

RG 472
11th AR, 53
AARs
Box 1

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HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO San Francisco 96257

AVIC-ZR

1 November 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

TO: Commanding Officer
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
ATTN: AVICWE
APO US Forces 96257

ARKANSAS CITY

1. Concept of Operation

a. Maneuver: Operation conducted in two (2) phases.

- (1) Phase I: 3d Sqdn (-) move from vic Y35097 and Blackhorse Base Camp to establish screen along Hwy 2 South of Blackhorse.
- (2) Phase II: 3d Sqdn (-) conduct Search and Destroy Operations West of Hwy 2 to intercept suspected move of the 274th VC Regt to the East across Hwy 2 and establish screen nightly along Hwy 2 from Blackhorse south to the boundary of the Blackhorse TACR.

b. Fires:

- (1) Arty: How Btry/3-11 Direct Support from Blackhorse, Prev Mortars Direct Support from M/3-11 CP loc.
- (2) TAC Air: On Call.

2. Execution

General: Headquarters, 3d Sqdn, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment issued coded messages to I & M/3-11 assigning them mission on evening of 14 Sept 67. L/3-11 was given the message orally by S-3, 3-11. It was not possible to brief all unit commanders on the mission as two (2) of the commanders were involved in Search and Destroy Operations East of Blackhorse. Radio silence was maintained throughout move to the assigned areas.

15-21 September 1967

I/L/M/3-11 screened South of base camp along hwy 2 during the night and conducted Search and Destroy Operations. Dismounted patrols were used extensively and effectively. Found during period were a VC finance center with a complex of 4 base camps and all the records for the local finance center as well as records of the 274th Regiment. Also found during this period were many bunker areas and two Regimental size base camps, one of which had 263 bunkers and 20 miles of trenches.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Contact with enemy forces was made only twice during the period. this occurred on 17 September when a small dismounted element of 1/3-11 engaged an unknown size VC force for approximately 10 minutes vic YS412918. Results of the action are unknown, but blood trails leading from the area indicate that 2-3 VC were wounded. The second incident occurred on 180054 when an ambush patrol of M/3-11, located at YS465905, observed and took under fire approximately 20 VC and did not suffer any casualties themselves. Casualties to VC force was unknown. Two mining incident occurred in this period which resulted in 5 US WIA. On 15 Sept 67 an ACAV of L/3-11 detonated an anti-tank mine at YS425853 which resulted in the 5 US WIA. Another anti-tank mine was discovered by a dismounted patrol which reached the immediate area. The mine was disarmed and evacuated. An ACAV of I/3-11 detonated an anti-personnel mine with no casualties and minor damage to the vehicle. A search of the area revealed nothing more.

Althought there was little enemy contact and very few sightings of enemy personnel, there was much evidence which indicated that the enemy was in the area. Several craters caused by 155's and 4.2" H&I fires had blood trail, flesh and bloody clothing around them, indicating that large number of enemy personnel were in the area. Also numerous trails were found which looked as if large numbers of personnel had utilized them.

3. Results

| Enemy Documents & Equipment | Fortifications | Personnel |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 5-81mm mortar rounds | 1 finance center | KIA-20(BC) 1 (P6SS) |
| 25 lbs documents | 1 classroom | WIA-0 |
| 2 ID Cards | 600-700 bunkers | POW-0 |
| 3 wallets | 10 meters of trenches | (Body count is |
| 81mm mortar complete | 45 air holes | result of gains |
| 1 4.2 Dud | 7 tunnels | found in area. |
| 1 250 lb bomb | 5 foxholes | Condition of bodies |
| 6 M79 rds | 1 observation tree | indicated were |
| 30 Chicom grenades | 1 brick hut | killed by artillery) |
| 1 AT Mine | 2 grass hus | |
| 1 uniform | | |
| 40 60mmDud | | |
| 1 155mm Dud | | |
| 304 2.7 rds | | |
| 2 claymores | | |
| 100m electric wire | | |
| 1 bicycle | | |
| 2 crosshows | | |
| 35 lbs rice | | |
| 1-5 lbs coffee | | |
| 5 lbs salt | | |
| 20 lbs peanuts | | |
| 252 rds 7.62 rds | | |
| 1 home made grenade | | |

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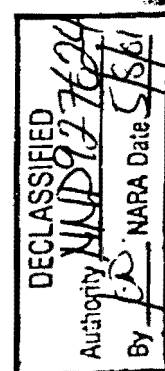
Results (Cont)

