

RG 472
28th MHD, AARs
68-70
Box 1

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
28TH MILITARY HISTORY DETACHMENT
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

AVIC-WE

8 Oct. 1970

SUBJECT: COMBAT AFTER ACTION INTERVIEW REPORT

TO: HEADQUARTERS
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ATTN: O.C.M.H.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20315

1. TYPE OF OPERATION: A Troop, 1/11th ACR, OPCON To the 25 Inf. Div., set up strong points along QL1.
2. DATE OF CONTACT: 2 Oct. 1970
3. LOCATION: Area East of Bein Hoa, Quan Xuan Loc province, Reference map Series L 7014, Map Sheet 6430(4), Republic of Vietnam. (294098).
4. TASK ORGANIZATION: 2nd Platoon, A/1/11th ACR. Alumination was provided by A Troop Mortar Track.
5. Mission: A Troop was to prevent enemy movement across QL1 during the hours of darkness. This was Accomplished by use of strong points consisting of an ACAV and M551. (See Intelligence section)
6. PERSONS INTERVIEWED: PSG Ramon Vega, 2nd Platoon PSG., A Troop; and SSG. Little track commander; 2nd Platoon, A Troop.
7. CONCEPT OF CONTACT.

A Troop was set up along QL1. 2nd Platoon had three strong points consisting of two tracks each (ACAV and M551 Sherdian). They were located in the area of grid 2909 along QL1. PSG Vega was at one of the strong points at coordinates 294098. PSG Vega was observing 360° with a Starlite Scope. Sp. Hails track observed primarily to the North. This provided the SP with all round security.

Enemy movement was expected through this area. The intelligence report explains this in detail. About 2205 Hours PSG Vega observed 12 to 15 VC moving south toward the highway. He alerted the ACAV to his East to prepare to fire when he fired. At this time SGT Vega observed the enemy squat down. In a few seconds one stood up then motioned for the others to move back North along the trail they had been following. At this time the tracks opened fire. The 551 was unable to use its main gun because of the position of the ACAV.

They fired an M79 and M16 and the ACAV fired with its Two 60MG, M79 and 50 cal MG. At this time Sgt Vega maneuvered his Sherdian

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behind the ACav and moved into a firing position East of the ACav. The Shedrian opened up with a canister round. After they had fired several rounds the Plt Leader arrived from his SP and opened up with his weapons.

The action lasted about 20 minutes and the firing ended shortly after the platoon leader arrived.

The order from higher came to dismount and search the area. Sgt Vega suggested, since the illumination was poor and the terrain would be difficult to cover, That they check the area out by crossing it with the tracks.

The rice was about three and a half feet high in this area. Their four tracks moved across the rice field on line. They had individuals observing the area from the tracks. That night they had negative findings. The next morning the platoon moved through the area and found what they had suspected, 4 VC KIA.

This is a very good example of how an alert soldier by using the equipment available to him effectively can stop the movement of the enemy with negative loss to his own forces.

The documents taken from these VC identified them as elements of the 65th Engineer Bn and the 74th Rocket Regiment. D 65 Bn's mission has been to interdict Hwy 15 between Mong Thanh and Ba Ria. Identifications in August and September 70 located the 65th Engineer Bn in vicinity of YS 2878. The 74th Regiment has its elements scattered from a company in Rung Sat to YT 3046 in Southern War Zone D.

A Hoi Chanh and a subsequent document find identified elements of the 65th Engrs Bn and the 74th Regt as operating together as late as 20 Aug 70 in vicinity YS3078. This batch of captured documents also mentions rice receipts from Binh Son area and Hung Nghia, which are known supply areas. In the last thirty days there has been an increase of enemy activity and contact within 10 Km radius of Xuan Loc, particularly to the South, Southwest and West. This increase has been attributed primarily to the somewhat northern relocation of elements of the 274th Regt. It now appears that elements of the 74th Regt and 65th Engr Bn are active in the area. It also constitutes the Northern most identification of the 65th Engr Bn.

