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U.S. AIR FORCE
AFTER ACTION REPORT
COMBAT AIR SUPPORT
1979

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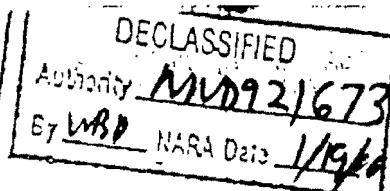
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REF ID: A777122 UNCLASSIFIED
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, XXIV CORPS
APO San Francisco 96349

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14 May 1971

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation LAMSON
719 (MACJ 3-32 (RZ)) (U)

Commander
United States Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
ATTN: MACJ 3-05
APO San Francisco 96222

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SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
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YEAR INTERVALS

1. (U) NAME OF OPERATION - LAMSON ~~DECLASSIFY ON: 31 Dec 69~~ per TAG Action 2627411
2. (U) DATES OF OPERATION - 300001N Jan 71 through 061708N Apr 71. ~~28 May 71~~
3. (U) LOCATION - Northern Military Region 1, RVN and Southeastern Laos. Map, Series L607, sheets 6341, 6342, 6343, 6241, 6242, 6243, 6141, 6142 and 6143, scale 1:100,000.
4. (U) CONTROL OR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS - HQS, XXIV Corps and HQS, I Corps.
5. (U) REPORTING OFFICER - Lieutenant General James W. Sutherland, Jr.
6. (U) TASK ORGANIZATION - See Annex A, Task Organization.
7. (C) SUPPORTING FORCES:
 - a. See Annex A, Task Organization.
 - b. 7th United States Air Force provided air support in the area of operation, See Annex F, Air Support.
 - c. United States 7th Fleet provided Tac Air, on station, from off the shores of RVN. See Annex F, Air Support.

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d. CINCSAC provided heavy bomber strikes, reconnaissance and tanker support.

8. (U) INTELLIGENCE - See Annex C, Intelligence.

9. (C) MISSION - XXIV Corps supports and assists I Corps attack on or about 8 February to destroy enemy forces, and stockpiles and sever enemy lines of communications in Base Areas 604 and 611.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

a. Background - By October 1970, combined assessment of enemy intentions indicated that the NVA planned to:

(1) Strangle the capitol city of Cambodia and cause the overthrow of the Lon Nol government.

(2) Continue its efforts in the Republic of Vietnam and rebuild its logistics bases along the Cambodian border adjacent to III and IV Corps.

(3) Conduct intensified resupply and reinforcement operations in southern Laos during the dry season (mid October to mid April).

(4) Build up levels of supplies and equipment in Northern Military Region 1 to support large scale operations in Quang Tri and Thua Thien Provinces during the 1971 dry season.

b. Planning.

(1) Detailed planning based on the COMUSMACV planning directive dated 7 Jan 71 (TS/LD), was begun on an extremely close hold basis. The initial planning group was quite small and included representatives of the G2 and G3, XXIV US Corps and I Corps. All initial planning was accomplished in a secure area within XXIV Corps Headquarters to lessen likelihood of disclosure. Planning guidance was passed to subordinate units under the cover of a 17 Jan 71 message giving planning guidance for the 1971 Spring-Summer Campaign and offering a course of action and force equivalent similar to what was actually used in Phase I. Deception techniques were considered and utilized. Owing to the sensitivity of information in this area it will not be discussed further in this report.

(2) LAMSON 719 was planned as a four phase operation.

(a) In Phase I, (Operation Dewey Canyon II), a US brigade sized force was to attack on or about 30 Jan '71 to clear and secure QL 9

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to the Laotian border after an artillery raid into the A Shau Valley by the 101st Abn Div (Ambl). RVNAF were to complete movement to northern MR 1 and take up positions in preparation for their attack against enemy positions in southern Laos.

(b) In Phase II, I Corps was to attack 8 Feb 71 with two reinforced divisions (32 maneuver battalions) westward along QL 9 into southern Laos and occupy fixed firebases in preparation for operations against Tchepone. US forces were to continue to secure LOC, provide logistical, aviation, artillery, Tac Air and B52 support.

(c) In Phase III, upon seizure of Tchepone, RVNAF were to conduct search and destroy operations in the vicinity of Tchepone. US forces were to continue to secure LOC and provide logistics, aviation, artillery, Tac Air and B52 support.

(d) In Phase IV.

1 Option A - On order attack southeast along Route 922 into Base Area 611 with supporting operations in the Laotian Salient.

2 Option B - On order, withdraw from Laos back along QL 9. US forces continue to provide LOC security, logistics, aviation, artillery, Tac Air and B52 support.

(3) Planning Schedule.

7 Jan COMMUSMACV Planning Directive.

7-15 Jan Planning group formed and development of XXIV Corps/I Corps concept.

16 Jan COMUSMACV/JCS approval of XXIV Corps/I Corps detailed concept.

17 Jan Cover plan issued.

20 Jan XXIV Corps/I Corps completed draft operations order.

21 Jan XXIV Corps/I Corps received approval of detailed concept.

22 Jan XXIV Corps/I Corps staff revised as necessary and finalized operations order.

25 Jan Staff sections designate and brief XXIV Corps Forward Staff (approximately 20 officers, 15 enlisted men).

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28 Jan Company commanders, platoon leaders briefed on operation.

29 Jan Troops briefed on operation. First US units begin move to operational area. XXIV Corps Forward CP displaced to operational area.

30 Jan Operation commences.

11. (C) Execution

a. Phase I

(1) Operations Narrative

(a) Operation Dewey Canyon II (Preparation Phase for LAMSON 719) was initiated at 0001H 30 January, when lead elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) attacked with armored cavalry - engineer task forces on two axes toward Khe Sanh from Fire Support Base (FSB) Vandegrift (see figure 1). The main attack was conducted by Team A, 3-5 Cavalry (a Cavalry Engineer Team) on Axis Gold along QL 9 toward Khe Sanh. The lead elements advanced approximately 6000 meters during the hours of darkness without enemy contact. A secondary attack was conducted by TF 3-5 Cavalry (-) along Axis Brown from the vicinity of the Rockpile (XD978559), southwest toward Khe Sanh. A Company, 7th Engineer Battalion (Combat) with three D7 bulldozers accompanied Team A, 3-5 Cavalry and began constructing a pioneer road to the airfield at Khe Sanh. Three infantry battalions scheduled to operate in the Khe Sanh area were successfully inserted by air commencing at 0830H 30 January. The lifts of the 3d Battalion, 187th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry and 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry (-) into three objectives in the vicinity of Khe Sanh were completed at 1530 hours.

(b) The 14th Engineer Battalion (Combat) operating behind the attacking elements along QL 9, installed nine of the 18 required bridges and nine of the 20 required culverts. At Khe Sanh, the planned site for an assault airstrip parallel to the abandoned mat airstrip, was surveyed and a partial minesweep conducted. It was estimated that the assault strip would be ready on 3 February and would be used until the primary mat strip became operational. The abandoned mat strip, which was badly cratered, required extensive engineer effort. Two hundred one ton bundles of M2 matting were required to bring it to an operational status.

(c) Initial artillery support was provided by the 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery at Khe Sanh; the 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery (-) and the 2d Battalion, 94th Artillery at Vandegrift; and the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery at Carroll.

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(d) TF 1-11 Infantry, 4-3 Infantry, and 3-187 Airborne Infantry were assigned areas of operation Puma, Lion, and Cougar respectively (see figure 2). While TF 1-11 Infantry secured Khe Sanh, TF 1-77 Armor remained in the Vandegrift area and provided security of QL 9 from the Rockpile to the south of Vandegrift. TF 1-1 Cavalry was assigned the mission of conducting a reconnaissance in force from Khe Sanh along QL 9 toward the Laotian border. On 2 February the unit established a screen in the area along the XD75 Northing Line, from the Laotian border to approximately the 40 East West Grid Line.

(e) On the 1st of February, the movement of heavy artillery continued with the deployment of 8-4 Artillery from Vandegrift into the Khe Sanh area.

(f) By 1 February, engineer units had upgraded QL 9 from Vandegrift to Khe Sanh and had opened the road to track vehicles as far west as Lang Vei. Simultaneously, elements of the 27th Engineer Battalion began removing the damaged matting from the abandoned airstrip at Khe Sanh.

(g) At 1520 hours on 2 February, elements of the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry conducted a raid against a suspected enemy installation in the vicinity of XD875238. No enemy resistance was encountered; however, a large bunker complex containing evidence of an enemy hospital was discovered and indications were the area had been abandoned only 12-24 hours prior to the raid.

(h) Multi-channel radio relay equipment was lifted into Landing Zone (LZ) Sarge (YD029478) on 2 February in order to facilitate communications throughout the operational area.

(i) On 3 February, the 1st Ranger Group with its three organic battalions (21st, 37th and 39th) completed an air lift into LZs vicinity of XD6846 and XD6845 (FSB Phu Loc).

(j) On 4 February, Area of Operation (AO) Lion was squeezed out in the vicinity of the Rockpile; TF 1-11 Infantry continued operations in the vicinity of Khe Sanh and expanded its AO to the east, assuming part of TF 4-3 Infantry's old AO. TF 3-187 Infantry continued operations along QL 9 west of Ca Lu, expanding its AO to the west and assuming the remainder of TF 4-3 Infantry's old AO (see figure 3).

(k) The ARVN Airborne Division Headquarters and the 3d Airborne Brigade, with organic artillery elements, closed into assembly areas to the south of Khe Sanh on 4 February.

(l) At 1700 hours on 4 February, initial work was completed on the assault strip and a test landing by a C130 aircraft was conducted. Deformations caused by the landing aircraft indicated a lack of soil strength and compacting was required.

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(m) On 5 February, TF 1-1 Cavalry secured the area along the intersection of QL 9 and the Laotian border, and TF 3-5 Cavalry reached XD920490 along the newly constructed pioneer road along Axis Brown.

(n) The 37th Ranger Battalion and the 64th Field Artillery Battalion advanced west from XD7144 to XD6845.

(o) Due to the delay in the completion of the airfield at Khe Sanh, the lack of sufficient 1200 gallon tankers became the single most critical resupply problem, since they represented the most efficient way to double the storage levels on ground delivery of POL.

(p) Weather prevented the planned combat assaults of TF 4-3 into LZs in the vicinity of the Rockpile during 4-5 February. The unit assaulted into three LZs (XD764528, XD751504 and XD782499) on 6 February. The weather also precluded the engineers from compacting the assault strip; therefore, during the bad weather the engineer priority was diverted to constructing helicopter refuel and rearm areas, fuel storage areas, and improving Forward Support Area (FSA) 2 facilities at Khe Sanh. The diversion was based on the projected heavy utilization of Khe Sanh during the initial phases of Operation LAMSON 719, and because of the inability to complete the assault strip prior to the initiation of the ARVN attack into Laos.

(q) RVNAF units continued moving into forward assembly areas in preparation for D-Day, LAMSON 719. The 2d Airborne Brigade closed into Dong Ha and Quang Tri airfields at 1720 hours 6 February. The 1st Armored Brigade; 1st Airborne Brigade with supporting artillery; 3d Regiment, 1st Division; and the Command Post of the 1st Regiment, 1st Division moved by road and air to the vicinity of Khe Sanh, closing on 6 February.

(r) On 7 February, TF 1-1 Cavalry continuing its screening mission, secured QL 9 in the vicinity of the Laotian border and assisted ARVN units moving into assembly areas. The 1st Armored TF consisting of the 1st Armored Brigade and 1st Airborne Brigade, moved into forward assembly areas in preparation for a ground attack across the Laotian border. The lead elements (one engineer platoon) crossed the border at 0712 hours 8 February without contact. The Airborne Division and the 1st Infantry Division (-) continued to assemble in Khe Sanh in preparation for assaults across the border.

(s) The critical fuel problem was further complicated by the loss of six 5,000 gallon tankers during an attack on a United States convoy along QL 9 at 0200 hours 8 February. In preparation for H-Hour helicopters began picking up critical JP4 fuel in blivets at FSA 1 (Vandegrift) and transporting them to FSA 2 (Khe Sanh). Plans were made to bring additional tankers forward from rear areas to meet the fuel requirements.

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(t) Artillery fires into Laos in support of Operation LAMSON 719 were initiated at 0800 hours 8 February. A total of 11 Arc Light strikes were flown during the early hours of 8 February in support of the operation.

(2) Significant Contacts, Phase I:

(a) On 30 January there were two B52 strikes totaling 130 tons of ordnance. There were 374 helicopter gunship sorties. There were 35 Tac Air sorties resulting in two bunkers destroyed and one secondary fire. There was one commando vault dropped constructing one two to three ship LZ.

(b) On 31 January there were two B52 strikes totaling 130 tons of ordnance. There were 160 helicopter gunship sorties. There were 20 Tac Air sorties resulting in 113 bunkers destroyed and two structures destroyed.

(c) On 1 February there were 176 helicopter gunship sorties, 10 Tac Air sorties resulting in 18 bunkers and six cache sites destroyed and two secondary fires. There were two commando vault missions to construct an eight ship and a two ship LZ.

