

BN AFTER ACTION REPORT
OF HARRISON

~~2/26~~ 2/26 - 3/24/66

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

AVADC

1 April 1966

SUBJECT: After Action Report, Operation HARRISON

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

1. SUMMARY:

- a. Name of operation: HARRISON
- b. Dates of operation: 261000H Feb 66 - 242400H Mar 66
- c. Location: PHU YEN Province, RVN
- d. Control Hq: Hq 2/502d Infantry
- e. Reporting Officer: HENRY E EMERSON, Lt Col, Commanding

f. Miscellaneous: Operation HARRISON consisted of six battalion size operations and two operations smaller than battalion size, all which are explained in chronological order in paragraph 7 and listed in Inclosures 2 - 9. 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 - 9.

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 LZs in the mountainous terrain on numerous occasions all of which they accomplished with the highest degree of professional competence and skill. During operation HARRISON two (2) complete battalion moves (one at night) and five (5) separate company moves were accomplished in a timely and highly efficient manner. Worthy of special note is the increase in the quality and quantity of support rendered. Army Air has become much more responsive to the needs of the Infantry and the support rendered during this period is the finest Army Aviation support this battalion has received in country.

b. Engineer support was required on 2 occasions to clear LZs in the mountainous jungle terrain. The engineer squads performed in a superior manner and contributed greatly to the air movement operations of the battalion.

c. Tac air was requested and utilized on several occasions. Only one request was preplanned; the remainder was immediate. Tac air was completely responsive to the tactical situation and rendered outstanding support.

d. Naval gunfire was utilized in GM on several occasions. Particular effects of Naval gunfire could not be discerned since it was usually employed as part of the PSY OPS campaign in selected target areas peripheral to the battalion TAOR.

e. PSY OPS 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 this battalion operations.

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4. INTELLIGENCE: See Inclosure 1.
5. MISSION: See paragraph 7 and Inclosures 2 - 9.

6. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: See paragraph 7 and Inclosures 2 - 9 for the concept of each Bn operation conducted. The concept of Bde operations was to conduct offensive operations to the North and West of TUY HOA, commencing 261000H February 1966 (H-Hour, D-Day), to locate, fix and destroy VC forces, initially employing 2 Bns in sector with 1 Infantry Bn in reserve.

7. EXECUTION:

- a. Bn OPORD 18-66: (Harrison, Phase I), See Inclosure 2.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Inf conducted Search and Destroy operations commencing 230730H Feb 66 utilizing one (1) rifle company to clear VC forces in TAOR CANNON.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2/502d conducted a Search and Destroy operation South of TUY HOA jointly with one (1) Company of the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade utilizing one (1) company (Co B) to clear any and all VC forces from area CANNON. Three RECONDO patrols were infiltrated into area CANNON during the night prior to the operation. The company (B Co) moved by truck to a dismount point the night prior to the operation to afford a more rapid penetration into area CANNON for maximum use of available time. Early the following morning the Search and Destroy operation and sweep commenced with B Co on the West and the Company from 2nd ROK Marine Brigade on the East. Upon completion of the operation B Co was extracted by helicopter back to Bn base.

(3) Execution: On 21 February 1966 2/502d received Brigade FRAGORD 48-66 which assigned the mission of clearing area CANNON of all VC forces utilizing one (1) rifle company jointly with one (1) rifle company of the 2nd ROK Marine Brigade. Coordination with 2nd ROK Marine Brigade was immediately effected and Battalion OPORD 18-66 was published and distributed. At 221900H February 1966 B Co departed Bn base via CQ 206426 by truck to dismount point via CQ 220386. Upon arrival at the dismount point three (3) RECONDO patrols were deployed to infiltrate to Objectives 1, 2 and 3, via CQ 165910, CQ 187387 and CQ 220391 respectively. There was negative enemy contact during the night. The Bn (-) continued with assigned security missions, maintenance of equipment and CMMI inspection at Bn base via CQ 206426. Commencing 230600H February 1966, B Co conducted Search and Destroy and sweep to the South in area CANNON. At 231050H February 1966, B Co discovered and destroyed 1,200 pounds of rice via CQ 271322; results: 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 M-1 carbine captured. Other VC were suspected to have escaped in a tunnel system near DA NGU (1) via CQ 250320. PCA and "MIGHTY MITE" were utilized in the tunnel network and a thorough search of the area revealed 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA (BC) and 3 weapons captured. B Co RECONDO patrols remained in position via CQ 165910, CQ 187383 and CQ 220391. There was negative enemy contact during the night. Commencing 240730H February 1966, B Co again made a thorough search and sweep of villages near DA NGU (1) and PHU LAG via CQ 271321 and CQ 280320 respectively with negative enemy contact.

