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SUBJECT: *U.S. Army, 4th* Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division, Period Ending 31 January 1969 (U)

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

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Kenneth G. Wickham

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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

OPERATION BINH TAY - MACARTHUR

1 November. At 1523H, 1st Brigade LRP 1H, operating near YB615194, received a heavy volume of small arms fire from an enemy force of unknown size. Gunships expended in the area and the LRP was extracted. Results were 2 US WIA and enemy casualties unknown.

2 November. Shortly before 0655H, near ZA056224, a tiger attacked and killed one member of a SRP from Company A, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry. The victim had been on watch while the other members of his team slept.

At 0855H, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry observed 10 NVA near ZA021094, and received a heavy volume of ground fire. One LOH crewman was killed. Gunships expended in the area and Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry conducted a sweep. Results included 10 NVA KIA, two small arms, 29 packs, 660 lbs of rice, five 82mm mortar rounds, 11 antitank mines and 16 grenades CIA.

At 1235H, a LOH belonging to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry received intense small arms fire from the vicinity of YB818292. Results were 2 US WIA.

At 1340H, a patrol from Company D, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry exchanged small arms fire with five NVA near YB826285. The patrol killed one NVA as he fled from a bunker. Two platoons of D/3-12 attempted to sweep the area but came under heavy fire from automatic weapons. The platoons withdrew and artillery bombarded the area with unknown results. US losses were 2 KIA and 8 WIA.

Between 1655H and 1900H, NVA mortar crews bombarded Fire Support Base 29, YB839223, held by Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, with 135 rounds of 120mm mortar. Results were four US WIA, one mortar pit, two POL blivets and two water trailers destroyed. Artillery and tactical air hit suspected enemy mortar positions with unknown results.

3 November. At 1212H, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry exchanged small arms fire with an enemy force in bunkers near ZA018100. Artillery supported Company D. Results were one NVA KIA, one AK47 CIA, two US KIA and two US WIA.

At 1347H, Company C, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry exchanged small arms fire with an enemy force at YB827284. One US soldier was wounded. Gunships of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry expended in the area with unknown results. At 1530H, C/3-12 swept a bunker complex in the same vicinity, finding three dead NVA. During the sweep, two additional US personnel were wounded.

At 1620H, Company B, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry exchanged fire with an enemy force of unknown size. Results were one US WIA, enemy casualties unknown.

At 2320H, the 2d Brigade Civic Action Team, riding in a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck at AR840377, received small arms fire. The jeep was wrecked and two members of the team wounded.

4 November. At 0921H, Company D, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry found one decomposed NVA body near YU864787. At 1410H, while moving to its night location,

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a SRP from Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry encountered an enemy force of unknown size near YA801162. In the exchange of small arms fire three US personnel were wounded; one M16 and one pack were lost. With artillery support, the SRP broke contact at 1420H.

Between 1628 and 2100H, Fire Support Base 29 (YB838221) received in excess of 100 rounds of mixed artillery, 75mm recoilless rifle, and 82mm mortar. Eighty-eight rounds impacted inside the perimeter, wounding six US personnel. Artillery and tactical air hit suspected enemy locations with unknown results.

5 November. At 1540H, Company D 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry found two NVA bodies near YU812765.

6 November. At 1145H, 3d Brigade LRP 3D, operating near YA914183, observed five to ten individuals wearing green fatigues. A FAC and Headhunter directed airstrikes and artillery into the area. At 1415H, after receiving small arms fire, the LRP was extracted. During the extraction, a door gunner observed and killed one NVA. A Headhunter observed one NVA killed by air.

At 1415H, Company C, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry found one decomposed NVA body near YU803756.

7 November. At 1305H, a patrol from Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, determined it was being followed, set up an ambush near YB801207, observed and engaged five NVA. In the exchange of fire one US soldier was killed. Enemy casualties are unknown.

At 1515H, a 2½ ton truck belonging to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor hit an anti-tank mine located near ZA067309. One US soldier was wounded.

8 November. At 0825H, an APC belonging to Company B, 2d Battalion (Mechanized) 8th Infantry hit a mine. Five US personnel were wounded.

Base Camp Units conducted Operation CLEANSWEEP IV in the Division TAOR. At 1235H, near ZA164253, two members of the 4th Engineer Battalion were injured when they stepped on punji stakes.

At 1900H, LRP 4C, operating near YA983038, reported enemy apparently attempting to surround them. Gunships responded and the LRP was extracted. Results were two US WIA.

9 November. No significant contacts.

10 November. Standoff attacks on Fire Support Base 29, YB839223, held by Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, resulted in four US WIA. One attack, at 1115H, consisted of nine 82mm mortar rounds; the other, at 1307H, consisted of thirteen 75mm recoilless rifle rounds.

At 1720H, while moving to its night location, a SRP from Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry made contact with approximately ten NVA near YA8C9173. The enemy broke contact at 1724H, leaving one US KIA and two US WIA.

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11 November. At 0700H, near YA780223, a SRP from Company D, 1st Battalion 35th Infantry was ambushed by approximately 10 NVA using automatic weapons and claymores. Three US soldiers were killed and one escaped unharmed,

Between 0945 and 1825H, Fire Support Base 29 received approximately 125 rounds mixed 75mm recoilless rifle, 82mm mortar and possibly 100mm artillery. Fighter bombers, gunships (Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry) and artillery engaged suspected enemy positions with unknown results. US losses were two WIA, one 106mm recoilless rifle destroyed, and unknown amounts of artillery, mortar and small arms ammunition destroyed.

