

Operation Bold Lancer

(Map of Base Area 354)

The 1st Brigade conducted Operation Toan Thang 44, Base area 354, and was the 25th Division's first surge into Cambodia.

At first light on 6 May 1970, assault helicopters at Cu Chi and Tay Ninh lifted off their pads and headed toward Fire support Base Wood, just west of Thien Ngon. Here they picked up troops of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry for an air assault into enemy sanctuaries south of "The Dog's Face," the western most sector of War Zone C.

While Alpha, Bravo and Delta Companies of the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry were airlifted to Tasuos, a village four miles inside Cambodia, Charlie Company secured a bridgehead on the Cambodian side of the Rach Cai Bac River.

First contact was made in an open field outside Tasuos. "They seemed surprised mostly," said one soldier. "We caught them running across an open field and it seemed like the NVA just couldn't believe we were really here."

Meanwhile, two mechanized units escorted the 65th Engineer Battalion to the Vietnamese bank of the Rai Cai Bac River. In eight hours, the engineers spanned the river with a floatation bridge and the first tracks of the mechanized unit crossed into Cambodia to secure the bridge for the night.

The next morning, the 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry, and the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry roared through the dense jungle along the river and across the dusty fields and rice paddies west of the jungle searching out the enemy.

The 1st Battalion (Mech), 5th Infantry moved west to link with 3rd Battalion, 22nd Infantry before moving further south. Meanwhile the 2nd Battalion (Mech), 22nd Infantry swept south from the bridge in two columns. The 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry was airlifted to a position between the two mechanized battalions and began a careful search of massive training areas and staging points concealed in the jungle.

The brigade elements formed a giant pincer along both sides of a massive jungle sheath surrounding the river. The move drove the bewildered enemy south where the Vietnamese navy stood guard on another branch of the river.

"We must have gone through at least two kilometers of base camps," said one Triple Deuce soldier. During the first operation, Tropic Lightning troops uncovered more than 270 tons of rice, killed 266 enemies and held 41 detainees. Supplies captured included bicycles, motorcycles, trucks, 221 individual weapons and 22 crew served weapons.

Soldiers were elated as they found and destroyed above ground structures connected by interlocking board sidewalks, Inside were blackboards and benches for classrooms, tables and mess facilities, living quarters with nearby bunkers and evidence of recent enemy activity.

But the enemy was gone. He was sometimes caught in small groups running away, but he fought only if he had to fight. One battalion commander put it this way: "We have destroyed in a very short time what it has taken the enemy months, perhaps even years to build."

On 14 May the 1st Brigade withdrew from Base Area 354 back to Vietnam to regroup for operations in Base Area 353 the division's third phase of operations. Learn More: After Action Report, (Commanders Evaluation Report),

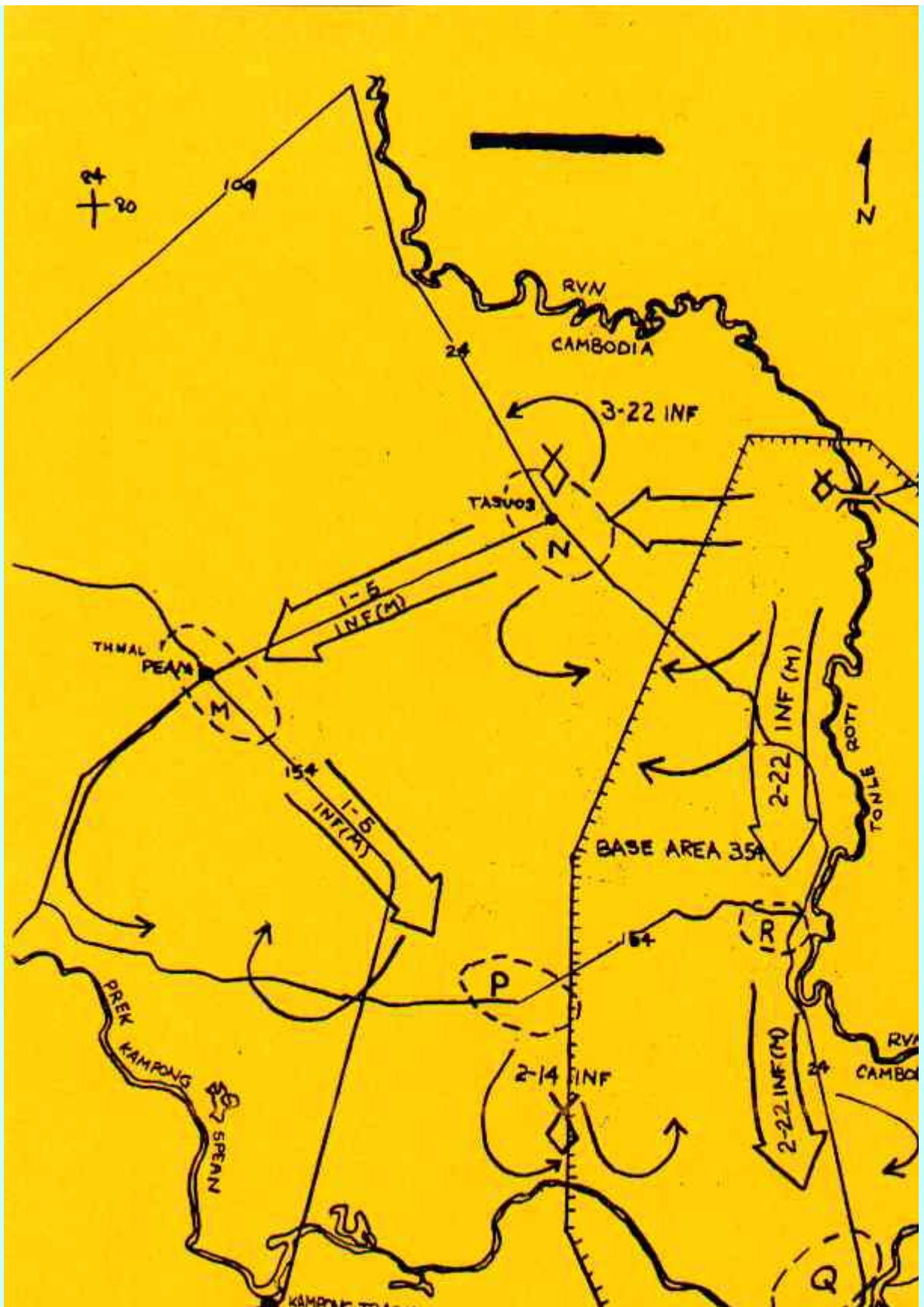


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Air Support Cambodian Invasion 1970-Project CHECO

Operation Bold Lancer-Toan Thang IV

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

APO San Francisco 96225

Commanding General
July 70

18

25th Infantry Division

Attn: Division Historian

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report, BOLD LANCER I (6 May - 14 May 70)

1. (U) Operation BOLD LANCER I (Thoan Thang IV)
2. (U) Dates of Operation - 041200 May 70 to 141925 May 70
3. (C) Location - **Base Area 354 (XT1090, XT1060, WT 8080, WT8060)**
4. (U) Command Control Headquarters - 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division
5. (U) Reporting Officer - Paul J. Mueller Jr, Col Inf Commanding
- 6.(C) Task Organization:

2/14 Inf (05 May - 14 May 70)

7/11 Arty (PS) (04 May - 14 May 70)

3/22 Inf (04 May - 14 May 70)

A 2/32(-) (GS) (06 May - 14 May 70)

1/5 Inf (M) (04 May - 14 May 70)

B 3/13 (R) (05 May - 14 May 70)

2/22 Inf (M) (-) (04 May - 08 May 70)

C 3/13 (R) (10 May - 14 May 70)

B 2/22 Inf (M) (04 May - 13 May 70)

D 3/13 (R) (08 May - 12 May 70)

D Troop 3/4 Cav SQDN (04 May - 08 May 70)

3/17 Air Cav SQDN (06 May - 14 May 70)

Brigade Control:

1F 75th Inf (Rangers) (04 May - 14 May 70)

A 65th Eng. (BS) (04 May - 14 May 70)

Prov. Co. (Nui Ba Den) (04 May - 14 May 70)

46th Inf Plt Scout Dog (04 May - 14 May 70)

1 Plt. 25th MP Co. (04 May - 14 May 70)

7. (C) Supporting Forces:

a. Artillery

(1) 7/11 Artillery (DS) HQ (041200 - 141925 May 70)

A Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

B Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

C Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

Support by the 7/11 Arty was continuous and extremely timely. The planning and coordination of these fires were also extremely effective.

(1) Divarty

B 3/13 (155) (Reinf)

C 3/13 (155) (Reinf)

D 3/13 (8") (Reinf)

The indirect fire support provided by the 2/32 was highly effective during the Cambodian operation.

a. US Army Aircraft:

(1) 1st Brigade Aviation Section: This is a section of 5 light observation helicopters. Support provided included both administrative and tactical missions. The close cooperation between brigade and the aviation section was contributed to overcoming many of the control problems inherent with operating in a large area of operations. Troop lift support was provided by the 187 AHC (6-8, 10, 11, 13, 14 May) and 116 AHC (6, 9, 12, 14 May) with both troop transport and armed helicopter escort.

(2) B Troop 2/ 4 Cav and 3/17 Air Cav also provided helicopter, gunship and aerial recon support in the brigade area of operations. This support enabled the brigade to have an immediate strike capability in contact areas, the assets to VR new areas for enemy troop movements and enemy staging and supply areas.

(1) US Air Force - Tactical air support was provided by the USAF Forward Air Controllers

And Fighter aircraft. This support provided the air strikes necessary for destroying enemy bunker, storage complexes, and troop concentrations.

a. Engineer Support - Special use was made of Company E 65th Engineers for installation of a pontoon bridge for the movement of mechanized troops over the Rach Cai Bach River (Rach Beng Co) into Cambodia. Their support was effective, however emplacement of the bridge was delayed due to difficulty of establishing a bridge approach on the west bank of the river.

b. Signal Communications support for this operation was supplied by the organic commo. platoon and elements from the 125th Signal battalion. Brigade commo provided the radio communications. Due to the distance involved during the first part of the operation, the communications was at times difficult. The installation was quick and effective. VHF communications was provided by 125th Signal. This means pf communications was delayed in becoming operational due to the difficulty encountered with equipment seviceability. However, once communication was established, it was very reliable with prompt action and efficient ;operation.

8. (C) INTELLIGENCE: The general status and disposition of enemy forces in the vicinity of Base Area 352* prior to operation BOLD LANCER I was believed to have been as follows:

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH	INFO.SOURCE
95C Regiment	Western War Zone C	570	PW/Contacts
HQ/9th VC/NVA DIV	Base Area 354 (Cambodia)	845	PW/Rallier
Z31	Vic Xom Giua		
	Base Area 354 (Cambodia)	UNK	PW
272 VC/NVA Regt	NW of Thien Ngon	900	PW/Contacts

Note that Base Area 354 covers an area in W.War Zone C (Viet Nam) and Cambodia W. of Dogshead.

a. The principal targets of the operation commencing on 6 May were the suspected base area, training and logistical facilities and headquarters units of the 9th VC/NVA Division located in the northern portion of Base Area 706 and Base Area 354 in Cambodia. A secondary, but important consideration was the presence of the 95C Regiment in Western War Zone C and Base Area 354. This unit had been in an offensive posture since late March, and had conducted numerous attacks against the 1st Cav. Division (AM) Fire Support Bases in the area. In addition it was thought that the targeted area in Cambodia contained various support units

and replacement organizations. PW's captured in previous operations in War Zone C had indicated the existence of a unit known as Z-31 which supplied replacements to main force units in the area.

b. When combat operations were initiated in Base Area 354, enemy contact was significantly less than anticipated. Initially groups of as many as 30-40 NVA were engaged with gunships, but ground contact was limited to scattered exchanges of fire with small groups. There appeared to be no organized resistance and no significant enemy formations were encountered until 9 May when elements of 1/5 Inf (M) engaged a tenacious enemy force. On 12 May C 1/5 Inf (M) NCP was attacked by an estimated two company force. Although no positive identification was made, the attack was believed to have been conducted by the 95C Regiment. With the exception of this contact, the enemy encountered in the operation were not in an offensive posture, and generally were not organized to conduct coordinated defensive operations. Many of the large base areas discovered had evidently been recently evacuated, with civilians reporting that large numbers of personnel had moved to the west and southwest out of the operational area at the start of the operations.

c. The following units were identified as having operated in the area prior to the operation:

UNIT	SOURCE
94 Engr Bn	PW/Documents
C 20 Sig. Co 95C Regt.	Documents
Z-31c Military Hospital	Documents
94 Recovery Regt.	Documents
C23 Hospital, 82 RSG	Documents
Medical Dispensary, 82 RSG	Documents
Z-31, 94 Recovery Regiment	PW's
9 Bn, 94 Recovery Regiment	Documents
Transportation Bn, 82 RSG	Documents
3rd Bn, 95C Regiment	Documents
K77 Hospital, RS Section COSVN	PW's
Property and Training Sect. COSVN	Documents
27 Bn, Engr, Office, Mil. Staff Dept.	Documents
COSVN	

A total of 58 bunker and hootch complexes, 11 rice storage areas, 6 arms and munitions storage areas, 4 hospital complexes (1 with a capacity of 250 beds) and a complete workshop with arc-welders and machine tools (drill press, lathe) was found in the objective area. The road and trail networks found indicated motor vehicle traffic and numerous motorboats and sampans were captured along the Rach Cai Bach River. Two battalion size training areas were also discovered containing, in addition to living accommodations, bleacher areas and classrooms,,

large mess halls and wooden mock-ups of tanks, jets and helicopters. Base Area 354 was in all probability a training, rest and staging area for the 9th VC/NVA Division and numerous supporting elements.

d. The Cambodian portion of Base Area 354 lies in an area roughly 17Km by 13Km and is bounded on the east by the Rach Cai Bach (Rach Beng Go) River and on the south by the Prek Kampong Spean River. Neither of these rivers is fordable. The Rach Cai Bach is approximately 50m wide and the Prek Kampong Spean is slightly larger at 50 -70m. Consequently there are no direct routes of approach into the area from SVN. The eastern half of the area is densely forested and provides few landing zones except in the extreme southern portion. Numerous roads and trails run throughout the area and provide good access to the entire base area. Cross country traffic is largely limited to tracked vehicles as roads and trails soon become very difficult for wheels to travel due to deterioration. To the west of base Area 354 the terrain is sparsely wooded woods, and provided good cross country trafficability.
(p3)

It should be noted that the operation was conducted during the latter part of the dry season and only scattered showers fell during the period. As rains increased, trafficability throughout the area was considerably reduced. Weather had little effect on aircraft operations during Bold Lancer I. Good flying weather was predominant and on only one occasion did ground fog delay an airmobile operation until midmorning.

e. During the initial stages of Phase I cover and concealment in Area 354 was of two distinct types. Approximately one third of the area was open and flat providing no cover and very limited concealment. Most open areas were dry rice paddies affording limited concealment behind rice paddy dikes for the infantry, and no concealment for wheeled or track vehicles. The open area afforded free movement to mechanized vehicles and wheeled vehicles towing artillery pieces and few problems were encountered in these areas. The open areas offered unrestricted observation and field of fire. All open areas in Area 354 were usable for both mechanized and to a large extent to wheeled vehicles providing avenues of approach; in any required direction. The other two thirds of the area of operations were densely vegetated varying from double to triple canopy. Mechanized and wheeled vehicles were limited to dirt roads and wide trails. Ground troops were restricted by thick underbrush although there were numerous trails throughout the area. Limited cover was provided by the dense canopy and considerable concealment was provided by the thick undergrowth in the area. Observation and fields of fire were restricted at times to a few feet and at best a few meters in all densely vegetated areas. During the initial assault into Cambodia, two critical terrain features became evident in the successful accomplishment of the mission. The first was the bridge site across the Rach Cai Bach River at Lo Go (vic WT969752). The site was critical in that it provided access through the forest to the west by trails to the village of Tasuos. This bridgehead also provided access by road south to the Prek Kampong Spean River. The second critical terrain feature was the village of Tasuos directly west of the bridge site. The village controlled the junction of several roads, and airmobiling the 3/22 Inf. to secure the village enabled the rapid deployment of a mechanized infantry unit to the west and then south after reaching the village. The road south from the bridgehead and adjacent to the Rach Cai Bach River was utilized by another mechanized infantry battalion providing a suitable avenue of approach to the south.

f. The population in Base Area 354 was largely located west and south of the bridge site at Lo Go (subsequently FSB Minnie WT969752). One population center, Tasuos (WT917747) was the focus of much of the initial tactical operations. Nowhere in the TAOI was the population in excess of -800 persons per village. Just to the south of the TAOI was the city of Kampong Trach (WT866615) which had a population in excess of 1000 people.