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At 241300H February 1966 B Co engaged 1 VC vic CQ 288318; results: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 weapon and one box of 30 caliber ammunition captured. Commencing 241715H February 1966, B Co was extracted by helicopter from LX Red vic CQ 282322 back to Bn base vic CQ 206426. B Co closed Bn base effective 251815H February 1966.

b. Bn OPORD 19-66 (Harrison, Phase II), See Inclosure 3.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Inf conducted a heliborne assault commencing 261000H February 1966 to seize and secure position WOLF, secure LZ for 2/320th Arty (-) and conduct RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in sector to locate, fix and destroy VC forces.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2/502d conducted a heliborne assault to seize and secure position WOLF, in 3 phases. During Phase I (D-1), the RECONDO Platoon displaced to DONG TRE SF camp and initiated 3 RECONDO patrols in sector. During Phase II (H-Hour, D-Day), 2/502d conducted a heliborne assault in position WOLF vic BQ 9060 to seize and secure LZ and with two companies, B and C seize Objectives 1 and 2 respectively and establish Bn base. B and C Co then initiated RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations with C Co to the West and B Co to the Southwest in sector. A Co, Bn reserve, secured LZ for 2/320th Arty (-).

(3) Execution: On 231200H February 1966, 2/502d Infantry received Bde OPORD 50-66 (HARRISON) which assigned the mission of conducting a heliborne assault commencing H-Hour, D-Day to seize position WOLF; conduct Search and Destroy operations to secure WOLF; select, secure and report LZ for Arty Bn (-); establish blocking positions on trails vic BQ 865595 and BQ 940590; be prepared to provide one company for heliborne assault on targets of opportunity with emphasis in area vic BQ 965655 (trail junction); and protect Arty in sector. Bde OPORD 50-66 (HARRISON), was implemented by Bn OPORD 19-66 (HARRISON). The RECONDO Platoon deployed by air, utilizing 2 UH1D helicopters, 6 sorties, from TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield vic CQ 207426 commencing 251300H February 1966 to position FOX vic DONG TRE SF camp. Their mission was to conduct 3 RECONDO patrols vic BQ 870632, BQ 896612 and BQ 910615, to report any and all enemy activity encountered and specifically to observe the Bn LZ. Following the Bn landing the RECONDO Platoon was to initiate RECONDO patrols to the East to link up with the 2/327th vic BQ 927590 in accordance with Annex D, OPORD 19-66. The RECONDO patrols departed position FOX at 251330H February 1966 and were in position at 260500H February 1966 vic BQ 972622, BQ 902616 and BQ 910623. A radio-relay team from the platoon remained at position FOX to insure continuous communication between the RECONDO patrols and higher headquarters. This technique proved effective and continuous communications were maintained prior to the deployment of the Bn to position WOLF. At this time the radio-relay was no longer needed and therefore displaced from position FOX to WOLF: 5 lifts with 102 sorties of UH1D helicopters were utilized. Tac air was not utilized to prepare the LZ due to weather conditions but remained on cap. 2/320th (-) fired LZ preparation 30 minutes prior to the assault; 712 rounds were fired. There was negative enemy contact on the LZ. Battalion closed new location vic BQ 913601 effective 261255H February 1966. At this time position WOLF was secure and Brigade was informed. Battalion RECONDO Platoon captured 1 VC cadre nurse (female) vic BQ 901616 at 261045H February 1966. Battalion CP located vic BQ 911608, A Co vic BQ 912601, B Co vic BQ 911601 and C Co vic BQ 911593. Commencing 2616 H February 1966