(d) A raid by D/2-17 Cavalry on a suspected enemy installation at XD854238 was conducted at 021500H with no resistance. The unit discovered 40-50 bunkers (8X10) with indications that they had been evacuated 12-24 hours earlier.

(e) At 021600H vicinity XD828238 an element of 2-17 Cavalry observed and destroyed one truck.

(f) On 2 February there were 116 helicopter gunship sorties and 16 Tac Air sorties resulting in 22 bunkers, five structures, two foxholes and one cache site destroyed. There were two commando vaults used to construct two ship LZs.

(g) There were three attacks by fire in north central Quang Tri. At 031715H FSB Fuller (YD0159) received three 122mm rockets, and at the same time, Camp Carroll (YD0645) received 20X122mm rockets. There were no casualties reported. At 032355H, the 229th Regional Force Company, in a night defensive position vicinity Mai Loc (YD0952), received an unknown number of B40 rockets resulting in two WIA.

(h) On 3 February there were 127 helicopter gunship sorties, 16 Tac Air sorties and two B52 strikes totaling 130 tons and resulting in one secondary explosion of a magnitude of two to three.

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(i) Gunships of 2-17 Cavalry engaged the enemy at two locations. At 041200H vicinity XD6753 and XD5753 they engaged 10-15 enemy, killing six.

(j) On 4 February there were 659 helicopter gunship sorties and eight Tac Air sorties.

(k) On 5 February there were 192 helicopter gunship sorties, one B52 strike of 65 tons, two commando vaults dropped on truck parks and storage areas resulting in the construction of three and four ship LZs and 14 Tac Air sorties.

(l) Elements of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery at XD9854 received 22X122mm rockets at 061500H resulting in one US KIA and four US WIA.

(m) At approximately 061920H vicinity XD740365 elements of the 1st Airborne Division and 1st Armored Brigade received three bombs containing cluster bomb units from an unknown type aircraft. Six ARVN soldiers were killed, 51 wounded (50 percent reported as serious) and one armored personnel carrier destroyed. The aircraft was later identified as being from the USS Ranger.

(n) On 6 February there were 334 helicopter gunship sorties, six Tac Air sorties and two commando vaults dropped to construct three ship LZs.

(o) On 7 February there were 128 helicopter gunship sorties, 30 Tac Air sorties and two commando vaults dropped constructing two three ship LZs.

(p) At approximately 080200H a United States resupply convoy was attacked twice while moving west on QL 9 vicinity XD9853 and YD0256. The enemy used rocket propelled grenades, small arms and automatic weapons fire and the attack resulted in one US WIA, one 5,000 gallon tank truck destroyed and five 5,000 gallon tankers damaged.

(3) Cumulative Results.

(a) Casualties:

1 Friendly: 1
2 Enemy:
a KIA: 14

b. Weapons:

8

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(1) Individual Weapons Captured: 5

(2) Crew Served Weapons Captured: 0

c Material:

(1) Rice: 1 ton

(2) Ammunition: .65 tons

b. Phase III

(1) Period 1 (8 Feb - 23 Feb 71)

(a) Operations Narrative

(1) On the 8th of February, six ARVN combat battalions were successfully inserted by helicopter into objective areas in Laos (see figure 4). The headquarters, 3d Infantry Regiment with the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment closed at LZ Hotel (vicinity XD7530) at 1100 hours without contact. The 2d Airborne Battalion closed Objective 30 (XD5846) at 1125 hours without contact. The 21st Ranger Battalion completed a lift into an LZ vicinity XD5549 at 1300 hours. At 1620 hours both the 1st and 2d Battalions, 3d Infantry Regiment closed vicinity LZ Blue. The 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment established contact on the LZ in the vicinity of XD7227; however, the 1st Battalion, 3d Regiment diverted from LZ Yellow, closed in the vicinity of XD7028 without contact. The 3d Airborne Brigade Headquarters and the 3d Airborne Battalion closed onto Objective 31 (XD5047) at 1700 hours without contact.

(2) The 1st Armored Task Force, with two cavalry squadrons and two airborne battalions, thrust seven kilometers into Laos in the face of light enemy resistance.

(3) Elements of the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) continued operations west of the YD02 Northing Line with increased contact. TF 1-1 Cavalry continued screening missions and security of QL 9 in zone with only one significant contact at 1145 hours. TF 3-5 Cavalry opened the pioneer road to track vehicles from the Rockpile to Khe Sanh at 1635 hours.

(4) On 9 February all activities were hampered by adverse weather in the operational area. Planned combat assaults were delayed 24 hours, and the logistics build-up at Khe Sanh was slowed. In Laos, elements of the 1st Infantry Division, the Airborne Division, the 1st Ranger Group and the Armored TF conducted operations in the vicinity of the initial LZs and the axis of advance. Significant contacts involved elements of the 21st Rangers four kilometers north of FSB 31 and the

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8th Airborne Battalion in the vicinity of FSB Alpha (XD595375) at 1715 hours.

(5) On the 10th of February weather conditions improved and the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment completed an assault into LZ Delta (XD647302) at 1630 hours. The 9th Airborne Battalion completed an assault into Objective Aloui (XD488408) at 1720 hours, despite heavy antiaircraft fire. Two hours after the lead elements of the 9th Airborne Battalion were inserted into Objective Aloui, the Armored TF attacked west along QL 9, and effected a link up with the 9th Airborne. All ARVN positions in Laos were consolidated during the remainder of the 10th. Also under improved weather conditions, supply stockage levels at Khe Sanh increased.

(6) On the 11th of February, I Corps continued to build up forces in eastern Laos in preparation for a westward armored thrust along QL 9 toward Objective 11 and an airmobile attack on Objective 32. The 3d Battalion, 1st Regiment was lifted into LZ Don (XD621273) at 1430 hours. Based on intelligence of a large enemy build up approximately six kilometers south of LZ Yellow, the scheduled lift of the 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment into LZ Yellow was diverted into LZ Don, its lift being completed at 1730 hours. Contact increased as a large number of enemy forces in small groups moved throughout the AOs in Laos.

(7) Friendly operations on the 12th of February were characterized by an increase in enemy resistance west of Objective Aloui and sharp contacts in western Quang Tri Province and eastern Laos. The conduct of preplanned saturation, search and patrol operations in the 1st Division and 1st Airborne Division AOs began producing significant quantities of captured materiel.

(8) The 1st Division pushed further west with the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment landing at LZ Delta 1 (XD552342) at 121205H.

(9) Activity increased in the area of the 37th Ranger Battalion (XD670477), as unknown size NVA forces began attacks by fire and numerous ground probes on the ranger position.

(10) US operations in western Quang Tri continued to be oriented north and west of the Rockpile to curtail enemy harassment and attempts to interdict Route 9.

(11) Operations in Laos during the period 13-16 February were directed toward systematic search operations by the airborne units north of the Xe Pon River, while the 1st Armored TF continued steady pressure to the west along QL 9. To the south of the river the 1st Infantry Division began attacks into the western end of Base Area 611 with the successful assault into LZ Grass (XD691172) by the 2d

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Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment on the 16th. The most significant effect of these operations was the capture of large storage depots and supplies, and the denial of their contents to the enemy. US operations in western Quang Tri were oriented to the north and west of the Rockpile in an effort to curtail enemy harassment of Route 9. The engineer units continued improving all lines of communication and storage areas; and the airfield at Khe Sanh was completed.

(12) Weather prohibited scheduled combat assaults on the 17th and combat operations were characterized by continued search operations near unit positions. When the weather cleared on the 18th there was a significant increase in activity. Elements of the Airborne Division reported two contacts during which the forward command post of the 308th NVA Division was overrun. Elements of the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry cut two six to eight inch pipelines at XD465425 and XD471415, sending flames 30 feet into the air. Elements of the 1st and 3d Regiments continued searching southwest toward Route 92 and Route 914. The airborne elements proceeded with multiple company size sweeps north and south of QL 9. Elements of the 2-17 Cavalry began reporting heavy concentrations of enemy forces in the vicinity of the 21st and 39th Ranger AOs. During the evening of 18 February, in the vicinity of XD602512, the 39th Ranger Battalion began receiving heavy attacks by fire and ground attacks from an unknown size enemy force. Contact continued throughout the 19th. Elements of the Airborne Division reported heavy contact with the enemy northeast of Aloui. Tac Air, artillery and gunships were employed extensively throughout the AO. Contact involving the 21st and 39th Ranger Battalions remained heavy throughout the night of 19-20 February. Seven fixed wing gunships and six flareships were employed in support of the 39th Ranger Battalion. Between 0730 and 1430 hours on the 20th, 32 fixed wing sorties were flown in support of the Rangers. Resupply and MEDEVAC were attempted under heavy Tac Air, gunship, and artillery cover. Some MED-EVAC ships did succeed in landing on the 39th Ranger position and were able to deliver supplies and evacuate some wounded. Two aircraft were shot down upon lift-off from the Ranger position and one landed in the vicinity of the 21st Ranger position; the other landed near Objective 30. At 1710 hours on the 20th, communications with the 39th Rangers was lost and at 1803 hours all effective resistance had ceased. I Corps reported at 1856 hours that the 39th Ranger Battalion was abandoning its position and moving to link up with the 21st Rangers. Later, 200 members, including 50 wounded of the 39th Rangers, reached the 21st Ranger position.

(13) The 1st Infantry Regiment continued to search in the vicinity of Route 92 while the 3d Regiment conducted detailed search operations in their AO. Contact with small groups of enemy, attacks by fire, the

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conducting of bomb damage assessments of air strikes, and the uncovering of depot/cache sites summarized the activity. The Armored TF continued operations along Route 9 west from Aloui and north on Route 92.

(14) On the night of 21 and 22 February, the 21st Rangers began receiving mortar, rocket and 130mm artillery fire. Plans were made to evacuate the dead and wounded from the Ranger LZ on the 22d. After extensive preparation of the LZ area, the extraction of approximately 122 Rangers was completed prior to last light on the 22d.

(15) On 23 February, the 1st Infantry Division effected a boundary change for the 1st and 3d Infantry Regiments (see figure 5). The east boundary of the 1st Regiment was the RVN/Laos border; the west boundary of the 3d Infantry Regiment was the Xe Bang Hiang River; the north boundary of the 1st Infantry Division continued to be the Xe Pon River; and the south boundary was the XD20 Northing Line. The boundary between the 1st and 3d Infantry Regiments extended from XD613330, southwest along the creek to XD612314, southwest to XD590307, southwest to XD574295, southwest to XD570270 and southwest to XD500200. The effect of repositioning of the 1st Division forces then in progress was to make the 1st Infantry Regiment responsible for the AO in the eastern portion of the 1st Infantry Division area and the 3d Infantry Regiment responsible for the western portion.

b. Significant Contacts:

8 FEBRUARY

(1) At 080820H vicinity XD5950, gunships engaged four track vehicles, one with a mounted 37mm gun. The vehicle with the 37mm gun was destroyed.

(2) At 080955H, an armored personnel carrier of TF 1-77 Armor detonated a mine vicinity XD955551 resulting in one US KIA and six WIA.

(3) US Air Cavalry elements observed two unidentified enemy tanks vicinity XD482484 at 081100H.

(4) At 081145H, C/1-11 Infantry made contact with an estimated squad vicinity XD697395. Gunships came on station and placed fire on the enemy. One helicopter was hit by ground fire. Results were two KIA and three WIA.

(5) At 081145H vicinity XD5830, a UH-1H received 12.7mm fire, caught fire and crashed resulting in two US KIA and two MIA.

(6) The 21st Ranger Battalion closed on an LZ vicinity XD5549 at 081300H. Upon landing at the LZ elements received an unknown amount 12.7mm fire resulting in 11 WIA. ¹² US Air Cavalry units in the area

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killed one NVA vicinity XD492500, destroyed one 2½ ton truck vicinity XD555502, destroyed another 2½ ton truck at XD525330 and engaged a bunker complex vicinity XD559510 which resulted in numerous secondary explosions lasting one half hour.

(7) At 081315H vicinity XB959537, an M113 from C/3-5 Cavalry detonated an unknown type mine resulting in five US WIA and major damage to the vehicle. The unit was then engaged with small arms fire resulting in one additional WIA.

(g) At 081500H vicinity XD590368, a UH1H received an unknown number of hits and crashed resulting in four US KIA and seven ARVN KIA.

(9) During the period 081605-1650H vicinity XD728275, elements of the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry observed and engaged six NVA resulting in six enemy KBA.

(10). The 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment closed on LZ Blue (XD7227) at 081620H. Contact was established in the LZ area on landing at 081345H resulting in five ARVN WIA, nine NVA KIA, one 12.7mm machine gun, one AK47 rifle and one Chicom radio captured.

(11) At 081655H, US Air Cavalry elements conducting a rocket run, observed a number of large secondary explosions with fireballs and flames up to 1,500 feet, vicinity XD528470. At 090330H forward air controllers reported that the fires were still burning.

(12) At 081650H, gunships engaged five NVA in bunkers vicinity XD723276, killing all five.

(13) At 081930H, the 1st Ranger Group headquarters and the 37th Ranger Battalion vicinity XD632370 received 50 rounds mixed 82mm mortar and 105mm fire resulting in three ARVN KIA and 15 WIA.

