

BN AFTER ACTION Report

OP AUSTIN II

11-28 APR 66

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority ND873541

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 502D INFANTRY
 APO SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 96347

AVADC-C

18 May 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II

TO: Commanding General
 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div
 ATTN: AVAD-C
 APO US Forces 96347

1. GENERAL:

- a. Name of operation: AUSTIN II.
- b. Dates of operation: 111850H - 280800H April 1966.
- c. Location: PHAN THIET area, astride II and III Corps boundary and West of SONG MOU.
- d. Control Hqs: Hqs, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry.
- e. Reporting Officer: HENRY E EMERSON, Lt Col, Infantry.
- f. Miscellaneous: Operation AUSTIN II consisted of three battalion size operations, all which are explained in chronological order in paragraph 7 and list in Inclosures 2 - 4. For simplicity this report is divided into phases, each phase initiated by a Bn OPORD.

2. TASK ORGANIZATION: The task organization varied for each battalion operation and is listed on all operation orders which are included as Inclosures 2 - 4.

3. SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Army air support was requested and utilized daily. On most occasions requests for air support were made for immediate needs and changes in the tactical situation. At all times the air support was outstanding with requests honored immediately and effectively. Pilots were required to negotiate small and difficult LZ's in the mountainous terrain on numerous occasions all of which they accomplished with the highest degree of professional competence and skill. During Operation AUSTIN II one complete battalion moved and four separate company moves were accomplished in a timely and highly efficient manner. Worthy of special note is the increase in the quality of support rendered.

b. Engineer support was required on one occasion to destroy a complex enemy bunkers. The task was quickly performed in a superior manner enabling our to move forward in pursuit of the enemy.

c. TAC air was requested and utilized on several occasions. TAC air was completely responsive to the tactical situation and rendered outstanding support.

d. Naval gunfire was utilized on several occasions in our area operations. Particular effects of Naval gunfire could not be evaluated as it was employed at large distances away from friendly forces.

4. INTELLIGENCE: See Inclosure 1.

5. MISSION: See paragraph 7 and Inclosures 2 - 4.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: See paragraph 7 and Inclosures 2 - 4 for the concept of each battalion operation conducted. The concept of brigade operations was to conduct Hunter/Killer operations North and West of Phan Thiet astride II and III Corps boundaries commencing 121700H April 1966, to locate, fix and destroy Viet Cong forces initially employing 2 US Battalions.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

ND873541

18 May 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, AUSTIN II

7. EXECUTION:

a. Battalion OPORD 36-66 (Austin II, Phase I), See Inclosure 2.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations commencing 121700 April 1966 to clear Viet Cong forces in TAOR SHILQH.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry infiltrates by helicopter "RECONDO" elements to secure three LZ's for the battalion minus the next day.

Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry once on LZ moved in "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" fashion along axes YELLOW, ORANGE and BLUE. Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry and "RECONDO" platoon formed TF Schroeder and conducted "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations in their sector. Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted heliborne assault and "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" along axes GREEN, BLACK and RED.

(3) Execution: On 7 April 1966, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Inf commenced movement from Tuy Hoa, to Phan Thiet Airfield to secure the area for the Brigade (-) and to prepare for future operations. By 1800H 9 April 1966, TF 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Inf completed the administrative move by C-130 aircraft, utilizing 47 sorties. 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry utilized 35 sorties and C 2/320 utilized 12 sorties. The battalion established a base camp adjacent to Phan Thiet Airfield and began preparations for future operations. This continued through 10 April 1966. Brig Gen Pearson and Col Mataxis visited the battalion on the night of 10 April and spoke to the battalion officers. 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry began operation AUSTIN II by committing two platoons into operational area BULL RUN at 111850H April 1966. Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry committed one platoon by helicopter assault at 11950H to vicinity ZT 215255. The platoon infiltrated to positions at ZT 195253, ZT 219258 and ZT 240258 during the night. At 111930H the "RECONDO" platoon conducted a helicopter assault at ZT 134284 and infiltrated in three teams to ZT 174279, ZT 162265 and ZT 192258. "RECONDO" patrol B3 made contact 121430H with 12 Viet Cong at ZT 234255, killing 1 Viet Cong (BC) and capturing 2 Viet Cong. The two CIA were found to be Viet Cong POW's. A LRP team made contact at ZT 118255 and had to be extracted. At 121730H Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry (-) conducted a helicopter assault ZT 134284 to exploit this Viet Cong contact. Major Schroeder, Bn XO, joined Company "B" (-) and "RECONDO" platoon forming TF Schroeder. By 121730H April 1966, the "RECONDO" platoon had infiltrated to vicinity ZT 134284, their original assault position to await further orders.

