civil Defenders	5 82mm	150 9mm Parabellum
408 Innocent Civilians	1 Pistol 9mm	460 Cal. 45 ammo
4 SKS Rifles	6 Carbine	7 BP-40 RKT ammo
5 AK-47	1 Loudspeaker	
3 Soviet Rifles	3,400 Pounds of rice	
1 SG-43	1 Pistol 45 cal	
1 RPD LMG	1 PRC-10 Radio	
2 SMG	10,000 7.62mm ammo	
1 57 RR Rifle w/Tripod	29 Canteens & belts	

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(2) Phase II:

39 VC KIA	80 Rounds 30 Cal ammo
5 NVA KIA	1 MAS Rifle
14 POW	1 Pistol Belt w/canteen
101 VC Captured	1 Pack and ammo pouch
4 NVA Captured	
46 Civil Defenders	
286 Innocent Civilians	

14. ADMINISTRATION & LOGISTICS:

A. Administration: Awards & Decorations Submitted

(1) Phase I: 12 Feb - 3 Mar 67

BSM "V"	20 Ea.
ACM "V"	5 Ea.
DSC	1 Ea.
SS	2 Ea.
ACM	8 Ea.
BSM	11 Ea.
AM	51 Ea.

(2) Phase II: 4 Mar - 8 Apr 67

DSC	1 Ea.
SS	5 Ea.
BSM "V"	23 Ea.
ACM "V"	5 Ea.
BSM	6 Ea.
ACM	4 Ea.
AM	38 Ea.
SM	1 Ea.

B. Logistics:

(1) Phase I:

(a) Supplies: No significant supply shortages were encountered. The 2nd FSE provided support while at LZ English.

(b) Resupply:

aa. All resupply for four rifle companies was conducted directly from LZ English with no significant problems.

bb. Resupply of POL to tanks and TPO 42's (Twin 40mm) was accomplished with extreme problems. Many wasted man hours resulted in "scrounging" appropriate containers for resupply. Division did not provide pumps to facilitate use of 500 gal. collapsable containers and 55 gal. drums were not available in sufficient quantities. Resupply was conducted with 5 gal cans, which is not the most efficient method.

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(c) Trains:Area:

Inadequate space was provided for the battalion trains. Personnel were required to occupy sleeping quarters within 5 feet of barbed wire perimeter and within 10 feet of the battalion Class V Storage area. Because of the confined area provided 2/5 Cav. Personnel were confronted with unnecessary hazardous conditions.

(d) Equipment Use:

aa. Approximately 350 LugAJugs were used and lost over a 10 day period. Because of the limited supply of this test item, it is recommended that the use be restricted to conditions restricting the use of 5 gal cans.

bb. More efficient planning is recommended for engineers in the area of estimating tunnel blasting materials. Explosives were requested in small quantities necessitating additional flying time for log-ships.

cc. (1) As a result of the numerous tunnels encountered, a special "tunnel rat" kit was requested. This kit includes a pistol 38 cal, a miner's headlamp, and silencers for the hand gun.

(2) A field expedient silencer was devised for the 38 cal pistol, by packing on an individual 6 oz milk can w/surgical gauge and placing the silencer over the muzzle of the weapon.

(2) Phase II:

(a) Supplies: No significant supply shortages were encountered. The 2nd FSE provided support while at LZ English.

(b) Resupply:

aa. A forward supply distribution point was established at LZ Anchor while the TACCP operated from that LZ.

bb. No significant resupply problems were encountered as battalion trains were located at LZ English.

cc. Maximum use of CH-47 from English to Anchor was made and distribution from Anchor to the forward elements was made by UHLD.

dd. Stockpiling of small arms ammo and M-79 ammo at LZ Anchor was quite effective as numerous small unit encounters depleted our supplies rapidly.

ee. All tactical emergency resupply was accomplished by low level kick out from UHLD and no use was made of the steel sling.

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(c) Med Evac:

aa. Mass med evacs were accomplished with no problems. At times, because of personnel being evacuated to LZ English and to LZ Uplift, personnel accountability was difficult.

bb. Recovery of casualty's equipment was a problem as no liaison was previously made with the medical company at LZ Uplift. Consequently, some equipment evacuated with the casualty to LZ Uplift was not recovered.

15. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT & TECHNIQUES:

A. Situation:

(1) The 2nd Bn, 5th Cav air assaulted into its assigned AO in the Bong Son Plains on 11 February 1967, the original commencement date for "Operation Pershing". Contact was made initially and continued through 12 February 1967 as the battalion continued to search and destroy and maintain surveillance of routes of possible enemy infiltration in AO.