The attitude of the indigenous was initially one of fear, followed by warmth and cooperation. The 1/5 Inf (M), 2/14 Inf and the 2/22 Inf(M) enjoyed friendly relations with local villagers, though at Tasous the 3/22 Inf encountered ill will because of an artillery incident.

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9. (C) MISSION: 1ST Bde, 25th Infantry Division relieved elements of 1st Cav Div(AM) in northwestern War Zone C on 4 May and attacked into Base Area 354 to locate and destroy enemy supply staging areas, equipment and personnel.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION: 1st Bde, 25th Infantry Division conduct Operations Bold Lancer in three phases>

Phase I - Movement of elements of the brigade into northwestern War Zone C, relief of elements of 1st Cav Div (AM) and preparation for the attack (4 and 5 May).

Phase II - Attack and river crossing. ;On 6 May 1970 one Infantry Battalion was air assaulted into Cambodia. One company secured the western bank of the Rach Cai Bach River by air assault, while 2/22 Inf secured the eastern bank. Company E 665th Engineers constructed a float bridge for the passage of 1/5 Inf (M) and 2/22 Inf (M) to their objectives in Cambodia.

Phase III - Detailed Search - The insertion of another infantry battalion by air on 8 May 1970 began the detailed searching of the base area. This continued through 14 May 1970 with all elements of the brigade.

11. (C) EXECUTION: (See Overlay) Operation Bold Lancer I was an offensive move into Cambodia on a search and destroy mission to limit the enemy's capability to resupply into S. Vietnam. The order for the operation was issued on 3 May 1970.

Command and Control:

The brigade forward CP was moved to Thien Ngen (XT085817) on 6 May 1970. This was to augment the command and control originating from Tay Ninh Base Camp. On 10 May, the movement of the brigade headquarters was completed from TNBC and Thien Ngen to FSB Wood (WT047794).

Operation 6 May:

Movement of ground troops into Cambodia began on 6 May 1970 with the combat assault of three companies of the 3/22 Infantry to the vicinity of the village of Tasuos (WT917747), and one company securing the bridgehead on the western bank of the Rach Cai Bach River (WT968752). The 2/22 Inf (M) attacked to seize the bridgehead on the eastern bank, and Co. E, 65th Engr Bn initiated float bridge construction.

0334 and 0416 hrs. - two Commando Vaults were employed at the bridge site in Cambodia for the insertion of elements of the 3/22 Inf. These were 15,000 lb bombs.

0715 hrs:- C 3/22 Inf spotted 30 individuals moving away from their position at XT046815 at 150m. They were engaging with S/A, gunships and artillery with negative results.

0955 hrs: - C 3/22 received an unknown number of HE rounds, resulting in 2 US KIA and 8 US WIA. Fire was determined to be friendly artillery.

1025 hrs: - A&D Co 3/22 received small arms fire from the vicinity of Tasuos. Engaged with organic weapons and LFT's resulting in 2 US KIA and 3 WIA. Negative enemy losses.

Total enemy losses for the day were 46 NVA KIA or KBA: captured - 13 SKS rifles, 3xCC carbines, 1xUS M-1 carbine; destroyed - 27 bxs, 2x50m trenches, 7xCC HG's, 6 hootches, 1 tunnel uncovered, 1x51 cal position, 1 shack and 2xF/P. (p5)

Operations 7 May:

0605hrs: The engineers completed the bridge. At 0715 B 1/5 Inf(M) crossed the bridge. The rest of the 1/5 Inf(M) finished crossing the bridge 0800. At 0830, 2/22 Inf(M) started across the bridge. Movement across the bridge was completed at 1000 hrs.

0740 hrs: At grids WT920635 and WT938620 Vietnamese PBR's received heavy automatic weapons fire, RPG and 51cal fire. Fire was returned with organic weapons, A/S, LFT, FAC and Black Pony. Engagement was at a distance of 40m. Results were: 2US WIA, 1VN KIA, 10VN WIA. Enemy losses unknown.

1045 hrs: - B 3/17 Air Cav engaged 14 enemy with organic weapons at WT951461. Results, 14 enemy KBA. On a recon of the area, they located and destroyed 1x57RR.

1200 hrs:: B 7/ 11 Arty (towed) crossed the river, followed by 1/5 Mech and were in firing position by 071730 May 70.

1300 hrs:: At WT 905670, A 1/5 Inf(M) engaged an unknown sized enemy force with organic weapons. Enemy force returned fire with S/A and A/W fire. Fire ceased at 1310. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA; enemy losses were 11NVA KIA, 8 PW's and 6 weapons.

1525 hrs: A 2/22 Inf (M) engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity WT9672. Engaged with organic weapons and LST with unknown results.

1745 hrs: A 2/22 Inf(M) received S/A and A/W fire from vicinity WT9465. Returned with organic weapons and LFT, 10 enemy in wood-line at 150m. Results 4 enemy were KBA

2050 hrs: - Recon 1/5 Inf(M) AP received 5RPG's and S/A fire. Contact broke at 2100 hrs with one platoon of B Co reacting. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, and 4 NVA KIA.

Support for ground troops was primarily through the use of aerial rocket artillery and 105 artillery supporting on the west side of the river. Enemy losses for the day were: 73 NVA KIA; captured 6 unknown type weapons, 2,25kb mines, 5xrifle grenades, 1xSKS: destroyed 65 hootches, 70m trench destroyed, 4 bxs, 1/57mm RR.

Operations 8 May:

The 8th of May saw the completion of the move into Cambodia with the insertion of the 2/14 Inf into the south of the brigade area of operations. This completed Phase II of the operation. Significant actions for the day were:

0528hrs: - B 1/5 Inf(M) at WT900673 NDP observed and engaged 10 enemy at 300m. Engaged with organic weapons with negative results.

0650 hrs: - VN PBR at WT9560 received 6 rds B-40 and heavy A/W and 51 cal fire from an unknown size enemy force. Returned with organic weapons, FAC, A/S and LFT. Fire ceased immediately. Results: No friendly casualties; enemy results unknown. 2/22 Inf (M) minus Co B relieved OPCON 1st Bde; placed OPCON 2nd bde.

The communication was excellent during the period discussed. Arty support was both DS and general support nature.

Total results of enemy losses were: 28 NVA KIA; captured 1SKS rifle, 55 gal Mogas, 55gal oil, 42 bicycles, 2 AK-47's, 26 hootches, 4 tunnel entrances uncovered, 12 motor scooters, US losses 13 WIA.

Operation 9 May: (p6)

All units were involved in detailed searches of their areas of operation. Enemy activity increased. Significant activities for the day were:

0102 hrs: VN PBR at WT962608 received B-40 and heavy A/W fire from an unknown size enemy force. Fire was returned with organic weapons, FAC, LFT and N/H. Distance of engagement was 50m. Fire ceased at 0112 hrs. There were no friendly casualties and negative enemy results.

1010 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT890658 engaged 4-5 individuals with organic weapons at 200m. Recon at the contact located an area 400m long by 400m wide, containing a large base camp complex with mess-halls, bunkers, fighting position: They also located 1 RPG launcher, 1 transistor radio, 10 RPG rounds, 51lbs documents, 20x60 satchel charges, 1NVA protective mask and 100 AK rounds. Negative casualties.

1130 hrs: A 1/5 Inf(M) at WT835684 was in contact with an estimated platoon size NVA element. Enemy were engaged with organic weapons and LFT. The enemy returned with S/A and A/W fire. Results were: 1US KIA, 14 US WIA and 9 NVA KIA.

1130 hrs: B 1/5 Inf (M) at XT835705 engaged an unknown size enemy force. Fire was returned with S/A, and A/W and RPG sporadically. US forces employed a LFT and A/S. Negative casualties or results.

1630 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT840674 received A/W and RPG fire, returned with organic weapons. Support was requested from Artillery, LFT and A/S. Results were: 1US KIA, 14US WIA, unknown enemy results. Artillery support was provided by 7/11 Arty (DS). The artillery fire was accurate and timely.

1923 hrs: FSB Minnie at WT971750 received 25-30 rounds of 82mm Mortar fire from suspected locations of WT971747. Fire was returned by 7/11 Arty, Blue Max and FAC. Results were : 1 US KIA, and 18 US WIA, enemy losses were unknown.

2030 hrs: Recon 1/5 Inf(M) at WT903665, enroute to AP received S/A fire from an unknown sized enemy force. Fire was returned with organic weapons. Fire ceased at 2035. Results: 2 US WIA; enemy losses - 4 NVA KIA, 1011 lbs of documents, 10x60mm mortar rounds, 1 set LNVA web gear, 3xCC HG's, 151 lbs clothing, 51 lbs medical supplies, 3 can teens, 6 ponchos and 1 helmet.

0630 to 1800 hrs: **Co B 2/22 Inf(M)** found two large caches, one at WT959621 and the other at WT953688. The results of these finds will be reflected in the totals.

The communications for all actions in the Bde AO the 9th of May were good. Some of the minor problems encountered had been solved and commo. was operating in an effective manner. The artillery put down effective indirect fire both on contact areas and intell. targets. Total enemy losses for the day were: 29NVA KIA: captured 1xAK-47, 1xSKS, 30 tons of rice, 3 large boats, 1 large sampan with in-board motor: destroyed 3 hootches, 16 sampans, 100 bxs, 1x 200m trench line, 9 huts, cooking utensils, 3 hammocks, 1 homemade gun, 15 structures, 6 structures damaged, 75m of trench uncovered.

(p7)

Operations 10 May:

The operations on 10 May were directed toward cache sites. The contacts during the day were limited to hit and run tactics with one to two individuals. The result of the days actions were: 8NVA KIA: captured - 18 SKS, 50 AK-47's, 1 RPD LMG, 80 K-54 pistols, 6x51 cal MG, 100 CC claymores, 1 CC LMG, 1 cc HMG, 1 M-2 carbine, 6 M-16's, 17 AK-50's, 1x7.62 AA/HG, 12x100lb bags of rice, 250 1`1/2 lb blocks of explosives, 1 entrenching tool, 1x25-30lb mine, 1 ½ tons rice, 88 CC Hg, 65x51 lb blocks explosive destroyed - 192 bx's, 6 F/P's, 124 hootches, 3 classrooms, 2 NVA flags, 1x51 cal position, 254 CC Hg's, 6x60mm mortar rounds, 9x8mm mortar rounds, 133 sleeping positions, 1 mess hall with 3CC stoves, 1500 NVA OD uniforms, 200 blue shirts and trousers, 200 brown shirts, 500 -1000 lbs miscellaneous items, 6 pigs, 4 chickens, 4 sewing machines, 150gal MoGas, 50gal Kerosine, 2x122 rockets, 7 rolls of 35mm film, 4x60mm rounds, 5RG's, 2 boxes blasting caps, 15x25lb mines, 6 cases CC HG's, 25lb of C-4. 901lbs of documents were captured.

Operations 11 May:

The operations were a continuation of Phase III of Bold Lancer I. Action was light. Significant actions during the day were:

1005 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav observed enemy at WT768837 with packs, cooking utensils and ponchos. Engaged three individuals evading the area. Results: 3 NVA KBA.

1010 hrs: D 3/22 Inf at WT933744 located an old enemy base camp containing medical supplies, bicycles, C-4, several mess halls, VIP mess hall and 90 - 100 lbs of documents. The hootches were made of tin. One large classroom was located which was 50' X 200' with 22 large desks and a podium in front.

1040 hrs A 2/14 Inf at WT968740 located and destroyed 2 sampans, 1 with motor and 5 hootches.

1250 hrs: : C 2/14 Inf at WT948648 located a small workshop with 1 arc welder, assorted tools, 1000 lbs miscellaneous parts, 10-15 small generator motors, 1 SKS, 2 RPG launchers and 1 drill press.

Totals for the day were: 7 NVA KIA: captured - medical supplies, bicycles, 90-100 lbs documents, 1 arc welder, 10-15 small generator motors, 1 SKS, 2 RPG launchers, 1 drill press: destroyed - 2 sampans, several mess halls, 1 classroom, 25 tons of rice, US losses were 4 US WIA.

The day was completed with the receipt of the warning order for the 1st Brigade to depart the present AO NLT 141800 May to assume AO in Base Area 353.

Operations 12 May:

Operations on the 12 May were marked by the heaviest contact of the operation with C 1/5 Inf(M). The rest of the action during the day was limited to small contacts with 3 -4 individuals. Caches were generally smaller.

0530 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT928682 received S/A, RPG, mortar fire and sniper fire from an unknown sized enemy force. Returned fire with organic weapons, LFT, NH, D&C ship, FAC A/S. A&B Co 1/5 Inf(M) reacted with A Co receiving fire at WT413687. Contact was broken at 0950. Results: 5 US KIA, 44 US WIA, 1 Kit Carson KIA, 6 APC's combat loss. Enemy losses: 13 NVA KIA.

1020 hrs: D 2/14 Inf located and destroyed, at WT931664, 10 hootches, 10'X20' in size.

