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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMPANY H (RANGER) 75TH INFANTRY (AIRBORNE)
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDALR-RP

1 November 1969

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned Report of Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry
(Airborne) for period ending 31 October 1969.

Commanding Officer
1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry
1st Cav Div (AM)
ATTN: S-3

Section I. Lessons Learned:

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations: None

(1) During the past month we have experimented with several patrols of short, 3-day duration. We have found that these patrols have covered approximately the same area and developed approximately the same intelligence as do the 5-day patrols. The 3-day patrols have one distinct advantage: The company can deploy more 3-day patrols per month than 5-day patrols.

(2) We have also experimented with using a pink team for reconnaissance of a patrol's AO. The Ranger platoon leader/sergeant and the Ranger patrol leader ride in the OH-6A as observer and gunner. The UH-1H pilot flies co-pilot in the AH-1G. This reconnaissance permits all concerned with the insertion to view and select prospective LZ's. Later, when the insertion is made, the regular pink team goes out to the box as if for normal visual reconnaissance, the UH-1H holds off from the area 5-10 kilometers. When the OH-6A has made its recon, the AH-1G directs the UH-1H, making the complete run low level, into the LZ. This technique eliminates the multiple orbits used in prior techniques for conducting the recon and briefing the pink team on LZ's in the box just prior to insertion. By limiting enemy ground-to-air observation time, the patrol can be inserted with a much better chance of the enemy being unaware of the patrol's presence.

c. Training: None

b. Intelligence:

(1) The enemy, even when carrying their wounded, still maintain their discipline when a visual reconnaissance is in progress around them. Their first tactic is to scatter into surrounding jungle and stay low unless they are fired upon. For this reason recon by fire should be considered as part of the normal Visual Reconnaissance procedure.

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- e. Logistics: None
- f. Organization: None
- g. Other: None

RICHARD K. GRIFFITHS
Captain, Infantry
Commanding

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