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B and C Co initiated CHECKERBOARD operations in sector and 2/320 Arty Bn (-) began displacing from position FOX utilizing three CH47 Chinooks. Arty Bn (-) closed in position WOLF vic BQ 911602 effective 261655H February 1966. Battalion continued intensive patrolling and CHECKERBOARD operations in sector. Commencing 261800H February 1966, C Co infiltrated 3 RECONDO patrols to vic BQ 878615, DQ 858610 and BQ 868592; all patrols in position effective 262330H February 1966 with negative enemy contact. RECONDO patrol from C Co ambushed a VC squad vic BQ 871606 at 262030H February 1966; results: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC WIA and 1 US carbine captured. Commencing 261800H February 1966, A Co infiltrated 2 RECONDO patrols to vic BQ 915629 and BQ 930615; both patrols in position effective 262202H February 1966 with negative enemy contact. Commencing 261800 H February 1966 B Co infiltrated 3 RECONDO patrols to vic BQ 914554, BQ 936532 and BQ 913550; all 3 in position effective 262200H February 1966 with negative enemy contact. B Co discovered 1 squad size camp site vic BQ 888568 at 271435H February 1966 containing 3 huts, 500 pounds rice and 4 hand grenades; results: All were destroyed. C Co discovered 3.5 tons rice cache vic BQ 871606 at 271335H February 1966; results: Could not be evacuated so it was destroyed. Battalion RECONDO Platoon effected link up with 2/327th Infantry vic BQ 927590 at 271532H February 1966. CHECKERBOARD operations were continued through the afternoon and night with negative enemy contact. A Co and AT Platoon continued to secure Battalion base and C 2/320th Arty. Commencing 271900H February 1966, A Co deployed 2 RECONDO patrols to the Northeast of Bn base to vic BQ 915628 and BQ 982618. Commencing 280800H February 1966, A Co displaced to vic BQ 950631 to sweep village vic BQ 950643 and link up with CIDG forces from DONG TRE SF camp; negative enemy contact. B and C Co continued CHECKERBOARD operations to the West and Southwest of Battalion base to the limit of Artillery range. Commencing 280900H February 1966 both companies were withdrawn over multiple routes. At 280910H February 1966 a B Co RECONDO patrol (B-1) engaged 12 VC vic BQ 875558; results: 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 Mauser rifle captured, remainder broke contact to Northeast. At 281230H February 1966 a B Co RECONDO patrol engaged 10 VC porters and 3 VC guards with weapons vic BQ 889519; results: 2 VC KIA (BC), 3 VC WIA (EST). RECONDO Platoon had 1 squad remain at link up point vic BQ 927590 until 281000H February 1966. Commencing 281200H February 1966 RECONDO Platoon helilifted to TUY AN vic CQ 112677 with mission of conducting RECONDO patrols, discovered a platoon size VC camp vic BQ 953613 with barracks, sleeping quarters and mess hall; results: All were destroyed. CHECKERBOARD operations continued to include additional RECONDO and Ambush patrols provided by the reserve company with emphasis in the western portion of area WULTURE, vic position LION. RECONDO Platoon engaged an estimated 5 VC vic CQ 069704 at 010730H March 1966; results: No casualties. Commencing 010730H March 1966, A Co conducted a sweep from position LION to link up with CIDG forces from DONG TRE SF camp vic BQ 957643. At 010740H March 1966, RECONDO Platoon engaged an unknown number of VC vic CQ 056715; results: 2 VC KIA (BC). Battalion was alerted for possible deployment by air to vic CQ 0672. Battalion FRAGORD 21-66 (Harrison, Phase III) was published and distributed 281800H February 1966.

c. Battalion FRAGORD 21-66 (Harrison, Phase III): See Inclosure 4.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Infantry conducted a heliborne assault commencing 011200H March 1966 to seize and secure LZ vic CQ 0672, conduct Search and Destroy operation to the South and West to destroy VC forces and installations in zone and effect link up with 2/327th Infantry.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2/502d Infantry conducted a heliborne assault from present location vic BQ 915628, B Co seized objective 1, C Co seized objective 2. Upon initial seizure of LZ, A Co assumed mission as battalion reserve and on order secured objective 3 and provided security for battalion (-) and CP at that location. Co C cleared the Railroad tunnel vic CQ 0671 and jointly with B Co conducted Search and Destroy operations along multiple parallel axis to the South and Southwest to effect link up with 2/327th Infantry. A Co followed by bounds.

(3) Execution: Commencing 011200H March 1966, battalion conducted heliborne assault to seize and secure position SNAKE vic CQ 065724. 113 sorties of UH1D helicopters were utilized in 5 lifts. The 1st lift touched down vic CQ 065724 at 011205H March 1966 and all lifts were complete at 011645H March 1966; negative enemy contact on LZ. One UH1D helicopter crashed and burned on LZ vic CQ 065724; minor injuries sustained, 3 M-16 rifles destroyed. The alternate