11:30 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav at WT8665998 engaged an unknown size enemy force with organic weapons. Results 15 NVA KBA. A/S put in by Issue FAC with an additional 6 XBA. Individuals were carrying SKS's. (p8)

1800 hrs: A 3/22 Inf at XT044840 located and destroyed 4 old F/P's, 30' commo wire, 1 VA protective mask, 1 first aid kit, 23 x82mm mortar rounds, also located 4NVA KB arty 2-3 weeks old.

Results of the day were: US losses - 5 US KIA, 47 US WIA, 1 Kit Carson KIA, 6 APC's Cmbt loss: Enemy losses - 51 NVA KIA, 10 hootches, 4 F/P;s 30' commo. wire, 1 protective mask, first aid kit, 23 c 82mm rounds.

Operations 13 May:

Action of the 13th of May picked up again to include numerous contacts with the enemy. Most of the contacts were with people evading the area. Significant actions during the day were:

0710 hrs: B 3/22 Inf at WT938735 observed and engaged 2 individuals with no return fire. Results were 1NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 and 1CC HG.

0830 hrs: B 3/22 Inf at WT940734 located a cache containing 17 cases of empty vials, 7 gunny sacks of empty plasma, bottles, 1 case of 9mm rounds. Samples of the items were evacuated to FSB Woo.

0945 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav at WT795228 observed and engaged 3 individuals. Results 3 NVA KBA.

1015 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964724 received S/A fire from USEF. Returned with organic weapons. Results 1 AK-47, 1 NVA uniform and 1 NVA KIA. Engaged at 100m

1045 hrs: D 2/14 Inf. at WT977640 located a bunker complex of bn size. Possibly a training area which would hold approximately 200 individuals.

1150 hrs: D 2/14 Inf at WT975631 engaged 10 individuals at 350m with weapons and resupply. There was no return fire with 1 NVA KIA.

1200 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964725 located a hospital compound of 200-250 bed capacity. Engaged with an A/S resulting in 3 hootches and 36 bunkers destroyed.

1245 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964724 received S/A fire from an USEF 150-200m south of their location. Fire was returned with organic weapons. Results: 1US KIA. Enemy losses unknown

1310 hrs.: D 2/14 Inf at WT973654 located 2 tons of rice, 1 complete 57mm RR and 1 rocket launcher tripod.

1530 hrs: B 2/14 Inf at WT956685 located 12 tons of rice, unknown number of rolls of cloth, 3lbs medical supplies, ammo reloading equipment for US ammo, several sewing machines.

1630 hrs: C 3/22 Inf at WT905766 observed and engaged 5 individuals 150m from their location. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, enemy losses unknown.

Throughout the day the communications system was maintained at a high level of operability. Aerial support by the 3 /4 Cav and 3/17 Air Cav proved invaluable in providing maximum air cover for contracts and also providing a means by which areas inaccessible to ground troops were covered.

Operations 14 May:

The 14th of May saw the withdrawal of the 1st Bde from Base Area 354. The last unit pulled out of the AO at 1925 on 14 May 1970. The move was to relieve the 1st Cav(M) in place for operations in the Fishhook area of Cambodia. (p9)

12. (C) RESULTS: In the 9 day period covered by Operation Bold Lancer I, operational results were:

Enemy Losses: 283 NVA KIA, 12 POW's, 7 Hoi Chanhs, 297 individual weapons, 34 crew served weapons, 1561 round + several tons HE ammo (destroyed) 9 cases 4847 S/A rounds, 222 tons rice, 355 lbs documents, 705 buildings, 1202 bunkers, 701lbs, 56 non-motorized sampans, 12 boats with inboard motors, 8 tons corn, 1 mimeograph machine, 2 boxes of ink, 3 sets of binoculars, 17 wire cutters, 15 picks, 500 pick and shovel heads, 60 garden hose heads, 17 cases glass vials, 17 gunny sacks of empty plasma bottles, 5 cases glass tubing, 1536 lbs explosive. 55 A/T mine, 2 x 10KW generators, 250 bed hospital complex, 30 rolls barbed wire, 100 saw blades, 10 small motors, 5 sewing machines, 2 boxes blasting caps, 100 pistol holsters, 1 drill press, 1 lathe, 2 x55 gal drums fuel oil, 3 arc welders, 30 satchel charges, 1070 lbs clothing, 10 shape charges, 17 sets web gear, 4 rucksacks, 10 detonators, 1 radio, 60 AK magazines, 100 MG barrels, 150 MG drums, 20 canteens, 1800 unknown forms.

13. (C) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Supply:

Class I, limited Class II & IV, Class V, Class VIII and Class IX were available in sufficient quantity at Tay Ninh Base Camp with back up support at Cu Chi Base Camp. The establishment of a Forward Support Element at Thien Ngon commenced on 4 May 1970. Class III products were furnished to the battalions promptly and in adequate amounts from the Forward Support Base. Class I other than C rations was not available except in Tay Ninh. The battalions sent resupply convoys back to Tay Ninh daily to obtain Class "A" rations, ice, and some Class V as well as some repair parts.

The forward Support Base of Thien Ngon was slow in establishing a Class I distribution point and obtaining ice for the units. Units requested ammunition through the DAO who arranged for the ammunition to be drawn from the ASP at Tay Ninh and hauled to Thien Ngon. This was normally delivered 1 to 2 days after the item was requested. Because of a high usage of ammunition during the initial phase of the operation, the battalion supplemented this by going directly to the ASP and picking up ammunition and delivering it the same day.

A. Maintenance:

A contact team from D Co 725 Maint. Bn was established at the Forward Support Base. The first two or three days were oriented on getting the maintenance facilities established and repair parts were in short supply. However, this was quickly remedied and repair parts began to arrive in sufficient quantity.

C. TREATMENT OF CASUALTIES: EVACUATION AND HOSPITALIZATION:

A medical clearing station was established in the FSB for treatment of minor wounds and caring for illnesses not requiring hospitalization. Additionally a Dust-off station was established in the clearing station for calling for and controlling Medevac helicopter. Evacuation was prompt.

D. TRANSPORTATION: (p10)

The initial requirements for supplies and equipment at the Forward Support Base exceeded the whole transportation assets. The distance of the only land line of communication and the security required prohibited more than one convoy to and from the Forward Support Base a day. Additional support was provided by the US Air Force Aircraft to the Forward Support Base where on air strip capable of handling C123's was located. Transportation for resupply to the battalions who assaulted into Cambodia was generally accomplished by CH47 and UH1 helicopter. This was accomplished in a superb manner. The responsiveness of the aviation to the battalions needs, enabled the units to continue combat operation with no delays. CH54 aircraft were used for the evacuation of the disabled combat vehicles.

E. COMMUNICATION:

Communications were taxed by movement and the distances moved. During the first portion of the operation, difficulty was experienced in comms with Tay Ninh,. As soon as a retrans unit was installed on Nui Ba Den, the rest of the communications improved to the degree that no major breaks occurred.

14. (C) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:

Company E 65th Engrs constructed a float bridge to span the Rach Cai Bach River for the rapid movement of the mechanized battalions into Cambodia. Two Commando Vault Air Strikes were employed in preparation of landing zones for the air assault of 3/22 Inf Bn into the bridgehead area in Cambodia. These were employed on 6 May 1970- at 0334hrs and 0416hrs.

15. (C) PSYOPS ACTIVITIES:

a. Initially the emphasis for PSYOP / Civic Action planning during the operation Bold Lancer I, was on tactical PSYOP aerial broadcasts. Tapes targeted at the populace, however, were developed to inform non-combatants of Allied intentions, to allay fears and to urge them to remain in their homes and stay clear of the battle area. The objectives were three-fold.

(1)To minimize civilian casualties.

(2) To reduce the number of refugees.

(3) To create a favorable psychological climate in which to operate

a. A lack of civic action planning was realized midway in Operation Bold Lancer I when it became obvious that there were many more opportunities for Medcaps to be held than were anticipated. The emphasis on rapid movement of troops during the initial stages of the operation, caused the area of Medcaps to be de-emphasized in civic action planning.

b. Initial planning with respect to non-combatants was to prevent or minimize the refugee problem by advising the populace through aerial loudspeaker broadcasts to remain in their homes. The success of this plan was demonstrated by the fact that during Operation Bold Lancer I, only eight ethnic Cambodian refugees and seven ethnic Vietnamese refugees were evacuated.
(p11)

a. Medcaps, after it became apparent that they were feasible, were used to further good relations between US troops and the civilian populace. A total of seven Medcaps treating 355 patients, were held during Operation Bold Lancer I. It is significant to note that the civilian populace in base area 354 was generally very healthy and therefore the number of patients treated was somewhat less than might be expected. Information gathered at Medcaps indicate that NVA medics had performed occasional Medcaps in the area prior to the beginning of the operation.

b. The attitudes of the indigenous personnel toward the US presence varied greatly. In the vicinity of Tasuos, the attitude was distinctly pro-Viet Cong and NVA in rapid response to property damage caused by the unit. While in the southern portion of the TAOI, the civilians invited US troops to supper after Medcap teams had visited their village. Only after three Medcaps did the attitude in Tasuos show signs of changing.

a. The Cambodian's first loyalty was to his family and village. Information was obtained by direct conversation with villagers, either during tactical operations or Medcaps. In almost every case, the Cambodians informed US troops that the NVA and the Viet Cong had departed days or even hours before the Americans had arrived.

b. It became apparent as the operation progressed, that Civic Action, i.e. Medcaps and Icaps, should be emphasized and that the shortage of interpreters decreased the effectiveness of tactical operations. In future operations, Civic Action should immediately compliment tactical operations and interpreters should ideally be assigned one to each maneuver company.

16. (C) COMMANDERS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

In addition to the fact that operations were conducted in Cambodia, Operation Bold Lancer I was significantly different from other brigade operations in the past. For the first time, in a substantial period, the brigade operated as an entity employing its maneuver battalions in a closely integrated, mobile role with control and support elements operating in the field.

Mission accomplishments required the attack of a river line in a densely jungled area to permit bridging to be installed for the passage of mechanized forces. The time required to construct the bridge was sufficiently long to permit a concerted enemy counterattack, and hence the operation was of relatively high risk. As no counteraction materialized, the passage of mechanized forces into the objective area to link up with heliborne forces was accomplished without serious incidents.

The base area was dispersed over a large jungle area, which made detailed searching difficult and time consuming. Although a substantial quantity of supplies was captured and a large number of facilities were destroyed, the time and forces available permitted the neutralization of only a portion of the base area. More time to operate in the area would certainly have achieved additional results.

(p12)

Initial operations included some problems because of difficulty in communication. Maintenance of the brigade main CP at Tay Ninh, necessary in order to maintain communications with the Division CP, was not the best solution, as communications with some battalions on the move was periodically lost, and the contact between the main and forward CPs was not always reliable. The problem was resolved when an area communication facility (VHG) was established at Thien Ngon, permitting the movement for ward of the main CP.

Recommendations:

(1) Brigade command post exercises should be conducted periodically to assure optimum performance of staff sections under full field conditions.

(2) Communication planning for operations over extended distances should include early establishment of communication facilities at points where the brigade CP" must be located in order properly to control their maneuver elements.

(p13)

OPERATIONAL RESULTS

WT927739 Centaur 46 eng 30 NVA - 9 KIA

WT915747 Eng 1 NVA on bike - 1 KIA, 1 SKS CIA

WT917748 D-3/22 Contact - 5 NVA KIA

WT927742 Centaur 46 and B-3/22 Eng 3 NVA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 hootch dest.

WT980730 Centaur 46 Eng. 7 NVA, 1 NVA KIA

WT892741 Centaur 47 Eng. 3 NVA 2 NVA KIA, 2 SKS CIA

WT886754 Centaur 46 Eng. 5 NVA - 2 NVA KIA

WT927710 B-3/22 found 6 NVA killed by gunships

WT937732 A-2/22 Eng. 2 NVA - 1 KIA, 1 SKS CIA

WT910736 Falcon Eng 10 NVA - 1 NVA KIA

XT027781 D-3/22 dest 4 bunkers

XT032797 B-3/22 dest 4 US claymores hooked up to PRC-25 btry.

WT967746 Centaur 47 Eng and dest 12 bunkers W/AS

WT915747 A-3/22 found 10.6 tons of rice (to be evac) Dest 1 Honda, 10 bikes

WT915746 A-3/22 dest 14 bikes, 15# dec and 2 tons of rice to be evac.

WT954760 Centaur 46 Eng base camp of 80 bunkers and 30 hootches

WT923748 Centaur 46 Loc 160 x 100# bags of rice. (8 tons to be evac)

WT945755 Centaur 46 Eng 5 bunkers and 3 hootches

WT918749 D-3/22 found 25 tons of rice and 20# of docs - evac.

WT927742 B-3/22 dest 4 bunkers, 2 hootches, found 9 tons of bagged rice (evac)

WT937732 A-3/22 dest 2 bunkers

WT927710 B-3/22 found 2# of docs, and small amt of medical supplies.

WT930736 A-3/22 dest 30 bunkers and 30 hootches made of wood and straw.

WT967741 B-3/22 dest 11 sampans w/inbd mtrs, 2 samp. 5 mortars and 6 tons corn

WT967753 A-3/22 dest 10 bunkers

XT047812 C-3/22 dest 8 bunkers

XT034733 A-3/22 loc hospital complex (suspected)

XT047607 C-3/22 dest 19 bunkers and connecting tunnels

WT936766 A-3/22 dest 20# AT mine

WT965746 B-3/22 dest 60 well constructed hootches, 12-15 man size

WT963745 D-3/22 found and dest: 1 hvy 30 cal MG, 1 lt 30 cal MG, 1 M-2 Carb. 3 SKS, 1 B-40,
13 20# AT mines, 86 CC HG, 4 PRG rds, 10 pick axes, 10 large wire cutters,
3 binoculars, 6 RG, 65 5# exp blocks.

WT983767 D-3/28 Loc Inf Tng base. Dest 40 bunkers, 40 hootches, large mess hall, VIP mess hall,
10 tons rice evac.

WT907667 1/5 dest 60 rds AK ammo, 15 lbs clothing, Evac 10# docs and dist 6 tons rice and food stuff to
civil population

WT896662 1/5 dest base camp complex - 10 CC HG, 15 lbs of clothing and evac 60# of documents

WT883647 1/5 dest base camp complex - 2 CC HG and 1 gas mask

WT897677 1/5 dest 50 rds AK and evac 2 lbs doc

WT900675 1/5 dest 15 sets of web gear and 40 loaded AK mag. Evac 12 burb guns, 3 SKS, 5 AK,

1 K54, and 3 lbs doc, 1 US Jeep

WT904674 1/5 dest 10 RG, 4 RPG rds, 10 CC Shape charges, evac 1 RPG-7, 1 transceiver radio and

10 lbs doc.

WT891646 1/5 dest 10 rds 60mm mtr, 8 loads AK mags, 1 RPG rd, 5# C-4, and 15 lbs clothing and

Equip., 3 AK's, 1 SKS, and 5# doc evac.