(4) Other air operations during the night resulted in a C130 aircraft destroying six trucks and damaging one at XD395423, and destroying four trucks and damaging two others at XD391429.

(15) On 8 February there were 468 helicopter gunship sorties and 11 B52 strikes of 717 tons of ordnance resulting in 40 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to six. There were 52 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 11 bunkers destroyed, 40 vehicles destroyed and 18 damaged, one gunsight destroyed, 13 secondary explosions and 23 secondary fires. There were four commando vaults dropped constructing three LZs and uncovering 30 fighting positions.

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9 FEBRUARY

(1) A/2-94 Artillery and C/8-4 Artillery elements vicinity XD715375, received 20-25 unknown type rounds at 091335H resulting in two US KIA, one ARVN KIA and five US WIA.

(2) At 091545H, elements of the 21st Ranger Battalion made contact with an estimated reinforced enemy company vicinity XD585502. Gunships and Tac Air were employed and contact was broken before dark. Results were one ARVN KIA, one WIA, eight enemy KIA, and one AK47 captured.

(3) On 9 February there were 173 helicopter gunship sorties and nine Arc Light strikes of 587 tons of ordnance resulting in 31 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 63 Tac Air sorties resulting in 17 vehicles destroyed and nine damaged, one cache, one gun position and one tank destroyed, six secondary explosions and 17 secondary fires. There were three commando vaults dropped with results unknown due to weather.

10 FEBRUARY

- (1) At 100145H, 1st Battalion, 3d Regiment elements mechanically ambushed an unknown size enemy force vicinity XD703261 resulting in 11 enemy KIA, one rocket propelled grenade launcher, one 75mm recoilless rifle, two AK47s, and a small quantity of ammunition captured.
- (2) At 101230H, the 3d Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force vicinity XD517473 resulting in one ARVN KIA, seven WIA and six Molotova trucks captured (one loaded with 120mm ammunition). At XD520472, elements found a cache containing 14X82mm mortars, four 122mm rocket launchers and nine AK47 rifles.
- (3) At approximately 101300H, a flight of four VNAF UH1 aircraft were engaged by 37mm antiaircraft guns vicinity XD5653. Two of the aircraft were downed resulting in five KIA, including the I Corps G3 and G4. One aircraft included the crew and an unknown number of passengers, reportedly including four US reporters.
- (4) At 101515H vicinity XD948526, TF 3-5 Cavalry was engaged by an unknown size enemy force resulting in seven US WIA and one M113 damaged. Artillery, gunships and Tac Air were employed resulting in one secondary explosion. At 1850H the unit observed an airstrike and swept the strike area finding five NVA killed by air.
- (5) At 101515H, TF 1-77 Armor received an attack by fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in seven US WIA, one armored personnel carrier damaged and three NVA KIA.

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(6) On 10 February there were 466 helicopter gunship sorties and seven B52 strikes of 456 tons resulting in 43 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 109 Tac Air sorties resulting in two bunkers, eight structures, two foxholes, 16 vehicles and six gun positions destroyed. There were 13 vehicles damaged, six enemy KBA, eight secondary explosions and 12 secondary fires. There were four commando vaults dropped targeted against enemy base camps and storage areas resulting in four three to four ship LZs being constructed.

11 FEBRUARY

(1) At 110855H, TF 4-3 Infantry conducted a one company combat assault into an LZ vicinity XD911564 without opposition. At 110950H, Air Cavalry units supporting TF 4-3 received heavy 12.7mm fire vicinity XD930530. Tac Air and artillery were employed with unknown results. At 1130H an Air Cavalry OH58A, leading an assault, received 12.7mm machine gun fire and crashed. A UH1H attempting to extract the downed crew was hit and subsequently crashed. Two US were killed and five were wounded during a contact in the vicinity of the downed aircraft. One NVA was killed and one AK47 captured. Both the OH58 and the UH1H were destroyed. The helicopter crewmen were extracted.

(2) On the 11th, the Armored TF established motorized patrols and maintained road blocks three kilometers north and south of Objective Aloui. At 111245H, elements of the TF contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, one WIA and two armored personnel carriers destroyed. At 111205H, an armored personnel carrier detonated an unknown size mine resulting in nine ARVN WIA. Enemy casualties were 27 KIA, five AK47 rifles and 50 rounds 82mm mortar ammunition captured.

(3) At 110915H vicinity XD643434, the 2d Airborne Battalion on a search operation contacted an unknown size enemy force, resulting in one ARVN KIA, one WIA, five enemy KIA, two AK47 rifles and one B40 rocket launcher captured.

(4) At 111200H vicinity XD605329, the 1st Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in seven enemy KIA and two AK47 rifles captured.

(5) At 111400H vicinity XD674302, the 4th Battalion, 1st Regiment contacted an enemy force resulting in four ARVN KIA, 12 WIA, and eight enemy KIA. Two AK47 rifles, 5,000 rounds 7.62mm, 50XB40 rounds, five claymore mines, 38 huts and two stone houses were destroyed.

(6) At 111550H vicinity XD727240, the 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, six ARVN WIA, 14 NVA KIA, four AK47 rifles, 100 kilograms rice, 80 tires,

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25XB41 rounds, 14 grenades and 1,000 meters of telephone wire destroyed.

(7) At 111615H vicinity XD622277, the 3d Battalion, 1st Regiment found 23 NVA bodies killed by air, two 12.7mm machine guns, four AK47 rifles and one Chicom radio.

(8) At 111825H vicinity XD585520, the 21st Ranger Battalion contacted an estimated enemy platoon resulting in 11 NVA KIA.

(9) At 111900H, FSA 1 at Vandegrift received six 122mm rockets, resulting in four US KIA and two US WIA.

(10) At 111930H vicinity XD595378, elements of the 1st Airborne Battalion made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in 19 enemy killed and two AK47 rifles captured.

(11) At 112200H vicinity XD582503, the 21st Ranger Battalion received an attack by fire of 40X82mm mortar rounds resulting in six ARVN WIA.

(12) On 11 February there were 380 helicopter gunship sorties and six B52 strikes of 391 tons resulting in 27 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 99 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 26 vehicles and 13 gun positions destroyed, 11 vehicles damaged, 43 enemy KIA, 122 secondary explosions and 14 secondary fires. There were two commando vaults dropped against enemy base camps and storage areas resulting in one four to five ship LZ being constructed. Weather precluded further BDA.

12 FEBRUARY

(1) TF 4-3 elements triggered a mechanical ambush at 120830H vicinity XD922553. Another element moving to assist TF 4-3 received small arms fire. The enemy, in well dug-in positions were engaged with small arms, artillery, and Tac Air. Contact was broken and the unit continued to search the area. Results were two US KIA and eight WIA. Enemy losses were unknown.

(2) At 120945H vicinity XD613427, the 2d Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in three ARVN KIA, 32 enemy KIA, 20 individual weapons and three crew served weapons destroyed.

(3) At 121100H vicinity XD670466, elements of the 37th Ranger Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force. Gunships were called in and at 121120H vicinity XD673482, one AH1G was downed by 12.7mm

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fire resulting in two crewmembers KIA. At 121305H vicinity XD653349, another AH1G was downed resulting in two crew members WIA. The results of the Ranger contact were four ARVN KIA, six WIA, 13 enemy KIA, one prisoner, and ten AK47 rifles captured.

(4) At 121234H vicinity XD608252, the 3d Battalion, 1st Regiment discovered a cache containing 600 individual weapons, 400 82MM mortar rounds, an unknown amount of 12.7mm and 122mm rocket ammunition and 50 enemy killed by air.

(5) At 121700H vicinity XD622253, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found 80 houses containing 4,180 pounds of rice, 500 pounds of salt, 400 pounds of sugar, three cans of pork, 20 pigs, 17 cases of 12.7mm ammunition, 30 shovels, two cases of dynamite, 70 uniforms and 100 jackets.

(6) Air Cavalry elements of 3-5 Cavalry observed bunkers vicinity XD8758. The area was engaged with air and artillery resulting in two enemy killed by air and four killed by artillery.

(7) On 12 February there were 866 helicopter gunship sorties flown. Five B52 strikes were flown with 326 tons of ordnance dropped resulting in 21 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 133 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in one bunker, four vehicles, one cache site and nine gun positions destroyed. There was one vehicle damaged, 11 secondary explosions and four secondary fires. There was one commando vault dropped against an enemy base camp and storage area constructing one two to three ship LZ.

13 FEBRUARY

(1) At 130150H vicinity XD575503, elements of the 39th Ranger Battalion contacted an enemy force killing 43 enemy. Friendly losses were one KIA and ten WIA. Two 37mm antiaircraft guns, two 12.7mm machine guns, 3,000 rounds 12.7mm ammunition, 2,000 rounds AK47 ammunition, ten rounds B40 and B41 ammunition and miscellaneous equipment were captured.

(2) Between 130300H and 130500H, the 21st Ranger Battalion was in contact with an estimated enemy company. A C130 aircraft supported the Ranger contact and was credited with killing 15 of the enemy.

(3) Between 130700-1000H vicinity XD588505 elements of the 21st Ranger Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, seven WIA, four enemy KIA and 300 cases of antitank ammunition captured.

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Please note the references to D Troop 3/5 Cav. In June of 70 D Troop 3/5 Cav (Light Horse) and C 3/17 Cav (Charlie Horse) switched ^{unit} designations. That means that the references here to D Troop 3/5 Cav is the call sign Charlie Horse, version of D Troop. The rest of the 3/5 Cav had moved from Lower III corp and upper I Corp in June of 68 to the DMZ where they closed out their tour.

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(4) At 131130H vicinity XD615427, the 2d Airborne Battalion while searching, contacted an unknown size enemy force killing six and capturing one. One B40 and one AK47 rifle were also captured.

(5) The 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment continued searching the area of XD6025 and found two K50 small machine guns, 30X75mm recoilless rifles, 53 bags of salt (13,000 pounds), 500 boxes of blankets, hammocks and mosquito nets, 1,000 picks and shovels, and 82X55 gallon drums of POL.

(6) At 131030H vicinity XD721228, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment captured three new Russian trucks.

(7) At 131430H vicinity XD642428, elements of the 2d Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force killing 19 and capturing five AK47 rifles and one B40 launcher. Friendly casualties were three ARVN KIA and two WIA.

(8) At 131500H vicinity XD628286, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found and destroyed two tons of unpolished rice.

(9) At 131645H vicinity XD697224, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found six enemy killed by air and artillery, six cases of 12.7mm ammunition, three cases of AK47 ammunition, and one AK47 rifle destroyed.

(10) At 131715H vicinity XD697216, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in two ARVN WIA, eight enemy KIA, one 60mm mortar, and one AK47 rifle captured.

(11) During the 13th of February, elements of the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment while searching in the vicinity of XD6025, found a large depot area and contacted an unknown size enemy force killing 28 enemy. The depot contained one German machine gun, seven RPDs, one B40, one B41, two SKS, one ton of boots and gloves, three tons of pork, 2,000 chickens and ducks, 70X55 gallon drums of POL, five generators, 2,000 cooking pans and two tons of paper.

(12) On 13 February there were 501 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were five B52 strikes of 304 tons of ordnance resulting in eight secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 120 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in two structures, 59 vehicles and four gun positions destroyed. There were 15 vehicles damaged, two roads struck, 30 secondary explosions and 125 secondary fires.

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in the same area. Sporadic contact continued with three US WIA and unknown enemy losses. Later, a patrol was contacted by an estimated enemy platoon employing a command detonated mine vicinity XD928547 at 151255H, resulting in three US killed and six wounded. Weather precluded use of aerial field artillery and gunships. At 150900H in the same vicinity, elements of the unit observed and engaged 24 enemy on a trail resulting in 15 enemy killed, four AK47 rifles and two radios captured. At 1700H, the unit received 15X82mm mortar rounds, however no casualties resulted.

(2) At 151110H vicinity XD502473, the 3d Airborne Battalion received an unknown number of 122mm rockets resulting in two ARVN KIA and four WIA.

(3) At 151200H vicinity XD540313, the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found eight tons of rice and 175XAK47 rifles. Five bodies and 28 fresh graves were also found.

(4) At 151215H vicinity XD574247, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment received 80X82mm mortar rounds followed by a ground attack by an unknown size enemy force, resulting in two ARVN KIA and eight WIA. There were also three enemy KIA and two AK47 rifles captured. At 151245H, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, while searching vicinity LZ Hotel 2 (XD588218), made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in six ARVN WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown. The 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, while searching vicinity XD540317 at 151445H found 45 bags of rice and 43 bodies apparently killed by air.

(5) At 151220H vicinity XD598460, the 2d Airborne Battalion, while searching, contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in two ARVN KIA, three ARVN WIA, five enemy KIA, five AK47 rifles and one B41 captured.

(6) The 39th Ranger Battalion reported receiving unknown type and amount of fire vicinity XD595515 at 151330H, resulting in five Rangers WIA. In a later contact at 152245H vicinity XD590514, the unit reported two ARVN WIA and five enemy KIA.