Commencing 130710H, after weather delay prevented a night assault, Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted a helicopter assault vicinity ZT 003300. They immediately started "CHECKERBOARD" operation to the North and West to vicinity ZT 024318.

Also at 130710H April 1966, Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted helicopter assault vicinity ZT 047338 and began sweeping North to vicinity ZT 040335. One platoon remained on the LZ to provide CP security. Four personnel from Company "C" received punji stake wounds vicinity 040370.

C 2/320th also was helilifted to the battalion CP area vicinity ZT 047338 in support of the battalion.

TF Schroeder continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity ZT 1327. By 131030H the 4.2" mortar platoon (-) closed to TF Schroeder's base area vicinity ZT 134284. Two platoons infiltrated to ZT 099278 and ZT 119285, respectively. A squad from each infiltrated to ZT 134254 and ZT 142267.

Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry infiltrated to ZT 036318 on the night of 13 April 1966 and established two "RECONDO" squads, ZT 046312 and ZT 042307.

"RECONDO" platoon captured 18 Viet Cong porters 121900H April 1966, they were evacuated to the rear area for interrogation. At 131445H April 1966, Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry engaged an estimated Viet Cong squad at ZT 135276, 1 Viet Cong killed and 1 Viet Cong wounded.

18 May 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, AUSTIN II.

Coordination with the CIDG forces, Than Linh resulted in their committing two companies vicinity YT 980360 at 130900H.

At 141815H April 1966 two CIDG companies and one RF company were moved by helicopter from YT 974318 to the battalion base camp, ZT 049338, to provide security for the TAC CP and C 2/320th Arty.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry infiltrated to ZT 073360 and moved a platoon each to ZT 045375 and ZT 076355, C1 and C2. At 141115H, Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry discovered a base camp consisting of 5 huts at ZT 049377. One Viet Cong cook was captured and the huts were destroyed.

TF Schroeder continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity ZT 1327. At 1409H A; 1966 a Viet Cong squad was engaged by "RECONDO" platoon vicinity ZT 134274 with negative results. "RECONDO" platoon was escorting 11 refugees from ZT 129251 to TF Schroeder's CP and were engaged by an unknown size Viet Cong element at 1615 hours vicinity ZT 134370. One Viet Cong was killed, and one weapon and one Viet Cong captured. 141830H BIA; a squad from Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry engaged 4 Viet Cong at ZT 161271, wounding 1 Viet Cong.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations with negative contact through 15 April 1966. Company "C" locations at 151815H were: Company "C" (-) 095373; 2d platoon (+), ZT 105355.

TF Schroeder continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations from their base ZT 135276. "RECONDO" B3 platoon engaged 2 Viet Cong at ZT 132274 with negative results. At 141500H "RECONDO" platoon destroyed a Viet Cong village at ZT 125256. TF Schroeder CP was hit by small arms automatic fire and intensive probing recurred between 141750H and 142200H with negative results.

Thirty Montagnard refugees came into the 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry CP around 140800H. They were interrogated and evacuated to Than Linh.

On 162000H the battalion base was moved via helicopter to ZT 135275. C 2/320th also moved to this location. Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity 1029; at 151814H one "RECONDO" patrol discovered a base camp capable of housing 200 personnel, ZT 135275.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued "CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity ZT 135275. At 161030H April 1966 Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry engaged an estimated Viet Cong squad at ZT 138252 resulting in 2 Viet Cong killed (BC) and 1 US killed and two US wounded.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued operating vicinity ZT 1134, through 16 April 1966. The body of a US trooper who drowned was recovered. Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued to move toward the battalion base area, engaging 2 Viet Cong at ZT 134272, 161030H, killing one and wounding the other. One set of web equipment was captured.

The 210 man CIDG Forces at ZT 044344 moved to the CIDG camp Thanh Linh by helicopter. At 161730 hours, two companies, one of which was Cambodian were moved by helicopter from the CIDG camp to the battalion base area vicinity 135275 by 161830H

b. Battalion FRACORD 33-66 (Austin II, Phase II) See Inclosure 3.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations to find and fix and destroy Viet Cong forces and installations in sector.