Enclosure 3 to Combat Operations After Action Report (p14)

WT850670 1/5 dest 4 CC HG and 1 51cal psn

WT885651 1/5 dest bunker complex, dest 15# clothing and evac 2# docs.

WT867669 1/5 evac 7 CC claymores, 6 cases HG(150) and 12 cases of C4 (230#4)

WT835747 1/5 evac 2 road blocks

WT965738 1/5 loc base camp

WT945748 1/5 dest 10 bunkers

WT951748 1/5 contact 1 NVA KIA

WT933668 1/5 8 PW evac (replacements no sig intel).

WT897666 1/5 4 detainees (IC)

WT903674 1/5 Contact 11 NVA KIA

WT895665 1/5 Contact 4 NVA KIA

WT899668 1/5 Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT899677 1/5 Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT890658 1/5 Partially dest 200 bunkers

WT876627 1/5 Hoi Chanh - ARVN's to exploit

WT835675 1/5 Contact 17 NVA KIA

WT903664 1/5 Contact 4 NVA KIA

WT966762 2/22 loc ammo storage areas made of brush

WT968734 A/2-22 Eng. 2 NVA, Res: 1 NVA KIA

WT930745 Scts 2/22 loc base camp and dest 2 tons rice.

WT946656 **A-2/22** Contact 4 Eni KIA

WT885660 **C-2/22** APC hit mine - 2 US WIA, mod dam to APC

WT883655 **2/22** APC hit mine. 2 US WIA

WT923687 **C-2/22** contact s-a w/USEF. Res: 2 US WIA

WT953677 **A-2/22** recd 2 rds 82mm mtr and RPG, 1 US WIA

WT900688 **Scts 2/22** loc 2 NVA KIA

WT923661 **A-2/22** APC det 70-80lb mine. 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT961685 **A-2/22** dest 2 25' sanoabs w/motors and 9 15; sampans, 25 bxs, 3 small huts, mess halls

and 3 day old cooked food.

WT953692 **C-2/22** dest 2 bx, sleeping equip and cooking utensils

WT976655 **Scts 2/22** dest 4 bamboo thatched hootches, RPG 7 rds, pots, pans and 3 fgt psns

WT050622 **B 2/22** dest 35 bx (6x6' and 20x20') 6 fgt pans, 64 hootches, 3 classrooms (20'x50')

2 RPG launchers, 6 60mm rds, 9 81mm rds, 8 slpg pans, mess hall (20'x20') w 3 stoves

6 tons of bagged rice, 250 ¼ lb blocks of exp, and 2 SKS's in ex. Shape

WT952691 **C-2/22** contact 4-5 eni, 2 NVA KIA

WT953688 **C-2/22** dest 125 slpg psns, 1500 NVA uniforms, 400 shirts, 200 trousers, and 1000 lbs of

misc. clothes and utensils

WT923637 2/14 1-55 gal drum of oil, 1-55k gal drum of fuel, 3 sampans (1 w/eng) 1 ton of rice, 2 bikes

and 1 ox cart dest

WT912638 2/14 dest 2 B-40 rds, 2 CC claymores and 2 AK-47's

XT038787 2/14 dest 1 RPG rd w/booster and 2 CC HG

WT906646 2/14 dest 1 AK-47

WT917648 2/14 dest 80 crates of food, 2 10KW Gen and 100lb shape charge, 225 Frag. Grenades,

29 AK mags, 12 assault rifles, 9 SKS's, 66 AK-47's, 21 cases of exp (60 clocks / case),

80 K-54's, 1 122mm rkt, 100 holsters, 50 uniforms, 3 75mm RR, 3 cases of K-54 ammo.

1 case CC HG, 2 cases 9mm ammo, 4 cases 7x62 ammo, 100 saw blades, 500 shovel heads,

40 AT mines, 1 LMG, 6 51cals, 1 120mm mtr, 100 CC claymores, 5 RPG's 6 M16's

15 AK50's, and 3 tons of bagged rice evac. (p15)

WT911647 2/14 dest 2 122mm rkts.

WT982655 2/14 capt 1 K-54, dest 4 Hg, 12 CC Hg., 1 RPG 7 and 2 boxes blasting caps.

WT917660 2/14 dest, 50 lbs NVA clothing and 750 lbs of rice.

WT833658 2/14 recd Hoi Chanh (9th Div).

WT910653 2/14 dest 1 AK-50, 3 CC Hg. 3 AK mags, and 2 NVA KIA

WT897704 A 2.22 contact 1 APC dam. Neg res.

WT899685 3/17 loc Bx complex and poss ammo storage area

WT937769 C 2/22 loc cache w/100 7.62 MG barrels, 500 shovels and 100-150 MG drums

WT900650 B 2/14 contact eng 2 NVA Res: 2 NVA KIA, 1 AK-50, 30 CC Hg's, 3 AK mags CIA

WT924754 A 3/22 recd 2 HC, 2 SKS's and 2 CC Hg's

WT965715 187 AHC recd g/f w/4 hits and neg cas.

WT976645 2/22 loc Bx complex.

WT948727 2/22 loc hospital complex. 3/22 rea

WT969618 2/22 loc trenches

XT099762 Ron 2/14 dest 40lb bbt mine

WT800717 LOH recd s-a g/f w/neg hits

WT967831 3/17 obs eni assy area and 3 NVA

WT960687 B 1/5 det unk size mine bbt, 4 US WIA

WT963687 B 1/5 det unk size mine bbt. 2 US WIA

WT948647 C 2/14 loc work shop, 1 arc-light welder, asst tools, 1000 lbs of misc parts, 10-15 small gen

Motors, 1 drill press, 2 RPG launchers and 1 SKS.

WT888890 C 3/17 contact 2 NVA KBA

WT933696 C 1/5 loc base area, hootches and 25 tons of rice

WT934743 D 3/22 loc BC, mess halls, lg classroom, med supplies, and 90-100lbs of doc.

WT960747 A 2/14 loc 2 sampans and 5 hootches.

WT932743 S2 3/22 loc 4 tons of rice. Evac to TNBC

XT043803 A 3/22 recd 3 rds 82mm mtr. No cas.

WT917665 B 2/14 contact 1 NVA KIA and 5lbs med. Supplies CIA

WT906663 B 2/14 contact 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 CIA

WT966694 B 1/5 APC det 30 lb mine. Res: 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT963693 B 1/5 APC det 30 lb mine. Res. 3 US WIA APC med dam.

WT908697 B 1/5 dest hootches

WT931690 C 1/5 dest 5-lb mine. Res: 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT966692 B 1/5 dest 4 sampans

WT951690 B 1/5 dest 34 hootches, 22 Bxs and 1 RPG

WT925730 Scts 1/5 loc 1 ton of rice, 24 lbs of clothing, 4 lbs doc (evac), dest 9 hootches, 1 Bx,
1 kitchen. Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT933690 C 1/5 APC det 30lb mine. Res: 1 US WIA. APC CBL

WT928683 A.B.C. 1/5 contact 5 US KIA, 44 US WIA, 1 APC CBL. 1 Kit Carson Sct KIA
13 NVA KIA

WT905855 C 3/17 Eng 1 NVA - 1 NVA KIA

WT932663 D 2/14 dest 10 hootches

WT865998 C 3/17 Eng 15 NVA Res: 21 NVA KIA

WT895728 A 3/22 Contact 1 US WIA. Neg. enemy res.

WT918643 2/14 dest 7 120mm mortar rds and 72 cases CC explosives.

WT947765 D 3/22 det BBT - Res: 2 US WIA (p16)

WT964735 B 3/22 contact . Neg res.

WT915065 B 3/22 contact. 26 NVA KIA

WT976631 D 2/14 dest 100 lbs corn, 300 lbs rice, 4 bikes, and ½ lb doc.

XT044838 A 3/22 dest 4 fgt psns, 30' commo wire, 1 NVA gas mask, 1 first aid kit, 23 82mm mtr rds,
7 NVA bodies killed by arty

WT967637 C 2/14 capt 1 POW (reclass. HC)

WT939744 B 3/22 cont 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, and 1 CC HG CIA

WT965724 A 2/14 cibt ebg 2 BVA - 1 KIA and 1 AK CIA

WT940734 B 3/22 fnd 19 cases of empty vials, 7 gyny sacks of plasma, 50l boxes of pills, 5 cases of

Glass tubing, 1 mimeograph machine, 2 boxes of ink

WT908707 B 2/22 dest 30# mine- BBT - Act w/in 12 hrs.

WT975613 D 2/14 cont - 1 NVA KIA

WT965724 A 2/14 fnd hosp comp 200 - 250 beds

WT974659 D 2/14 fnd 2 tons corn, and 57mm RR.

WT925708 B 2/22 dest 30#CC mine - BBT

WT956643 B 2/14 fnd 1 NVA killed by s-a

WT957686 B 2/14 fnd 1.2 tons rice, many bolts of cloth, 3 lbs med equip, ammo reloading equip,

Several sewing machines

WT906764 C 3/22 contact - 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA

WT966630 B 2/14 contact - 1 NVA KIA

WT977647 C 3/17 rec'd s-a fire w/neg hits

WT965725 A 2/14 contact - 1 US WIA

WT977640 D 2/14 loc and partially dest bkr complex appeared to be Bn size trng area.

Air Support

Cambodian Invasion

Project CHECO

On 27 March 1970, an ad hoc planning group meeting was held at MACV headquarters. During this meeting, 7AF representatives emphasized the need for complete photo reconnaissance and urged that ARVN airborne units and interdiction airstrikes be used to seal the back- side of the FISHHOOK. Neither idea was incorporated into the campaign plan which the ad hoc group

proposed and the Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command (COMUSMACV) forwarded to the JCS on 29 March.

The 7AF did not receive instructions to begin definitive planning until 27 April 1970, too days before ARVN's entry into the Parrot's Beak. Even then, the strict "eyes only" top secret security measures restricted briefings to "key officers." Every effort was made to prevent any leaks to the press and to time U.S. entry into the FISHHOOK to coincide with the President's message on Cambodia. The basic concept for air support was to provide all sorties required on a first priority basis. A JCS message of 25 April had revised the priorities for tactical air to be: (1) Cambodia; (2) South Vietnam; (3) BARREL ROLL; and (4) STEEL TIGER.

As it had done in the past, the flexibility and responsiveness of tactical air was demonstrated. The Tactical Air Control System met the requirements of the Cambodian operations with routine efficiency. Only a few special arrangements were needed. On the evening of 28 April, TACC alerted the Direct Air Support Centers (DASC) and fighter wings to be ready to support ARVN operations in the Parrot's Beak if ordered to do so. The FAC and fighter pilots were to follow normal in-country Rules of Engagement and operating procedures and were cautioned to exercise extreme vigilance to avoid dropping ordnance on the noncombatant populace. Air Liaison Officers (ALO) were to encourage the ARVN units to which they were assigned to use Vietnam Air Force (VNAF) assets. The Parrot's Beak operation was to be a Vietnamese show with U.S. involvement kept to a minimum. Backup search and rescue (SAR) forces were augmented by moving four A-1 aircraft from Nakhon Phanom and two HH-3E helicopters from Da Nang to Bien Hoa and placing one AC-130 gunship on ground alert at Tuy Hoa.

The FISHHOOK operation required a few additional preparations, as it was primarily a U.S. action. Besides the SAR aircraft already on station, TACC allocated two Blindbat flaeships at Cam Ranh Bay, four AC-119K gunships at Phan Rang, and ten additional alert sorties at Bien Hoa and Phan Rang. They also organized Spat and Sleepytime FACs for night strikes and set up a refueling track southwest of Ban Me Thout. A message of 30 April to the Direct Air Support Centers (DASCS) and fighter wings informed them that U.S./ARVN forces would begin operating in certain areas of Cambodia adjacent to III Corps and repeated the instructions to use normal operating procedures and to exercise extreme vigilance to avoid dropping ordnance on the noncombatant populace. For security purposes they were to submit only one copy of their After Action Reports, OpRep-4. by 7AF courier. Fighters on Cambodian missions were sent to in-country rendezvous near the FISHHOOK. The pilots were not briefed until just prior to the initial missions that they were going into Cambodia.

FACs used the built-in mobility of the Tactical Air Control System to support the ground units to which they were normally assigned by operating from their radio jeeps and flying, when necessary, out of the forward operating bases. The FISHHOOK action (TOAN THANG 42) came under control of Task Force Shoemaker which was set up by the Commanding General of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The ALO of the 1st Air Cav Div appointed his deputy as the Task Force ALO.

To facilitate coordination of airstrikes and artillery fire within the narrow confines of the areas of operation (AO) designated for the first day's operation, the Task Force ALO set up a special Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) at Quan Loi, Task Force Headquarters. Under call sign Rash Advon, this TACP took over control of the operation from Rash Control, the normal TACP located at Phouc Vinh. The ALO of the 3d ARVN Airborne Battalion (Abn Bn) also moved his Red Marker TACP and aircraft to Quan Loi. The Rash 30 TACP supporting the 3d Brigade (Bde), and the Nile TACP supporting the 11th U.S. Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) were already located at Quan Loi. Nile FACs flew their O-2 aircraft out of Bien Hoa as usual, because the runway at Quan Loi was too rough for the O-2.

To enhance control and reduce air traffic complications, an O-2 aircraft was set up out of Di An to act as an airborne controller with the call sign Head Beagle. FAC Instructor Pilot controllers flew in the right seat. This arrangement greatly facilitated handling of the numerous airstrikes delivered during the first four days of the operation. Head Beagle circled at about 8,000 feet altitude inside the RVN Border south of the FISHHOOK. Rash Advon passed the fighters to Head Beagle, who in turn directed them to the proper FAC from the standard rendezvous established for each AO. By contacting the FAC about 15 minutes before the scheduled time over target (TOT) of each mission, Head Beagle was able to monitor the weather and the FAC's ability to handle the strike as scheduled. If a FAC were running behind, or if one needed an immediate airstrike or a particular type of ordnance, Head Beagle would hold the fighters at the rendezvous or divert them as needed. This tactic had been combat tested at the siege of Khe Sanh and other localized operations.

The lack of current intelligence during the first few days of all the operations made targeting difficult. Although there were numerous sources, the vast majority of those made available were outdated, most of them by weeks and even five and six months. While the evidence was sufficient to indicate general locations of the base areas, it did not adequately identify the exact locations of the enemy's defensive positions. This problem was complicated by delays at MACV in the dissemination of Air Force photo reconnaissance to the field commanders. This problem continued throughout the first week of the operation, with pictures arriving 24 hours after ground units moved into a new area.

Because intelligence estimated that the FISHHOOK was occupied by an enemy force of about 7,000, the concept was to suppress enemy resistance by use of massive airstrikes for landing zone (LZ) and objective preparations. The 1st Air Cav Div G-2 had compiled a list of 381 targets from an all-source intelligence readout provided by the Combined Intelligence Center, Vietnam. An air operations FAC and an artillery officer platted all 381 targets and labeled them by type on a map. They then identified areas of concentration and established the following priorities for strikes: (1) antiaircraft and automatic weapons Positions; (2) strongpoints; (3) headquarters; (4) base camps; (5) bunker complexes; and (6) storage areas. The main objective was to hit points of suspected resistance in the objective areas of each unit.