(7) At 151600H, B/2-94 Artillery, on request from an aerial observer, engaged the enemy in grid XD450407. One enemy truck was destroyed.

(8) At 151605H, the Hac Bao Company vicinity XD652377, reported finding one 37mm antiaircraft machine gun, one ton of AK ammunition, 27XAK47 rifles, two Russian trucks, and eight bunkers destroyed.

(9) At 151630H vicinity XD5828, the 4th Battalion, 1st Regiment found 20 houses, 100 blocks of dynamite and ten bags of rice.

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(10) At 151700H vicinity XD528421, the 8th Airborne Battalion, while searching, contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in 12 ARVN wounded. Enemy casualties were unknown.

(11) At 151750H vicinity XD613428, the 2d Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force killing five enemy and capturing two individual weapons and one crew served weapon.

(12) At 151830H vicinity XD525425, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron found two Russian trucks and destroyed six tons of rice.

(13) On 15 February there were 822 helicopter gunship sorties and three B52 strikes totaling 195 tons of ordnance resulting in four secondary explosions of a magnitude of three to six. There were 107 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 30 bunkers, 39 vehicles, two gun positions destroyed, one vehicle damaged, 13 secondary explosions and 11 secondary fires.

16 FEBRUARY

(1) At 160715H vicinity XD920528, elements of TF 4-3 were preparing to depart their night defensive positions when they received small arms fire from approximately 15 enemy. Fire was returned and mortars and artillery employed. The enemy broke contact under cover of mortar fire. The results were three US KIA, three WIA and three enemy KIA. Artillery fire in support of TF 4-3 operations vicinity XD919536 results in 46 enemy killed, one AK47 and three packs captured.

(2) At 161020H vicinity XD692162, the 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, five ARVN WIA, six enemy KIA, one B40 and one AK47 rifle captured.

(3) At 161110H vicinity XD692222, elements of the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment were engaged by an unknown size enemy force resulting in three ARVN WIA, six enemy KIA and one AK47 and B40 found.

(4) At 161410H vicinity XD522480, the 6th Airborne Battalion received an unknown number and type of mortar rounds resulting in two ARVN KIA and five WIA.

(5) At 161630H, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity XD563254. Gunships were employed resulting in seven enemy KIA and four AK47 rifles captured.

(6) At 161745H vicinity XD9254, elements of TF 4-3 engaged an estimated two company sized enemy force receiving heavy small arms and indirect fire. Artillery and TPQ radar directed air strikes prevented the enemy force from penetrating the friendly positions. The

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enemy broke contact at 162149H. Results were 11 US WIA and unknown enemy casualties.

(7) At 162200H vicinity XD583503, elements of the 21st Ranger Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in six NVA KIA, seven ARVN WIA, and 50 hand flares captured.

(8) On 16 February there were 524 helicopter gunship sorties flown and five B52 strikes totaling 13 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to six. There were 91 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 25 bunkers, 14 structures, 12 vehicles, four cache sites and six gun positions destroyed. There were six enemy KIA and six secondary explosions and ten secondary fires.

17 FEBRUARY

(1) At 170040H, TF 3-187 Infantry and attached cavalry elements received an attack by rocket propelled grenades vicinity XD9239, resulting in one vehicle destroyed and one receiving minor damage.

(2) At 170555H in the vicinity of XD502405, the 8th Airborne Battalion and the 11th Armored Cavalry Squadron contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in four ARVN WIA, 36 enemy KIA, one enemy captured, 16XAK47 rifles, one radio and 600 pounds of dynamite captured. The enemy was reported wearing uniforms of North Korean manufacture.

(3) Between 170600H and 0700H, the 3d Infantry Regiment Command Post vicinity XD696216, received 250 rounds of 82mm mortars followed by a ground attack resulting in six ARVN WIA, eight enemy KIA, one AK47 rifle and 35 blocks of dynamite captured.

(4) At 170635H vicinity XD565235, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in 15 enemy KIA, seven AK47 rifles, one 12.7mm machine gun tripod, one K50, 500 rounds of 12.7mm ammunition and 300 rounds of AK47 ammunition captured.

(5) At 170800H vicinity XD630270, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found a cache containing six Chicom radios, two AN/GRC-9 radios, 500 batteries, one radio test set and one ton of electronic parts. Sixty huts were also destroyed.

(6) At 170830H vicinity XD692214, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found six enemy bodies, one automatic rifle, 20 blocks of dynamite, 12 rounds of B41 ammunition and five grenades.

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(7) At 170830H vicinity XD632270, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an estimated enemy platoon moving toward FSB Delta. Contact lasted approximately one hour and resulted in one ARVN KIA, one WIA, eight enemy KIA and five individual weapons captured.

(8) At 171030H vicinity XD628427, the 8th Airborne Battalion and 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron found one PT76 amphibious tank, two Russian trucks, one 12.7mm machine gun, and two 7.62mm machine guns. At 171105H vicinity XD607393, the 1st Airborne Battalion (-) made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, two WIA, two enemy KIA and one AK47 rifle captured.

(9) At 171530H vicinity XD692163, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment received an unknown type and amount of indirect fire resulting in three ARVN KIA and eight WIA.

(10) On 17 February there were 115 helicopter gunship sorties and four B52 strikes totaling 239 tons of ordnance resulting in 26 secondary explosions of a magnitude of three to ten. There were 80 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in one bunker and 12 vehicles destroyed. There were five vehicles damaged, 16 secondary explosions and seven secondary fires.

18 FEBRUARY

(1) At 180745H vicinity XD646403, the 1st Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in eight enemy KIA, two AK47 rifles and one 110V generator captured. This was reported to have been the forward command post of the 308th NVA Division. Between 180910H and 1140H vicinity XD608374, the 1st Airborne Division contacted another enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, eight WIA, 38 enemy KIA, one captured, five AK47 rifles, two RPDs, 150 grenades, and 16 protective masks captured.

(2) At 180830H, the 1st Ranger Group Command Post vicinity XD677457, received eight 82mm mortar rounds resulting in two ARVN KIA and four WIA.

(3) At 180845H vicinity XD565254, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment received 80X82mm mortar rounds and a ground attack resulting in one ARVN KIA, four M16 rifles destroyed, seven enemy KIA and two AK47 rifles captured.

(4) The 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment, while searching vicinity XD695162, engaged an unknown size enemy force at 180850H, resulting in two ARVN WIA, five enemy KIA and two AK47 rifles captured.

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(5) At 181110H vicinity XD4442, Air Cavalry elements destroyed one truck and damaged one truck and one track vehicle. At 181120H vicinity XD465426 and XD466425, they observed three six to eight inch pipelines. Two lines were severed leaving one burning and the other with fuel draining on the ground. At 181230H vicinity XD461415, another pipeline was observed, severed and set afire. At approximately 181320H vicinity XD5025, Air Cavalry elements observed and engaged eight 2½ ton POL tankers. All eight were destroyed.

(6) At 181200H vicinity XD470348, an AH1G received ground fire, caught fire and crashed. Both crewmembers were WIA and extracted immediately.

(7) At 181600H vicinity YD3149, an OH6A received small arms fire from an estimated six to ten enemy. Gunships engaged the enemy and RF/PF forces moved into the area killing three enemy and capturing weapons. Supporting gunships killed nine enemy.

(8) At 181900H vicinity XD527412, the 9th Airborne Battalion received 21 rounds of 122mm rockets resulting in one ARVN KIA and eight WIA.

(9) At 181925H, the helicopter refuel and rearm point at Lang Vei received 15X82mm mortar rounds and small arms fire. Approximately 20,000 gallons of JP4 and one UH1H were destroyed. Another UH1H and OH6A were damaged.

(10) At 181230H vicinity XD595515, a UH1 was downed by ground fire. Four personnel were extracted and the crew chief remained on the ground with friendly forces.

(11) At 182000H, the 1st Infantry Division CP vicinity XD856378, received 21X82mm mortar rounds resulting in 11 ARVN WIA.

(12) On 18 February there were 644 helicopter gunship sorties and eight B52 strikes totaling 522 tons of ordnance resulting in 11 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 141 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in five bunkers, 34 vehicles and two gun positions destroyed. There were five vehicles damaged, one road attacked, 26 secondary explosions and 16 secondary fires.

19 FEBRUARY

(1) At 190820H vicinity XD530335, the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found and destroyed 35X55 gallon drums of gasoline and three Russian trucks.

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(2) At 191030H vicinity XD675130, the 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment found and destroyed 20 tons of rice and six hectares of potatoes.

(3) Air Cavalry elements observed and engaged a pipeline vicinity XD510360 at 191245H. The pipeline was cut and left burning. At 191315H vicinity XD521320, another pipeline was observed and engaged. It was cut and two sustained fires resulted in one enemy KBA. Between 191253H and 1325H at XD512306 and XD521343, two POL points were engaged by gunships and both were left burning.

(4) Between 191246H and 1301H vicinity XD668124, XD673567 and XD644405, Air Cavalry elements observed and engaged an enemy force in the open killing a total of 29.

(5) At 191250H vicinity XD497415, the 8th Airborne Battalion reported contact with an unknown size enemy force. A T34 tank, one generator, and one 23mm machine gun barrel were destroyed. No friendly casualties were reported.

(6) At 191320H vicinity XD565218, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force with no results. A search of the area revealed four tons of 82mm, B40 and 12.7mm ammunition. The 3d Battalion withdrew and Tac Air destroyed the cache.

(7) The 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, while moving to cut Route 914, was engaged by an unknown size enemy force at XD575215 at 191500H. The 2d and 4th Battalions, 3d Infantry Regiment continued attacking west to seize the road junction vicinity XD6315 and XD6313. During this attack the 4th Battalion found a "service station" complete with equipment vicinity XD660165. The "station" and its equipment were destroyed.

(8) At 191700H vicinity XD530472, the 3d Airborne Battalion found a cache containing one truck which had been destroyed by air, 5,000 gallons of oil, five tons of 82mm mortar and B40 ammunition, and 100 tons of rice. All but the rice was destroyed by the unit.

(9) At 191715H vicinity XD744493, a platoon size element from TF 3-5 Cavalry made contact with an unknown size enemy force. The contact continued until 192345H and resulted in five US KIA and seven WIA. At 191715H vicinity XD821454, a five ton wrecker detonated a mine resulting in two US WIA and major damage to the vehicle.

(10) At 191800H vicinity XD574251, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment came under heavy attack. Artillery and gunships were employed and the unit requested emergency resupply of ammunition and water. The first two resupply attempts were aborted due to hostile fire; however, resupply was completed on the third attempt. A US crew chief on one aircraft was KIA.

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(11) At 192200H vicinity YD023561, an ARVN convoy was ambushed by an unknown size enemy force employing claymore mines and grenades from the south side of QL 9. One ARVN was KIA, two WIA and five trucks damaged.

(12) On 19 February there were 602 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were eight B52 strikes of 500 tons of ordnance resulting in 20 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to ten. There were 133 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 37 vehicles, two cache sites and 13 gun sites destroyed, three bunkers, one structure and six vehicles damaged. There were two roads struck, six enemy KBA, 13 secondary explosions and eight secondary fires.

20 FEBRUARY

(1) At 200430H, a platoon of TF 3-5 Cavalry in its night defensive position vicinity XD897497, received intense small arms fire and rocket propelled grenades from the north and northeast. The enemy was observed in the perimeter wire and was engaged with organic weapons and artillery. Results were one US KIA, seven WIA, three vehicles damaged, one enemy KIA, one AK47 rifle captured and one B40 captured.

(2) At 200730H vicinity XD505408, elements of the 8th Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA and eight WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown.

(3) At 200850H vicinity XD506471 (FSB 31), the 3d Airborne Battalion received an unknown number and type rocket attack resulting in the destruction of 1,000 rounds of 105mm ammunition.

(4) At 200910H vicinity XD506471, the 3d Airborne Brigade CP received 30-50 rounds 130mm fire resulting in five ARVN KIA and two WIA.

(5) At 200930H vicinity XD569250, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment was engaged by an unknown size enemy force and received 250X82mm mortar rounds. Results were six ARVN KIA, 23 WIA, 15 enemy KIA, two AK47 rifles and one B40 captured.

(6) At 201030H vicinity XD662492, an OH58A observed a garden plot and the aircraft drew AK47 fire. Two AH1Gs were called in and engaged the area, drawing 51 caliber fire. One AH1G was hit and forced to land. The crew was extracted. The other AH1G supporting the extraction received ground fire, crashed and burned. The first AH1G was subsequently extracted.

(7) The enemy attempt to overrun the 39th Ranger Battalion position continued during the early hours of the 20th. Air observers reported 400-500 enemy troops around the fire base at 201150H. At

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201710H, communications with the 39th Battalion was lost, but at 1830H enemy mortar rounds were still impacting on the position. At 201830H the Ranger Group senior advisor reported that all effective resistance had ceased. I Corps reported that at 201856H, the 39th Battalion was abandoning the position and moving to the nearby position of the 21st Rangers. Results of the 39th Ranger Battalion contact were 178 ARVN killed or missing and 148 WIA (92 evacuated). There were 107 members of the 39th Ranger Battalion combat effective when they joined the 21st Ranger Battalion. Enemy casualties reported were 639 KIA, 423 AK47 rifles, 400 automatic rifles, 15XB40/41 and 25 unknown type machine guns destroyed.