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LZ, vic CQ 068715 was utilized for the 5th lift. A Co secured Objective 3 vic CQ 061722 (LZ), B Co moved to and secured Objective 1 vic CQ 050725 and C Co moved to and secured Objective 2 vic CQ 011745. Battalion CP closed Battalion base vic CQ 061722 at 011400H March 1966. Objective 1 was secured at 1519H, Objective 2 at 1745H and Objective 3 at 1400H. CHECKERBOARD operations were initiated immediately to include Search and Destroy operations in sector. A Co provided security for Battalion base, vic CQ 061722, assumed mission of Battalion reserve and conducted RECONDO and ambush patrols vic Battalion base. B Co initiated RECONDO patrolling in sector immediately and commencing 011615H March 1966 initiated a Search and Destroy operations to the South of position SNAKE. At 011811H March 1966, C Co also initiated a Search and Destroy operation to the South of position SNAKE. B Co was on the West and C Co was East of B Co. At 011816H March 1966, C Co engaged unknown number of VC vic CQ 049690; results: 2 VC KIA (BC), 2 VCS evacuated. RECONDO Platoon engaged approximately 7 VC at 011940H March 1966 vic CQ 068731; results: 3 VC KIA (EST). At the end of the day, A Co was located at Battalion base vic CQ 061722, B Co vic CQ 030697 and C Co vic CQ 049686. At 020000H March 1966, B Co received fire from vic CQ 026703; negative results. A Co engaged unknown number VC vic CQ 073723 at 021000H March 1966; results: 2 friendly WIA. At 021200H March 1966 C Co engaged approximately 8 VC vic CQ 034674; results: 1 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VCS. At 021530H March 1966, C Co made contact with unknown number VC vic CQ 057677 and returned fire; results unknown. Link up with 2/327th Infantry was effected by B Co at 021602H March 1966 vic CQ 044646 and CQ 029669 and by C Co at 021615H March 1966 vic CQ 055677. A total of 9 VCS were apprehended during the day and evacuated to brigade. B Co RECONDO patrol received automatic weapons fire from vic CQ 020669 at 021826H March 1966. Fire was returned; results unknown. CHECKERBOARD operation continued. At 020700H March 1966, B Co platoon engaged 1 VC squad vic CQ 013695; results unknown. RECONDO Platoon discovered 2 VC KIA (BC) by Arty vic CQ 018675 at 021615H March 1966.

Battalion Operation Order 22-66 (Harrison Phase IV) was published and distributed 021800H March 1966.

d. Battalion Operation Order 22-66 (Harrison Phase IV): See Inclosure 5.

(1) Mission: Second Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations commencing 021900H March 1966 in TAOR TIRE to find, fix and destroy VC forces and installations in TAOR.

(2) Concept of Operation: Second Battalion (Airborne), 502d Infantry, conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations commencing 021900H March 1966 in TAOR TIRE employing A Company and B Company CHECKERBOARDING from the East to West in sector, RECONDO Platoon, with operational coordination of CIDG force, CHECKERBOARDING from West to East in sector, establishing blocking positions in sectors of A Company and B Company's advance. All infiltrating to be conducted with the mission of observing any and all enemy activity and aggressively engaging targets of opportunity with emphasis on killing or capturing VC personnel and/or weapons. Company C remained Battalion reserve and prepared for deployment by air or foot in support of Battalion operation.

(3) Execution: Commencing 021900H March 1966 CHECKERBOARD operations were initiated by A and B Company to the West in sector. There was negative enemy contact during the night. Enroute to Battalion base, C Company engaged 3 VC vic CQ 050715 at 030830H March 1966; results: 1 VC WIA (EST), 1 US carbine captured. C Company closed Battalion base at 031100H March 1966. A Company was relieved as Battalion reserve at 031200H March 1966 and initiated CHECKERBOARD operations to the West from A Company base vicinity CQ 062723. B Company sighted 15 VC with weapons vicinity CQ 017708 at 031255H March 1966; Artillery adjusted results unknown. RECONDO Platoon deployed to DONG TER SF camp commencing 031300H March 1966 to conduct joint squad and platoon size operations with CIDG forces. At 031350H March 1966, B Company patrol received automatic weapons fire from vicinity CQ 008492, returned fire and adjusted artillery fire; results unknown. Another B Company patrol engaged unknown number VC vicinity CQ 0026722 at 031945H March 1966; results unknown. CHECKERBOARD operations continued through the night with negative enemy contact. At 041015H March 1966, A Company engaged approximately 20 VC vicinity BQ 995734; results: 2 VC KIA (EST). At 041015H March 1966 B Company sighted approximately 24 VC vicinity BQ 995680, artillery adjusted; results unknown. There was negative enemy contact the rest of the day and night an A Company platoon ambushed 3 VC vicinity CQ 003766 at 050200H March 1966;

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A (BC). A and B Company continued CHECKERBOARD operations and C Company remained Battalion reserve. RECONDO Platoon continued joint operations with CIDG forces vicinity DONG TRE SF camp. B Company engaged 9 VC at 050805H March 1966 vicinity BQ 989696; results: 1 VC KIA (BC). At 051000H March 1966 A Company captured 3 VC's with military equipment vic CQ 004742. Battalion was alerted to move by air from its present location vicinity CQ 061722 to TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield and assume mission of Brigade reserve. Battalion Operation Order 23-66 (Harrison Phase V) was published and distributed 051900H March 1966.

e. Battalion OPORD 23-66 (Harrison Phase V): See Inclosure 6.