The next requirement after softening up the objectives was to have continuous air cover available for close air support of troops in contact and targets of opportunity. The FAC proposed a schedule which divided 37 airstrikes of two sorties each from 0700-1900H at fifteen-minute to one-half hour intervals between the three AOs. To be absolutely certain sufficient air coverage was available to cover any contingency, the number of airstrikes was changed from two to four sorties per airstrike for the first day's operation. In addition to these 148 tactical air sorties, six B-52 ARC LIGHT strikes of six sorties each were requested for six target boxes along the southern border of the FISHHOOK from 0415-0540H on 1 May 1970. These airstrikes were also targeted from the dated intelligence in the CICV target list. There was no current intelligence from infrared (IR), sniffer, side-looking airborne radar (SLAR), sensors, or long range reconnaissance patrols (LRRP). Both tactical air and B-52 requests were processed through normal channels and were approved as submitted.

ARC LIGHT strikes early on the morning of 1 May 1970 signaled the entry into Cambodia by U.S. ground forces. The first tactical airstrikes hit their targets about 0700H and units of the Task Force moved by ground and air across the border on schedule. The 11th ACR moved overland from the south, the 3d Bde closed from the west, and the 3d ARVN Abn air assaulted from the northeast. Army hunter-killer teams composed of light observation helicopters (LOH) and Cobra gunships ranged over the northwest front to cut off the enemy's escape.

Head Beagle passed the fighters off to the FACs in their respective AOs and proved to be the integral link in the successful handling of 144 preplanned and 48 immediate airstrikes delivered throughout the day. This was no mean task as the fluid nature of the ground battle continually demanded changes in the schedule. Although ground contact was limited to small engagements, demands for support of troops in contact and strikes against targets of opportunity necessitated diverting most of the airstrikes from the preplanned coordinates. The uncertainty of friendly locations and the absolute necessity to avoid noncombatant casualties delayed clearances and required some fighters to hold 15 to 30 minutes.

At his evening staff meeting on 1 May, the Commanding General of II Field Force Vietnam (FFV) stated the day's operation far exceeded his expectations, everything had gone like clockwork with the airborne assault achieving complete surprise. Not one friendly soldier was killed and only 12 were wounded, as compared to about 390 of the enemy killed in action (KIA). Allied airpower contributed greatly to these results.

The planning of preplanned targets continued to suffer from the lack of real time intelligence. Consequently, the second and third day targets were merely selected from the dated list of 381 targets passed down from division headquarters for the first day's planning. However, this was not of critical importance as the ground commanders' primary interest was to have airstrikes available throughout the day to support troops in contact (TIC) situations and to hit targets of opportunity. The divert rate from the preplanned coordinates bore this out. While the concept of operation did not change, the quality of intelligence did improve after the fourth day. Information from IR, SLAR, army photo reconnaissance, visual reconnaissance (VR), and prisoner of war (PW) reports started to accumulate. The Division G-2 used this intelligence to compile a new list of 160 targets on the fourth day and another list of 264 targets on the sixth day.

Although the number of preplanned airstrikes remained about the same for the second day, the number of sorties was cut in half by reducing the request from four to two sorties per airstrike. When the number of sorties requested increased to 89 the third day and jumped to 128 the fourth day, the TACC recommended that as enemy resistance was light, air could be more effectively managed by cutting down the number of preplanned requests and relying on immediate airstrikes from ground alert to fill in the gaps. This suggestion was accepted and preplanned sorties dropped successively to a low of 20 on the eighth day and fluctuated about a lower level throughout the rest of the campaign.

The concept of the operation changed drastically late in the evening of the second day, 2 May 1970. At midnight, the Task Force Commander, told his commanders that SLAR and other reports indicated the enemy was escaping the area by Highway 7 to the north. He outlined a plan for the 2d Bde to air assault into position just south of Snuol to block Highway 7 and for the 11th ACR and the 3d Bde to attack to the north. This required an all night preparation and was accomplished without the benefit of photo reconnaissance of the area. The TACC suggested to the Task Force Commander that the Air Force select an interdiction point (IDP) to the north of Snuol and seal off the road. Uncertainty as to whether the Rules of Engagement would allow airstrikes in that area postponed further consideration of this idea until the fourth day.

The new plan more than tripled the size of the Task Force's AO, greatly relieving the air congestion but also vastly increasing the task of locating the enemy. The 2d Bde air assaulted south of Snuol on schedule during the morning of 3 May and the 11th ACR started a move north which brought their units up Highway 7 to the outskirts of Snuol by the afternoon of 5 May. The fast-changing ground situation negated efforts to preplan air targets and most of the airstrikes went against targets of opportunity and in support of TICs developing out of the tactical situation.

The close cooperation between the FACs and LOH scouts made them an effective combination. The 3d Bde had developed a system whereby a FAC would fly cover for a White Team (two LOH scouts). The FAC gave directions to the scouts while one scout went down low looking for targets and the other flew larger circles above him. When they found a worthwhile target or received ground fire, the FAC would get the fighters on station. The scout then marked the target with a smoke grenade and the FAC used this mark as a reference to put in his marking smoke rocket for the fighters. If time permitted, the scout checked the target and remarked between fighter passes. After the strike, the scouts descended below treetop level to make an accurate assessment of the damage.

An example of the results of such cooperation occurred on 3 May. Rash 32 was working with a White Team led by Accent 81. They were flying up Highway 7 when Accent 81 spotted tire tracks which led to some poncho covered shelters and a 2 1/2-ton truck camouflaged under the trees. Rash 32 diverted in two strikes but both of them missed the truck. Rash 32 had to respond to a TIC, and Accent 81 returned to Quan Loi for fuel. After lunch they returned to the area and Rash 32 put a strike of high drag bombs on the target. Again the truck was missed, but the blast cleared away the foliage so the scouts could clearly see stacks of crates full of weapons. About 1600H, Accent 81 landed and found a cache containing about 100 cases of new SKS and AK-47 rifles (20 each), a large wheel-mounted recoilless rifle, three 50-cal weapons, a pile of about 500 old AK-47 rifles, and uncounted other weapons under tarps. Rash 32 requested two immediate airstrikes. The first strike of CBU munitions resulted in four secondary explosions. Later ground exploitation of the area uncovered one of the largest weapons caches discovered during the operation.

Requests for BULLPUP and PAVE WAY bombs for strikes on point targets, such as bridges, could not be honored by the TACC, because the delivery aircraft were based in Thailand, and the Rules of Engagement would not allow use of Thai-based aircraft in Cambodia.

By the end of the fifth day, the boundaries of the operation in the FISHHOOK had been fairly well established and the ground troops settled down to searching out the area. Operations returned to the normal status of everyday procedures. The Task Force headquarters at Quan Loi was disbanded, and the Commanding General of the 1st Air Cav Div resumed direct control of the operation. Rash Advon ceased operation, returning overall control to Rash Control at Phuoc Vinh. The 3d Bde and 11th ACR FACs continued to operate out of Quan Loi, their normal location, and the 3d ARVN Abn Bde Red Marker FACs moved to Tay Ninh, their normal forward operating location. Head Beagle flew its last missions on the sixth day and the FACs returned to their regular duties.

Considering the small airspace, the fluid ground situation, and the vast numbers of aircraft involved in the first few day's activities, command and control worked smoothly and effectively. One serious accident occurred, however, and several Short Rounds were avoided only by the quick reaction of the FACs. On 2 May, an O-2 carrying two pilots collided in mid-air with a Cobra gunship. The pilots of the gunship were killed in the crash. Evidently the blade of the gunship cut the O-2 in half for the FACs both exited the aircraft and descended in their chutes. However, both pilots' legs were amputated below the knees. One was dead when he was picked up and the other died on the way to Tay Ninh in the rescue ship.

On 2 May, Rash 32 prevented friendly casualties by flying his OV-10 directly in front of a Cobra gunship team which had expended rockets on a friendly position and was coming around for a second pass. On the same day, another FAC saw troops moving through the forest when he rolled in to mark a target. Upon checking further, the ground adviser discovered that a friendly unit had moved into the area without his knowledge. The next day a FAC cleared to strike a village also discovered that friendly troops had moved into the area unperceived by the ground commander requesting the airstrike.

The ground commanders gave high praise to the alert, professional manner in which FACs managed the air support rendered during these first hectic days. They spoke enthusiastically about the responsiveness of the air support and expressed the firm conviction that it had thrown the enemy off balance, forced him to scatter, and had been the major factor in keeping the number of friendly casualties low.

Except for slight modifications, the application of airpower in the FISHHOOK was typical of all operations in Cambodia. In an attempt to surprise a suspected COSVN headquarters, the 25th Inf Div deviated from the use of airstrikes for LZ preparations by targeting preplanned airstrikes

adjacent to the suspected location to divert attention from the objective area. The only preparation used was heavy artillery immediately prior to the assault.

Except for this attempt to surprise the enemy, the usual procedure was to use extensive airstrikes for LZ and objective preparations to suppress enemy resistance prior to combat assaults. Preplanned airstrikes served primarily as air cover for TIC and strikes against targets of opportunity, and most of them were diverted from the preplanned targets for these uses. After the first few days, the number of air-strike sorties tapered off and fluctuated at a lower level for the remainder of the campaign. After the initial assaults and expansion of the AO boundaries, the ground forces settled down to searching out the areas and evacuating the caches discovered. During this phase, preplanned airstrikes served primarily as air cover and secondarily as a means of reconnaissance by bombing to aid in the discovery and destruction of storage areas. FAC visual reconnaissance missions and FAC coordination with LOH scouts proved particularly effective during this phase.

The foregoing descriptions also apply to the ARVN operations. They were supported primarily by VNAF FACs and VNAF fighter aircraft, and ground commanders adhered closely to methods in which they were trained. The main difference was due to weaknesses in the visual reconnaissance program of VNAF FACs. They generally put in preplanned strikes and then returned to their base. Consequently, VNAF FACs were not as responsive to immediate requests for airstrikes for TIC and targets of opportunity as their USAF counterparts.

During the ARVN operations, the USAF ALOs worked closely with the ground commanders and VNAF ALOS. While the VNAF Facs were engaged in directing the preplanned airstrikes, the USAF FACs picked up the visual reconnaissance role and responded to requests for immediate airstrikes. The level of enemy resistance in the Parrot's Beak was considerably higher than in the FISHHOOK and airstrikes in response to significant enemy contacts were more frequent. Enemy units of battalion size and larger put up intense ground fire against aircraft. On 29 May, while elements of Task Force 225 were in contact in the Parrot's Beak with an enemy force estimated at two battalions, one F-100, one helicopter, and one A-1 were shot down in the same battle. As one USAF FAC conducted the resulting SAR efforts, another directed immediate airstrikes in support of the engagement. After the battle was over, the ground commander estimated more than 100 KBA and at least that many wounded.

The USAF FACs attached to the ARVN units also served in numerous other roles. They were the first to note civilian and refugee locations and passed this information to advisers in the field and political advisers in the province to prevent inadvertent bombing of civilian noncombatants.

USAF FACs scouted the areas ahead of ground movements and advised commanders of terrain conditions and the possible location of enemy defenses. On one occasion, a USAF FAC led an ARVN medevac helicopter through intense ground fire in one-half mile visibility to locate a friendly position. He adjusted artillery on the enemy positions while the medevac evacuated the wounded.

Ground commanders' appreciation for the air support they received was reflected in a letter to Gen. George S. Brown, Deputy Commander for Air Operations, MACV, from Lt. Gen. Michael S. Davison, Commander, II Field Force Vietnam:

"Fran Roberts has just provided me with a succinct recapitulation of the close air support we have received in the border areas of III CTZ during the period 1 May - 10 June 1970. I find the total effort expended on our behalf to be extremely impressive, and am enclosing the report as rendered to me, on the chance that perhaps this information hasn't reached you in quite this form. "I'm most appreciative, not only of the amount of support your units have provided to the II FFV and III Corps maneuver elements, but also of the extremely adept and timely manner in which it's been delivered. It has been a professional performance of the highest quality."

Operation Bold Lancer-Toan Thang IV

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division

APO San Francisco 96225

Commanding General
July 70

18

25th Infantry Division

Attn: Division Historian

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report, BOLD LANCER I (6 May - 14 May 70)

1. (U) Operation BOLD LANCER I (Thoan Thang IV)
2. (U) Dates of Operation - 041200 May 70 to 141925 May 70

3. (C) Location - Base Area 354 (XT1090, XT1060, WT 8080, WT8060)
4. (U) Command Control Headquarters - 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division
5. (U) Reporting Officer - Paul J. Mueller Jr, Col Inf Commanding

6.(C) Task Organization:

2/14 Inf (05 May - 14 May 70) 7/11 Arty (PS) (04 May - 14 May 70)
3/22 Inf (04 May - 14 May 70) A 2/32(-) (GS) (06 May - 14 May 70)
1/5 Inf (M) (04 May - 14 May 70) B 3/13 (R) (05 May - 14 May 70)
2/22 Inf (M) (-) (04 May - 08 May 70) C 3/13 (R) (10 May - 14 May 70)
B 2/22 Inf (M) (04 May - 13 May 70) D 3/13 (R) (08 May - 12 May 70)
D Troop 3/ 4 Cav SQDN (04 May - 08 May 70)
3/17 Air Cav SQDN (06 May - 14 May 70)

Brigade Control:

1F 75th Inf (Rangers) (04 May - 14 May 70)
A 65th Eng. (BS) (04 May - 14 May 70)
Prov. Co. (Nui Ba Den) (04 May - 14 May 70)
46th Inf Plt Scout Dog (04 May - 14 May 70)
1 Plt. 25th MP Co. (04 May - 14 May 70)

7. (C) Supporting Forces:

a.Artilery

(1) 7/11 Artillery (DS) HQ (041200 - 141925 May 70)

A Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

B Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

C Btry - (04 May - 14 May 70)

Support by the 7/11 Arty was continuous and extremely timely. The planning and coordination of these fires were also extremely effective.

(1) Divarty

B 3/13 (155) (Reinf)

C 3/13 (155) Reinf)

D 3/13 (8") (Reinf)

The indirect fire support provided by the 2/32 was highly effective during the Cambodian operation.

a. US Army Aircraft:

(1) 1st Brigade Aviation Section: This is a section of 5 light observation helicopters. Support provided included both administrative and tactical missions. The close cooperation between brigade and the aviation section was contributed to overcoming many of the control problems inherent with operating in a large area of operations. Troop lift support was provided by the 187 AHC (6-8, 10, 11, 13, 14 May) and 116 AHC (6, 9, 12, 14 May) with both troop transport and armed helicopter escort.

(2) B Troop 2/4 Cav and 3/17 Air Cav also provided helicopter, gunship and aerial recon support in the brigade area of operations. This support enabled the brigade to have an immediate strike capability in contact areas, the assets to VR new areas for enemy troop movements and enemy staging and supply areas.