(8) At 201215H vicinity XD530487, a gunship received heavy ground fire and observed 20 enemy in the open which were engaged, resulting in ten enemy killed by air.

(9) At 201215H vicinity XD515345, the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found and destroyed one damaged 3/4 ton truck and three tons of 40mm ammunition.

(10) TF 1-77 Armor continued operations in their assigned AO. At 202351H vicinity XD980517, a US convoy was ambushed by an enemy squad size force. Six vehicles were hit and received major damage. One US was KIA and two WIA. Elements swept the area and discovered two machine guns positions on the west side of the road. One enemy was KIA, one AK47 and one RPD were found.

(11) At 201225H vicinity XD5522, a UH1C received 23mm and 37mm fire and was downed. The Hac Bao Company attempted to secure the aircraft but were unable to do so due to hostile fire. The crew of the UH1C was carried as MIA.

(12) At 201630H vicinity XD578245, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in three ARVN WIA. Enemy losses were 20 KIA and seven AK47 rifles captured.

(13) At 201850H vicinity XD530430, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and the 8th Airborne Battalion received an attack by fire resulting in one ARVN KIA and four ARVN WIA.

(14) At 201900H vicinity XD506471, the 3d Airborne Battalion received 60 rounds of 82mm mortar, 130mm and RPG fire, resulting in one ARVN KIA and seven ARVN WIA.

(15) On 20 February there were 558 helicopter gunship sorties. There were nine B52 strikes totaling 565 tons of ordnance resulting in 16 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were

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113 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 12 bunkers, 44 vehicles, five gun positions and one cache site destroyed. There was one structure damaged, 11 vehicles damaged, 18 secondary explosions and 21 secondary fires.

21 FEBRUARY

(1) At 211030H vicinity XD506471, the 3d Airborne Battalion CP received an unknown number of mortar and rocket rounds, resulting in one 105mm howitzer 70 percent damaged and one 60 percent damaged.

(2) At 211200H vicinity XD643267, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in three ARVN WIA. There were 38 enemy KIA, three AK47 rifles, four SKSs, two M1 carbines, one K43 small machine gun and a quantity of medical supplies captured.

(3) At 211230H vicinity XD533476, the 3d Airborne Battalion found and destroyed 5,500 gallons of POL and 160 rounds of B41 ammunition.

(4) At 211230H vicinity XD496322, an unknown size enemy force detonated a 1st Regiment Reconnaissance Company's Mechanical Ambush, resulting in four enemy KIA, two AK47 rifles, one B40 and one M1 captured. While the unit continued to search vicinity XD600320, they found and destroyed 20 huts, 20 bunkers and 12 tons of rice.

(5) At 211250H vicinity XD496358, the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment engaged an unknown size enemy force with artillery and AFA support. There were 17 enemy KIA (11 by AFA), one 12.7mm machine gun, one AK47 rifle and one B40 captured. The unit found a training center in the contact area consisting of 50 huts with underground bunkers, two tons of rice and 500 cans of food rations.

(6) At 211345H vicinity XD502479, the 3d Airborne Battalion received an unknown number of 82mm and 130mm rounds, resulting in two ARVN KIA and four WIA. Two 105mm howitzers received 65 percent damage and one 1/4 ton truck was destroyed.

(7) At 211600H vicinity XD515349, the 2d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found and destroyed 300 meters of pipeline. At 211600H vicinity XD634156, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found and destroyed 30 light truck wheels, 200 pounds of dynamite, 200 delay fuses and 500 meters of telephone wire.

(8) At 211745H vicinity XD555429, the 9th Airborne Battalion received an unknown number and type of mortar rounds resulting in one ARVN KIA and four WIA.

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(9) At 211745H vicinity XD530440, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron found and destroyed four tons of 37mm ammunition.

(10) TF 3-187 Infantry CP vicinity XD927547, received 82mm mortar fire commencing at 211445H and continued sporadically until 211800H, resulting in 11 US WIA. At 211545H vicinity XD914552, a platoon size element engaged four to seven enemy in bunkers. Artillery and AFA were employed resulting in five enemy KIA.

(11) At 211930H vicinity XD580503, the 21st Ranger Battalion on FSB Ranger South received an unknown number and type of mortar rounds. One ARVN was KIA and nine WIA.

(12) At 212015H, the 2d and 4th Battalions of the 3d Infantry Regiment cut route 92 in the vicinity XD636147 and destroyed a bridge in the vicinity of XD533157.

(13) TF 3-5 continued operations in their assigned AO on 21 February. Extensive air and artillery were employed against enemy positions vicinity XD7449. The movement into the area disclosed a complex of 50-60 bunkers, 20 of which had been destroyed including two mess halls. Tac Air was targeted to destroy the remainder of the complex.

(14) On 21 February there were 687 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were nine B52 strikes totaling 565 tons of ordnance and resulting in 20 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 119 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 38 bunkers, one structure, 20 vehicles and three gun positions destroyed. There were eight vehicles and two cache sites damaged, one enemy KBA, 40 secondary explosions and 24 secondary fires.

22 FEBRUARY

(1) In TF 3-187 AO, at 220550H vicinity XD912564, reconnaissance elements initiated contact with an unknown size enemy force employing small arms fire and artillery. The enemy returned small arms fire and sporadic mortar fire (approximately 30X82mm). Results were three US WIA, enemy losses were six KIA, four AK47s, two medical kits and two diaries captured.

(2) At 221030H vicinity XD535441, the 8th Airborne Battalion found and destroyed 30X122mm rockets and 32X60mm mortar rounds.

(3) Between 221115H and 1215H, the area in the vicinity of the Ranger LZ was prepared with Tac Air, Air Cavalry, AFA and artillery for 45 minutes, while MEDEVAC helicopters orbited nearby. According

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to plan the MEDEVAC helicopters returned to the base after the preparation without landing. At 221400H another preparation of one hour duration was completed. At approximately 221450H the first of 13 MEDEVAC sorties landed in the Ranger LZ, one aircraft landing at a time. Helicopters evacuated a total of 122 Rangers and one US. MED-EVAC operations were unopposed until the final sortie was on short final. The Commanding Officer of the 21st Ranger Battalion notified the air commander that the zone was taking 12.7mm fire from a position 500 meters to the east. Gunships on station silenced the fire and the final sortie landed and evacuated the remaining wounded. None of the sorties received hits and the LZ was not shelled during the operation. The 1st Ranger CP Commander stated that all wounded had been evacuated and that approximately 400 Rangers remained in the 21st Ranger Battalion position, of which approximately 100 of them were members of the 39th Ranger Battalion.

(4) At 221345H vicinity XD572213, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment engaged an unknown size enemy force, resulting in one ARVN WIA and nine enemy KIA, one RPD, four AK47 rifles, and 7.5 tons of rice captured. The unit found 43 fresh graves in the contact area.

(5) At 221625H vicinity XD535436, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron was in contact with an unknown size enemy force. Results were six ARVN WIA and one armored personnel carrier destroyed.

(6) At 221625H vicinity XD644447, the 2d Airborne Battalion made contact with an unknown size enemy force. Small arms fire and mortars were employed. Results were two ARVN KIA and 18 WIA. Ten enemy were KIA, three Chicom machine guns and three automatic rifles captured.

(7) From 221630H to 1830H vicinity XD615396, the 1st Airborne Battalion engaged an unknown size enemy force with organic weapons and artillery. Results were two ARVN WIA and 20 enemy KIA. Two individual weapons, 40XB40/41 launchers, 12X82mm rounds, 215 grenades and assorted small arms and B40/41 ammunition were captured and extracted.

(8) From 221630H to 1800H vicinity XD640415, the 11th Airborne Battalion made contact with an enemy force. Results were one ARVN KIA and 14 WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown. The attack included approximately 50X82mm mortar rounds on friendly positions. The enemy broke contact at 1800H. Results were two ARVN KIA, 13 WIA and three armored personnel carriers destroyed.

(9) On 22 February there were 589 helicopter gunship sorties. There were ten B52 strikes totaling 630 tons of ordnance and resulting in 12 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five.

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There were 129 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 23 bunkers, one fox-hole, 25 vehicles and four gun positions destroyed. There were four vehicles and one gun position damaged. There were 11 secondary explosions and seven secondary fires.

23 FEBRUARY

(1) At 231100H vicinity XD490408, the 11th Armored Cavalry Squadron received five 82mm mortar rounds resulting in five ARVN WIA and one armored personnel carrier damaged.

(2) At 231140H vicinity XD581216, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA and 11 enemy KBA.

② Period 2 (2. Feb - 3. Mar)

(a) Operations Narrative.

(1) During the period the enemy continued concerted efforts to impede resupply and MEDEVAC of ARVN fire support bases in Laos by employing indirect fire on FSBs and directing intense antiaircraft fire against resupply and MEDEVAC aircraft. On 25 February the enemy conducted a coordinated tank/infantry attack against the 3d Airborne Battalion on FSB 31. Enemy forces succeeded in seizing FSB 31 but sustained heavy losses in the process. On 26 February armored and airborne elements to the south of the firebase linked up with remaining elements of the 3d Airborne Battalion east southeast of FSB 31. Tac Air and the defending forces destroyed 15 enemy tanks. The general area around FSB 31 was still under ARVN control on 3 March. Elements of the 2d Airborne Battalion located on FSB 30 continued to receive heavy indirect fire, tank and infantry attacks. MEDEVAC and resupply continued to be hazardous; however, essential lifts were completed. During the night 2-3 March the enemy continued heavy assaults against FSB 30. With support from C130 gunships and two Arc Light strikes, ARVN units continued to hold their positions. During the morning of 3 March a search around FSB 30 revealed 98 NVA KIA and 36 weapons captured. During the afternoon of 3 March the 2d Airborne Battalion withdrew to the vicinity of XD5845 to facilitate resupply and the extraction of wounded. In the south, the 3d Regiment was in daily contact while conducting company size search and clear operations. FSB Hotel 2 received periodic indirect fire and ground attacks during the entire period. The 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment sustained heavy casualties as a result of almost continuous contact with a reinforced enemy battalion southeast of FSB Hotel 2.

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(2) The 3d Battalion, 3d Regiment was inserted to reinforce the 2d Battalion. The two units effected link up and moved to secure the LZ for evacuation of wounded. On 28 February, FSB Hotel 2 was closed. On 1 March, the 1st, 2d and 3d Battalions, 3d Regiment were extracted from the Hotel 2 area to FSB Delta 1 and LZ Brown. The 1st Regiment was operating northwest of the 3d Regiment without significant results. Elements of the Armored Brigade and the 8th Airborne Battalion continued operations vicinity FSB Aloui, and successfully withstood several attacks by fire. Due to the increasing enemy armor threat, the 1st Tank Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron was moved to FSB Aloui. The 1st Division was directed to make the main attack to seize the final objectives at Tchepone instead of the 1st Airborne Division. The 1st Regiment began to move west on 3 March with a two battalion combat assault into LZ Lo Lo (XD4337). The 147th VNMC Brigade began lifting units into LZs to the south of FSB Delta in the former 1st Division AO.

(3) The 39th Ranger Battalion remained combat ineffective due to heavy casualties sustained in the mid-February action. The battalion was extracted from the AO and displaced to Da Nang for the purpose of refitting and receiving replacements.

(4) The 2d Battalion, 3d Regiment, 1st Division became combat ineffective due to the heavy casualties sustained in the Hotel 2 area. The battalion was moved out of the AO to Khe Sanh and was further extracted to Hue for refitting.

(5) The 3d Airborne Battalion also became ineffective due to its heavy casualties sustained in combat on FSB 31 and the battalion was moved to Lao Bao for refitting.

(6) The 2d Airborne Battalion remained in heavy contact vicinity FSB 30; however, its combat effectiveness was doubtful because of the weak leadership and poor unit discipline. All other units were considered combat effective.

(7) The most significant event initiated by the enemy during the last week in February was his use of tanks in support of attacks against FSB 30 and FSB 31. Allied forces reported destroying at least 52 enemy tanks. A prisoner stated that possibly a tank regiment had been committed against the LAMSON 719 forces. The enemy also introduced SA2 missiles into the Laotian battle area. Air Force Forward Air Controllers, Army pilots, aerial photographers and tactical air recce all reported missiles, transportation equipment and antenna vans and other surface-to-air associated equipment near the tri-border area. On the morning of 2 March, forward air controllers reported evading three surface-to-air missiles near the tri-border area.

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Elements of the 1st Armored Brigade and 3rd Airborne Battalion remained in control of key terrain in the vicinity of FSB 31. The Airborne Division was successful in securing the northern flank of the area. The Marine Division assumed responsibility of the former 1st Division AO to the south. One VNMC Battalion from the 147th VNMC Brigade was operating in the vicinity of FSB Delta, XD6430. Elements of the 258th VNMC Brigade were relocated into Khe Sanh staging area for deployment into the Marine Division AO. Elements of the 1st Armored Brigade were inserted into the southwest sector of the AO. The 1st and 3d Regiments of the division were operating vicinity XD6430 and XD5036. The 1st Regiment CP, with one infantry battalion, was operating out of FSB Lo Lo vicinity XD4327. The 1st Ranger CP with the 21st and 37th Ranger Battalions continued to hold FSB Phu Loc, vicinity XD6745.