(2) Concept of Operation: Company "A" conducted "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations along routes BLACK and GREEN to secure positions indicated. Company "B" remained in battalion reserve and provided security for battalion CP. Company "C" continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations from the North and effect link up at battalion CP. "RECONDO" platoon conducts "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations with Cambodian Mercenary company along routes RED and WITH to secure position indicated.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NAD 87354

18 May 1966

SUBJECT: ~~RECONDO~~ Report, Operation AUSTIN II

(3) Execution: A 2/502 moved along routes GREEN and BLACK with negative enemy contact. B 2/502 remained in Bn Reserve and provided security for the Bn CP. C 2/502 (-) closed into the Bn CP vic ZT 135275 at 171010H Apr 66 and assumed perimeter security for the artillery battery and Bn CP.

RECONDO Platoon and 140 man CIDG Company commenced RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operation at 162100H along routes WHITE and RED with negative enemy contact. At 171255H they discovered a 7,000 pound rice cache which was destroyed. At 171030H RECONDO Platoon engaged 10 VC vic ZT 105203 and pursued them with negative results.

A 2/502 infiltrated along multiple routes from Bn base to vic ZT 125193 and at 181630H Apr began extracting by helicopter to PHAN THIET Airfield. By 181750 hours A, 2/502 closed into PHAN THIET Airfield.

B 2/502 continued to secure the Bn CP and at 181405H began helicopter extraction to PHAN THIET Airfield, closing at 1630 hours.

RECONDO Platoon operating with the CIDG Co composed of Cambodian Mercenaries infiltrated south from Bn base ZT 114200. At 171955H they engaged an unknown number of VC resulting in 10S WIA at ZT 105203. At 181020H 1 man stepped on a punji stake, ZT 105202 and VC sniper fire vic ZT 095194 wounded 1 US trooper. They were extracted from ZT 114200 at 161530H to PHAN THIET Airfield.

By 1830 hours ~~23 Apr~~ 2/502 units had been extracted from TAOR BULL RUN, Operation AUSTIN II to PHAN THIET Airfield. There they prepared for continuation of operation AUSTIN II in TAOR PANTHER northeast of PHAN THIET.

c. Battalion OPORD 34-66 (AUSTIN II, Phase III) see Inclosure 4.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Infantry conducts RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in area PANTHER to find, fix, and destroy Viet Cong forces and installations in Le Hong Phan Suret Zone.

(2) Concept of Operation: The operation was conducted in three sub-phases:

RECONDO platoon (+), 19 Apr 66, infiltrated via helicopter to CIDG camp at Long Son BN 122385; squad, Co A infiltrated to LZ vicinity BN 992328, 191900H Apr 66; secured LZ vicinity BN 028345; squad Co C, infiltrated to LZ vicinity BN 950228, 191900H Apr 66, secured LZ vic AN 935210. C Btry 2d 320th displaced to CIDG camp 20 Apr 66.

2nd Bn (Abn), 502d Inf conducted heliborne assault with two companies, A and C, into LZ's secured by RECONDO squad, commencing 201800H Apr 66.

2nd Bn 502d Inf initiates RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in area PANTHER along three axes, with Co A, Co C, and RECONDO platoon/CHAM CIDG to saturate area of operations. Co B, in reserve vic PHAN THIET to assist CHECKERBOARDING units or pursue Viet Cong forces via Eagle Flight; committed only on approval of Brigade Commander.

(3) Execution:

On 19 Apr 66 2/502 prepared for and began execution of 2/502 OPORD 34-66 (AUSTIN II) in area PANTHER. A 2/502 at 191915H infiltrated by heliborne assault one RECONDO patrol to vic AN 992338. They are to secure LZ vic BN 028345 for A Co (-) heliborne assault 202000H Apr 66. They reported no contact on their LZ.

B 2/502 prepared for operation North of PHAN THIET, initially as Bn Reserve.

C 2/502 infiltrated one "RECONDO" patrol by helicopter to LZ vicinity 950228 at 191915H. They had no contact on the LZ. They are to secure the LZ for C Co (-) heliborne assault 202000H Apr 66 on an LZ vicinity AN 925208.

"RECONDO" platoon was helilifted to Loung Son CIDG camp AN 125385, 191700H to coordinate fully with attached CIDG forces.