At 1200H, a SRP from Company D, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near YU858801, found one decomposed NVA body, a notebook, a medical kit and some pictures.

At 2330H, an unknown number of sappers attacked LZ OASIS, ZALL4275. The enemy employed 30 to 40 hand grenades, satchel charges, B40 and B41 rockets. Third Brigade employed small arms, automatic weapons, tanks, artillery and Spooky against the sappers. Results were nine NVA KIA, 10 US WIA, a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck destroyed, a $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck damaged, three enemy small arms and miscellaneous grenades and explosives CIA.

12 November. At 1500H an armored personnel carrier belonging to Company A 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry struck a mine buried in the road near ZA085246. Three US troops were wounded and the APC damaged. When a tank from Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor pulled alongside, it also hit a mine, sustaining damage to its suspension system.

13 November. From 0040 to 0235H, Fire Support Base VERA, YA834178, held by Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry and Company B, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry received approximately 40 rounds of 60mm mortar and a ground probe from an NVA force of unknown size employing small arms and hand grenades. Results were six NVA KIA, four AK47's and one B-40 rocket launcher CIA. From 0710H to 1645H, FSB VERA received in excess of 200 rounds of 82mm mortar and four 122mm rockets. US losses were five KIA, 38 WIA, one truck destroyed and one truck damaged.

Between 0726 and 1837H, Fire Support Base JEAN, YA808233, held by Companies C and D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, received an intense attack by fire. The enemy employed 75mm recoilless rifles, 82mm mortar and twenty-four 122mm rockets. Gunships, tactical air and artillery fired on enemy mortar and troop positions with unknown results. US losses were one killed and three wounded.

At 1515H, a helicopter belonging to Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry received ground fire. The door gunner observed and killed one NVA.

14 November. Between 1547 and 1805H, Fire Support Base VERA, YA834178, received fire from 75mm recoilless rifles, 82mm mortars, 122mm rockets, and 105mm Chicom howitzers. Total incoming was approximately 60 rounds. Tactical air and artillery hit suspected enemy locations with unknown results.

15 November. At 0817H, near BQ004363, two members of Troop B, 1st Squadron

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Cavalry were wounded when a B-40 rocket hit the APC on which they were
ing. Gunships expended on suspected enemy positions with unknown results.

0505H, Hawkeye 4D, operating near YA746922, observed two NVA and engaged them
with grenades and small arms. One US soldier was wounded.

030H, an armored personnel carrier belonging to Company B, 2d Battalion
(mechanized), 8th Infantry hit an antitank mine buried in the road at ZA200220.
US troops were wounded and the APC was damaged.

0712H, near YA736051, automatic weapons opened fire on a helicopter as it
extracting LRP 4E from an LZ. One of the LRP members was wounded. Gunships
fighter-bombers expended in the area with unknown results.

16 November. At 2300H, a five-ton POL truck belonging to 1st Squadron,
10th Cavalry hit a mine buried in Highway 19W near YA890263. Two US troops were
killed.

17 November. At 1616H, helicopters of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry,
operating near YA789105, received heavy fire from automatic weapons. One Cobra
pilot was wounded. Air strikes and artillery directed into the area produced
secondary explosion with a column of black smoke 500 to 600 feet high.

18 November. No significant contacts.

19 November. At 0800, a grenade exploded near LRP 3C's position, ZAO29132.
One LRP member was wounded. The LRP observed four individuals 15 meters away
and took them under fire. Gunships expended in the area with unknown results.

At 0850H, LRP HLB observed approximately a platoon of NVA near YA742943. When
two NVA point men approached within 50 meters, the team opened fire, killing the
two NVA. Two team members were slightly wounded by enemy fire. Gunships
expended in the area and the LRP was extracted.

20 November. At 1730H, a tank belonging to Troop C, 1st Squadron, 10th
Cavalry and a 3/4 ton truck belonging to the 299th Engineer Battalion both hit
antitank mines near ZA032927. Both vehicles were damaged and two US troops were
wounded.

At 2145H, near YA793447, a sniper fired one shot at an element of Troop A, 1st
Squadron, 10th Cavalry, wounding one US soldier.

21 November. At 1400H, a SRP from Company B, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry,
operating near ZA014271, pursued and captured an individual who had detected
their positions. The man, though armed, had dropped his weapon and attempted to
flee.

At 1400H, an M548 resupply vehicle belonging to the 2d Battalion (mechanized),
8th Infantry hit an antitank mine buried at ZA 067201. Three US troops were
wounded and the vehicle was damaged moderately.

22 November. At 0910H, near YU861786, Company D, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry

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found an NVA bunker complex containing miscellaneous small arms ammunition, equipment and the remains of three NVA.

At 0950H, an armored personnel carrier belonging to Troop C, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry hit a metallic mine buried in Highway 512 near YB909271. The explosion split the APC's hull and wounded one US soldier.

Between 1720 and 1830H, Fire Support Base VERA, YA833178, received approximately 25 rounds suspected to be 100mm artillery, and 16 rounds of 82mm mortar. Nine US personnel were wounded. Artillery fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown results.

Between 1800 and 1855H, Fire Support Base JEAN, YA808233, received 15 to 20 rounds of 82mm mortar and 10 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle. One US soldier was wounded. Artillery fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown results.

23 November. At 1548H, near YA962388, an APC from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry struck an antitank mine. Results were two US WIA, one track blown off and the vehicle's hull damaged.

At 1755H, a SRP from Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near YU824761, shot and killed two NVA who had approached their position. The SRP moved immediately to a new location and continued its mission.