(10) Tac Air was highly responsive to requirements and was considered a primary factor for successes against enemy armor and holding critical terrain around major FSBs. There were 77 Arc Light missions flown in support of ARVN forces. Bomb damage assessment was reported on 12 targets consisting of 33 secondary explosions with a magnitude of two to six, 208 NVA killed by air, numerous weapons and bunkers reported destroyed. There were 1,657 troop lift sorties, 900 resupply sorties, 1,084 air cavalry sorties and 2,180 gunship sorties flown in support of friendly forces. Fourteen helicopters were lost to enemy fire.

(11) Upgrading and maintenance of QL 9 west of Vandegrift and opening of the pioneer road from the Rockpile to Khe Sanh and west of Khe Sanh to the Laos border continued. The Khe Sanh airstrip and helicopter facilities continued to be improved.

(12) A total of 1,485 five ton vehicle sorties were delivered from FSA 1 to FSA 2 carrying all classes of supply. During the period 517 C130 sorties delivered 6,033 tons of cargo, and 542 helicopter sorties delivered 2,034 short tons to advance ARVN units.

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(b) Significant Contacts:

24 FEBRUARY

(1) At 240940H vicinity XD621266, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN WIA, eight enemy KIA and two AK47 rifles captured.

(2) At 240945H vicinity XD595244, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN WIA, ten enemy KIA and three AK47 rifles captured.

(3) The 21st Ranger Battalion lifted from XD5850 to FSB 30 closing at approximately 1225H. The movement of the battalion to FSB Phu Loc (XD6745) was interrupted by an attack by fire on FSB 30. Approximately 160 Ranger remained on FSB 30 overnight. The remainder of the 39th Ranger Battalion was withdrawn to FSB Phu Loc on returning supply helicopters on 24 February.

(4) At Khe Sanh, 21 C130 aircraft had landed as of 241700H. Approximately 164 trucks had moved from FSA 1 to FSA 2 as of 241600H. Of these, 13 were 1,200 gallon tankers.

(5) At 241900H vicinity XD502408, elements of the 11th Armored Cavalry Squadron received an attack by fire consisting of 26X82mm and ten 75mm rounds. There were two ARVN KIA and 12 WIA.

(6) On 24 February there were 448 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 11 B52 strikes totaling 652 tons of ordnance resulting in 14 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 120 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in four water craft, 26 bunkers, 32 vehicles and two gun positions destroyed. There were nine vehicles damaged, 13 secondary explosions and 43 secondary fires.

25 FEBRUARY

(1) Between 250730H and 1215H vicinity XD65505, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment contacted an enemy force resulting in nine ARVN KIA, 52 WIA, and four M16 rifles lost. Enemy casualties were unknowns.

(2) At 250815H vicinity XD515397, elements of the 1st Airborne Battalion received an attack by fire consisting of ten 75mm recoilless rifle rounds and 30X82mm mortar rounds resulting in two ARVN KIA and nine WIA.

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(3) Between 250900H and 1600H vicinity XD622276, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment received 200X82mm mortar rounds and a ground attack from an unknown size enemy force resulting in two ARVN KIA, four WIA, 11 enemy KIA, two AK47 rifles captured, one AK47 rifle and one B40 rocket launcher destroyed.

(4) At 250930H vicinity XD591223, elements of the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment made contact with an enemy force. Tac Air support was called in and a sweep of the area revealed 17 enemy killed by air, and three AK47 rifles destroyed. There were no friendly casualties.

(5) At 251100H vicinity XD587218, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, while searching the area of an Arc Light strike, found 92 enemy killed by air; 30 AK47 rifles destroyed; four B40, one B41, one 12.7mm machine gun, three 37mm antiaircraft guns, eight tons of ammunition (including two tons of 37mm), one half ton of rice and an unknown amount of documents captured.

(6) Between 251330H and 1430H vicinity XD568202, the 3d Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment found a tunnel containing an estimated 50 enemy bodies, one 10 kilowatt generator, two tons of 82mm and 12.7mm ammunition and one truck destroyed by Tac Air.

(7) At 251700H vicinity XD530450, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron contacted an unknown size enemy force, resulting in nine ARVN WIA, two M41 tanks, and one M113 APC destroyed. Enemy losses were unknown.

(8) At 251800H vicinity XD520398, the 8th Airborne Battalion received 100 rounds of 122mm rockets killing nine ARVN and wounding ten.

(9) On 25 February, the following related activity took place: The 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Abn), consisting of 1-501 Infantry and 2-5-2 Infantry moved into northeastern Quang Tri Province. The units occupied positions at A1, A2, B1, Mai Loc and Camp Carroll (see figure 5). At 251800H, the 3d Airborne Brigade assumed operational control of the 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry (Mech) and responsibility for the AO in northeastern Quang Tri east of YD08 Northing Line and north of the Trach Ham River.

(10) At 251900H vicinity XD696216, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry received 30X82mm mortar rounds and 75mm recoilless rifle fire, resulting in three ARVN KIA and three WIA.

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(1) On 25 February there were 496 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were ten B52 strikes totaling 630 tons of ordnance resulting in two secondary explosions of a magnitude of two. There were 128 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 74 bunkers, one vehicle and two gun positions destroyed. There were three vehicles, one bunker and one gun position damaged. There were 25 enemy KIA, six secondary explosions and 31 secondary fires.

26 FEBRUARY

(1) At 260315H vicinity XD696219, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment received an unknown type and number of mortar rounds, followed by a ground attack from an unknown size enemy force resulting in five ARVN WIA, 45 enemy KIA, eight AK47 rifles, three B40, three B41, one Chicom radio and four cans of dynamite captured.

(2) At 260725H vicinity XD655205, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment received an unknown number and type of incoming rounds, followed by a ground attack by an unknown size enemy force resulting in three ARVN KIA and ten WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown.

(3) At 261000H vicinity XD696216, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found five enemy KIA and 20 blocks of dynamite.

(4) At 261130H, TF 1-11 Infantry vicinity XD632490, engaged three to four enemy in foxholes. Artillery was employed resulting in five US WIA and two NVA KIA.

(5) Between 261410H and 1930H, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment received an unknown type and amount of mortar rounds, resulting in two ARVN KIA and nine WIA.

(6) On the night of 26-27 February the 11th Armored Cavalry Squadron received 200 rounds of mixed 82mm mortar and alleged 152mm artillery fire resulting in six ARVN KIA.

(7) On 26 February there were 12 B52 strikes totaling 761 tons of ordnance resulting in six secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to six. There were 140 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 14 bunkers, eight foxholes, four cache sites and five gun positions destroyed. There was one road struck, three bunkers, one foxhole, four vehicles and two gun positions destroyed. There were nine secondary explosions and four secondary fires. There were no helicopter gunship sorties flown due to adverse weather.

27 FEBRUARY

(1) At 270015H and 270310H vicinity XD754352, 8-4 Artillery received an unknown number and type of rounds resulting in one US KIA and seven US WIA.

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(2) At 270730H and 270755H vicinity XD6621, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment made contact with the enemy resulting in four ARVN KIA and 21 WIA. Enemy casualties were unknown.

(3) Between 270900H and 1200H, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment made contact with an estimated two enemy companies and received 60X82mm mortar rounds resulting in three ARVN WIA, 59 enemy KIA, eight B40 launchers and 18XAK47 rifles destroyed by Tac Air.

(4) At 271045H vicinity XD662206, the 3d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment made contact with the enemy resulting in one ARVN KIA and seven WIA.

(5) At 271130H vicinity XD698217, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found five enemy bodies, one AK47 rifle and 50 pounds of dynamite.

(6) At 271320H vicinity XD689216, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment searched an ammunition storage area destroyed by a C130 combat ship on 26-27 February and found eight enemy bodies, two AK47 rifles and a large quantity of destroyed ammunition, including 60 and 82mm mortar and B40/41 rounds.

(7) At 271335H vicinity XD605444, the 2d Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force killing ten, capturing one 12.7mm machine gun and one light machine gun.

(8) At 271450H vicinity XD6921, approximately 300 meters north of FSB Hotel II, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment discovered eight enemy bodies, four AK47 rifles, three huts/bunkers, and over 500 pounds of rice destroyed by airstrikes.

(9) At 271546H vicinity XD7019, elements of the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found 12 enemy bodies, four AK47 rifles, and two B40/41 rounds in an area of a previous Arc Light strike. Later in the same area, 12 additional enemy bodies, three AK47 rifles, one RPD MG, and 20 huts were found destroyed.

(10) At 271800H vicinity XD668379, elements of the 11th Airborne Battalion received an unknown type and number of artillery rounds resulting in two ARVN KIA and seven WIA.

(11) At 271905H vicinity XD658209, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found 51 enemy bodies, two heavy machine guns, five B40/41, 27XAK47 rifles and miscellaneous equipment which had been destroyed by Tac Air.

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(12) At 272000H vicinity XD659209, the 2d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found 157 enemy bodies, 15XAK47 rifles, five B40 launchers, and six cases of 7.62mm ammunition destroyed from Arc Light strikes.

(13) At 272115H vicinity XD696216, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment received a mortar supported ground attack resulting in five enemy killed, one AK47 rifle and one B40 launcher captured.

(14) In a series of contacts involving the 3d Airborne Battalion and the 3d Airborne Brigade in vicinity FSB 31 (XD505475), Headquarters, I Corps reported 250 enemy KIA/KBA, 12XPT76, three T54, and 12 trucks destroyed. ARVN casualties were 13 KIA, 39 WIA and three APCs damaged.

(15) On 27 February there were 756 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 12 B52 strikes totaling 761 tons of ordnance resulting in 17 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 160 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in 31 bunkers, 16 vehicles, ten gun positions and 13 tanks destroyed. There were 40 enemy KBA, three vehicles and four tanks damaged, 13 interdiction points struck, 60 secondary explosions and 32 secondary fires.

28 FEBRUARY

(1) At 280140H vicinity XD623265, the 1st Regiment Reconnaissance Company conducted a raid on an enemy force killing five. A search of the area revealed 30 additional enemy bodies, seven AK47 rifles, one B40 launcher and two RPD MGs destroyed. No friendly casualties were reported.

(2) At 280949H vicinity XD588463, elements of the 2d Airborne Battalion contacted an enemy force of 13 enemy. All 13 were killed and two AK47 rifles, one B40 launcher and two RPD MGs captured.

(3) At 281040H vicinity XD488438, the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found ten enemy bodies, three AK47 rifles and one M1 rifle.

(4) Between 281400H and 1800H vicinity XD613262, the 4th Battalion, 1st Regiment found 37 enemy bodies, one 12.7mm machine gun, one 82mm mortar, 17XAK47 rifles, three B40 launchers, 5,000 meters of telephone wire, and one ton of ammunition destroyed as a result of Arc Light strikes.

(5) At 281955H vicinity XD915418, a 52 vehicle US convoy moving west from Vandegrift to Khe Sanh received B40 and small arms fire from the west and northwest. Illumination, artillery and mortar fire were directed against suspected enemy locations, while infantry and cavalry elements cleared damaged vehicles from the road. Contact was broken at 282010H. A total of six trucks were damaged and two US WIA.

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(6) At 282328H vicinity XD885439, A/3-5 Cavalry contacted an unknown size enemy force. The unit received RPG fire and satchel charges, resulting in seven US WIA, one M551 and three M113 damaged, three NVA KIA, one K50, 12 satchel charges and 15 Chicom grenades captured.

(7) 1st Troop, 4th Armored Cavalry Squadron moved west from RVN/Laos border on the afternoon of 28 February with the mission of closing on FSB Alpha. After searching FSB Alpha, they were directed to proceed to FSB Aloui. At 282330H vicinity XD594373, the unit made contact with an unknown size enemy force and remained in that position overnight.

(8) On 28 February there were 668 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 12XB52 strikes totaling 771 tons of ordnance resulting in five secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to three. There were 160 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in seven bunkers, one structure, 40 vehicles, two gun positions and ten tanks destroyed. There were two enemy KBA, three vehicles and one tank damaged, 45 secondary explosions and 37 secondary fires.

1 MARCH

(1) At approximately 010100H vicinity XD4042, forward air controllers and a C130 combat ship observed and engaged approximately eight tanks moving southeast along the road. The C130 reported destroying an unknown number of tanks.

(2) In the early morning hours of 1 March, enemy sappers infiltrated the perimeter of FSA 1 and placed charges in breather tubes of blivets, destroying 45,000 gallons of JP4 and 10,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

(3) At 010115H vicinity XD535408, the 9th Airborne Battalion mechanically ambushed an enemy element resulting in six enemy killed, one captured and one individual weapon captured.

(4) At 010925H vicinity XD633261, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment discovered a base camp and a warehouse containing approximately ten tons of ammunition which had been destroyed by air.

