

BN After ^{Action} Report
OP FILLMORE

3/26 - 4/7/66

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Authority

NND873541

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 FILLMORE

TO: Commanding General
 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
 ATTN: AVAD-C
 APO US Forces 96347

1. General:

- a. Name of Operation: FILLMORE.
- b. Dates of Operation: 26 March 1966 - 7 April 1966
- c. Location: PHU YEN Province, RVN.
- d. Control Hq: Hqs, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry.
- e. Reporting Officer: HENRY E EMERSON, Lt Col, Commanding.

f. Miscellaneous: Operation FILLMORE consisted of three battalion size operations, all which are explained in chronological order in paragraph 7 and listed in Inclosures 2-4. For simplicity this report is divided into phases, each phase initiated by a Battalion OPORD.

2. Task Organization: The task organization varied for each battalion operation and is listed on all operation orders which are attached 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 FILLMORE one company move and one battalion move were accomplished in a timely and highly efficient manner. Worthy of special note is the increase in the quality of aviation support rendered.

b. Engineer support was required on one occasion to clear an LZ in the mountainous jungle terrain. The engineer squads performed in a superior manner and contributed significantly to the air movement operations of the battalion.

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

d. PSY WAR was employed on several occasions. Leaflets were found throughout the area indicating good coverage. Most loudspeakers broadcasts, however, were considered ineffective since they could not be heard on the ground. Themes for PSY OPS were timely and appropriate and were developed in conjunction with their battalion operations.

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 offensive operation to the South and West of Tuy Hoa, commencing 25 March 1966, to locate, fix and destroy Viet Cong forces.

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7. Execution:

- a. Battalion FRAGORD 29-66 (FILLMORE, Phase I), see Inclosure 2.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved all units at least 3000 meters from area QUEBEC: CQ1222, CQ1422, CQ1220, CQ1420 to permit B-52 strike.

(2) Concept of Operation: Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved from present location CQ145245 to CQ144267. Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved from present location, CQ167303 to battalion CP, CQ125298. Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved from present location, CQ108288 to CQ095245. "RECONDO" platoon moved from present location, CQ141210 to CQ168230 and battalion CP remained in present location CQ125298.

(3) Execution: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued "RECONDO CHECKERBOARD" operations in area GRANITE. Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry secured LZ for the night of 25 March 1966 and moved 0600 26 March 1966 to CQ144267 with no enemy contact.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry closed into CQ167303 and remained there the night of 25 March 1966. The morning of 26 March they started moving toward the battalion CP. At 0945H contact was made with an estimated Viet Cong squad, CQ165307 resulting in 7 Viet Cong KIA, 1 bolt action rifle and 13 hand grenades captured. At 1300 hours at CQ163314, Company "B" engaged 2 more Viet Cong resulting in 2 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and one submachine gun captures.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry remained at CQ108228 on the night of 25 March 1966 and moved to CQ092258 on 26 March. C 3, in a blocking position, engaged 2 Viet Cong at 1545H resulting in 1 Viet Cong WIA. At 1610H, CQ148309, they found a squad size camp resulting in 3 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 1 US WIA.

"RECONDO" platoon moved from CQ141210 to CQ168230 commencing 252100H and remained in that location.

On 27 March 1966, Company "A" continued search and destroy operations in vicinity of a Viet Cong hospital, CQ145265. They found 10 Viet Cong KIA (BC) and 2 Viet Cong WIA, at 270555H vicinity CQ144264. They continued to search caves and suspected enemy positions in the area.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry closed into the battalion base, vicinity CQ128298 at 262359H March and remained in battalion reserve.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry remained in position vicinity CQ092252 ready to exploit B-52 strike.

"RECONDO" platoon moved to vicinity CQ149230 to exploit B-52 strike in area QUEBEC and prepared LZ vicinity CQ168232 for future operations.

Commencing 27 March 1966, Company "A" reported 6 VCC, 3 male WIA, 1 female WIA, and 2 other women at CQ144215. The VCC were extracted to the battalion CP for interrogation. At 281530H, Company "A" reported 1 Viet Cong KIA (BC), 1 Viet Cong WIA and 1 VCC at CQ140268.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry remained as battalion reserve 28 March 1966.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry remained at CQ092252, conducting "RECONDO" patrols and prepared to exploit in area TORNAO on 28 March 1966.

"RECONDO" platoon moved from CQ168230 to vicinity CQ145230 screening LZ, with no enemy contact on 28 March 1966.

On 29 March 1966, Company "A" completed its search of hospital area vicinity CQ144266 and moved to battalion base area, closing at 1620H. "RECONDO" A2A at 281630H killed 1 Viet Cong (BC) and wounded another at CQ133267.

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Company "B" remained battalion reserve and conducted three squad size "RECONDO" patrols.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry remained at CQ092252 with one platoon at CQ108228 with no reported enemy contact on 29 March 1966.

"RECONDO" Platoon remained at CQ168230 securing an engineer team in expansion of an LZ.

b. Battalion OPORD 30-66 (FILLMORE, Phase II); see Inclosure 3

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in area vicinity hill 564 (CQ1724): conducted search and destroy operations from vicinity hill 564 along natural routes of egress to vicinity route 1.