24 November. At 1043H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near YA783205, exchanged small arms fire with four or five enemy. One US soldier was wounded. A sweep of the area produced no results.

25 November. At 1855H, LRP 2E, operating near YA868889, reported movement of an enemy force of unknown size. A Headhunter adjusted artillery into the area, producing six NVA KIA. Spooky arrived in the area at 1950H and expended with unknown results.

26 November. At 0100H, four B-40 rounds impacted in the vicinity of the 3d Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, ZA166399. Two rounds hit an APC, causing heavy damage and wounding five US personnel. The platoon returned fire with caliber .50 and M60 machineguns, then swept the area with negative findings.

27 November. At 1345H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, operating near ZA022234, flushed three VMC from the brush and took them under fire, killing one.

28 November. No significant contacts.

29 November. At 1643H, near YU818772, a Bushmaster ambush from Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry fired on an estimated reinforced squad of NVA, killing one. The enemy broke contact immediately and fled. The Bushmaster recovered one AK-47, two grenades and miscellaneous field equipment, then continued on its mission.

At 1712H, a platoon of Company C, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, operating near

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ZA043221, came under automatic weapons fire. One US soldier was killed. The platoon returned fire and swept the area, capturing ten packs but finding no enemy.

30 November. At 1755H, a squad size Bushmaster ambush, posted by Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry at YU835790, made contact with an estimated company of NVA. Mortars and artillery supported the Bushmaster. Contact broke at 1835H, with seven NVA KIA, two US KIA and two US WIA.

1 December. At 0820H, a squad of 3d Platoon, Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, patrolling near YU827769, exchanged small arms fire with an enemy force of unknown size. Contact broke immediately. Results were one US KIA, enemy casualties unknown. Artillery and 4.2 inch mortars (employing CS munitions) fired in support of the US squad.

At 1035H, a tank from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry hit an antitank mine buried near ZA043432. The explosion blew off four road wheels and wounded one US soldier.

At 1100H, an armored personnel carrier belonging to Troop B, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry hit a mine buried in the side of the road at BRO07508. Eight US and eight ARVN personnel were wounded. The APC's track and hull were damaged.

At 1145H, IRP 2G, operating near YB738054, made contact with three NVA armed with AK-47's. The IRP killed two NVA, then evaded to the south and called in artillery on the contact area.

At 1545H, a 3/4 ton truck from Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, traveling alone on Highway 19W, was hit by a B-40 rocket and fire from automatic weapons. Two US troops were wounded and the vehicle sustained moderate damage.

2 December. At 1420H, as tanks of Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor were conducting a sweep near ZA05372, a booby trap grenade fell from a tree and exploded on top of a tank, wounding the tank commander. At 1755H, near ZA003369, the explosion of a B-40 rocket wounded another man from B/1-69. The company then came under small arms fire. Contact continued until 1845H, with B/1-69 employing 90mm main guns as well as tank machineguns. At 2000H, with Spooky on station employing flares, A and B/1-69 swept the area with negative findings.

3 December. At 0830H, Company B, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry, while conducting a sweep near YB966178, found 10 ~~ferroles~~ fresh drag marks, and the remains of one NVA.

4 December. At 1215H, near ZB152135, a 1/2 ton truck from Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade hit a mine buried under the blacktop surface of Highway 14. One US soldier was killed and three were wounded. The vehicle was destroyed.

At 1723H, near YU831717, a Bushmaster patrol from the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry found a bunker complex and one NVA killed two or three months previously.

5 December. At 1340H, Company A, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry found three badly decomposed NVA bodies near YU815770.

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At 1345H, Company B, 2-35 found one dead NVA, apparently a victim of the Bushmaster ambush on 30 November.

6 December. No significant contacts.

7 December. No significant contacts.

8 December. At 2345H, explosions and fire partially destroyed a JP 4 refueling point at 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry Headquarters, BR037534. One 3000 gallon fuel blivet, one 2000 gallon fuel blivet, fifteen 500 gallon blivets and all connecting hoses were destroyed.

9 December. At 1430H, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry observed numerous foxholes and about 20 bunkers. The Scout Section of 1st Battalion, 69th Armor swept the area, destroyed the positions and found graves containing two VC KIA.

10 December. At 1304H, the 1st and 2d Platoons, Company A, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, operating near AR923741, exchanged small arms fire with three or four enemy. One US soldier was wounded. At 1320H, the Platoons again made contact, wounding and capturing one NVA who died before he could be evacuated. At 1350H, near AR929728, the same two platoons made contact with an enemy force of unknown size. Gunships expended in the area. A sweep revealed nine NVA KIA. At 1610H, as A/1-22 was closing to a pickup zone, three NVA fired on the company and fled, leaving one US KIA.

11 December. At 0920H, Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, patrolling near AS783172, found 26 booby traps made of bamboo devices of burlap cord and aimed to strike passersby low in the leg. One booby trap injured a US soldier. The other traps were disarmed without incident.

At 1403H, Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, and the Scout Section, 1-69, received B-40 rocket fire from the vicinity of YA962367 and small arms fire from the village of PLEI YA PON (YA956367). An APC, hit by a B-40, sustained moderate damage and one US soldier was slightly wounded. The armor returned fire, then cordoned the village. A search revealed five villagers slightly wounded and one VMC KIA.

At 1550H, near AR929728, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry found a fresh grave containing one NVA KIA, apparently killed earlier in the day when gunships of Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry expended in the area.

12 December. No significant contacts.

13 December. No significant contacts.

14 December. At 2130H, near AR805435, four members of Troop D, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry were wounded when four unidentified missiles, possibly rifle or hand grenades, exploded near the vehicle that they were securing. The cavalrymen fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown effect.