(5) Tank Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron and one company of the 5th Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force vicinity XD561377 at 011000H resulting in 11 ARVN WIA and one tank damaged. Enemy losses were unknown.

(6) At 011015H vicinity Route QL 9 (XD545368), two enemy tanks (one T34 and one PT76) were engaged by Tac Air. Forward air controllers reported one tank destroyed.

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(7) At 011750H vicinity XD618267, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, while searching the area of an Arc Light strike discovered 45 enemy bodies, 12 AK47 rifles, three B40 launchers and one 12.7mm machine gun destroyed.

(8) Due to the enemy armor threat, particularly in the Airborne Division AO, I Corps requested and received 26X3.5 rocket launchers and ammunition.

(9) During the evening of 1 March and early morning hours of 2 March, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and two companies of the 8th Airborne Battalion made contact with a battalion size enemy force vicinity FSB 31 (XD5040), resulting in eight ARVN KIA, 50 WIA, six armored personnel carriers destroyed, 250 enemy KIA, 92 IWC, 45X12.7mm machine guns, eight B40, five B41 and 15 tanks destroyed.

(10) On 1 March there were 533 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 12 B52 strikes totaling 783 tons of ordnance and resulting in five secondary explosions of a magnitude of three. There were 179 Tac Air sorties resulting in six bunkers, 40 vehicles, ten gun positions and six tanks destroyed. There were two bunkers, 13 vehicles, one gun position and one tank damaged. There were three enemy KBA, 83 secondary explosions and 68 secondary fires.

2 MARCH

(1) At 020530H vicinity XD504360, the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment contacted an enemy element resulting in two ARVN KIA and six WIA. There were 25 enemy killed and 12 XAK47 rifles, two B41, one K44, and 21 blocks of dynamite captured.

(2) At 020530H vicinity XD503466, the 3d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment contacted the enemy killing 27, captured 12 AK47 rifles, one B40, 400 blocks of dynamite and 14 grenades.

(3) At 020642H, a missile of unknown type was fired at a Mohawk. The missile climbed to 10,000 feet, turned back toward the aircraft and exploded at 3,800 feet, 100 meters behind the aircraft. The aircraft was flying at 3,700 feet and was not damaged.

(4) At 020845H vicinity ID614265, the 1st Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment discovered 25 tons of unpolished rice.

(5) At 021010H vicinity XD621262, the 4th Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment contacted the enemy killing 16 and capturing four AK47 rifles. There were no friendly casualties.

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(6) Air Cavalry elements reported discovering a possible depot vicinity XD442289. Between 021143H and 1515H, Air Cavalry engaged and destroyed two 2½ and one 5 ton truck. Engagement of the 5 ton truck resulted in a large secondary explosion. Air Cavalry operations also resulted in four enemy KBA. Between 021300H and 1341H, the Air Cavalry elements observed one tank at XD623418 and an armored vehicle at XD602457. The targets were passed to forward air controllers with no reported results.

(7) The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry Regiment was extracted from FSB Delta and lifted to the Khe Sanh area, closing at 021220H. The 7th Battalion, 147th VNMC Brigade conducted combat assaults into two LZs; one north and one south of FSB Delta.

(8) At 021415H vicinity XD596379, the 1st Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron contacted an unknown size enemy force, resulting in two M41 tanks destroyed. Enemy losses were unknown.

(9) At 021600H, at FSB Aloui, a VNAF UH1C was destroyed by an incoming 122mm rocket.

(10) On 2 March there were 489 gunship sorties flown. There were eight B52 strikes totaling 543 tons of ordnance resulting in 15 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to three. There were 175 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in eight bunkers, 30 vehicles and six gun positions destroyed. There were 17 vehicles damaged, one interdiction point struck, eight enemy KBA, 33 secondary explosions and 11 secondary fires.

3 MARCH

(1) Between 030100H and 0900H, FSB 30 received an indirect fire and ground attack. At 031130H, the situation permitted a search of the area which revealed 98 enemy KIA, 26 XAK47 rifles, eight B40, and two light machine guns found around the perimeter. Friendly casualties reported were one ARVN KIA and four WIA. All the artillery pieces on FSB 30 were damaged by enemy indirect fire.

(2) At 031000H vicinity XD622258, the 7th Battalion made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in five Marines KIA, 15 WIA, and 50 enemy reported KIA.

(3) At 031020H vicinity XD541335, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment, while searching, found five enemy bodies and two AK47 rifles destroyed by air.

(4) The 2d Infantry Regiment CP and the 2d Battalion closed at Khe Sanh at 031030H. The 1st Battalion, 2d Infantry Regiment moved

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to Khe Sanh from Dong Ha. The 77th Ranger Border Defense Battalion closed at Khe Sanh at 021530H and assumed responsibility for security of the I Corps tactical CP.

(5) At 031150H vicinity XD570329, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment discovered an 82mm mortar position where three enemy were killed, one AK47 rifle captured, and three bunkers destroyed.

(6) At 031400H, the 7th Airborne Battalion commenced to move by truck from Khe Sanh to FSB Alpha (XD5937).

(7) At 031405H in the vicinity of YD160733, A Company, TF 1-61 received small arms and rocket propelled grenade fire from an estimated enemy squad, resulting in seven US WIA and one NVA KIA.

(8) An air cavalry visual reconnaissance team observed and engaged approximately eight enemy in the vicinity of XD750340. The team received small arms fire and sustained minor damage to one aircraft. Artillery was employed with unknown results. Air cavalry elements destroyed a POL truck and five 2½ ton trucks as well as killing six enemy on 3 March in the AO in Laos.

(9) During combat assaults on 3 March, seven aircraft were reported destroyed and 20 aircraft damaged. Two US crewmen were KIA, 16 WIA (all extracted), and four MIA.

(10) The 1st Battalion, 2d Regiment moved by vehicle from its AO in eastern Quang Tri to Khe Sanh closing at 032130H.

(11) At 032130H vicinity XD533432, the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and the 8th Airborne Battalion reported heavy contact with an unknown size enemy force. The unit reported 14 enemy tanks destroyed, over 200 enemy KIA, ten friendly armored vehicles immobilized and approximately 200 friendly casualties.

(12) On 3 March there were 787 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 11 B52 strikes totaling 739 tons of ordnance resulting in four secondary explosions of a magnitude of two. There were 159 Tac Air sorties resulting in eight bunkers, 22 vehicles, three gun positions and one tank destroyed. There were seven vehicles damaged, three interdiction points struck, 44 secondary explosions and 28 secondary fires.

(3) Period 3 (4 Mar - 6 Mar)

(a) Operations Narrative.

(1) The 101st Airborne Division continued to secure QL 9 to

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assist in passage of ARVN units and resupply convoys to Lao Bao and to conduct search and attack operations in assigned AOs to prevent enemy attacks from the northwest and south against Khe Sanh. The enemy had stepped up his attacks, especially in vicinity of the Rockpile, where eight attacks were directed against allied convoys, in attempts to interdict resupply of the Vandegrift and Khe Sanh Bases. Five additional Vietnamese Marine Battalions and two brigade headquarters were deployed into the former 1st Division AO in Laos. The 147th Marine Brigade CP, with the 7th Battalion, secured FSB Delta; the 2d and 4th Battalions conducted a two-pronged attack towards area Alpha vicinity XD6224. The 258th VNMC Brigade CP with the 8th Battalion secured LZ Hotel and conducted search operations in the Co Roc area. The 1st and 3d Battalions conducted a two-pronged attack towards area Bravo vicinity XD7225. Marine Corps units accounted for 361 enemy KIA, 51 individual weapons captured and confirmed an additional 153 enemy KBA. The 369th Marine Brigade with the 5th and 9th Battalions conducted search and clear operations south of Khe Sanh vicinity XD8334. The Airborne Division and the Armored Brigade continued to secure QL 9 to Aloui and screen to the northwest. On the night of 3-4 March the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and attached elements made contact with a battalion size enemy force and reported 383 enemy KIA and two enemy captured, 71 IWCs and 28 CSWs captured. On 4 March, two attempts to resupply the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron were aborted due to heavy ground fire. Following an Arc Light strike in the area, the third attempt to resupply and evacuate the wounded was successful.

(2) FSB Bravo vicinity XD649381, was established to provide additional security along QL 9. On 5 March two companies of the 9th Airborne Battalion and one armored personnel carrier troop moved north along Route 92 and effected a link up with the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron. The 2d Airborne Battalion continued moving southwest to vicinity XD5943 and was successfully resupplied and MEDEVAC of wounded was completed by 051320H. Throughout the remainder of the period the Airborne Division elements continued search and attack operations in their AOs. The 7th Airborne Battalion searched northward to Objective Bravo. The 5th, 6th and 11th Airborne Battalions searched north and south of QL 9 from FSB Aloui to FSB Bravo and Lao Bao. On 4 March the 2d Battalion, 1st Regiment and artillery elements were lifted into FSB Lo Lo. The 4th Battalion, 1st Regiment conducted a combat assault into LZ Liz. Elements of the regiment consolidated positions at FSB Lo Lo and LZ Liz and conducted search and clear operations in the AO. On 5 March following extensive LZ preparations, the 2d and 3d Battalions, 2d Regiment conducted a combat assault into LZ Hope vicinity XD344478. The LZ was cold and units secured the high ground without resistance. The 4th and 5th Battalions, 2d Regiment assaulted into LZ Sophia vicinity XD346408. As a result of the LZ preparation the 2d Regiment elements found 102 NVA KBA and captured one prisoner. On 6 March the

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4th Battalion, 2d Regiment captured 11 prisoners vicinity XD3341. The 1st Battalion, 1st Regiment was moved by air to reinforce FSB Lo Lo. The 1st Infantry Division elements, following successful combat assaults into FSBs Lo Lo, Liz and Sophia, continued search and attack operations in the AO. The tactical success coupled with relatively low ARVN casualties noticeably increased ARVN morale during the period. The 2d Battalion, 2d Regiment, 39th Ranger Battalion and 3d Airborne Battalion remained combat ineffective as a result of heavy losses sustained in earlier actions. These units were located in SVN and continued refitting and receiving replacements. The 2d Airborne Battalion, operating at reduced combat effectiveness as a result of heavy losses sustained in earlier fighting in the vicinity of FSB 30, continued search and attack operations in its assigned AO.

(3) The enemy increased their use of SA2 missiles including the first known surface-to-air missile (SAM) attack over SVN. Allied aircraft have reported a total of 14 firings of what were believed to be 122mm rockets. No aircraft were hit or damaged. There was a substantial increase of enemy ground activity below the central DMZ.

(4) Elements of the 1st Armored Brigade and the 1st, 8th and 9th Airborne Battalions remained in control of key terrain north and northwest of Aloui. The 2d Airborne Battalion was northeast of Aloui on Objective Bravo, vicinity XD5642. The 7th Airborne Battalion was south of Objective Bravo moving north and conducting search and attack operations. The 5th Airborne Battalion and elements of the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron were securing QL 9 from FSB Alpha to Aloui, and conducting search and attack operations north of QL 9. The 6th and 11th Airborne Battalions secured Route 9 from the border to FSB Alpha, and both battalions conducted company size search and attack operations within assigned AOs. The Airborne Division units were successful in securing the northern flank and preventing major enemy ground attacks against Aloui and Route 9. The Marine Division inserted five additional battalions into Laos during the reporting period. Two battalions of the 147th VNMC Brigade (2d and 4th Battalions) joined the brigade in the AO. The 7th Battalion secured FSB Delta and conducted search and attack operations in the vicinity of the firebase. The 2d and 4th Battalions continued their attack southward on two axes. The 258th VNMC Brigade with the 8th Battalion occupied FSB Hotel. The 1st and 3d Battalions moved by air to the vicinity of FSB Hotel and attacked south in the AO. The 369th Brigade with the 5th Battalion and 9th Battalion conducted search and attack operations south of Khe Sanh and the 5th Battalion operated in the vicinity of XD8334. The 1st Ranger Group with the 21st and 37th Ranger Battalions continued to secure FSB Phu Loc vicinity XD6645, and conducted search and attack operations in the vicinity of the FSB. Two companies of the 21st Ranger Battalion moved on foot to XD7144.

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(5) There were 997 Tac Air sorties flown. Bomb damage assessment includes 546 NVA KBA, 2,083 secondary explosions, 125 secondary fires, 79 trucks and numerous bunkers and structures reported destroyed. Of the 85 Arc Light missions flown, 309 secondary explosions with a magnitude of two to ten were reported. The reported BDA on six targets was 950 NVA KIA, eight tracked vehicles, four towed 122mm artillery pieces with one prime mover, 27 trucks, 70X82mm mortars, three 120mm mortars, four 37mm antiaircraft guns, 15X12.7mm machine guns, numerous individual and crew served weapons, large amounts of mortar ammunition, eight tons of mixed ammunition, 1,036 tons of rice and canned food, 2,000 gas masks, 500 drums of POL, 21 structures and 15 tunnels destroyed.

(6) QL 9 was in excellent condition and was capable of supporting more than the required traffic daily. A tank trail was cut by the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) Engineers from Khe Sanh along the road westward to XD6745.

