

CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 4 (Chemical) to Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation TEXAS STAR, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), MACJ3-32 (R2) (U)

forces commenced their own flame drop program in coordination with the 1st Marine Division.

c. CS Operations.

(1) Thirty-six bulk CS-2 missions were conducted by organic CH-47 helicopters and USAF high performance aircraft on major infiltration routes in the division reconnaissance zone. These enemy lines of communication included Routes 9222, 922, 548 and T-7. These drops were targeted to interdict heavy vehicular traffic and disrupt enemy advances into forward base areas.

(a) Agent CS-2, in 55-gallon drums, rigged with the XM925 impact fuze and burster system, was dropped from CH-47 aircraft from an approximate height of 4000 feet to interdict road networks in five target areas.

(b) Six bulk CS-2 missions, using BLU 52 bombs, were conducted by USAF high performance aircraft. These missions were directed against roads leading into the Da Krong and northern A Shau Valleys.

(2) Tactical CS missions were conducted against suspected enemy locations during combat assaults, in support of artillery raids, during sweep operations, in support of combined US/ARVN operations, to cover extractions, and in support of ARA raids.

(3) Agent CS-2 was used in three-gallon rigid plastic (JEEPO) containers to restrict the use of bunkers uncovered by ground elements during sweep operations. Ground troops used both detonating cord and fragmentation grenades to spread the powder throughout enemy bunkers. One or two, eight pound JEEPOs, were used in each bunker. Units reported that the CS effectively restricted the bunkers from enemy use for 6 - 12 months.

d. Aerial Defoliation Operations.

(1) Diesel defoliation missions were conducted around fire support/operational bases in the piedmont area, where herbicides, such as agent blue, could not be used because of the proximity of crops raised by friendly civilians. The diesel spray retarded the growth of foliage and assisted in burning operations. Targets included areas adjacent to CAMP EAGLE, CAMP EVANS, and FS/OB BIRMINGHAM.

(2) Defoliation missions, employing agent blue, were conducted against major NVA infiltration routes west of FS/OB RIPCORD. FS/OBs BASTOGNE and VEGHEL, and Route 547 which connects them, were sprayed to enhance fields of fire.

e. Smoke Operations.

(1) Smoke operations were conducted in support of combat assaults by the 158th Aviation Battalion (Assault Helicopter). The XM52 Integral