18 May 1966

Platoon Report, Operation AUSTIN II

A Co "RECONDO" patrol spotted 4 Viet Cong vicinity BN 992328 moving Northwest 200955H resulting in 1 Viet Cong killed (BC) and 1 Viet Cong wounded (EST). One Mauser rifle with 12 rounds ammunition was captured. At 201145H C Co "RECONDO" had contact with 7 Viet Cong vicinity AN 937211 resulting in 1 Viet Cong killed (BC), 3 Viet Cong wounded (EST) and 1 US Carbine captured. A Co "RECONDO" again reported contact vicinity EN 028345 with an estimated Viet Cong squad resulting in 2 Viet Cong killed (BC) and one MAS 36 and one Thompson SMG captured. Enemy contact continued and it was decided to send in A and C companies early. The first lift of A Co left the Bn area at 1427 hours and landed on the LZ EN 025348. The lift completed at 1635H, on LZ vicinity AN 925208. There was no immediate contact on the LZ.

"RECONDO" platoon started infiltrating into area PANTHER from CIDG camp Loung Son BN 122385 at 191730H. They had 60 CHAM CIDG forces, attached.

C 2/502 found 3 tons of rice at 201812H vic AN 965205. Permission was asked to destroy and was granted by Brigade.

At 211833H A Co reported contact with an estimated 2 Viet Cong squads vic EN 043337 resulting in 5 Viet Cong killed (BC) and 1 US killed. A Co maneuvered toward Viet Cong positions. One Springfield rifle was recovered. B 2/502 was committed to LZ vic EN 025348 201815H, completing the lift at 201915H. At 211235H B Co found and destroyed 2 huts and a bunker with a small amount of food and PJs coord EN 023273. One B Co platoon maintained a radio relay station vic coord EN 048390. At 211730H Apr 66 B 2/502 (-) was located at EN 022214 moving towards their blocking positions coord EN 044254; EN 056260; EN 054277. All these positions were reached by 211935H.

A 2/502 sustained 3 wounded from enemy sniper fire vic EN 055285. No enemy snipers were captured or killed. At EN 059324 a base camp was discovered consisting of 9 huts, M26 grenade and documents. The base camp was destroyed. 211600H a cache of 1 to 2 tons of rice and 1 to 2 tons of potatoes was found vic EN 061299. A force was left behind to await instructions on what to do with it. At 211700H Apr 66 A 2/502 positions were: A Co (-) EN 055286; A1 EN 060297; A3 EN 065313 and A2B EN 056311.

C 2/502 at 202030H fired into a suspected enemy location. The search of the area at 210600H found 1 Viet Cong wounded vic AN 991217. 211630H C Co sustained one US wounded by enemy sniper fire vic EN 036223. At 211700H Apr 66 C Co was located at the following locations: C Co (-) EN 014208 and CL EN 004210.

"RECONDO" platoon continued infiltration on a Southerly axis. They located a Viet Cong meeting place vic EN 117307 with water cans, 211048 hours and destroyed it. At 211700H "RECONDO" platoon was located EN 124258.

At 220947H A 2/502 reported finding a 62 Ford truck and 50 feet of electric cable EN 074267. The truck was bad shape with many parts missing. The truck was destroyed. At 221600H A Co was located at the following positions: A Co (-) EN 086235; A2 EN 075225; A3 EN 094248; A2b EN 095208; and A1c EN 054298. Around 2218 A1c sustained 1 US WIA from enemy sniper fire. A CH-47 with hoist was called at 221820H for Medevac and completed at 221905H.

B 2/502 (-) was conducting "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0525 when an element of B Co located VCC EN 047393 sighted 30-40 Viet Cong there. B Co was helilifted to LZ EN 065394 to pursue the enemy. The lift was completed at 221700H with negative enemy contact. B Co sent out extensive "RECONDO" patrols and could not establish contact; at 222215H they began moving South on order of Bu Co.

C 2/502 continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0640 with no enemy contact on 22 Apr 1966.

On 23 Apr 66, A Co (-) moved in "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" position to the South at 231715H A Co was located: 107174 and A2a 107185. A1c extracted 2 tons of rice from EN 063297 at 231300H for civic actions.

18 May 1966

B 2/502 on 23 Apr 66 moved down axes RED, WHITE and BLUE at 231715H B Co was located at: EN 048328; B2a EN 065314; B2b EN 060335; B3a EN 039322; B3b EN 025325; B4a EN 070328 and B4b EN 079330. At 231925H B4a engaged 3 Viet Cong at EN 064334 killing 1 Viet Cong (BC).

