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AVI-D-C

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation MALHEUR (MACV/RCS/J3/32)

On 13 May one company of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry was engaged by an estimated VC company size force resulting in 1 US KHA, 5 US WHA, loss of 2 M-16 rifles, 13 VC KIA (C), and 2 individual weapons and 12 Chicom hand grenades captured. Eleven other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 16 VC KIA (C), 16 detainees and 5 individual weapons, including 2 M-16 rifles, captured. Three light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, 10 individual weapons, including 1 M-79, captured and the discovery of a weapon cache containing 34 individual weapons and 1 12.7mm Chicom machine gun. Five light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 5 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons captured. Troop A, 2d Squadron (Airborne), 17th Cavalry conducted an airmobile cordon and search operation in a hamlet to the south of CARENTAN Base resulting in 2 detainees. On 14 May one company of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an enemy force of unknown size in well fortified, dug-in positions, resulting in 8 US KHA and 36 WHA. Seven other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 8 VC KIA (C) and 3 individual weapons captured. Two light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C). Eight light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 14 VC KIA (C) and 6 individual weapons captured. On 15 May one platoon of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an estimated VC battalion size force with automatic weapons and mortars in fortified positions. Continuous artillery and tactical air strikes were called in against the enemy positions and mortars. Upon the insertion of a reinforcing company, 1 UH-1D helicopter sustained a direct mortar round and was destroyed. Results of the contact were 3 US KHA, 34 US WHA, 1 UH-1D destroyed, 7 UH-1D damaged, 5 UH-1B damaged and 20 VC KIA (C). Five other light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 5 VC KIA (C) and 2 individual weapons captured. One platoon of the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry contacted an estimated VC platoon size force resulting in 4 US WHA, 6 VC KIA (C) and 5 VC KIA (P). Four other contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 6 VC KIA (C), and 1 VC KIA (P). Seven light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 9 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee, and 2 individual weapons, 1 82mm mortar tube and 23 82mm mortar rounds captured. On 16 May eight light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 US KHA, 9 VC KIA (C), 6 detainees and 4 individual weapons, 1 rocket launcher, 2 rockets and 2 grenades captured. A light contact by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. Fourteen light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 6 US WHA, 14 VC KIA (C), 4 detainees, and 8 individual weapons captured. On 17 May a light contact by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 US WHA and 12 detainees. Two light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. Eleven light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 6 US WHA, 7 VC KIA (C), 1 detainee and 5 individual weapons captured. On 18 May three light contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 VC KIA (C), 1 VC KIA (P), 3 detainees and 1 individual weapon captured. Three light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 2 VC KIA (C), and 2 individual weapons captured. On 18 May the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry contacted an estimated 100 man VC force armed with numerous automatic weapons and machine guns. The contact was characterized by many small engagements in a two-square kilometer area with friendly and enemy personnel intermingled. The enemy defended from numerous spider holes and fortified positions scattered throughout the area of contact. Artillery and TAC Air supported. Contact lasted six hours and resulted in 12 US KHA, 41 US WHA, 31 VC KIA (C) and 12 individual weapons, 1 machine gun and 1 flamethrower captured. On 19 May a light contact by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C). Four light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 3 US WHA and 3 VC KIA (C). Four light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 2 US WHA, 2 VC KIA (C) and 1 individual weapon captured. A contact by the Long Range Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division resulted in 1 US KHA and 5 US WHA. On 20 May two contacts by the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C) and 9 VC KIA (P). A light contact by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 327th Infantry resulted in 1 VC KIA (C). Two light contacts by the 2d Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry resulted in 3 VC KIA (C)

14 May 1967

Battle For Mother

Dan Hill

1st 327th 'A' Company

15 May

• Song Tra Cau
river bed

• VC Battalion
size force at

BS 678421

(see map)

• U.S. Forces (partial)

1st 327th 'B' Company

3rd Platoon ~ 25 men

Weapons Platoon ~ 18 men

Tiger Force Recon

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2.5 a (Order of Battle) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to Combat
Operation After Action Report (Operations MALHEUR I & II) (U) cont'd

(3) Element of the 409th Sapper Battalion were not contacted during Operation MALHEUR I & II. Although numerous reports prior to the Brigade arrival place this unit in the operational area, no contact was made with the unit, and it was consequently dropped from Order of Battle holdings. Agent reports from III MAF, Sector Intelligence in QUANG NGAI, and from Task Force Oregon placed this unit north of our area in the vicinity BS 5176. It is probably broken into small elements which are attached to other units.

b. Units with light contact

(1) Elements of the 38th & 48th VCLF Battalions were not contacted in force during MALHEUR I & II. Based on numerous Agent Reports from higher and adjacent units, these units were probably contacted in small units. As a result of the size of the contacts, Intelligence results were insignificant. These units have as their primary interest the coastal plains area. During the operation they did not deviate from this, and are currently located north of our area, vicinity BS 6754 and BS 7382 respectively.

(2) Small resistance groups (normally 5 to 10 personnel) which are elements of the seven district and local force units, were contacted periodically throughout the Factical Area of Responsibility with insignificant intelligence results.

c. Units Contacted

(1) Element of the 1st VC Regiment, 2nd NVA Division were contacted in force during these operations. On the 15th of May 1967, Reconnaissance element of 1st Battalion (Abn) 327th Infantry encountered a Battalion size force at BS 678421 which was confirmed to be a portion of the 1st VC Regiment. The result of the engagement was 20 enemy KIA (C). On 12 June Company A 1st Battalion (Abn) 327th Infantry ambushed 9 enemy with documents showing them to have been members of the 60th Battalion, 1st NVA Regiment. On 15 June Company A, 1st Battalion (Abn) 327th Infantry recorded one KIA with documents that revealed he was a member of the 60th Battalion 1st NVA Regiment. On 11 July, Reconnaissance Platoon 2nd Battalion (Abn) 502d Infantry engaged an estimated company size unit. The enemy returned fire with mortars, 57mm RR and small arms. The enemy broke contact when friendly reinforcements arrived. One enemy KIA (C) and one AK-47 were found. A search of the area at daylight revealed 24 newly dug positions and numerous bloody trails, bandages and bloody clothing. A Prisoner of War captured the following day revealed that the contact had been made with elements of the 90th Battalion, 1st VC Regiment. On 26 June 1967, a Hoi Chanh revealed that the strength of the 1st VC Regiment was approximately 700 men. The Regimental Headquarters and support elements had 200 men together, the 60th Battalion had approximately 140 men, the 40th Battalion had 150, and the 90th Battalion had approximately 170 men. The Hoi Chanh also stated that the Battalions were so understrength due to losses that they were referred to as reinforced companies. Other casualties have been assessed due to the lack of reliable prisoners and documents captured during contact. The 1st VC Regimental is believed to be located northwest of our Tactical Area of Responsibility, vicinity BS 4570.

This unit is called Tiger Force