(1) Mission: 2d Bn (Abn), 502d Infantry returned by helicopters from vic CQ 061722 to TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield commencing 060800H March 1966 and assumed mission of Brigade reserve.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2/502d was extracted by helicopters from present location vic CQ 061722 to TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield. Order of extraction was C Co, B Co, A Co, and HHC.

(3) Execution: Commencing 060800H March 1966 battalion was helilifted from present positions vic CQ 061722 to Battalion Trains located TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield. A Co was lifted from LZ vic CQ 004745, B Co from LZ vic BQ 994684, Co C and Battalion (-) from LZ vic CQ 061722 and RECONDO Platoon from DONG TRE SF camp. Battalion closed at TUY HOA SOUTH vic CQ 207428 at 061405H March 1966. There were 103 sorties of UH1D helicopters utilized. At this time battalion assumed mission as brigade reserve with 1 Company on 1 hour alert and Battalion (-) on 6 hour alert for possible deployment in support of Brigade operations. Only local security was established and maximum effort was placed on maintenance of weapons and equipment and personal hygiene.

f. OPORD 24-66, FRAGORD 25-66 (Harrison, Phase VI): See Inclosure 7.

(1) Mission: 2/502d continued mission of Brigade and TFV Reserve; secured artillery in area COERA; and protected TUY HOA NORTH Airfield.

(2) Concept of Operation: 2/502d secured artillery in sector employing Co A in area COERA. Co A conducted RECONDO CHECKERBOARD to the North and West. On 10 March 1966, Co A conducted a two platoon Search and Destroy operation vic CQ 1462 to confirm a deny report enemy presence in that area. Additionally, Co B provided one platoon daily to protect Engineers working on Inter-provincial Route.

(3) Execution: A, 2/502d with AT platoon attached conducted motor movement effective 090700H March 1966 to vic CQ 13525 and relieved A Troop, 17th Cavalry of the mission of securing artillery. Relay was completed at 0800 hours and Co A dispatched two RECONDO patrols 091915H March 1966; one (squad size) to vic BQ 099525, the second to vic CQ 100515. These RECONDOS remained in designated positions. A third squad size RECONDO patrol infiltrated along a route to vic CQ 152546 and returned to the company base at 100515H March 1966. Commencing 100840H March 1966, Co A, 2/502d (-) consisting of two rifle platoons conducted a Search and Destroy operation in the vicinity of TAN AN (1), CQ 1563. Co A (-) received sniper fire from an unknown number of VC at 1022 hours vic CQ 145622: Results two US WIA. At 1427 hours A Co (-) found a bloody pistol belt with three hand grenades at CQ 152643: Results 1 VC KIA (EST). There were no further contacts and Co A closed into Company base approximately 1730 hours. Also on 10 March 1966, Co B, 2/502d provided one platoon as security for Engineers working on Route 7; negative enemy contact. On 10 March 1966, Co A, 2/502d infiltrated two night RECONDO patrols to vic BQ 093534 and BQ 094519 plus an additional moving patrol which screened to the Northeast and returned to the company base at daybreak. All patrols had negative enemy contact. Co A, 2/502d conducted 3 RECONDO patrols vic area COERA. Two patrols infiltrated from positions at BQ 090535 and BQ 094525 to the company base at CQ 135525. At 111950H March 1966 one RECONDO patrol engaged 4 VC at CQ 108533 killing 2 VC, wounding one VC and capturing one SMG. One RECONDO patrol infiltrated from the company base vicinity CQ 540546 and returned 120630H with negative enemy contact. A Co was relieved of Artillery security mission by Troop A, 17th Cavalry at 1200 hours and returned to battalion base at 1435 hours, 12 March 1966. AT Platoon reverted to battalion control at 1435 hours.

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... Mission: 2/502d Infantry was to conduct a Search and Destroy operation commencing 130400H March 1966 to exploit ARCLIGHT and find, fix and destroy VC forces and installations in the area.

(2) Concept of Operation: This operation was conducted in four phases. In Phase I the RECONDO platoon deployed by helicopter at 120640H March 1966 to screen the area of operations, secure the battalion LZ, and to provide terminal guidance for helicopter deployment of the battalion. In Phase II the battalion deployed by helicopter commencing 130100H March 1966 to LZ Red and deployed on foot to the LD, PL BLAST. During Phase III, Search and Destroy operations began employing Company A on the Eastern axis CLUB and Company B on the Western axis HEART. Co C was battalion reserve and followed Company A by bounds. In Phase IV the 2/502d completed searching of sector, seized objectives 1 and 2 and initiated the RECONDO CHECKERBOARD patrol plan.