This batch of documents combined with recent agent reports and enemy activity defines a significant concentration of enemy forces along Hwy 1 primarily to the South, from vicinity YT 2011 - 4410. Allied denial efforts in the Binh Son and Viet Cueng areas to the South have forced Northern movement of forces to the heavily populated area East of Bien Hoa city along Hwy 1. This is also the time of year for the rice harvest and VC forces can be expected to be active in their food gathering efforts.

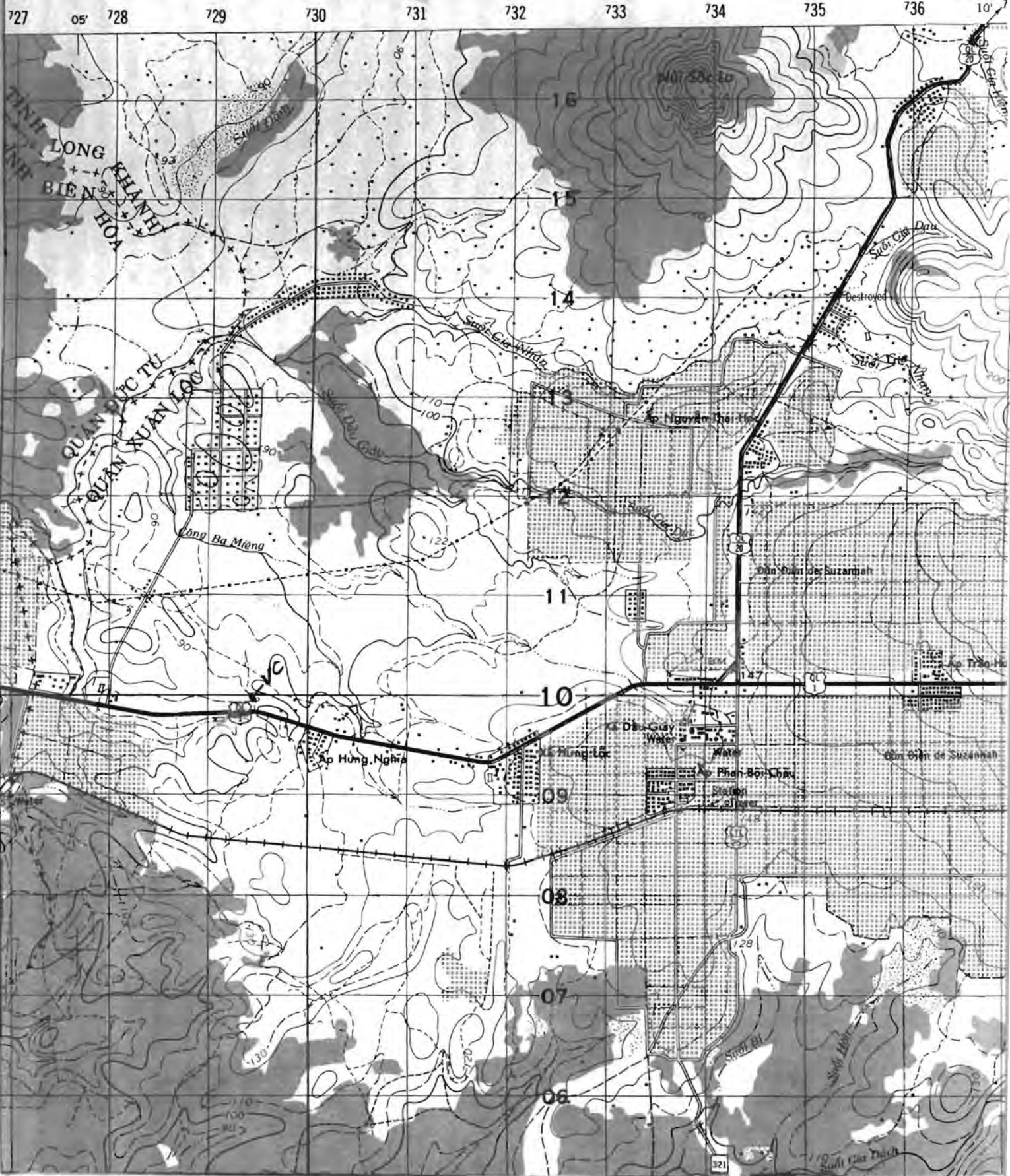
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