

UNCLASSIFIED  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVDAGT-DOT

1 May 1972

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) Period Ending 30 April 1972, RCS CS FUR-65 (R3)

YT040210. Bunkers, rice and booby traps were found. The area was worked by pink teams and artillery and air strikes were utilized to neutralize the bunkers and booby traps. On 4 March Recon executed an ambush at YT239146 resulting in 01 KIA and 01 rucksack. On 5 March Co A found the following items while searching vicinity YT044220, 500 rounds AK-47 ammo, 04 107mm rocket canisters, 04 oz documents, 30 lbs fresh fish, 30 lbs rice, a bunker complex 200 X 200 meters with 30 bunkers and 100 fighting positions. The majority of bunkers had been destroyed by the preparatory air strike. The following day Co A found 400 lbs of rice in two 55 gal drums, 02 chicom grenades, 01 60mm mortar round booby trap, 01 105mm round booby trap, 01 07 lb mine, 01 02 lb mine, and 50 US blasting caps. On 10 March 72 a Kit Carson Scout in Company C stepped on a booby trap at YT194241. The booby trap was made out of an M26 grenade with a pressure type detonator. The Kit Carson Scout sustained minor foot wounds. During the last half of March, the 2-5 Cav completed stand down. Company B was the first company to begin on 11 March. Company C followed on 14 March. HHC and Co E returned to Bien Hoa on 15 March. At 151500 March 72, Companies A and D were OTCOM to 1-12 Cav and the 1-12 Cav assumed control of the 2-5 Cav AO. On 16 March Company D was extracted and moved to Bien Hoa. Company A closed PSB Gibraltar and moved to Bien Hoa 17 March terminating field operations. The battalion completed stand down on 25 March. The color guard took the colors to Fort Hood, Texas on 01 April 1972. Retirement of the colors was scheduled for 03 April 1972.

(a) During this period the 2-5th adopted a concept of operations based on platoon search and ambush operations. The basic elements of this concept include:

- 1 Visualization of the maneuver elements of the battalion as 13 reconnaissance platoons to be employed separately but grouped in large company AO's.
- 2 Emphasis on the clear point that it is easier to kill the enemy in the jungle when we are stationary and he is moving.
- 3 Emphasis on stealth from combat insertions supported by flechettes only to extreme measures for light and noise discipline one on the ground.
- 4 Special training in ambush techniques and live fire rehearsals to include selection of site, placement of claymores, camouflage and concealment, sustained anti-automatic fire aimed low, adjustment of AFA and employment of pink teams.
- 5 Reliance on external support. Platoons on the ground are not mutually supporting, but will be reinforced by AFA, pink teams and a GRF as required.

UNCLASSIFIED