(2) A number of trenches and man made caves within the AO were immediately searched and found to contain NVA personnel, weapons, documents and equipment. Companies were tasked to conduct detailed search and destroy operations within their assigned sectors with emphasis on tunnel complexes, bunkers and caves. (Frag Order 3-6 DTG 132400 Feb 67).

(3) Following a two day joint operation in the 40th ARVN AO (Operation Tuxedo) (Frag Order 6-67 DTG 250600 1967) the battalion continued to conduct a detailed and methodical search in its AO (Frag Order 7-67 DTG 281000 Feb 67 & Frag Order 8-67 DTG 022200 1967).

B. Resume of Action Taken:

(1) Initial contact was heavy and the enemy was not detected exfiltrating the area. A detailed search was initiated immediately at the company level and enemy personnel were found in walls and caves.

(2) Companies established FOB's and assigned platoon sectors for planned detailed search.

(3) The battalion AO was subdivided into company AO's and each company assigned to conduct a deliberate methodical search in their respective AO. (Frag Order 3-67 DTG 132400 Feb 67).

(4) The plan for the conduct of an extensive search was published as Frag Order 8-67 DTG 022200 Mar 67.

C. Results:

(1) The following enemy positions were discovered, searched and destroyed during the period 11 Feb to 04 Mar 67:

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- (a) 141 tunnels
- (b) 140 wells
- (c) 197 Bunkers

(2) The majority of wells and tunnels were used as storage places, apparently on the assumption that U.S. Forces would not conduct a detailed search. Although camouflage was used extensively to conceal hiding areas, no extensive boobytraps to impede search were found.

D. Lessons Learned:

(1) General: The search for hiding and storage areas requires that personnel know what to look for and what to do with what they find. Every bit of information concerning lessons learned in previous similar operations must be disseminated to the lowest level. The execution of deliberate search requires special tools and equipment that must be made available immediately and a firm plan that provides methodical coverage of the area to be searched. The following list include these items that were used by this unit in searching for and destroying hiding and storage areas in the Bong Son Plain.

(a) Aerial Scout Teams: Aerial scout teams assigned to the control of units on the ground are extremely helpful in locating tunnels, caves and wells. Smoke can be dropped to mark sightings, and observers can guide troops to the location orally.

(b) Engineers: The use of engineer demolition teams with infantry units is a must. For most effective coverage, one squad should be assigned to a company. Mine detectors are of limited use but can be utilized effectively to locate boobytraps or mines in the area of search if these are found to be present.

(c) Air Strikes: Napalm is effective against defensive positions. Bombs and 40 mm cannon have not proven to be effective unless direct hits are obtained.

(d) Artillery: Bunkers and other hiding/storage areas are generally immune to destruction by artillery.

(e) Psyops Teams: The use of aerial and ground teams to persuade civilians to offer assistance in locating hiding/storage areas was generally ineffective. Ground teams were effective in persuading some enemy to come up from their caves and surrender and in obtaining information from captives regarding other hiding areas.

(f) Scout Dogs: The use of scout dogs in locating hiding areas proved rewarding. Dogs were not used to search caves and bunkers with shaft accesses because of the limited effectiveness of the dog in very narrow passageways and the problems encountered in lowering and raising the animal in shafts.

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(g) "Tunnel Rats": The most valuable tool for searching tunnels and caves is the infantryman. Special care must be taken to provide necessary tools and equipment to the searcher. A partial list of items found necessary are:

- aa. 38 cal. pistol with silencer
- bb. Ear plugs
- cc. Gas mask
- dd. Lamp or large flashlight (electric)
- ee. Armored vest (optional)
- ff. Knife (or probe)
- gg. Gloves (optional)
- hh. Rope and rope ladder if available
- ii. CS grenades and smoke grenades

(h) Guides: Popular Force Personnel, National Police, and ARVN guides were extremely effective in locating hiding areas. Local natives are not generally reliable.

(i) Mighty Mite (CS crystal dispenser): The use of CS is effective against all but very hard core troops. The CS Grenades are less successful than the CS crystal dispenser. The use of smoke grenades, in conjunction with the CS crystal dispenser, can be effective in locating air holes and other exits/entrances.

(j) Flame: The use of flame can be highly effective in destroying personnel and supplies in bunkers and caves. The disadvantage of flamethrowers is evident in that it kills occupants and destroys documents and related materials of intelligence value. The same effect can be obtained with explosives. The limited use of flame to burn up oxygen and frighten occupants is felt to be advantageous when other methods of obtaining surrender fail. A burst of flame will burn up oxygen. The immediate use of CS grenades will be effective as the air is replaced and subsequently draws the CS into recesses otherwise inaccessible. Fires can be built in wells and shafts to prevent escape or to "smoke out" occupants but this also denies access by searchers for considerable periods.