Enemy Documents

Fortifications

Personnel

40- 60mm Dud
 112- lbs uncooked rice
 1- casing for B40 launching unit
 1- complete sight for 12.7 AA gun
 9- lbs medicine
 25- lbs fish
 17- lbs cooked rice
 3- bars soap
 7- ponchos
 4- shovels
 2- saw blades
 5- cooking pots
 1- shoulder brace for 12.7AA gun
 9- lbs salt rock
 6- canteens
 3- lbs salt pork
 3- cans sardines
 1- ammo box chicom 12.7
 9- packs cigarette tobacco
 4- homemade paks
 1- kaki shirt
 1- US mess kit
 6- pr pants
 1- hammock
 1- plastic shelter
 1- homemade gas mask
 1- pan and spoon
 2- lbs grain
 1- pistol
 1- china bowl
 2- lbs seasoning
 1- btl grease
 1- tooth brush
 2- mattocks
 2- aluminum cups
 1- kerosene lamp
 2- pr frandles
 2- coils of electric wire
 2- white shirts
 1- pr of black shorts
 4- yds of unbleached merslin
 2- black shirts
 4- handkerchiefs
 1- plastic bags
 2- surgical masks
 1- blue shirt
 1- btl of shortening

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SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

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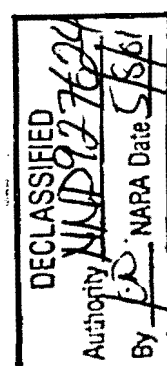
Results (Cont)

Enemy Documents

Fortifications

Personnel

1-blanket
 1-hammock
 6-hammock strings
 1-bundle of rags
 1-file
 1-fish net & 1 line w/hooks
 4-lbs of documents
 1-waterproof bag containing
 1-pr black pajama pants
 2-black shirts
 2-khaki pants
 4-civilian shirts
 1-khaki shirts
 1-OD pants
 1-cleophane ban containing 4 pks cigaretts
 4-tranistor type batteries
 3-pr shorts
 1-towel
 1-tooth brush and 1 tube tooth paste
 2-rds Russian 7.92.
 1- brush
 1- water proof bag containing
 1- poncho
 1- silk cloth
 1-USammo belt and first aid kit
 1- scarf
 1- cloth
 1-"BORNC" wrist watch
 3- black shirts
 3- pr black pants
 1- hammock
 1- shopping bag containing
 4- pans
 3- cans unidentified fluides
 1- canteen
 1- can U/I salve
 1- bag flour
 1- waterproof bag containing
 propaganda leaflets
 1- medicine kit
 1-pr pants
 1-shirt

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1 November 1967

Results (Cont)

Enemy Documents

Fortifications

Personnel

1-ammo container(plastic)
 1-waterproof bag containing
 2-ammo pouches
 2-black shirts
 2-black slacks
 2+pieces black cloth
 1-pr red shorts
 1-hammock
 1-sheet plastic
 1-ammo blet
 1-pr HO Chi Minh sandals
 1-rubber knife
 1-hat
 1-gas mask cover
 5-clips 7.92 ammo containing 31 rds.
 4-magazines for M-1 containing 45 rds.
 2-magazines for M-1 containing 18 rds.
 1-electric blasting cap in bottle
 2-chicom claymores- 18lbs
 1-pressure plat for U/I mine

4. Advisor/Command Analysis

The value of previous lessons learned cannot be overstressed, twice during this period ACAVS detonated mines, causing only minor injuries because all personnel were riding inside the vehicle.

It should be stressed to units the importance of checking on area thoroughly where a mining incident has taken place. Many times additional mines will be found only a few meters from the site of the mining incident.

During this period the CA/PSY/OPS aspect was not included in the operation. The Squadron was committed to the extent that personnel and vehicles were not available for MEDCAPS. One thing that was done to better relations with people of C M MY and area was to donate all captured rice to them and a truck containing 500 lbs of apples, oranges and other food stuff were delivered to the school at C.M MY.

The Squadron did not come into contact with a significant number of civilians due to the nature of the operation and the location. In future Operations efforts should be made to have MI Team located at the Squadron CP or at the CP of one of the troops. This would enable the Squadron to have documents analyzed almost immediately and to take advantage of any intelligence gained rather than have to wait a period of several days or more to receive the results of analyzed enemy documents.

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Lessons Learned

Again the validity of requiring personnel to ride inside the personnel carries (Not on top) was demonstrated. No Deaths or serious injuries were sustained in spite of mines and claymores detonated under or near our vehicles. Craters sizes up to 11 feet in diameter and 5 ft deep. This unit does not carry snadbags on the floor of the vehicles. In no case encountered this month would be the proposed belly armor reinforcement of the APC have prevented damage. Most APC body penetration was over the track well. In summary, no changes to general army partaice are required to cope with the mine encountered by this unit. The practices of overloading vehicles with sandbags and of carrying personnel on top of vehicles are both believed to be enormous.

Returning to an area a second time after an hour, a day, or several weeks may be very productive since the VC in several cases have reentered the area shortly after US Troops departed. Artillery fires and or stay behind ambush patrols are alternative tactics. Artillery fire has been very successfully used in this manner as verified by results of ground check during this operation.

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