(3) Execution: On D-1, 120640H March 1966 the RECONDO element of 2/502d helilifted from the battalion base, TUY HOA SOUTH Airfield to LZ White. Their mission was to secure the battalion LZ and provide terminal guidance for helilifted deployment of the battalion. The RECONDO elements deployed to: RECONDO (-) BQ 926318; RECONDO A BQ 928308; RECONDO B BQ 952292: they sighted a total of 10 VC in small groups. At 130100H March 1966 the first lift of 2/502 left the battalion base and landed on LZ Red BQ 936335, by 0250 hours the lift into LZ Red was completed with negative enemy contact. A Co and B Co moved forward to reach the line of departure to exploit the ARCLIGHT strike of 0400 hours; C Co was in battalion reserve. At 0345 hours A Co started to move toward PL BLAST (the line of departure) and at 0410 hours B Co moved toward PL BLAST. By 0628 hours B Co had crossed PL BOOM and A Co crossed at 0720 hours, both having negative contact. Co C and battalion CP started moving forward at 0743 hours. At 0900 hours, B Co discovered 8 hats and clothing vic BQ 925293; all were destroyed. They also found a small training camp in this area with 3 BAR magazines, 100 rounds of 7.92 ammunition, 2 carbine magazines, one manual on AA weapon (believed to be Russian), 22 shirts, 8 packs, 78 rounds of 7.62MM AK-47 ammunition and 100 pounds of TNT. A Co secured objective 1 by 1610 hours and B Co secured objective 2 at 1748 hours; the battalion CP displaced to BQ 942292. Three (3) RECONDO elements were sent out to the following locations: RECONDO B BQ 908264; B-2 BQ 926250; C BQ 938277. At 0515 hours, 14 March 1966, 1 VC walked into A Co perimeter; he was captured without incident and found in his possession were LEE and 2 hand grenades. The VCS had no weapon in his possession and seemed to be under the influence of a drug. By 1230 hours both A and B Co had closed in around the battalion CP and were preparing for a heli-mobile assault to exploit another ARCLIGHT.

h. Battalion OPOD 27-66 and FRAGORD 28-66 (Harrison, Phase VIII) : See Inclosure 9.

(1) Mission: 2/502d Infantry conducted a heliborne assault on area FOX commencing 150800H March 1966 and initiated Search and Destroy operations to exploit ARCLIGHT and find, fix and destroy VC forces and installations in sector.

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Concept of Operation: This operation was conducted in four phases. Phase I the battalion conducted a heliborne assault to LZ 1. Phase II immediately with companies B and C seizing objectives 4 and 3 respectively, and seizing objectives 1 and 2 respectively with one platoon each in order to exploit ARCLIGHT. A Co remained as reserve, securing the battalion CP and 4.2" mortars. In Phase III the battalion initiated RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in withdrawing from area HELIFER. Phase IV was the initiation of a multiple axis Search and Destroy operation employing all three rifle companies.