(7) Due to poor subgrade the main strip of AM2 matting at Khe Sanh began to fail. A 200 foot section of the old matting was taken out and base material was replaced.

(8) A total of 5,150 short tons of all classes of supplies were delivered to FSA 2. During the period, 504 C130 sorties delivered 4,396 short tons of cargo and passengers in support of LAMSON 719. Additionally, 635 helicopter sorties delivered 2,318 short tons to ARVN tactical units in the forward area.

(b) Significant Contacts:

4 MARCH

(1) At 040530H vicinity XD504353, elements of the 4th Battalion and 3d Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment in a night defensive position were attacked by an unknown size enemy force, resulting in three ARVN KIA. There were 35 enemy KIA and seven AK47, one B40, 30 blocks of TNT and ten grenades captured.

(2) At 040800H vicinity XD648280, one company of the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment made contact with an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA and three WIA. Eight enemy were killed.

(3) Resupply of the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and attached elements in the vicinity of XD535435 was initially delayed by weather. Two attempts were made at 040830H and 0900H, but were aborted due to heavy ground fire. At 041050H, following Arc Light strikes in the area, the third lift was successful with nine of ten UH1H loads of

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supplies being delivered. One UH1H was downed and the crew was extracted along with 77 wounded from the Airborne elements. One company of the 7th Airborne Battalion was inserted into the LZ during the day to reinforce the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron. Two companies of the 9th Airborne Battalion and one armored personnel carrier troop moved north along Route 92 to link up with the 9th Airborne Battalion (+) located at XD527414. The 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and attached elements reported 383 enemy killed, two enemy captured, 71 individual weapons and 28 crew served weapons captured as a result of the contact of the night of 3-4 March. At 040445H, elements of the 6th Airborne Battalion made contact with an enemy force resulting in one ARVN WIA. Six enemy were killed, two B40 launchers and 30 B40 rounds were captured. Between 041415H and 1700H, 1st Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron and elements of the 1st Airborne Battalion made contact with an enemy force vicinity XD5658. Prior to moving into the area the enemy positions were prepared by AFA, 105mm and 175mm artillery fire. The contact resulted in 20 ARVN WIA, 325 enemy killed, 90 weapons captured and one PW. The enemy killed were credited to artillery. Also on 4 March, FSB Bravo (XD649381) was opened by one company of the 11th Airborne Battalion. Six 105mm howitzers from the 2d Artillery Battalion were employed on the FSB.

(4) At 041415H vicinity XD802340, A/1-1 Cavalry received RPG and small arms fire, resulting in one M551 and one M113 destroyed. Eight US were WIA.

(5) Final results of the 1st Ranger Group contacts on 3-4 March were two ARVN WIA and 10 enemy KIA. One AK47, 200 grenades and 15X82mm mortar rounds were captured.

(6) During the 4th of March, the Air Cavalry elements reported destroying four trucks, two 12.7mm machine guns plus 15 individual weapons, three crew served weapons and one radio.

(7) On 4 March there were 808 helicopter gunship sorties. There were 13 B52 strikes totaling 848 tons of ordnance resulting in 43 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 175 Tac Air sorties resulting in six bunkers, 88 vehicles and five gun positions destroyed. There were 16 vehicles damaged, seven interdiction points struck, 73 secondary explosions and 21 secondary fires.

5 MARCH

(1) At 050315H, B/1-1 Cavalry vicinity XD920418, was attacked by sappers employing small arms, B40 and satchel charges. Friendly forces engaged the enemy with organic weapons, mortar and artillery

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fire. Contact was broken by the enemy at 050330H. Results were two US KIA, 13 WIA, one M551 and one APC destroyed and one APC sustaining major damage.

(2) At 050700H vicinity XD662278, the 4th VNMC Battalion made contact with the enemy resulting in six Marines KIA and 42 WIA. There were 130 enemy killed and 15 XAK47s, five B40 launchers, four RPDs and two 82mm mortars captured.

(3) At 052000H vicinity XD697346, elements of TF 1-1 Cavalry contacted 15 enemy and detonated a claymore mine, killing eight enemy and capturing four weapons.

(4) The combat assault of elements of 2d Infantry Regiment into LZ Sophia, scheduled for 051100H but delayed due to weather, commenced at 051320H when five UH1H landed on the LZ without incident. Subsequent lifts of the elements of the 4th and 5th Battalions continued despite moderate ground fire and antiaircraft fire. Antiaircraft fire vicinity Objective Aloui and from the escarpment southwest of Aloui caused battle damage to aircraft enroute to the LZ. At 051900H all scheduled UH1H troop lifts into LZ Sophia were completed and scheduled heavy lifts of bulldozers, six 105mm howitzers and supplies were in progress. After the combat assault elements of the 4th and 5th Battalions, 2d Regiment conducted operations in the vicinity of the FSB and accounted for 124 enemy bodies, 43 XAK47s, nine 12.7mm machine guns, four RPD machine guns, nine B40 rocket launchers, three radio sets, eight tons of rice, 50 blocks of dynamite and 33 huts destroyed by air.

(5) Resupply of the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron and attached Airborne elements vicinity XD525418 was completed at 051230H. Two companies of the 9th Airborne and one armored personnel carrier troop linked up with the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron, and attached elements established blocking positions vicinity XD525416. MEDEVAC ships extracted an additional 43 wounded from the 17th Armored Cavalry Squadron.

(6) At 051429H vicinity XD546320, the 1st Battalion, 3d Infantry Regiment found ten enemy bodies estimated to be ten days old.

(7) Combat assault of the 2d VNMC Battalion from vicinity XD8639 to XD648301 was completed at 051430H. The combat assault of the 2d Regiment units from vicinity XD8539, to LZ Sophia vicinity XD346408 was completed at 051640H. Heavy lifts of two bulldozers, eight 105mm howitzers and supplies were completed at 051830H. The combat assault of the 8th VNMC Battalion from vicinity XD8639, to LZ Hotel vicinity XD725345 was completed at 051615H.

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(g) At 051500H vicinity XD665353, the 6th Airborne Battalion contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in one ARVN KIA, five enemy KIA, one machine gun and one 82mm mortar base plate captured. 1st Troop, 7th Armored Cavalry Squadron and the 1st Airborne Battalion closed on Objective Aloui at 052000H.

(9) Between 051500H and 1800H vicinity XD365395, the 4th Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment made contact with an enemy force vicinity LZ Liz. The contact resulted in three ARVN KIA and three WIA. Enemy losses were 41 NVA KIA, 13 XAK47 rifles, one 82mm, one 60mm mortar and two B40 rocket launchers captured.

(10) Between 051615H and 1700H vicinity XD5340, the 9th Airborne Battalion received 300 rounds of 152mm artillery resulting in no friendly casualties; however, an estimated 500 rounds of 105mm and 155mm howitzer ammunition were destroyed.

(11) On 5 March there were 678 helicopter gunship sorties flown. There were 13 B52 strikes totaling 1,053 tons of ordnance resulting in 58 secondary explosions of a magnitude of two to five. There were 221 Tac Air sorties flown resulting in two water craft, two structures, 49 vehicles and 20 gun positions destroyed. There were 22 vehicles damaged, two interdiction points struck, 57 secondary explosions and 11 secondary fires.

6 MARCH

(1) At 060630H vicinity XD530400, the 1st Airborne Battalion CP received an unknown number/type rounds resulting in one ARVN KIA and five WIA.

(2) At 061020H vicinity XD653278, the 7th VNMC Battalion found and destroyed 300X82mm mortar rounds.

(3) At 061025H vicinity XD5938, the 5th Airborne Battalion received an unknown number and type of rounds resulting in eight ARVN WIA.

(4) From 061120H to 061145H, Khe Sanh received approximately 21x122mm rockets which impacted in the 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) area resulting in two US KIA and ten US WIA.

(5) At 061145H vicinity XD498337, the 4th Battalion, 3d Regiment contacted an unknown size enemy force resulting in four ARVN WIA. Enemy losses were eight killed, three AK47s and one B40 captured.

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(16) At 061610H vicinity XD742316, a 258th VNMC Brigade Reconnaissance Team found 11 enemy bodies (KIA), five AK47 rifles and two 12.7mm machine guns.

(17) At 061620H vicinity XD577439, the 2d Airborne Battalion received an unknown number and type of rounds, killing six and wounding eight.

(18) At 061815H vicinity XD478409, 96 personnel from the Hac Bao Company were inserted to link up with and assist seven US aviators stranded in Laos.

(19) At 062010H vicinity XD903395, a convoy of the 529th Transportation Company received fire from an unknown size enemy force resulting in one US KIA, three US WIA, one tanker destroyed and three tankers damaged.

(20) At 062200H vicinity XD331424, the 4th Battalion, 2d Regiment found ten huts containing four 82mm mortars, six 60mm mortars, five 75mm recoilless rifle bipods, one 75mm recoilless rifle, 22X122mm rockets and five outboard motors. All materiel were destroyed.

(21) At 062320H, Quang Tri Combat Base received five rounds of 122mm rockets resulting in four US KIA, 12 US WIA, one $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck destroyed and two $\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks and one 3/4 ton truck damaged. Also one billet was destroyed and one damaged.

(c) Cumulative Results.

(1) Friendly

(a) KIA 77 US 410 ARVN

(b) WIA 364 US 1,473 ARVN

(c) MIA 31 US 99 ARVN

(d) Equipment lost/destroyed.

Individual weapons - 109

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Artillery Pieces - 28

POL - 86,00 gallons

Ammunition - 1,105 tons

(2) Enemy

(a) KIA 5,341 (1,758 KBA)

(b) POW 15

(c) Material lost/destroyed.

Radios - 13

Trucks - 153

Tanks - 73

Ammunition - 132 tons

Rice - 394 tons

Individual weapons - 1,982

Crew served weapons - 461

c. Phase 3

① Period: 07 Mar - 16 Mar.

(a) Operations Narrative.

(1) US forces continued to provide security for the installations supporting RVNAF forces in Laos. During the period, the 1st Infantry Division elements successfully operated in the Gia Lam objective area and Bach Mai objective area from 11-14 March. The 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry Regiment operated in the Cua Viet objective area from 15-16 March. Emphasis shifted from search and attack operations throughout the AO to commencement of phased extraction of the 1st Infantry Division units from the western portion of the AO. The 3d Infantry Regiment (-) was the first unit to be extracted from Laos on 16 March. Elsewhere in the Laotian AO, the Airborne Division continued to perform screening operations north of the Xe Pon River and east of FSB Aloui, with only light enemy contact reported. This period saw the introduction of additional tank units (4th Armored Cavalry Squadron) in the Airborne

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Division AO to enhance control of Route 9 west of the RVN border to Aloui. Two Vietnamese Marine Brigades continued their operations astride Route 926. The enemy's main effort was concentrated against the 1st Infantry Division positions around FSB Sophia, Liz and Lo Lo. There was noticeable increase in enemy activity as the 2d Infantry Regiment moved out of Sophia and Liz to positions around Sophia East and Brown. On 14 March, the enemy commenced heavy attacks by fire, later followed by ground attacks on FSB Lo Lo, which resulted in the abandonment of FSB Lo Lo on the night of 15-16 March. The enemy concentrated his forces northwest to Aloui and south to FSB Delta to hamper resupply of selective FSBs. The enemy concentrated indirect fire weapons against FSB Aloui, Lo Lo, Sophia, and to a lesser extent, FSB Delta. The enemy commenced his long anticipated attacks by fire against the Khe Sanh Base complex; however, these attacks achieved only limited results.

(2) RVNAF were in the process of relocating elements of the 1st Infantry Regiment in accordance with plans for the phased extraction of units from the western portion of the LAMSON 719 AO in Laos. The Airborne Division continued to operate north of the Ie Pon River, screening and protecting the Corps north flank from Aloui to the RVN border. The Marine Division continued to operate with two brigades in the south-east portion of the Laotian AO, conducting reconnaissance in force operations in the vicinity of Route 926. In the RVN, US units, the 1st Ranger Group and elements of the Marine Division provided security for lines of communication and critical support installations.

(3) During the period, 1,350 tactical air sorties were flown in support of RVNAF forces operation in Laos. Most of the Tac Air sorties were visually controlled; however, during bad weather, particularly 13-15 March, the majority of the sorties were radar controlled or LORAN drops. There were 84 Arc Light sorties flown in support of ARVN forces. Helicopter support consisted of 4,361 gunship, 4,948 troop lift, 1,412 air cavalry, 570 MEDEVAC and 7,404 logistical sorties. There were three days in which helicopter operations were partially hampered by weather, particularly in the morning. There were problems in delivering heavy lifts into hot LZs, particularly to FSBs Aloui, Sophia, Delta, and Lo Lo; however, these locations were adequately supported logistically primarily by UH1 logistical sorties. Combat effectiveness of friendly forces was generally maintained, although the 1st Infantry Regiment sustained significant casualties since 14 March in the FSB Lo Lo area. There were no marked changes in effectiveness of the Airborne Division and the 1st Armored Brigade elements. Vietnamese Marine units continued successful battalion size operations within their AOs. RVNAF weaknesses in employing tactical air in direct support of their units became apparent particularly during the retrograde phase of the operation.

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