(2) Concept of Operation: The operation will be conducted in three phases: During Phase I, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted helicopter assaults from present location to two secured LZ's utilizing Company "B" to LZ Orange and Company "C" to LZ Blue. During Phase II, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in sector with Company "B" securing objectives 3 and 4, destroying Viet Cong forces and installations in zone. During Phase III, 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in sector, along routes of egress from hill 564, with Company "B" on axis Bravo and Company "C" on axis Charlie, and seized objective 5.

(3) Execution: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted initial phases of operation of battalion OPORD 30-66 on 30 March 1966. Company "A" remained in battalion reserve and perimeter security.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted helicopter assault on LZ Orange vicinity coordinates CQ165230 at 300900H March 1966. From LZ Orange they moved to objective 1 and 2 with negative contact.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted a helicopter assault on LZ Blue vicinity CQ152270 at 300830H March 1966 and moved to secure objectives 3 and 4 with negative contact.

"RECONDO" platoon continued to secure LZ Orange during 30 March 1966.

c. Battalion FRAGORD 31-66 (FILLMORE, Phase III), see Inclosure 4.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations on axis to find, fix, and destroy Viet Cong installations and forces in sector.

(2) Concept of Operation: Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations effective 310730H March 1966, along axis Alfa. Company "B" conducted search and destroy operations effective 310730H along axis Delta. Company "C" conducted search and destroy operations effective 310730H March 1966 along axis Bravo and Charlie. Company "A", 1st Bn (Abn) 327th Infantry come under opcon of 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry effective 311200H March 1966 and battalion CP remained vicinity CQ125298.

(3) Execution: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued search and destroy operations along axis Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and Delta in accordance with Battalion FRAGORD 31-66 with negative enemy contact.

Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry on 310730H March 1966 began to move along axis Apha and last reported location was CQ160315.

Company "B" commencing 310730H March 1966 started moving along axis Delta to CQ219265 with negative enemy contact.

Commencing 310730H March 1966 Company "C" moved along axis Bravo and axis Charlie to CQ178273 and CQ183272 with negative enemy contact.

Company "A", 1st Bn (Abn) 327th Infantry came under the opcon of 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry commencing 311600H March 1966. They remained at CQ226305 with elements at CQ220295 and CQ224288.

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"RECONDO" platoon remained at CQ168230 till 311600H March 1966 when they moved via helicopter to new battalion CP at CQ208354.

On 1 April 1966, Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued to advance along axis Alpha with negative enemy contact.

Company "B", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved along axis Bravo into valley when they engaged 4 Viet Cong, 311900H March 1966 by moving North along highway 1 from vicinity coordinates CQ235274 to vicinity coordinates CQ225318 with negative contact on 1 April 1966.

Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved along axis Bravo and Charlie into valley and secured objective 8. They engaged 3 Viet Cong vicinity CQ197305, capturing one Viet Cong suspect (female) at 011610H.

Company "A", 1st Bn (Abn) 327th Infantry continued to hold blocking position vicinity coordinates CQ225295, discovered 7 weapons and various documents vicinity coordinates 225298 at 010930H. They returned to Tuy Hoa South, closing at 1700 hours, and were released from opcon 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry at that time.

TF Brown (AT Platoon (-), "RECONDO" platoon (-) and weapons platoon of Company "A", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry moved by vehicle convoy down Highway 1 and secured objectives 6 and 7 on 1 April 1966. At 010922H, TF Brown discovered four 4.2" mortar rounds and 1 AT mine vicinity coordinates CQ223217 at 010922H April 1966.

2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry completed search and destroy operation vicinity Phu Rhe (2), CQ2231 and closed into battalion base camp vicinity CQ201426 by 020945 April 1966.

2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry assumed mission of Brigade reserve at 1000 hours 2 April 1966.

2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry continued mission as Brigade reserve and IFFORCEV reserve located at Tuy Hoa South Airfield with Company "A" on 1 hour alert on 3 April 1966. The battalion continued maintenance of equipment and personal hygiene in preparation for future operations. This mission was continued until 7 April 1966, when the battalion began movement to Phan Thiet via C-130 for operation Austin II.

8. Results: 251800 March 1966 - 7 April 1966

Friendly Losses

KIA: 0
 WIA: 1
 CIA: 0
 MIA: 0
 Wpns/Equip: None

Enemy Losses

KIA (BC): 26
 WIA (BC): 3
 KBA: 0
 KIA (EST): 0
 VCC (Capt): 1
 VCS (Capt): 3
 Wpns/Equip: 1 submachine gun, 1 bolt action rifle, 1 .45 caliber pistol, 1 carbine, 17 hand grenades, 4 4.2" mortar rounds and 1 AT mine.

9. Administrative Matters:

a. Supply: Due to the limitations imposed by the dense jungle and rugged mountainous terrain several resupply missions were accomplished by free drop of supplies. Five days supply were carried on individual to preclude reliance on helicopter resupply.

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

c. Medical Evacuation and Hospitalization: On 1 April 1966 Company "C", 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry successfully extracted a serious non-battle casualty using the US Air Force rescue helicopter H-43 "HUSKY" which has a winch operated extraction cable, enabling it to extract personnel from areas lacking a suitable landing zone.

d. Communications: The Admin/Log communications net was satisfactory during