(1) US Air Force - Tactical air support was provided by the USAF Forward Air Controllers

And Fighter aircraft. This support provided the air strikes necessary for destroying enemy bunker, storage complexes, and troop concentrations.

a. Engineer Support - Special use was made of Company E 65th Engineers for installation of a pontoon bridge for the movement of mechanized troops over the Rach Cai Bach River (Rach Beng Co) into Cambodia. Their support was effective, however emplacement of the bridge was delayed due to difficulty of establishing a bridge approach on the west bank of the river.

b. Signal Communications support for this operation was supplied by the organic commo. platoon and elements from the 125th Signal battalion. Brigade commo provided the radio communications. Due to the distance involved during the first part of the operation, the communications was at times difficult. The installation was quick and effective. VHF communications was provided by 125th Signal. This means pf communications was delayed in becoming operational due to the difficulty encountered with equipment seviceability. However, once communication was established, it was very reliable with prompt action and efficient ;operation.

8. (C) INTELLIGENCE: The general status and disposition of enemy forces in the vicinity of Base Area 352* prior to operation BOLD LANCER I was believed to have been as follows:

UNIT	LOCATION	STRENGTH	INFO.	SOURCE
95C Regiment	Western War Zone C	570	PW/Contacts	
HQ/9th VC/NVA DIV	Base Area 354 (Cambodia)	845	PW/Rallier	
Z31	Vic Xom Giua			
	Base Area 354 (Cambodia)	UNK	PW	
272 VC/NVA Regt	NW of Thien Ngon	900	PW/Contacts	

Note that Base Area 354 covers an area in W.War Zone C (Viet Nam) and Cambodia W. of Dogshead.

a. The principal targets of the operation commencing on 6 May were the suspected base area, training and logistical facilities and headquarters units of the 9th VC/NVA Division located in the northern portion of Base Area 706 and Base Area 354 in Cambodia. A secondary, but important consideration was the presence of the 95C Regiment in Western War Zone C and Base Area 354. This unit had been in an offensive posture since late March, and had conducted numerous attacks against the 1st Cav. Division (AM) Fire Support Bases in the area. In addition it was thought that the targeted area in Cambodia contained various support units and replacement organizations. PW's captured in previous operations in War Zone C had indicated the existence of a unit known as Z-31 which supplied replacements to main force units in the area.

b. When combat operations were initiated in Base Area 354, enemy contact was significantly less than anticipated. Initially groups of as many as 30-40 NVA were engaged with gunships, but ground contact was limited to scattered exchanges of fire with small groups. There appeared to be no organized resistance and no significant enemy formations were encountered until 9 May when elements of 1/5 Inf (M) engaged a tenacious enemy force. On 12 May C 1/5 Inf (M) NCP was attacked by an estimated two company force. Although no positive identification was made, the attack was believed to have been conducted by the 95C Regiment. With the exception of this contact, the enemy encountered in the operation were not in an offensive posture, and generally were not organized to conduct coordinated defensive operations. Many of the large base areas discovered had evidently been recently evacuated, with civilians reporting that large numbers of personnel had moved to the west and southwest out of the operational area at the start of the operations.

c. The following units were identified as having operated in the area prior to the operation:

UNIT	SOURCE
94 Engr Bn	PW/Documents
C 20 Sig. Co 95C Regt.	Documents
Z-31c Military Hospital	Documents
94 Recovery Regt.	Documents
C23 Hospital, 82 RSG	Documents
Medical Dispensary, 82 RSG	Documents
Z-31, 94 Recovery Regiment	PW's
9 Bn, 94 Recovery Regiment	Documents
Transportation Bn, 82 RSG	Documents
3rd Bn, 95C Regiment	Documents
K77 Hospital, RS Section COSVN	PW's
Property and Training Sect. COSVN	Documents

COSVN

A total of 58 bunker and hooch complexes, 11 rice storage areas, 6 arms and munitions storage areas, 4 hospital complexes (1 with a capacity of 250 beds) and a complete workshop with arc-welders and machine tools (drill press, lathe) was found in the objective area. The road and trail networks found indicated motor vehicle traffic and numerous motorboats and sampans were captured along the Rach Cai Bach River. Two battalion size training areas were also discovered containing, in addition to living accommodations, bleacher areas and classrooms,, large mess halls and wooden mock-ups of tanks, jets and helicopters. Base Area 354 was in all probability a training, rest and staging area for the 9th VC/NVA Division and numerous supporting elements.

d. The Cambodian portion of Base Area 354 lies in an area roughly 17Km by 13Km and is bounded on the east by the Rach Cai Bach (Rach Beng Go) River and on the south by the Prek Kampong Spean River. Neither of these rivers is fordable. The Rach Cai Bach is approximately 50m wide and the Prek Kampong Spean is slightly larger at 50 -70m. Consequently there are no direct routes of approach into the area from SVN. The eastern half of the area is densely forested and provides few landing zones except in the extreme southern portion. Numerous roads and trails run throughout the area and provide good access to the entire base area. Cross country traffic is largely limited to tracked vehicles as roads and trails soon become very difficult for wheels to travel due to deterioration. To the west of base Area 354 the terrain is sparsely wooded woods, and provided good cross country trafficability. (p3)

It should be noted that the operation was conducted during the latter part of the dry season and only scattered showers fell during the period. As rains increased, trafficability throughout the area was considerably reduced. Weather had little effect on aircraft operations during Bold Lancer I. Good flying weather was predominant and on only one occasion did ground fog delay an airmobile operation until midmorning.

e. During the initial stages of Phase I cover and concealment in Area 354 was of two distinct types. Approximately one third of the area was open and flat providing no cover and very limited concealment. Most open areas were dry rice paddies affording limited concealment behind rice paddy dikes for the infantry, and no concealment for wheeled or track vehicles. The open area afforded free movement to mechanized vehicles and wheeled vehicles towing artillery pieces and few problems were encountered in these areas. The open areas offered unrestricted observation and field of fire. All open areas in Area 354 were usable for both mechanized and to a large extent to wheeled vehicles providing avenues of approach; in any required direction. The other two thirds of the area of operations were densely vegetated varying from double to triple canopy. Mechanized and wheeled vehicles were limited to dirt roads and wide trails. Ground troops were restricted by thick underbrush although there were numerous trails throughout the area. Limited cover was provided by the dense canopy and considerable concealment was provided by the thick undergrowth in the area. Observation and fields of fire were restricted at times to a few feet and at best a few meters in all densely vegetated areas. During the initial assault into Cambodia, two critical terrain features became evident in the successful accomplishment of the mission. The first was the bridge site across the Rach Cai Bach River at Lo Go (vic WT969752). The site was critical in that it provided access through the forest to the west by trails to the village of Tasuos. This bridgehead also provided access by road south to the Prek Kampong Spean River. The second critical terrain feature was the village of Tasuos directly west of the bridge site. The village controlled the

junction of several roads, and airmobiling the 3/22 Inf. to secure he village enabled the rapid deployment of a mechanized infantry unit to the west and then south after reaching the village. The road south from the bridgehead and adjacent to the Rach Cai Bach River was utilized by another mechanized infantry battalion providing a suitable avenue of approach to the south.

f. The population in Base Area 354 was largely located west and south of the bridge site at Lo Go (subsequently FSB Minnie WT969752). One population center, Tasous (WT917747) was the focus of much of the initial tactical operations. Nowhere in the TAOI was the population in excess of -800 persons per village. Just to the south of the TAOI was the city of Kampong Trach (WT866615) which had a population in excess of 1000 people.

The attitude of the indigenous was initially one of fear, followed by warmth and cooperation. The 1/5 Inf (M), 2/14 Inf and the 2/22 Inf(M) enjoyed friendly relations with local villagers, though at Tasous the 3/22 Inf encountered ill will because of an artillery incident.

(p4)

9. (C) MISSION: 1ST Bde, 25th Infantry Division relieved elements of 1st Cav Div(AM) in northwestern War Zone C on 4 May and attacked into Base Area 354 to locate and destroy enemy supply staging areas, equipment and personnel.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION: 1st Bde, 25th Infantry Division conduct Operations Bold Lancer in three phases>

Phase I - Movement of elements of the brigade into northwestern War Zone C, relief of elements of 1st Cav Div (AM) and preparation for the attack (4 and 5 May).

Phase II - Attack and river crossing. On 6 May 1970 one Infantry Battalion was air assaulted into Cambodia. One company secured the western bank of the Rach Cai Bach River by air assault, while 2/22 Inf secured the eastern bank. Company E 665th Engineers constructed a float bridge for the passage of 1/5 Inf (M) and 2/22 Inf (M) to their objectives in Cambodia.

Phase III - Detailed Search - The insertion of another infantry battalion by air on 8 May 1970 began the detailed searching of the base area. This continued through 14 May 1970 with all elements of the brigade.

11. (C) EXECUTION: (See Overlay) Operation Bold Lancer I was an offensive move into Cambodia on a search and destroy mission to limit the enemy's capability to resupply into S. Vietnam. The order for the operation was issued on 3 May 1970.

Command and Control:

The brigade forward CP was moved to Thien Ngen (XT085817) on 6 May 1970. This was to augment the command and control originating from Tay Ninh Base Camp. On 10 May, the movement of the brigade headquarters was completed from TNBC and Thien Ngen to FSB Wood (WT047794).

Operation 6 May:

Movement of ground troops into Cambodia began on 6 May 1970 with the combat assault of three companies of the 3/22 Infantry to the vicinity of the village of Tasuos (WT917747), and one company securing the bridgehead on the western bank of the Rach Cai Bach River (WT968752). The 2/22 Inf (M) attacked to seize the bridgehead on the eastern bank, and Co. E, 65th Engr Bn initiated float bridge construction.

0334 and 0416 hrs. - two Commando Vaults were employed at the bridge site in Cambodia for the insertion of elements of the 3/22 Inf. These were 15,000 lb bombs.

0715 hrs:- C 3/22 Inf spotted 30 individuals moving away from their position at XT046815 at 150m. They were engaging with S/A, gunships and artillery with negative results.

0955 hrs: - C 3/22 received an unknown number of HE rounds, resulting in 2 US KIA and 8 US WIA. Fire was determined to be friendly artillery.

1025 hrs: - A&D Co 3/22 received small arms fire from the vicinity of Tasuos. Engaged with organic weapons and LFT's resulting in 2 US KIA and 3 WIA. Negative enemy losses.

Total enemy losses for the day were 46 NVA KIA or KBA: captured - 13 SKS rifles, 3xCC carbines, 1xUS M-1 carbine; destroyed - 27 bxs, 2x50m trenches, 7xCC HG's, 6 hooches, 1 tunnel uncovered, 1x51 cal position, 1 shack and 2xF/P. (p5)

Operations 7 May:

0605hrs: The engineers completed the bridge. At 0715 B 1/5 Inf(M) crossed the bridge. The rest of the 1/5 Inf(M) finished crossing the bridge 0800. At 0830, 2/22 Inf(M) started across the bridge. Movement across the bridge was completed at 1000 hrs.

0740 hrs: At grids WT920635 and WT938620 Vietnamese PBR's received heavy automatic weapons fire, RPG and 51cal fire. Fire was returned with organic weapons, A/S, LFT, FAC and Black Pony. Engagement was at a distance of 40m. Results were: 2US WIA, 1VN KIA, 10VN WIA. Enemy losses unknown.

1045 hrs: - B 3/17 Air Cav engaged 14 enemy with organic weapons at WT951461. Results, 14 enemy KBA. On a recon of the area, they located and destroyed 1x57RR.

1200 hrs: B 7/ 11 Arty (towed) crossed the river, followed by 1/5 Mech and were in firing position by 071730 May 70.

1300 hrs: At WT 905670, A 1/5 Inf(M) engaged an unknown sized enemy force with organic weapons. Enemy force returned fire with S/A and A/W fire. Fire ceased at 1310. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA; enemy losses were 11NVA KIA, 8 PW's and 6 weapons.

1525 hrs: A 2/22 Inf (M) engaged an unknown size enemy force vicinity WT9672. Engaged with organic weapons and LST with unknown results.

1745 hrs: A 2/22 Inf(M) received S/A and A/W fire from vicinity WT9465. Returned with organic weapons and LFT, 10 enemy in wood-line at 150m. Results 4 enemy were KBA

2050 hrs: - Recon 1/5 Inf(M) AP received 5RPG's and S/A fire. Contact broke at 2100 hrs with one platoon of B Co reacting. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, and 4 NVA KIA.

Support for ground troops was primarily through the use of aerial rocket artillery and

105 artillery supporting on the west side of the river. Enemy losses for the day were: 73 NVA KIA; captured 6 unknown type weapons, 2,25kb mines, 5xrifle grenades, 1xSKS: destroyed 65 hootches, 70m trench destroyed, 4 bxs, 1/57mm RR.

Operations 8 May:

The 8th of May saw the completion of the move into Cambodia with the insertion of the 2/14 Inf into the south of the brigade area of operations. This completed Phase II of the operation. Significant actions for the day were:

0528hrs: - B 1/5 Inf(M) at WT900673 NDP observed and engaged 10 enemy at 300m. Engaged with organic weapons with negative results.

0650 hrs: - VN PBR at WT9560 received 6 rds B-40 and heavy A/W and 51 cal fire from an unknown size enemy force. Returned with organic weapons, FAC, A/S and LFT. Fire ceased immediately. Results: No friendly casualties; enemy results unknown. 2/22 Inf (M) minus Co B relieved OPCON 1st Bde; placed OPCON 2nd bde.

The communication was excellent during the period discussed. Arty support was both DS and general support nature.

Total results of enemy losses were: 28 NVA KIA; captured 1SKS rifle, 55 gal Mogas, 55gal oil, 42 bicycles, 2 AK-47's, 26 hootches, 4 tunnel entrances uncovered, 12 motor scooters, US losses 13 WIA.

Operation 9 May: (p6)

All units were involved in detailed searches of their areas of operation. Enemy activity increased. Significant activities for the day were:

0102 hrs: VN PBR at WT962608 received B-40 and heavy A/W fire from an unknown size enemy force. Fire was returned with organic weapons, FAC, LFT and N/H. Distance of engagement was 50m. Fire ceased at 0112 hrs. There were no friendly casualties and negative enemy results.

1010 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT890658 engaged 4-5 individuals with organic weapons at 200m. Recon at the contact located an area 400m long by 400m wide, containing a large base camp complex with mess-halls, bunkers, fighting position: They also located 1 RPG launcher, 1 transistor radio, 10 RPG rounds, 51lbs documents, 20x60 satchel charges, 1NVA protective mask and 100 AK rounds. Negative casualties.

1130 hrs: A 1/5 Inf(M) at WT835684 was in contact with an estimated platoon size NVA element. Enemy were engaged with organic weapons and LFT. The enemy reutned with S/A. amd A/W fire. Results were: 1US KIA, 14 US WIA and 9 NVA KIA.