15 December. At 1915H, LRP 1A, operating near YB977105, received a burst

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of AK-47 fire. One team member was wounded. The LRP evaded but lost communications. At 2400H, the wounded man died. The LRP left his body behind and continued to evade.

16 December. At 0750H, a Headhunter aircraft reestablished communication with LRP 1A. Shortly thereafter, the LRP was extracted. A volunteer LRP team and tracker team recovered the dead team member and were extracted at 1455H.

At 1218H, LRP 3C observed three NVA and several MONTAGNARD women and children. The NVA were wearing khakis and pith helmets and carrying assorted weapons. The team fired on the NVA, killing two and capturing one M-1 carbine. At 1356H, the team was extracted.

At 1825H, Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, in a night lager at ZA 006353, received small arms fire and rifle grenades. The company returned fire and swept the area with negative findings. Results were one US and one CSF interpreter WIA.

17 December. At 1600H, LRP 4C exchanged small arms fire with two VC near YB959172, killing one VC. The team then moved to YB966169 and linked up with the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry.

18 December. At 1625H, LRP 1B, operating near YB845205, employed a claymore against three NVA who had spotted the team's position. Two of the NVA were killed. The LRP evaded and was extracted at 1705H.

19 December. No significant contacts.

20 December. At 0855H, Base Camp Patrol 31, from DISCOM, exchanged small arms fire with approximately 20 enemy near ZA167423. One US soldier was wounded. After gunships expended, the patrol swept the area with negative findings.

At 1100H, Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry found several natural caves and a cooking area near BR178294. A sweep of the area disclosed caches of ammunition, weapons and rice. During the sweep the company came under small arms fire from an estimated 20 to 25 NVA. One US soldier was killed and three were wounded. The Company returned fire, then withdrew while gunships, 81mm mortars and an airstrike hit the area. The company returned, swept the area, and determined that the enemy had fled. Captured enemy caches contained one AK-47, six SKS, 72 rounds of 82mm mortar, 102 rounds B-40, 29 rounds 75mm recoilless rifle, 155 small Chicom grenades, 40 sticks of Chicom TNT, 7 reels of commo wire and 50 bushels of rice.

21 December. At 1030H, near BR178292, Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry found a cooking and sleeping area consisting of 35 huts and several bunkers with overhead cover. In the same area they found one complete 82mm mortar and a wounded NVA. The Company destroyed the huts and bunkers and evacuated the prisoner and mortar.

At 2325H, an OP of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, located at ZB137064, observed four men armed with AK-47's approach to within 10 meters. The OP engaged the intruders with small arms. The enemy returned fire and fled. One US soldier was wounded.

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22 December. At 0840H, a mine sweep team from Troop C, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, made contact with four to eight individuals, possibly an NVA sapper team, who employed small arms, automatic weapons and B-40 rockets. Gunships supported the mine sweep team, killing one NVA.

At 1420H, near BQ014352, an armored personnel carrier of Troop C, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, providing convoy security from PLEIKU to BAN ME THUOT, received one round of B-40 rocket fire resulting in moderate damage to the APC and two US KIA. The convoy returned fire and gunships expended in the area with unknown results.

23 December. At 0235H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, located at ZA029933, received eight to ten rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Two US troops were wounded. Artillery fired on suspected enemy locations with unknown effect.

At 1525H, an element of Company A, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor observed one individual fleeing from a village. Though ordered to halt, the man continued to run. The Scout Platoon shot him dead.

24 December. No significant contacts.

25 December. At 1135H, LRP 32, Company E, 20th Infantry (LRP), had heavy movement around their position. They exchanged small arms fire with approximately eight NVA at a distance of five to ten meters, then evaded and requested assistance. At 1345H, a reaction force composed of the 2d Platoon, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry was inserted. Meanwhile, LRP 32 exchanged small arms fire with a second group of enemy, wounding and capturing one NVA. The reaction platoon linked up with LRP 32 at 1400H, and swept the area with no further contact or sightings. The wounded NVA was evacuated but died en route.

At 1400H, two men of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry, clearing a landing zone near BR158275, were wounded when a booby trapped grenade exploded.

26 December. No significant contacts.

27 December. At 0047H, a Base Camp Patrol, from DISCOM, operating near ZA192414, heard movement all around their location. Shortly thereafter, the patrol came under fire from small arms and 60mm mortars. The patrol returned fire and received support from gunships and a flareship. At 0110H, contact broke. Results were one US KIA and one US WIA. At dawn the patrol swept the area and found a fresh blood trail. A tracker team followed the trail to within 150 meters of PLEI POO XOI, ZA188404. A cordon and search of the village, conducted by a reaction force and a team from the 4th MI Detachment, produced no results.

Between 1000 and 1500H, Companies B, C and D and the Reconnaissance Platoon, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, and the National Police cordoned and searched the New Life Hamlet of QUANG NHIEU, AQ835175. Results were 24 HOI CHANHS (all on the Black List) and 59 detainees (37 on the Black List) evacuated to BAN ME THUOT.

At 1030H, ships of Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, conducting reconnaissance

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near BR250318, received ground-to-air fire. One LOH took two hits; the occupants were uninjured. Gunships expended in the area and, at 1040H, the Aero Rifle Platoon was inserted. The Platoon swept the area, detaining 30 suspects, including two who were wounded. During the sweep, the platoon engaged two VC in a bunker, killing them both. Other results were 700 pounds of rice destroyed and miscellaneous military equipment captured.