(3) Execution: On 15 March 1966 at 0755 hours the 1st lift got off consisting of C Co and landed at 0808 hours with no enemy contact. The battalion was 90 per cent on the ground in LZ FOX by 0920 hours, B and C Co began moving on axis ROPE. The battalion CP was located at CQ 088263, A Co CQ 088263, B Co CQ 090252 and C Co CQ 092289. Nine armed VC were sighted at CQ 099289 at 1150 hours and a RECONDO force was sent in to check them out. C Co found 12 huts at CQ 092289 large enough for 20 to 30 personnel. They had not been used in quite some time. The units stopped at 1800 hours and sent out RECONDO elements forward. On 16 March 1966 B and C Co's continued to move South, they had negative contact. 17 March 1966 the RECONDO element killed one VC at CQ 109283. The VC had no weapon, but did have some documents. At 1455 hours, the RECONDO element spotted 3 VC with weapons, CQ 117283, artillery and air was called in on the location. At 1845 hours the units were located at the following coordinates: C Co CQ 11222; B Co CQ 135223; A Co CQ 086263; ALC CQ 067265. At 2052 hours 3 snipers fired into A Co's CP. There were no US casualties. On 17 March 1966 at 1145 hours the RECONDO Platoon found 7 tons of rice at CQ 102277, 250 rice bags were requested to extract the rice. A Co at CQ 114274 found small VC camp capable of handling 30-40 personnel. One M-16 rifle and magazine, 150 rounds of linked 30 caliber ammunition, 3 used LAWS, papers 2 blocks explosives, six 60MM Mortar rounds, 1 Grease Gun with magazines and two 30 round magazines with unknown type ammunition. At 1445 hours C 2/502d killed 1 VC, CQ 128293. The VC had 2 hand grenades and no weapon. A cache found by a RECONDO, vic CQ 126274 had 5,000 rounds of 7.92 ammunition, 6 M1A1 AT mines, 1 MLE 24 MG, 3 MAS 36 and 150 pounds of nitrostarch. RECONDO platoon located 300 bushels of rice CQ 116244. Several other rice caches were found in the area, total of 35 tons were extracted. B and C Co's continued moving vic of CQ 1423, both on a separate axis. At 191050H March 1966, B Co had one WIA due to mine. C Co and B Co moved into South end of the valley to sweep down the following day. On 200825H March 1966 A Co started moving on axis RED, according to FRAGORD 28-66. At 1345 hours vic CQ 157267 B Co saw 15 VC, they were engaged resulting in 2 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC WIA (EST). A Co captured 19 VCS at 1030 hours, CQ 096285. A RECONDO patrol found 2 large sheds of rice, regional forces plus 30 refugees are being used to bag and move rice to an LZ. At 1425 hours C Co made contact with an estimated VC squad. An element was sent to flank the VC. Co C had difficulty moving, Tac air and Armed helicopters were called in. Chemical mission was put on standby. By 1700 hours the casualties were 2 KIA and 8 WIA. B Co was moved behind C Co and A Co was moved to try and get above the VC. As of 2130 hours the friendly casualties were: 4 KIA and 12 WIA. On 21 March 1966 at 0650 hours 2/502d crossed the LD in pursuit of enemy forces. A Co 2/327 closed with 2/502 to replace committed reserve. The locations of the companies at 1032 hours were: A Co CQ 125264; B Co CQ 134267; C Co CQ 132278. C Co had been helilifted forward to try and establish contact with the retreating enemy. A camp site was found by A Co vic CQ 125264, capable of handling 25-30 personnel. Vic CQ 126267 A Co RECONDO engaged 2 VC, captured 3 AR

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pistol belts, 30 magazines, 30 caliber ammunition and 3 packs. On 22 March 1966 the elements of 2/502d were located: A Co CQ 128268; B Co CQ 148283; C Co CQ 140285; provisional company location CQ 115255 and A 2/327 located at CQ 123296. By 0903 hours the first element of C Co landed at CQ 108228 with negative contact and also the RECONDO Platoon was lifted into the LZ. By 1015 hours, R Co found 10 fresh graves CQ 137292, all over 20 years of age, killed by shrapnel and gun wounds. Between 1600 and 1700 hours, 2/327th had received 2KIA and 6WIA from mines via CQ 125282. They are relieved of mission to extract wounded. On 23 and 24 March all companies continued RECONDO CHECKERBOARD operations in the area with negative enemy contact except for an A Co contact at 241400H, when they engaged 4VC at CQ 147241, resulting in the capture of 4 hand grenades, 4 packs, and miscellaneous LBE.

8. Results: 261000H February 1966 - 242400H March 1966:

Friendly Casualties	Enemy casualties
KIA: 6	VC KIA (BC): 39
WIA: 29	VC WIA (BC): 8
MIA: 0	VC KBA (PROB): 2
	VC CIA: 11
	VC KIA (EST): 14
	VC WIA (EST): 6
	Equipment:
	a. US weapons: 12
	b. Foreign weapons: 12
	c. 36 hand grenades, 153 pounds of demolition, numerous documents, LBE, uniforms and medical supplies.

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. The A-21 (door bundle) container was used to contain and protect the supplies dropped. Trials will be made using a poncho parachute to lessen the impact shock of the A-21 container. Additional trials are planned to perfect an expendable 1,000 pound cargo sling for free drop supply missions.

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, 2/502 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 Operation HARRISON.

10. Special Equipment and Techniques:

a. Air movement teams were formed in each company which greatly aided in the smooth functioning of air movement operations. The air movement teams were especially effective when the company was isolated and required to perform an air movement operation on its own.

b. Engineers, with tool kits and explosives, were utilized to supervise construction of Landing Zones. Their technical knowledge, combined with Infantry manpower, produced exceptional results in a short period of time.

11. Commanders Analysis:

a. Problem: Deeds of heroism and gallantry in action must be recognized immediately. ETS personnel now, and PEROS personnel in the near future, will depart this area and arrive in CONUS with little tangible evidence of their accomplishments. There is too great a time lag between submission of recommendations for awards and their actual presentation.