(k) Hand Grenades, Frag: Frag grenades were used to clear passageways prior to entry and to destroy traps. Grenades cannot be used by "tunnel rats" after entry for obvious reasons.

(l) Direct Fire: Small arms fire into caves and bunkers is ineffective. Direct fire weapons of large caliber are effective in destroying fighting bunkers but cannot generally be used in tunnels and caves.

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(m) Demolitions: Excessive amounts of explosives may be required if a great many bunkers and caves are to be effectively destroyed. Engineers should be used to provide for the most effective employment of demolitions.

(2) Specific:

(a) Locating and Searching Tunnels and Caves:

aa. Wells: Tunnels are often constructed into the sides of wells with entrances concealed. A careful study of rock walls may disclose one that is loose or out of place. Entrances may be found below the water line. A ladder can be effectively used to descend into wells and shafts. Every effort should be made to determine if possible hiding places are occupied. Psyops teams or CS may be used. When a "tunnel rat" enters a shaft he should be equipped with all the equipment necessary for exploration and self protection. The use of a belay line and body harness for rapid extraction are considered essential in the event the man is injured within the shaft. Use of body armor for initial exploration of wells and shafts is strongly recommended. Underwater entrances may be found by feeling or proving. A desperate enemy cannot be talked out, and gas is ineffective, the use of small demolition charges may be effective. Charges may be increased as the situation demands until a kill factor is assumed. A complete search of all wells and shafts is mandatory.

bb. Surface Tunnels and Caves: Entrances/exits to surface accessible tunnels and caves are often concealed. Lumber piles, brush piles, baskets, rocks, coconut shell piles and transplanted shrubs are often used to conceal entrances. Large mounds should be carefully inspected for air holes and loose plants. Air holes are normally about 3 or 4 inches in diameter and are generally camouflaged very lightly, if at all. The insertion of a smoke grenade and the use of tight cover over the hole, often will disclose other entrances or air vents. Entrances may be extremely small and the searcher must realize that the average American could not enter a hole that an oriental might enter with ease.

(3) Searching: A methodical search within tunnels and caves requires great patience and caution. Walls, ceilings and floors must be probed meticulously for hidden trap doors. Prior to moving forward, the searcher should study the way ahead with great attention to detail. Above ground every entrance should be carefully watched. When night prevents or temporarily halts active searching, wells and tunnels should be closely watched to prevent escape of personnel hiding there or resupply by others. What may appear to be family protective shelters may really be disguises for larger caves or storage/hiding areas. Each and every bunker and position with overhead cover should be thoroughly checked. Each position should be approached with the realization that it is the entrance to other positions.

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(4) Actions After Searching is Completed: Leave a stay behind force to ambush routes to tunnels and caves. The enemy will normally return to an area that has been searched when they think we have vacated the area.

(5) Related Situations Incidental to Operations:

(a) Situation #1: After making heavy contact on 14 Feb 67, A Co was tasked to search the area of contact. Air strikes and heavy artillery shelling had forced the majority of people to flee, except a few young women with small children who seemed to linger in a certain area. These women had food and clothing. The area was searched and a tunnel entrance was found, concealed with soft dirt and leaves. 7 VC were captured from the tunnel after using tear gas. Immediately following the capture of these young men, the women and children fled the area. (Recommendation: When young women and children are found, search the area extensively.

(b) Situation #2: A fairly old man of approximately 50 years of age and a little girl of 12 years were found in the operational area. They were both cooperative and spoke some words of English which they used to indicate the direction in which they had seen the VC escape. They were both wearing a distinctive white headband. Conducting a methodical search in that same area, VC were found 180 degrees from where they had reportedly fled. When these VC were discovered, the few people in the area responded quickly to the old man's direction and all disappeared. (Recommendation: Detain all suspicious personnel in an area of contact regardless of sex or age.

(c) Situation #3: Blocking forces were used to check trails and roads, establishing check points and searching baskets and baggage. Personnel were also searched. It was later determined from reports from ARVN forces that several men had been found posing as women. An aerial scout also reported that people were seen bypassing check points. (Recommendation: The VC will pose as women and all personnel should be checked carefully. Headgear should be removed first. Several check points along or major trails would assist in catching bypassers.

(d) Situation #4: POW's were used on occasions to lead units to other VC. On one occasion a POW set off a boobytrap purposely. In many cases, it was suspected that the POW was leading searching personnel away from the VC. One squad leader was convinced that the POW was leading his squad into an ambush so that he might escape in the confusion. The findings resulting from using POW's as guides were negligible. (Recommendation: Although POW's may be used as guides, they should be considered untrustworthy. Every caution should be taken to avoid their leading friendly troops into ambush. The entire effort of a unit should not be directed away from an area on the word of a POW.