At 1345H, LRP 1G, operating near YB843182, watched an NVA approach their position, then killed him in an exchange of small arms fire. The LRP evaded, then requested assistance. The Aero Rifle Platoon of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry and Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry were inserted. They swept the area with negative findings.

At 1620H, LRP 2D, operating near BRO03933, reported movement near their location and requested air support. Fighter aircraft, Headhunters and gunships all received ground-to-air fire from the area, but took no hits. Three airstrikes and three sets of gunships hit suspected enemy locations. During the strikes four members of the LRP were wounded, apparently when a rocket fell short of its target. The Aero Rifle Platoon of Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry was inserted to evacuate the LRP. At 2205H, extraction was complete.

28 December. At 0300H, a Division Base Camp Civic Action team in the village of PLEI GAO, ZA236376, received a ground probe from an enemy force of unknown size employing small arms and B-40 rockets. Four members of the CA team were wounded. Artillery and gunships responded the contact broke at 0435H. A reaction force from Camp Enari swept the area and found one NVA KIA and an RPG-2 rocket launcher.

29 December. At 1045H, a SRP from Company B, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry, in position at AR954688, observed two VC closing on the SRP's location. The team opened fire, killing both VC and capturing their SKS rifles.

At 1120H, LRP 41, Company E, 20th Infantry (LRP), operating near BRO33202, observed from nine to twelve individuals with AK-47's moving toward their position. The LRP opened fire at a distance of five meters. Gunships arrived on station and expended with unknown results. At 1155H, the enemy broke contact and fled. The 1st Platoon, Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry swept the area with negative findings. Results were one NVA KIA and three US (LRP) WIA.

At 1520H, LRP 1A, located at YA889212, engaged and killed one NVA. The team evaded, but continued to hear movement and smell strong body odors. Artillery fired on suspected enemy positions with unknown results. At 1645H, the LRP was extracted.

At 1610H, LRP 43, located at BRO91181, exchanged fire with three NVA, killing one. Gunships expended in the area, accidentally wounding two team members. The LRP was extracted at 1700H.

30 December. No significant contacts.

31 December. No significant contacts.

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1 January. At 0115H, an element of Company A, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, in position near AQ878212, ambushed an estimated seven individuals. The ambush employed claymores, M-60 machineguns, M-79 grenade launchers and M-16's. They then remained in position after movement ceased. At 0345H, the patrol detected movement and again executed its ambush. A sweep at dawn revealed four VC KIA, three AK-47's, one M2 carbine, six packs and two sets of US dog tags. A tracker team followed a blood trail out of the area, and at 1210H, near AQ880211, captured one lightly-wounded suspect.

At 1145H, an element of Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, patrolling near BR174389, observed four individuals to their rear and engaged them with small arms fire. Gunships of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry provided support. Contact broke at 1210H, when the enemy fled. Results were one NVA KIA, two US WIA (slight), one AK-47 and one Soviet RPD light machinegun CIA.

At 1145H, a member of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry disappeared while making a tactical stream crossing. A search of the area, YA728500, was unsuccessful in locating him.

2 January. At 1020H, Company C, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry conducting a sweep near BR158278, exchanged small arms fire with three individuals. Results were one US WIA (slight), two NVA KIA, one AK-47 and one M1 carbine CIA. At 1115H, a stay-behind force from the 1st Platoon C/3-8, located at BR158300, exchanged small arms fire with four individuals, killing one NVA and capturing one AK-47.

3 January. No significant contacts.

4 January. At 1030H, Headhunter aircraft observed three individuals on the PLEI TRAP Road near YB735058. Artillery fired into the area, killing two NVA.

At 1100H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, operating near YB948176, made contact with ten to fifteen individuals employing small arms, automatic weapons, and a white phosphorus grenade. The platoon returned fire and received artillery support. Contact broke at 1125H, leaving one US soldier dead and four wounded. Enemy casualties could not be determined. The 3d Platoon, B/1-22, conducted a combat assault to reinforce the Reconnaissance Platoon. Gunships and airstrikes hit suspected enemy locations. A tracker team attempted to follow blood trails, but without success.

At 1545H, near ZA032228, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry opened 18 graves reported earlier by the 2d Battalion, 42d ARVN Infantry. They found 18 NVA bodies, apparently killed by artillery one to two months previously, and miscellaneous ammunition and field gear.

5 January. At 0800H, a SRP from Company C, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry came under fire from approximately 12 individuals. The SRP returned fire with small arms and a claymore. The team then broke contact and evaded. Results were one US WIA and enemy casualties unknown.

At 0915H, IRP HLC, operating near YB988312, shot and killed two individuals armed with AK-47's who had approached within 175 meters of their location. The LRP evaded and continued its mission.

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At 1600H, Company B, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry, operating near BRO37193, fired on eight to ten individuals at a range of 300 meters. The enemy returned fire. Company A, 3-12 position itself as a blocking force. Gunships and artillery fired on suspected enemy locations. Contact broke at 1715H, leaving one US WIA and enemy casualties unknown. At 1638H, Company C, 3-12, located at BRO22195, encountered another enemy force at a range of 50 meters. Results of this fire fight were one VC KIA and one SKS CIA. In addition, the company detained five MONTAGNARDS (two men, two women and a child) and evacuated them for questioning.

6 January. At 0355H, Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry found one NVA body lying in a crater near ZB232099.

At 1050H, a LOH of the 4th Aviation Battalion received small arms fire as it was departing LZ PUMA (ZA095232). The LOH took four hits, resulting in one US WIA. The LOH landed safely at LZ OASIS.