1130 hrs: B 1/5 Inf (M) at XT835705 engaged an unknown size enemy force. Fire was returned with S/A, and A/W and RPG sporadically. US forces employed a LFT and A/S. Negative casualties or results.

1630 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT840674 received A/W and RPG fire, returned with organic weapons. Support was requested from Artillery, LFT and A/S. Results were: 1US KIA, 14US WIA, unknown enemy results. Artillery support was provided by 7/11 Arty (DS). The artillery fire was accurate and timely.

1923 hrs: FSB Minnie at WT971750 received 25-30 rounds of 82mm Mortar fire from suspected locations of WT971747. Fire was returned by 7/11 Arty, Blue Max and FAC. Results were : 1 US KIA, and 18 US WIA, enemy losses were unknown.

2030 hrs: Recon 1/5 Inf(M) at WT903665, enroute to AP received S/A fire from an unknown sized enemy force. Fire was returned with organic weapons. Fire ceased at 2035. Results: 2 US WIA; enemy losses - 4 NVA KIA, 1011 lbs of documents, 10x60mm mortar rounds, 1 set LNVA web gear, 3xCC HG's, 151 lbs clothing, 51 lbs medical supplies, 3 can teens, 6 ponchos and 1 helmet.

0630 to 1800 hrs: **Co B 2/22 Inf(M)** found two large caches, one at WT959621 and the other at WT953688. The results of these finds will be reflected in the totals.

The communications for all actions in the Bde AO the 9th of May were good. Some of the minor problems encountered had been solved and commo. was operating in an effective manner. The artillery put down effective indirect fire both on contact areas and intell. targets. Total enemy losses for the day were: 29NVA KIA: captured 1xAK-47, 1xSKS, 30 tons of rice, 3 large boats, 1 large sampan with in-board motor: destroyed 3 hootches, 16 sampans, 100 bxs, 1x 200m trench line, 9 huts, cooking utensils, 3 hammocks, 1 homemade gun, 15 structures, 6 structures damaged, 75m of trench uncovered.

(p7)

Operations 10 May:

The operations on 10 May were directed toward cache sites. The contacts during the day were limited to hit and run tactics with one to two individuals. The result of the days actions were: 8NVA KIA: captured - 18 SKS, 50 AK-47's, 1 RPD LMG, 80 K-54 pistols, 6x51 cal MG, 100 CC claymores, 1 CC LMG, 1 cc HMG, 1 M-2 carbine, 6 M-16's, 17 AK-50's, 1x7.62 AA/HG, 12x100lb bags of rice, 250 1`1/2 lb blocks of explosives, 1 entrenching tool, 1x25-30lb mine, 1 ½ tons rice, 88 CC Hg, 65x51 lb blocks explosive destroyed - 192 bx's, 6 F/P's, 124 hootches, 3 classrooms, 2 NVA flags, 1x51 cal position, 254 CC Hg's, 6x60mm mortar rounds, 9x8mm mortar rounds, 133 sleeping positions, 1 mess hall with 3CC stoves, 1500 NVA OD uniforms, 200 blue shirts and trousers, 200 brown shirts, 500 -1000 lbs miscellaneous items, 6 pigs, 4 chickens, 4 sewing machines, 150gal MoGas, 50gal Kerosine, 2x122 rockets, 7 rolls of 35mm film, 4x60mm rounds, 5RG's, 2 boxes blasting caps, 15x25lb mines, 6 cases CC HG's, 25lb of C-4. 901lbs of documents were captured.

Operations 11 May:

The operations were a continuation of Phase III of Bold Lancer I. Action was light. Significant actions during the day were:

1005 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav observed enemy at WT768837 with packs, cooking utensils and ponchos. Engaged three individuals evading the area. Results: 3 NVA KBA.

1010 hrs: D 3/22 Inf at WT933744 located an old enemy base camp containing medical supplies, bicycles, C-4, several mess halls, VIP mess hall and 90 - 100 lbs of documents. The

hootches were made of tin. One large classroom was located which was 50' X 200' with 22 large desks and a podium in front.

1040 hrs A 2/14 Inf at WT968740 located and destroyed 2 sampans, 1 with motor and 5 hootches.

1250 hrs: : C 2/14 Inf at WT948648 located a small workshop with 1 arc welder, assorted tools, 1000 lbs miscellaneous parts, 10-15 small generator motors, 1 SKS, 2 RPG launchers and 1 drill press.

Totals for the day were: 7 NVA KIA: captured - medical supplies, bicycles, 90-100 lbs documents, 1 arc welder, 10-15 small generator motors, 1 SKS, 2 RPG launchers, 1 drill press: destroyed - 2 sampans, several mess halls, 1 classroom, 25 tons of rice, US losses were 4 US WIA.

The day was completed with the receipt of the warning order for the 1st Brigade to depart the present AO NLT 141800 May to assume AO in Base Area 353.

Operations 12 May:

Operations on the 12 May were marked by the heaviest contact of the operation with C 1/5 Inf(M). The rest of the action during the day was limited to small contacts with 3 -4 individuals. Caches were generally smaller.

0530 hrs: C 1/5 Inf(M) at WT928682 received S/A, RPG, mortar fire and sniper fire from an unknown sized enemy force. Returned fire with organic weapons, LFT, NH, D&C ship, FAC A/S. A&B Co 1/5 Inf(M) reacted with A Co receiving fire at WT413687. Contact was broken at 0950. Results: 5 US KIA, 44 US WIA, 1 Kit Carson KIA, 6 APC's combat loss. Enemy losses: 13 NVA KIA.

1020 hrs: D 2/14 Inf located and destroyed, at WT931664, 10 hootches, 10'X20' in size.

11:30 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav at WT8665998 engaged an unknown size enemy force with organic weapons. Results 15 NVA KBA. A/S put in by Issue FAC with an additional 6 XBA. Individuals were carrying SKS's. (p8)

1800 hrs: A 3/22 Inf at XT044840 located and destroyed 4 old F/P's, 30' commo wire, 1 VA protective mask, 1 first aid kit, 23 x82mm mortar rounds, also located 4NVA KB arty 2-3 weeks old.

Results of the day were: US losses - 5 US KIA, 47 US WIA, 1 Kit Carson KIA, 6 APC's Cmbt loss: Enemy losses - 51 NVA KIA, 10 hootches, 4 F/P's 30' commo. wire, 1 protective mask, first aid kit, 23 c 82mm rounds.

Operations 13 May:

Action of the 13th of May picked up again to include numerous contacts with the enemy. Most of the contacts were with people evading the area. Significant actions during the day were:

0710 hrs: B 3/22 Inf at WT938735 observed and engaged 2 individuals with no return fire. Results were 1NVA KIA, 1 AK-47 and 1CC HG.

0830 hrs: B 3/22 Inf at WT940734 located a cache containing 17 cases of empty vials, 7 gunny sacks of empty plasma, bottles, 1 case of 9mm rounds. Samples of the items were evacuated to FSB Woo.

0945 hrs: C 3/17 Air Cav at WT795228 observed and engaged 3 individuals. Results 3 NVA KBA.

1015 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964724 received S/A fire from USEF. Returned with organic weapons. Results 1 AK-47, 1 NVA uniform and 1 NVA KIA. Engaged at 100m

1045 hrs: D 2/14 Inf. at WT977640 located a bunker complex of bn size. Possibly a training area which would hold approximately 200 individuals.

1150 hrs: D 2/14 Inf at WT975631 engaged 10 individuals at 350m with weapons and resupply. There was no return fire with 1 NVA KIA.

1200 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964725 located a hospital compound of 200-250 bed capacity. Engaged with an A/S resulting in 3 hootches and 36 bunkers destroyed.

1245 hrs: A 2/14 Inf at WT964724 received S/A fire from an USEF 150-200m south of their location. Fire was returned with organic weapons. Results: 1US KIA. Enemy losses unknown

1310 hrs.: D 2/14 Inf at WT973654 located 2 tons of rice, 1 complete 57mm RR and 1 rocket launcher tripod.

1530 hrs: B 2/14 Inf at WT956685 located 12 tons of rice, unknown number of rolls of cloth, 3lbs medical supplies, ammo reloading equipment for US ammo, several sewing machines.

1630 hrs: C 3/22 Inf at WT905766 observed and engaged 5 individuals 150m from their location. Results were: 1 US KIA, 1 US WIA, enemy losses unknown.

Throughout the day the communications system was maintained at a high level of operability. Aerial support by the 3 /4 Cav and 3/17 Air Cav proved invaluable in providing maximum air cover for contracts and also providing a means by which areas inaccessible to ground troops were covered.

Operations 14 May:

The 14th of May saw the withdrawal of the 1st Bde from Base Area 354. The last unit pulled out of the AO at 1925 on 14 May 1970. The move was to relieve the 1st Cav(M) in place for operations in the Fishhook area of Cambodia. (p9)

12. (C) RESULTS: In the 9 day period covered by Operation Bold Lancer I, operational results were:

Enemy Losses: 283 NVA KIA, 12 POW's, 7 Hoi Chanh, 297 individual weapons, 34 crew served weapons, 1561 round + several tons HE ammo (destroyed) 9 cases 4847 S/A rounds, 222 tons rice, 355 lbs documents, 705 buildings, 1202 bunkers, 701lbs, 56 non-motorized

sampans, 12 boats with inboard motors, 8 tons corn, 1 mimeograph machine, 2 boxes of ink, 3 sets of binoculars, 17 wire cutters, 15 picks, 500 pick and shovel heads, 60 garden hose heads, 17 cases glass vials, 17 gunny sacks of empty plasma bottles, 5 cases glass tubing, 1536 lbs explosive. 55 A/T mine, 2 x 10KW generators, 250 bed hospital complex, 30 rolls barbed wire, 100 saw blades, 10 small motors, 5 sewing machines, 2 boxes blasting caps, 100 pistol holsters, 1 drill press, 1 lathe, 2 x55 gal drums fuel oil, 3 arc welders, 30 satchel charges, 1070 lbs clothing, 10 shape charges, 17 sets web gear, 4 rucksacks, 10 detonators, 1 radio, 60 AK magazines, 100 MG barrels, 150 MG drums, 20 canteens, 1800 unknown forms.

13. (C) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

A. Supply:

Class I, limited Class II & IV, Class V, Class VIII and Class IX were available in sufficient quantity at Tay Ninh Base Camp with back up support at Cu Chi Base Camp. The establishment of a Forward Support Element at Thien Ngon commenced on 4 May 1970. Class III products were furnished to the battalions promptly and in adequate amounts from the Forward Support Base. Class I other than C rations was not available except in Tay Ninh. The battalions sent resupply convoys back to Tay Ninh daily to obtain Class "A" rations, ice, and some Class V as well as some repair parts.

The forward Support Base of Thien Ngon was slow in establishing a Class I distribution point and obtaining ice for the units. Units requested ammunition through the DAO who arranged for the ammunition to be drawn from the ASP at Tay Ninh and hauled to Thien Ngon. This was normally delivered 1 to 2 days after the item was requested. Because of a high usage of ammunition during the initial phase of the operation, the battalion supplemented this by going directly to the ASP and picking up ammunition and delivering it the same day.

A. Maintenance:

A contact team from D Co 725 Maint. Bn was established at the Forward Support Base. The first two or three days were oriented on getting the maintenance facilities established and repair parts were in short supply. However, this was quickly remedied and repair parts began to arrive in sufficient quantity.

C. TREATMENT OF CASUALTIES: EVACUATION AND HOSPITALIZATION:

A medical clearing station was established in the FSB for treatment of minor wounds and caring for illnesses not requiring hospitalization. Additionally a Dust-off station was established in the clearing station for calling for and controlling Medevac helicopter. Evacuation was prompt.

D. TRANSPORTATION: (p10)

The initial requirements for supplies and equipment at the Forward Support Base exceeded the whole transportation assets. The distance of the only land line of communication and the security required prohibited more than one convoy to and from the Forward Support Base a day. Additional support was provided by the US Air Force Aircraft to the Forward Support Base where on air strip capable of handling C123's was located. Transportation for resupply to the battalions who assaulted into Cambodia was generally accomplished by CH47 and UH1

helicopter. This was accomplished in a superb manner. The responsiveness of the aviation to the battalions needs, enabled the units to continue combat operation with no delays. CH54 aircraft were used for the evacuation of the disabled combat vehicles.

E. COMMUNICATION:

Communications were taxed by movement and the distances moved. During the first portion of the operation, difficulty was experienced in comms with Tay Ninh,. As soon as a retrans unit was installed on Nui Ba Den, the rest of the communications improved to the degree that no major breaks occurred.

14. (C) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT:

Company E 65th Engrs constructed a float bridge to span the Rach Cai Bach River for the rapid movement of the mechanized battalions into Cambodia. Two Commando Vault Air Strikes were employed in preparation of landing zones for the air assault of 3/22 Inf Bn into the bridgehead area in Cambodia. These were employed on 6 May 1970- at 0334hrs and 0416hrs.

15. (C) PSYOPS ACTIVITIES:

a. Initially the emphasis for PSYOP / Civic Action planning during the operation Bold Lancer I, was on tactical PSYOP aerial broadcasts. Tapes targeted at the populace, however, were developed to inform non-combatants of Allied intentions, to allay fears and to urge them to remain in their homes and stay clear of the battle area. The objectives were three-fold.

(1)To minimize civilian casualties.

(2)To reduce the number of refugees.

(3) To create a favorable psychological climate in which to operate

a. A lack of civic action planning was realized midway in Operation Bold Lancer I when it became obvious that there were many more opportunities for Medcaps to be held than were anticipated. The emphasis on rapid movement of troops during the initial stages of the operation, caused the area of Medcaps to be de-emphasized in civic action planning.

b. Initial planning with respect to non-combatants was to prevent or minimize the refugee problem by advising the populace through aerial loudspeaker broadcasts to remain in their homes. The success of this plan was demonstrated by the fact that during Operation Bold Lancer I, only eight ethnic Cambodian refugees and seven ethnic Vietnamese refugees were evacuated. (p11)

a. Medcaps, after it became apparent that they were feasible, were used to further good relations between US troops and the civilian populace. A total of seven Medcaps treating 355 patients, were held during Operation Bold Lancer I. It is significant to note that the civilian populace in base area 354 was generally very healthy and therefore the number of patients treated was somewhat less than might be expected. Information gathered at Medcaps indicate that NVA medics had performed occasional Medcaps in the area prior to the beginning of the operation.

b. The attitudes of the indigenous personnel toward the US presence varied greatly. In the vicinity of Tasuos, the attitude was distinctly pro-Viet Cong and NVA in rapid response to property damage caused by the unit. While in the southern portion of the TAOI, the civilians

invited US troops to supper after Medcap teams had visited their village. Only after three Medcaps did the attitude in Tasuos show signs of changing.

a. The Cambodian's first loyalty was to his family and village. Information was obtained by direct conversation with villagers, either during tactical operations or Medcaps. In almost every case, the Cambodians informed US troops that the NVA and the Viet Cong had departed days or even hours before the Americans had arrived.

b. It became apparent as the operation progressed, that Civic Action, i.e. Medcaps and Icaps, should be emphasized and that the shortage of interpreters decreased the effectiveness of tactical operations. In future operations, Civic Action should immediately compliment tactical operations and interpreters should ideally be assigned one to each maneuver company.