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and Locations of Enemy Sightings and Contacts) to Inclosure
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1. 261040H Feb 66, 1 VC cadre nurse captured at BQ 901616.
2. 262030H Feb 66, C-3 RECONDO patrol ambushed 2 VC at BQ 871606. 1 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC WIA (EST).
3. 270910H Feb 66, B-1 RECONDO patrol engaged 12 VC at BQ 875558. 1 VC KIA (BC).
4. 271230H Feb 66, B3A RECONDO patrol engaged 10 VC porters and 3 VC guards at BQ 889519. 2 VC KIA (BC) and 3 WIA (EST).
5. 010500H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon engaged 5 VC at CQ 056715. 2 VC KIA (BC).
6. 011818H Mar 66, C Co killed 2 VC (BC) and captured 2 VC at CQ 049690.
7. 011941H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon engaged 7 VC at CQ 068731. 3 VC KIA (EST).
8. 020740H Mar 66, 3B RECONDO patrol engaged 2 VC at CQ 014618. 1 VC captured.
9. 021245H Mar 66, A Co RECONDO patrol encountered 3 VC at CQ 073723.
10. 021910H Mar 66, 3B RECONDO patrol reported 15VC at CQ 015675. Artillery was called. 2 VC KIA (BC).
11. 030745H Mar 66, 3B RECONDO patrol engages 2 VC at CQ 007665. 1 VC KIA (BC).
12. 030830H Mar 66, C Co reported 1 VC WIA (EST) at CQ 050715.
13. 031255H Mar 66, B Co reports spotting 15 VC at CQ 017708.
14. 031946H Mar 66, B1 element engages unknown number of VC at CQ 002672. 1 VC KIA (EST).
15. 040747H Mar 66, B1 element captured 1 VC at CQ 001672.
16. 040915H Mar 66, A Co engaged 20 VC at BQ 995734. 2 VC KIA (EST).
17. 041015H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon received fire from 2 VC at BQ 968654.
18. 041315H Mar 66, A Co reports 5 VC at CQ 027744. Artillery requested. 2 VC KIA (EST).
19. 041615H Mar 66, B Co spotted 20-24 VC at BQ 995680.
20. 050200H Mar 66, 1A ambushed 3 VC at CQ 003766. 1 VC KIA (BC).
21. 050510H Mar 66, C Co (-) received fire from 2-3 VC at CQ 069741.
22. 050805H Mar 66, 2B engaged 9 VC at BQ 988696. 1 VC KIA (BC).
23. 051000H Mar 66, A Co captured 3 VCS at CQ 004742.
24. 06----H Mar 66, A Co captured 4 VCS at CQ 006747.
25. 101427H Mar 66, A Co found a bloody pistol belt with 3 grenades on it. 1 VC KIA (EST).
26. 111950H Mar 66, A RECONDO patrol from A Co engaged 4 VC at CQ 108533. 2 VC KIA (BC) and 1 VC WIA (BC).
27. 17----H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon engages 1 VC at BQ 109283.
28. 17----H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon engages 13 VC at CQ 117283.
29. 18----H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon engages 1 VC. 1 VC KIA (BC).

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Time and Locations of Enemy Sightings and Contacts (Cont'd)

30. 181434H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon killed 1 VC (BC) at CQ 128293.
31. 181650H Mar 66, A Co discovered 1 male body, draft age and captured 2 VCS at CQ 114278.
32. 191330H Mar 66, A Co fired on 2 VC at CQ 115283. 1 VC MIA (EST).
33. 201030H Mar 66, A Co captured 19 VCS at CQ 096285.
34. 201230H Mar 66, B Co engages estimated 15 VC at CQ 157267. 2 VC KIA (BC) and 2 VC KIA (EST).
35. 201420H Mar 66, C Co engages estimated 8-10 VC at CQ 198284.
36. 211500H Mar 66, B Co engages 3 VC at CQ 140268. 1 VC MIA captured. B Co discovered VC hospital at same location and captured 3 VC MIA.
37. 211945H Mar 66, A Co engages 2 VC at CQ 128267.
38. 220900H Mar 66, A Co engages 4-5 VC at CQ 126267. 1 VC KIA (BC).
39. 221353H Mar 66, A Co captured 1 female VC at CQ 125262. (Woman later DOW).
40. 221240H Mar 66, B Co found 10 shallow graves at CQ 137292. Graves contained bodies of 10, all male, over 21 years of age KIA.
41. 22----H Mar 66, B Co captured 4 VC MIA at CQ 138268.
42. 241400H Mar 66, 12A contacted 4 VC at CQ 147241.
43. 251045H Mar 66, RECONDO Platoon captured 3 VCS at CQ 144 210.