At 1800H, IRP P44, operating at AR782136, an area they believed to be an enemy base camp, made contact with an enemy force of unknown size. They killed two NVA and captured one. Gunships of the 4th Aviation Battalion were on station at 1825H. The 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry combat assaulted into the area to reinforce the LRP. At 2040H, the Platoon, the IRP and the prisoner were extracted. After the extraction, Spooky expended in the area.

At 2056H, a patrol of the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, located at ZB173074, fired on two individuals at a range of five meters. At 2140H, they heard movement in the same direction and employed a claymore. The next day the Reconnaissance Platoon and Company A, 1-8, swept the area and found two dead NVA and two AK-47's.

7 January. At 0655H, during a cordon and search of PLEI BROCH, ZA078477, men of the 3d Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry observed five to ten individuals with weapons enter the village. The Platoon fired on the enemy who fled. Results were one NVA KIA, two NVA WIA/CIA, one M2 carbine, one 7.62mm pistol and miscellaneous NVA and US equipment CIA.

At 1140H, Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, operating near BR165315, received small arms fire from an estimated 10 to 12 enemy at a range of 300 meters. The company returned fire and adjusted artillery against the enemy position. Contact broke at 1210H, with three US troops wounded. The Company swept the area with no findings.

At 1407H, the Aero Rifle Platoon, Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry, inserted near AR785137, found five dead NVA, believed killed 6 January during LRP P44's contact, and 15 packs, a bunker complex, an AK-47, a helmet and some documents.

At 1530H, at ZB229099, Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry found one dead NVA, apparently killed by napalm, one AK-47, miscellaneous clothing and field gear, and some documents.

Also at 1530H, near BR098160, IRP 26 adjusted artillery against approximately 10 individuals 500 meters from their position. Results were three VC KIA and two possible secondary explosions.

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At 1830H, a listening post of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, located at ZB231096, received fire from an unknown direction, resulting in two US WIA. Artillery fired into the area with unknown results.

At 2215H, while moving to establish a cordon of a village, the 3d Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry detected movement and set up a hasty ambush near ZA155726. At 2235H, the Platoon came under small arms fire from a range of 200 meters. Two US soldiers were wounded. The platoon returned fire with unknown results.

8 January. At 1225H, Company C, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), operating near ZA135720, came under fire from an M-79 grenade launcher. Seven rounds impacted in the area, wounding one US soldier slightly. The Company returned fire and swept the area, but found no sign of the enemy.

At 1235H, the Aero Rifle Platoon, Troop D, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, inserted near AS815065, made contact with six to eight NVA. Gunships and artillery supported the ARP and the enemy fled, leaving behind two NVA KIA and five pounds of documents. There were no friendly casualties.

9 January. At 0910H, LRP 3A and the 2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, sweeping an area where LRP 3A had had contact on 8 January (YA854650), received small arms fire from approximately 10 enemy. The US troops returned fire and gunships expended. Contact broke at 0915. Results were two US KIA and three US WIA.

At 0955H, LRP 11, operating near AR929143, observed approximately 10 NVA and engaged them with small arms. The team evaded to high ground. At 1140H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry was inserted and swept the area, finding one NVA KIA, one SKS, one rucksack containing documents, and one wounded NVA whom they took prisoner. The platoon also found and destroyed a ton of rice. At 1650H, LRP 11 and the reaction force were extracted.

10 January. At 0930H, as Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry was conducting a combat assault into an LZ at YA935585, a man stepped on a cluster bomb unit (CBU) planted in the LZ as a booby trap. He and another man were wounded. An explosive ordnance disposal team swept the LZ and found five more CBUs emplaced as mines.

At 1915H, the perimeter of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, YA934578, held by Companies B and D, came under 75mm recoilless rifle fire followed by a ground probe. Contact broke at 1940H. One US soldier was wounded.

At 1400H, LRP 32, operating near BR021113, exchanged small arms fire with three or four individuals 25 meters from their position. They killed one VC, then evaded. Gunships expended in the area and at 1518H, the team was extracted.

11 January. At 1055H, elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, operating near AS832064, shot and killed one VMC, then recovered one SKS, a stethoscope, a syringe and personal letters from the body.

At 1315H, a 5 ton truck of Headquarters Company, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, while spraying diesel fuel in the cleared strip of Highway 19E, BR029510, hit a mine

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believed to have been a 155mm artillery round. The truck was destroyed and one US soldier was wounded.

At 2032H, Hawkeye 1C, operating near YB859139, heard movement 200 meters and then 75 meters from their location. The team adjusted artillery on the suspected enemy position. At 2110H, the team again heard movement around their position, and at 2114H, two grenades exploded near their position and two bursts of small arms fire raked the area. One team member was wounded. The LRP evaded and gunships expended in the area. At 2327H, the LRP was extracted.

12 January. At 1010, elements of Company D, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, conducting a sweep near AS782059, fired on two NVA, killing one and capturing one AK-47, one SKS and a rucksack containing documents.

At 1015H, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry found one NVA body hidden under brush at YB949167. They estimated that the NVA had been killed in Recon 1-22's contact of 4 January.

Company B, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry and elements of the National Police conducted a cordon and search of PLEI TO BUR TIH, ZAl17829. At 1315H, 15 villagers became HOI CHANHS. One of them claimed to be a VC squad leader. In addition, the National Police detained four suspects.