C Co 2/502 continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0628. At 231715H C Co. was located: EN 065237; 1c and 1c EN 075247; 3c EN 060230 and 2c EN 057237.

"RECONDO" platoon continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 1028 with no enemy contact. At 231713H the entire platoon was located at EN 107253.

Co A, continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity EN 1017 and at 240800 started extraction from EN 109174 to the battalion base area near Phan Thiet airfield. The extraction was completed 200855H and A Co became the brigade reserve on a 30 minute standby for the Phan Thiet area.

Co B continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity EN 0432. At 241730H Co B was located at, Co B (-) EN 048238, B1a EN 040322, B2a EN 014335, B3a EN 021335

Company C continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity EN 0623 with no enemy contact. At 241730H, Company C was located at; Co C (-) EN 064238, C1 and C2 EN 065243, and C3 EN 035103.

"RECONDO" platoon continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vicinity EN 1075. At 241000H, "RECONDO" platoon was helilifted from EN 107253 to Loung Son CIDG camp EN 127384; they were assigned an area reserve mission.

Company A located in battalion base area as brigade reserve, sent one platoon on a road security mission to the Northwest along Highway 1. They left 250530H having no enemy contact. The remainder of Co A conducted maintenance of equipment and personal hygiene.

Company B, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Infantry continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0623 with no enemy contact. At 241730H, Co C was located at; Co C (-) EN 064238, C1 and C4 EN 065243, and C3 EN 035103.

"RECONDO" platoon continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 1075. At 241000H, "RECONDO" platoon was helilifted from EN 107253 to LOUNG SON CIDG camp EN 127384; they were assigned an area reserve mission.

Co A, 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf located in Bn base area as Bde reserve, sent one platoon on a road security mission to the northwest along Highway 1. They left 250530H and returned 251345H having no enemy contact. The remainder of Co A conducted maintenance of equipment and personal hygiene.

Co B, 2nd Bn (Abn), 502d Inf continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0423 till 250600H and then moved to an LZ vic EN 025348 to be extracted to the base area. The extraction was completed by 250853H. The remainder of the day Co B conducted personal hygiene and maintenance of equipment.

Co C, 2nd Bn (Abn), 502d Inf continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations vic EN 0623 till 250800H with no enemy contact. They were then extracted to the Bn base area closing at 251345H.

"RECONDO" platoon was the Bn reserve located at LOUNG SON CIDG Camp EN 127384 and were extracted to the Bn base area at 250915H, closing at 251030H.

2/502 on 26 Apr 66 prepared for movement to the next operational area. The advance party departed 260900H Apr 66 to NHON CO. Three "RECONDO" patrols, one from each Co were helilifted to the following area to set up an ambush: A Co AN 764009, B Co AN 759027 and C Co AN 772023. B Co "RECONDO" reported sniper fire 261910H at AN 755038. Negative results.

On 27 Apr 66 2/502 continued to prepare for movement to NHON CO. The three "RECONDO" ambush patrols were extracted to the Bn base area at 271030H. Two "RECONDO" patrols departed the Bn area 271800H to set up an ambush at AN 768052 and AN 785051.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority

ND873541

18 May 1966

Ln Report, Operation AUSTIN II.

On 28 Apr 66 2/502 remained in air movement configuration at PHAN THIET Airfield awaiting deployment to NHON CO.

8. RESULTS: Friendly losses

KIA: 4
WIA: 10
MIA: 0
GDA: 0
Wpns/Equip: None

Enemy losses

KIA (BC): 15
KIA (EST): 6
WIA (BC): 5
KBA: 0
VCC (Captured): 21
VCS (Captured): 0
Wpns/Equip: 1 Shotgun, 1 M3 SMG, 1 US Carbin
1 Mauser, 1 MAS 36, 1 Thompson SMG, 1 Sp
field, 1 crossbow, 16 huts destroyed, 1
web gear, 7000 pounds rice cache destroyed,
2 tons rice and 2 tons of potatoes captured
1 M26 grenade and 1962 electric truck with
50 feet of cable destroyed.

9. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

a. The 2/502 performed the duties of Brigade A10G at PHAN THIET Airfield.

b. Maintenance: No major equipment maintenance problems were encountered. Periodic preventative maintenance was performed on all equipment.

10. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES: A CH-47 with hoist was used to evacuate a wounded man when a LZ was not available. The availability of this special equipment can save the life of a critically wounded man and is a tremendous morale factor

11. COMMANDERS ANALYSIS:

a. Problem: In the hot, dry areas around PHAN THIET enough water could not be carried by the men along with 5 days rations necessary for operating infrequent periods of time without resupply.

Solution: The increased use of porters to carry water and other heavy items to extend the periods of operation without necessary resupply.

b. Problem: Canvas water bags that had not been soaked before sent out to the field leaked. They did not aid in extending the frequency of necessary water resupply.

Solution: The canvas water bags must be soaked at least 24 hours before they are sent out to the field. This also will take most of the canvas taste out of the water.

c. Problem: Carrying of five days of rations weighs down our troops and hinders their movement. The small, light Long Range Patrol ration the LRRP units use aren't available in quantities large enough for issue to the entire Bn. The few light rations that we have been able to obtain have been extremely successful for our purposes and go very well along with the rice and soup supplements we are presently using.

Solution: More light Long Range Patrol Rations be made available to the Bn size units to lighten the load they are carrying. They are not intended to completely replace C-Rations, but to be used for at least one meal a day, which would considerably lighten the present load we are carrying.

1. Problem: On several occasions wounded personnel could not be transported to an LZ and would be in such serious condition that evacuation was absolutely necessary.

Solution: The Dde should always have a MEDEVAC ship with a hoist available. This special equipment can save many lives by evacuating the wounded out quickly, and also by allowing the unit to pursue the enemy without the burden of its wounded. The morale of the men is greatly strengthened when they know that the wounded can be extracted out of almost any situation or terrain with minimum delay.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NAD 873541

AVADC-C

18 May 1966

SUBJECT: Tab A (Time and Location of Enemy Sightings and Contacts) to Inclosure 1 (Intelligence) to After Action Report, Operation AUSTIN II.

1. 121439H Apr 66, B3 engaged 12 Viet Cong at ZT 234255, 1 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 2 Viet Cong captured.
2. 121900H Apr 66, "RECONDO" platoon captured 18 VC porters, ZT I35276.
3. 131445H Apr 66, Co B engaged VC squad at ZT 135276, 1 VC KIA and 1 VC WIA.
4. 141115H Apr 66, Co C captured 1 VC cook in VC base camp ZT 049377.
5. 140948H Apr 66, "RECONDO" platoon engaged VC squad, negative results.
6. 141615H April 1966, "RECONDO" platoon engaged Viet Cong squad at ZT134370, 1 Viet Cong KIA, 1 Viet Cong and 1 weapon captured.
7. 141830H April 1966, B1A engaged 4 Viet Cong at ZT161271, 1 Viet Cong WIA.
8. 141500H April 1966, B3 engaged 2 Viet Cong at ZT132274 with negative results.
9. 141750H - 142200H April 1966, TF Schroeder probed and recieved small arms fire.
10. 161030H April 1966, Company "B" engaged Viet Cong Squad at ZT130252, 2 Viet Cong KIA (BC).
11. 161030H April 1966, Company "C" engaged 2 Viet Cong at ZT134272, 1 Viet Cong KIA, 1 Viet Cong WIA.
12. 171955H April 1966, engaged unknown number of Viet Cong at ZT105203, negative results.
13. 181020H April 1966, "RECONDO" platoon recieved sniper fire from ZT105202.
14. 200955H April 1966, "RECONDO", Company "A" engaged 4 Viet Cong at EN992327, 1 Viet Cong KIA, (BC) and 2 Viet Cong WIA.
15. 201145H April 1966, Company "C" engaged 7 Viet Cong at AN937211, 1 Viet Cong KIA (BC), 3 Viet Cong WIA.
16. 201200H April 1966, Company "A", engaged Viet Cong squad at EN028345, 2 Viet Cong KIA (BC).
17. 201833H April 1966, Company "A" engaged 2 Viet Cong squads vicinity EN043337, 5 Viet Cong KIA (BC).
18. 211000H April 1966, Company "A" recieved sniper fire from EN055285.
19. 202030H April 1966, Company "C" killed 1 Viet Cong AN991217.
20. 211630H April 1966, Company "C" recieved sniper fire vicinity EN036223.
21. 221800H April 1966, A1C recieved sniper fire vicinity EN054298.
22. 221400H April 1966, B3 sighted 30-40 Viet Cong at EN047393.
23. 231925H April 1966, B4A engaged 4 Viet Cong at EN064334, 1 Viet Cong KIA.