16. (C) COMMANDERS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

In addition to the fact that operations were conducted in Cambodia, Operation Bold Lancer I was significantly different from other brigade operations in the past. For the first time, in a substantial period, the brigade operated as an entity employing its maneuver battalions in a closely integrated, mobile role with control and support elements operating in the field.

Mission accomplishments required the attack of a river line in a densely jungled area to permit bridging to be installed for the passage of mechanized forces. The time required to construct the bridge was sufficiently long to permit a concerted enemy counterattack, and hence the operation was of relatively high risk. As no counteraction materialized, the passage of mechanized forces into the objective area to link up with heliborne forces was accomplished without serious incidents.

The base area was dispersed over a large jungle area, which made detailed searching difficult and time consuming. Although a substantial quantity of supplies was captured and a large number of facilities were destroyed, the time and forces available permitted the neutralization of only a portion of the base area. More time to operate in the area would certainly have achieved additional results.

(p12)

Initial operations included some problems because of difficulty in communication. Maintenance of the brigade main CP at Tay Ninh, necessary in order to maintain communications with the Division CP, was not the best solution, as communications with some battalions on the move was periodically lost, and the contact between the main and forward CPs was not always reliable. The problem was resolved when an area communication facility (VHG) was established at Thien Ngon, permitting the movement forward of the main CP.

Recommendations:

(1) Brigade command post exercises should be conducted periodically to assure optimum performance of staff sections under full field conditions.

(2) Communication planning for operations over extended distances should include early establishment of communication facilities at points where the brigade CP" must be located in order properly to control their maneuver elements.

(p13)

OPERATIONAL RESULTS

WT927739 Centaur 46 eng 30 NVA - 9 KIA
WT915747 Eng 1 NVA on bike - 1 KIA, 1 SKS CIA
WT917748 D-3/22 Contact - 5 NVA KIA
WT927742 Centaur 46 and B-3/22 Eng 3 NVA, 1 NVA KIA, 1 hootch dest.
WT980730 Centaur 46 Eng. 7 NVA, 1 NVA KIA
WT892741 Centaur 47 Eng. 3 NVA 2 NVA KIA, 2 SKS CIA
WT886754 Centaur 46 Eng. 5 NVA - 2 NVA KIA
WT927710 B-3/22 found 6 NVA killed by gunships
WT937732 A-2/22 Eng. 2 NVA - 1 KIA, 1 SKS CIA
WT910736 Falcon Eng 10 NVA - 1 NVA KIA
XT027781 D-3/22 dest 4 bunkers
XT032797 B-3/22 dest 4 US claymores hooked up to PRC-25 btry.
WT967746 Centaur 47 Eng and dest 12 bunkers W/AS
WT915747 A-3/22 found 10.6 tons of rice (to be evac) Dest 1 Honda, 10 bikes
WT915746 A-3/22 dest 14 bikes, 15# dec and 2 tons of rice to be evac.
WT954760 Centaur 46 Eng base camp of 80 bunkers and 30 hootches
WT923748 Centaur 46 Loc 160 x 100# bags of rice. (8 tons to be evac)
WT945755 Centaur 46 Eng 5 bunkers and 3 hootches
WT918749 D-3/22 found 25 tons of rice and 20# of docs - evac.
WT927742 B-3/22 dest 4 bunkers, 2 hootches, found 9 tons of bagged rice (evac)
WT937732 A-3/22 dest 2 bunkers
WT927710 B-3/22 found 2# of docs, and small amt of medical supplies.
WT930736 A-3/22 dest 30 bunkers and 30 hootches made of wood and straw.
WT967741 B-3/22 dest 11 sampans w/inbd mtrs, 2 samp. 5 mortars and 6 tons corn
WT967753 A-3/22 dest 10 bunkers
XT047812 C-3/22 dest 8 bunkers
XT034733 A-3/22 loc hospital complex (suspected)
XT047607 C-3/22 dest 19 bunkers and connecting tunnels

WT936766 A-3/22 dest 20# AT mine

WT965746 B-3/22 dest 60 well constructed hootches, 12-15 man size

WT963745 D-3/22 found and dest: 1 hvy 30 cal MG, 1 lt 30 cal MG, 1 M-2 Carb. 3 SKS, 1 B-40,

13 20# AT mines, 86 CC HG, 4 PRG rds, 10 pick axes, 10 large wire cutters,
3 binoculars, 6 RG, 65 5# exp blocks.

WT983767 D-3/28 Loc Inf Tng base. Dest 40 bunkers, 40 hootches, large mess hall, VIP mess hall,

10 tons rice evac.

WT907667 1/5 dest 60 rds AK ammo, 15 lbs clothing, Evac 10# docs and dist 6 tons rice and food stuff to civil population

WT896662 1/5 dest base camp complex - 10 CC HG, 15 lbs of clothing and evac 60# of documents

WT883647 1/5 dest base camp complex - 2 CC HG and 1 gas mask

WT897677 1/5 dest 50 rds AK and evac 2 lbs doc

WT900675 1/5 dest 15 sets of web gear and 40 loaded AK mag. Evac 12 burb guns, 3 SKS, 5 AK,

1 K54, and 3 lbs doc, 1 US Jeep

WT904674 1/5 dest 10 RG, 4 RPG rds, 10 CC Shape charges, evac 1 RPG-7, 1 transceiver radio and

10 lbs doc.

WT891646 1/5 dest 10 rds 60mm mtr, 8 loads AK mags, 1 RPG rd, 5# C-4, and 15 lbs clothing and

Equip., 3 AK's, 1 SKS, and 5# doc evac.

Enclosure 3 to Combat Operations After Action Report (p14)

WT850670 1/5 dest 4 CC HG and 1 51cal psn

WT885651 1/5 dest bunker complex, dest 15# clothing and evac 2# docs.

WT867669 1/5 evac 7 CC claymores, 6 cases HG(150) and 12 cases of C4 (230#4)

WT835747 1/5 evac 2 road blocks

WT965738 1/5 loc base camp

WT945748 1/5 dest 10 bunkers

WT951748 1/5 contact 1 NVA KIA

WT933668 1/5 8 PW evac (replacements no sig intel).

WT897666 1/5 4 detainees (IC)

WT903674 1/5 Contact 11 NVA KIA

WT895665 1/5 Contact 4 NVA KIA

WT899668 1/5 Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT899677 1/5 Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT890658 1/5 Partially dest 200 bunkers

WT876627 1/5 Hoi Chanh - ARVN's to exploit

WT835675 1/5 Contact 17 NVA KIA

WT903664 1/5 Contact 4 NVA KIA

WT966762 2/22 loc ammo storage areas made of brush

WT968734 A-2-22 Eng. 2 NVA, Res: 1 NVA KIA

WT930745 Scts 2/22 loc base camp and dest 2 tons rice.

WT946656 A-2/22 Contact 4 Eni KIA

WT885660 C-2/22 APC hit mine - 2 US WIA, mod dam to APC

WT883655 2/22 APC hit mine. 2 US WIA

WT923687 C-2/22 contact s-a w/USEF. Res: 2 US WIA

WT953677 A-2/22 recd 2 rds 82mm mtr and RPG, 1 US WIA

WT900688 Scts 2/22 loc 2 NVA KIA

WT923661 A-2/22 APC det 70-80lb mine. 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT961685 A-2/22 dest 2 25' sanoabs w/motors and 9 15'; sampans, 25 bxs, 3 small huts, mess halls

and 3 day old cooked food.

WT953692 C-2/22 dest 2 bx, sleeping equip and cooking utensils

WT976655 Scts 2/22 dest 4 bamboo thatched hootches, RPG 7 rds, pots, pans and 3 fgt psns

WT050622 B 2/22 dest 35 bx (6x6' and 20x20') 6 fgt pans, 64 hootches, 3 classrooms (20'x50')

2 RPG launchers, 6 60mm rds, 9 81mm rds, 8 slpg pans, mess hall (20'x20') w 3 stoves

6 tons of bagged rice, 250 ¼ lb blocks of exp, and 2 SKS's in ex. Shape

WT952691 C-2/22 contact 4-5 eni, 2 NVA KIA

WT953688 C-2/22 dest 125 slpg psns, 1500 NVA uniforms, 400 shirts, 200 trousers, and 1000 lbs of

misc. clothes and utensils

WT923637 2/14 1-55 gal drum of oil, 1-55k gal drum of fuel, 3 sampans (1 w/eng) 1 ton of rice, 2 bikes and 1 ox cart dest

WT912638 2/14 dest 2 B-40 rds, 2 CC claymores and 2 AK-47's

XT038787 2/14 dest 1 RPG rd w/booster and 2 CC HG

WT906646 2/14 dest 1 AK-47

WT917648 2/14 dest 80 crates of food, 2 10KW Gen and 100lb shape charge, 225 Frag. Grenades,

29 AK mags, 12 assault rifles, 9 SKS's, 66 AK-47's, 21 cases of exp (60 clocks / case),

80 K-54's, 1 122mm rkt, 100 holsters, 50 uniforms, 3 75mm RR, 3 cases of K-54 ammo.

1 case CC HG, 2 cases 9mm ammo, 4 cases 7x62 ammo, 100 saw blades, 500 shovel heads,

40 AT mines, 1 LMG, 6 51cals, 1 120mm mtr, 100 CC claymores, 5 RPG's 6 M16's

15 AK50's, and 3 tons of bagged rice evac. (p15)

WT911647 2/14 dest 2 122mm rcts.

WT982655 2/14 capt 1 K-54, dest 4 Hg, 12 CC Hg., 1 RPG 7 and 2 boxes blasting caps.

WT917660 2/14 dest, 50 lbs NVA clothing and 750 lbs of rice.

WT833658 2/14 recd Hoi Chanh (9th Div).

WT910653 2/14 dest 1 AK-50, 3 CC Hg. 3 AK mags, and 2 NVA KIA

WT897704 A 2.22 contact 1 APC dam. Neg res.

WT899685 3/17 loc Bx complex and poss ammo storage area

WT937769 C 2/22 loc cache w/100 7.62 MG barrels, 500 shovels and 100-150 MG drums

WT900650 B 2/14 contact eng 2 NVA Res: 2 NVA KIA, 1 AK-50, 30 CC Hg's, 3 AK mags CIA

WT924754 A 3/22 recd 2 HC, 2 SKS's and 2 CC Hg's

WT965715 187 AHC recd g/f w/4 hits and neg cas.

WT976645 2/22 loc Bx complex.

WT948727 2/22 loc hospital complex. 3/22 rea

WT969618 2/22 loc trenches

XT099762 Ron 2/14 dest 40lb bbt mine

WT800717 LOH recd s-a g/f w/neg hits

WT967831 3/17 obs eni assy area and 3 NVA

WT960687 B 1/5 det unk size mine bbt, 4 US WIA

WT963687 B 1/5 det unk size mine bbt. 2 US WIA

WT948647 C 2/14 loc work shop, 1 arc-light welder, asst tools, 1000 lbs of misc parts, 10-15 small gen

Motors, 1 drill press, 2 RPG launchers and 1 SKS.

WT888890 C 3/17 contact 2 NVA KBA

WT933696 C 1/5 loc base area, hootches and 25 tons of rice

WT934743 D 3/22 loc BC, mess halls, lg classroom, med supplies, and 90-100lbs of doc.

WT960747 A 2/14 loc 2 sampans and 5 hootches.

WT932743 S2 3/22 loc 4 tons of rice. Evac to TNBC

XT043803 A 3/22 recd 3 rds 82mm mtr. No cas.

WT917665 B 2/14 contact 1 NVA KIA and 5lbs med. Supplies CIA

WT906663 B 2/14 contact 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 CIA

WT966694 B 1/5 APC det 30 lb mine. Res: 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT963693 B 1/5 APC det 30 lb mine. Res. 3 US WIA APC med dam.

WT908697 B 1/5 dest hootches

WT931690 C 1/5 dest 5-lb mine. Res: 3 US WIA. APC CBL

WT966692 B 1/5 dest 4 sampans

WT951690 B 1/5 dest 34 hootches, 22 Bxs and 1 RPG

WT925730 Scts 1/5 loc 1 ton of rice, 24 lbs of clothing, 4 lbs doc (evac), dest 9 hootches, 1 Bx,

1 kitchen. Contact 2 NVA KIA

WT933690 C 1/5 APC det 30lb mine. Res: 1 US WIA. APC CBL

WT928683 A.B.C. 1/5 contact 5 US KIA, 44 US WIA, 1 APC CBL. 1 Kit Carson Sct KIA

13 NVA KIA

WT905855 C 3/17 Eng 1 NVA - 1 NVA KIA

WT932663 D 2/14 dest 10 hootches

WT865998 C 3/17 Eng 15 NVA Res: 21 NVA KIA

WT895728 A 3/22 Contact 1 US WIA. Neg. enemy res.

WT918643 2/14 dest 7 120mm mortar rds and 72 cases CC explosives.

WT947765 D 3/22 det BBT - Res: 2 US WIA (p16)

WT964735 B 3/22 contact . Neg res.

WT915065 B 3/22 contact. 26 NVA KIA

WT976631 D 2/14 dest 100 lbs corn, 300 lbs rice, 4 bikes, and ½ lb doc.

XT044838 A 3/22 dest 4 fgt psns, 30' commo wire, 1 NVA gas mask, 1 first aid kit, 23 82mm mtr rds,

7 NVA bodies killed by arty

WT967637 C 2/14 capt 1 POW (reclass. HC)

WT939744 B 3/22 cont 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-47, and 1 CC HG CIA

WT965724 A 2/14 cibt ebg 2 BVA - 1 KIA and 1 AK CIA

WT940734 B 3/22 fnd 19 cases of empty vials, 7 guny sacks of plasma, 50l boxes of pills, 5 cases of

Glass tubing, 1 mimeograph machine, 2 boxes of ink

WT908707 B 2/22 dest 30# mine- BBT - Act w/in 12 hrs.

WT975613 D 2/14 cont - 1 NVA KIA

WT965724 A 2/14 fnd hosp comp 200 - 250 beds

WT974659 D 2/14 fnd 2 tons corn, and 57mm RR.

WT925708 B 2/22 dest 30#CC mine - BBT

WT956643 B 2/14 fnd 1 NVA killed by s-a

WT957686 B 2/14 fnd 1.2 tons rice, many bolts of cloth, 3 lbs med equip, ammo reloading equip,

Several sewing machines

WT906764 C 3/22 contact - 1 US KIA and 1 US WIA

WT966630 B 2/14 contact - 1 NVA KIA

WT977647 C 3/17 rec'd s-a fire w/neg hits

WT965725 A 2/14 contact - 1 US WIA

WT977640 D 2/14 loc and partially dest bkr complex appeared to be Bn size trng area.