At 0955H, elements of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry conducting aerial reconnaissance near YA843647, observed approximately a company of enemy moving northwestward. Gunships expended in the area and received heavy ground-to-air fire but took no hits. Fighter-bombers struck the area with unknown results. At 1220H, the Aero Rifle Platoon of Troop C was inserted, followed at 1245H by the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry and at 1417H by the 3d Platoon, Company C, 1-35. These forces swept the area, received sporadic fire from automatic weapons, and found one NVA KIA. Between 1710H and 1834H all elements were extracted.

At 1555H, the point element of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, patrolling near AS843096, exchanged small arms fire with two individuals. One US soldier was wounded. At 1610H, the company exchanged fire with three more individuals. Gunships expended on suspected enemy locations. The enemy broke contact and fled. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

13 January. Between 0105 and 0519H, radar of 2d Battalion, 9th Field Artillery at LZ Charmaine detected 16 unidentified flying objects.

At 0825H, Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, conducting a sweep at YA963422, received small arms fire. The tanks returned fire and artillery fired on suspected enemy locations. A sweep of the area revealed one VC KIA and one SKS CIA.

At 1155H, Company C, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, operating near BR155280, observed seven NVA wearing green uniforms. In the ensuing exchange of fire one US soldier was wounded. Apparently there were no enemy casualties.

At 1400H, Company B, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, operating near

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AR948687, exchanged semiautomatic fire with six to nine individuals. Gunships expended on the enemy location. Results were one NVA KIA and one AK-47 CIA.

14 January. At 1130H, a V-100 command car, escorting a convoy to DAK TO, hit a mine on the north side of the road at ZB153135. One US soldier was killed and one wounded. The vehicle sustained moderate damage.

15 January. At 0140H, a Civil Affairs team in the village of PLEI PHAN KLAH (AR892293) received small arms and mortar fire from an estimated platoon size force. The team returned fire and the enemy fled. Spooky expended on the routes of withdrawal. A sweep produced one VC KIA and one AK-47 CIA.

At 0300H, a Shadow aircraft observed a Russian Yak-24 medium transportation helicopter. It was flying at an altitude of 300 feet at grid YA6654. Upon being sighted, the aircraft dropped to treetop level and disappeared.

At 1150H, Troop A, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry observed 15 individuals in black pajamas near BR195225. Gunships expended and the ARP of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry was inserted. They found 9 VC KIA.

At 1225H, a platoon from Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry observed several individuals moving on a trail at YA939596. The platoon set up an ambush and killed two VC.

At 1624H, a Cobra gunship of Troop C, 7th Squadron, 17th Cavalry received ground-to-air fire, crashed and burned. The ARP of Troop C was inserted to secure the downed Cobra. At 1800H, the ARP made contact with a force of unknown size. Three platoons of Troop D were inserted and fighting continued. Spooky and artillery hit suspected enemy locations during the night.

16 January. At 0950H, three platoons from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry combat assaulted into the area of contact to reinforce C/7-17. A sweep after contact broke revealed hasty fortifications and pools of blood. Friendly casualties were five KIA and 21 WIA. Known enemy losses were six NVA KIA.

At 1158H, an APC from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry hit a mine buried on the side of the road at ZA148472. The explosion blew a road wheel off the APC and wounded one US soldier.

17 January. At 1215H, Company A, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, operating near AR48705, exchanged small arms fire with 7 to 8 individuals. Airstrikes hit suspected enemy positions. Results were two US WIA and enemy casualties unknown.

18 January. At 0213H, elements of Company B, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry, located at AS835118, observed two individuals west of their perimeter who employed grenades and B-41 fire. Perimeter guards returned the fire. The individual carrying the RPG7 was hit. A round in his launcher exploded, killing him and the other VC. Friendly casualties were one US KIA and seven WIA.

At 1000H, near YA999219, a B-40 rocket hit a tank of the 1st Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, wounding four US soldiers. The tankers returned

fire, but the enemy escaped, leaving no casualties.

At 1150H, a SRP from Company C, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near AQ882363, fired on an individual carrying an SKS rifle. They wounded the man and took him prisoner.

At 1130H, Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, located at YA959607, received fire from the northwest of their position. The company returned fire and the enemy fled. Results were 2 US WIA and enemy casualties unknown. At 1250H, a platoon from Company B, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry while on convoy escort, received small arms fire and one B-40 rocket. The platoon returned fire and the enemy fled in an unknown direction. Friendly casualties were one US KIA and two US WIA. Enemy casualties are unknown.

19 January. The 2d Battalion, 9th Field Artillery radar at LZ Charmaine sighted numerous unidentified flying objects. A circling UFO was seen at grids ZAL00271 to ZAO79222 to ZAO09231. A blinking red light could be seen, but no engine noises were heard. At 0500H, a UFO landed at YA975267. Artillery was employed. At 0615H the UFO took off and then landed at YA964276. Artillery was employed again. A sweep of the area produced nothing.

At 1000H, near YA934692, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry exchanged fire with a force of unknown size. Gunships expended on enemy positions. Contact broke, was reestablished and then broke again as the enemy fled to the northwest. One US soldier was wounded.

At 1010H, the 2d Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry made a contact with an estimated five to ten individuals at ZAL40167. Contact broke immediately. Results were one US KIA, three US WIA and enemy casualties unknown.

At 1650H, a tank from Company B, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor hit a booby trap hanging from a tree at YA 3368. Three US soldiers and two CSF were wounded.

20 January. At 0945H, LRP 36, operating near AS835118, observed two individuals wearing green fatigues, camouflaged hats and carrying weapons. The team detonated a claymore mine, killing one NVA. The team retrieved his AK-47. Gunships expended on suspected enemy locations to the south of the contact area. At 1300H, a platoon from Company C, 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry reinforced the LRP and made contact with 10 NVA. Small arms fire was exchanged, artillery and gunships hit the area, and the enemy fled with unknown casualties.

21 January. At 1045H, a platoon from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry made contact with a VC squad near YA810505. A B-40 round detonated on the antenna of an APC, wounding six US soldiers. The enemy evaded with no known casualties.

Also at 1045H, Company D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near YA939685, made contact with an enemy force of unknown size. Gunships expended on enemy positions. At 1140H, the enemy employed 60mm mortars. Sporadic small arms fire continued all afternoon. Results of the action were two US KIA, 14 US WIA and one NVA KIA.

22 January. At 0750H, near YA947678, Company A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry,

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while enroute to link up with Company D, 1-35, came under small arms and mortar fire from an enemy force of unknown size. Gunships and artillery supported the US troops. Company A linked up with Company D at 1025H. From 1040 to 1210H, the units received B-40 and mortar fire from the west southwest. Gunships and artillery attacked suspected enemy locations. Throughout the afternoon, as the units tried to cut out a LZ, sporadic enemy fire continued. Friendly casualties were one KIA, and one WIA. Enemy casualties could not be determined.

At 1437H, elements of Company A, 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry, operating near YA900715, observed and killed one NVA.

23 January. At 0930H, a platoon from Company C, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near AQ930359, shot and captured one NVA.

At 1020H, the 1st Platoon, Company C, 2d Battalion (Mechanized), 8th Infantry, operating near ZA158706, exchanged fire with 10 to 14 VC 25 meters from their position. Two VC were killed, one AK-47 and two SKS were captured.

At 1130H, LRP 34, in position at AS846184, employed claymore mines and small arms against eight MONTAGNARDS armed with bolt action rifles. The enemy returned fire and fled, leaving behind six dead. Again, near AS857183, the team exchanged fire with two NVA carrying Soviet carbines. One NVA was killed. During the action, three LRP team members were injured by punji stakes.

At 1235H, LRP 2G, operating near YA922798, received one round of sniper fire, wounding one team member. The team returned fire, but the enemy evaded.

At 1451H, Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry, operating near YA934617, observed two NVA cross a trail. The US troops opened fire, wounding and capturing one NVA.

In a contact at 1600H, LRP 1B killed one NVA. While attempting to retrieve the NVA's weapon, the team came under small arms fire from an estimated six to eight enemy. The LRP returned fire, evaded, called gunships in on the area, and was extracted.

At 1820H, a Dustoff helicopter, extracting wounded of Companies A and D, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry from an LZ at YA948678, was hit by a B-40 rocket. The helicopter crashed and burned, killing seven US soldiers.

24 January. At 1500H, while LRP 44 was attempting an insertion at AS806149, ground-to-air fire killed one team member. The insertion was aborted.

In an exchange of fire at 1625H, LRP 31, operating near AS875057, killed one NVA and captured one AK-47. One LRP member was wounded.

25 January. At 1750H, near AS917077, LRP 23 observed 20 to 25 individuals moving toward their location. The LRP employed claymores and automatic weapons, killing one NVA. The team then evaded and was extracted.

26 January. At 1630H, two platoons of Company A, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry observed two individuals near AQ843453 and engaged them with small arms fire.

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The enemy fled, leaving one NVA KIA and one AK-47 CIA.

At 1921H, IRP 1D, operating near BR193393, exchanged small arms fire with four NVA armed with AK-47's. The team withdrew, set up a claymore, and employed it against an NVA who came within range, killing him.

27 January. At 2005H, incoming 82mm mortar rounds wounded two members of the 2d Platoon, Troop C, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry, located near AR933479. The platoon swept through suspected enemy locations, but found nothing.

28 January. The 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry reported an attempt at imitative communications deception. At 1050H, someone speaking broken English entered the command net and attempted to divert helicopter support.

At 1230H, a SRP from Company C, 3-12 Infantry, located near ZA022764, received small arms fire from six to eight individuals 75 meters south of their location. The team returned fire and the enemy fled. Two team members were killed and two wounded.

At 1345H, while investigating a mining incident near ZA195978, a member of Troop B, 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry stepped on a second mine and was killed. Another US soldier was wounded.

At 1550H, near YA955162, the Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry exchanged fire with an enemy force of unknown size. Results were one US KIA and one US WIA.

At 1635H, Company C, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, operating near ZA057165, received automatic weapons fire from approximately a squad of enemy. The company returned fire and called for artillery support. The enemy fled with unknown casualties. One US soldier was wounded.

29 January. At 1445H, Hawkeye 1B made contact with four or five enemy near BR182405. In the exchange of fire one US soldier was wounded. Gunships expended in the area and the enemy fled.

At 1750H, near BR229380, Company A, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry employed 81mm mortar fire against suspected enemy locations. A short round wounded two US personnel.

30 January. At 0945H, the 2d Platoon, Company B, 3d Battalion, 8th Infantry, located at BR255367, heard movement 50 meters to the southeast of their position and employed small arms fire. The platoon swept the area and captured one wounded NVA and an AK-47.

At 1235H, near BR097197, Hawkeye 1A observed 5 individuals wearing loin cloths, web gear, packs and carrying M1 rifles. The team engaged the enemy with small arms fire and killed 1 VMC. The enemy returned fire and fled. One M1 rifle was captured. At 1730H, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, operating near YA865475, came under fire from two or three enemy who employed B-40 rockets and automatic weapons. A B-40 round hit a fuel cell of an APC causing extensive damage and one US WIA. The cavalry returned fire and the enemy fled.