

BN After Action Rpt

OP SAN ANGELO

1/16 - 2/10/68

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Hqs. 2d Battalion 502d Inf  
APO 96347

17 Feb 1968

AVBD-C

Subj: Combat After Action Report (U)

1. (C) Name of operation: SAN ANGELO

2. (C) Dates of Operation: 16 Jan 68 thru 10 Feb 68

3. (C) Location: PHUOC LONG Province, RVN. Map Series L7014 Scale 1:50,000 Sheets numbers 6532 III, IV; 6433 I. II. III. IV; Map series L7016 Scale 1:50,000 Sheet numbers 6333 I. II. III.

4. (U) Control Headquarters: 2d Bn (Abn) 502d Inf

5. (U) Reporting Officer: LTC Howard H Danford

6. (U) Task Organization:

a. Co A  
Scout Dog Team  
Engr Clr Tm

Recondo  
Engr Clr Tm

b. Co B  
Scout Dog Tm  
Engr Clr Tm

Bn Control  
3(-)A/326 Engr  
C/2-320 Arty (DS)  
Mort Plat (DS)  
IPW, 181 MI Detch

c. Co C  
Scout Dog Tm  
Engr Clr Tm

b. The following changes were made in the task organization during the operation:

(1) 2/327 assumed OPCON B Co effective 221029Jan and released OPCON 271600Jan.

(2) 2/17 Cav assumed OPCON A Co effective 281000Jan and released OPCON 291000Jan.

(3) 2/17 Cav assumed OPCON C Co effective 291110Jan and released OPCON 311600Jan.

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GROUP 4  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
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*[Handwritten signature]*

2-05

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- (4) II FFV CP assumed OPCON A Co effective 051310Feb and released OPCON 101000Feb.
- (5) MACV Hqs assumed OPCON B Co effective 071300Feb and released OPCON 091750Feb.
- (6) On numerous occasions platoon size elements of the 2/502 were released for OPCON to various units on SONG BE perimeter for defensive patrolling and ambushes. The Bde LRRP's were released for OPCON to the 2/502 on numerous occasions for the same type missions.

### 7.(C) Supporting forces.

- a. Seventh US Air Force provided close air support. Tac Air was used extensively in LZ construction and preparation.
- b. C Btry/2-320 Arty (DS) fired artillery missions for the battalion including illumination and contact missions.
- c. 3/A/326 Engr (DS) provided engr tms to each element for LZ construction, EOD mission, mine clearing and enemy complex destruction.
- d. 12d Inf Plat (Scout Dog) provided scout dog tms to the Bn.
- e. II FFV provided Army Aviation as required.

### 8.(C) Intelligence.

- a. The known enemy forces believed to have been within the immediate area of interest or within reinforcing distance were:

- (1) 7th NVA Div  
141st Regt  
101st Regt  
165th Regt
- (2) 9th VC Div  
271st Regt  
272nd Regt  
273rd Regt
- (3) 5th VC Div  
274th Regt  
275th Regt

- (4) Miscellaneous local force units totaling approximately 2,000

(2)

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personnel.

b. Phase I & II of the operation failed to produce any contact with VC/NVA main force units. The only major contact during the operation was with an estimated local force reinforced platoon. All contacts did reveal, however, that local force units were extensively equipped with new AK-47 assault rifles and other military hardware normally reserved for main force VC/NVA units.

c. The events leading up to Phase III indicated that the 9th, 5th and possibly the 7th Divisions displaced from PHUOC LONG Province to the vicinity of SAIGON-BIEN HOA for the TET offensive.

#### 9(c) Mission:

Phase I- 2/502 conducted heliborne assault into western portion of assigned AO and established a fire base within 105mm and 155mm supporting distance of SONG BE and conducted search and destroy operations to the East and Southeast in assigned AO. Assumed Bde IAF beginning D+3.

Phase II- Elements of 2/502 relieved 2/327 in place at mini-firebase and Bn (-) assumed mission of Bde reaction force and performed security mission at SONG BE.

Phase III- 2/502 tasked as Div IAF vicinity BIEN HOA-SAIGON.

#### 10(c) Concept of Operation.

a. Phase I: Beginning 160825Jan 2/502 air assaulted into LZ Green Vic YU080138 and began S&D operations in assigned AO. C Co secured fire base.

b. Phase II: 2/502 relocated to Bn rear at SONG BE with B Co and Reconco's securing mini-firebase vic YU782238. A and C Co conducted operations alternately on the Bde perimeter and in AO's vic SONG BE. A control group was established at the mini-firebase with the Bn CP(-) remaining at SONG BE Base.

c. Phase III: Beginning 041919Feb 2/502 displaced to BIEN HOA to assume the mission of 101st Abn Div IAF. Subsequently A and B Co were deployed to

(3)  
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SAIGON. 2/502(-) conducted a combined operation with the 2/11 Cav in AO DAN east of BIEN HOA.

11.(C) Execution.

a. Beginning at 160825Jan 2/502 conducted an airmobile assault into LZ Green YU080138 closing at 161706Jan. The insertion was unopposed.

b. TAC CP vic YU080138 received AW fire on 17 and 18 Jan. Neg US casualties-enemy losses unknown. On 18 Jan a CH-47 received a few rounds but flow back to SONG BE.

c. B Co at 201310Jan vic YU081079 received SA fire. Fire was returned with negative results.

d. A Co on 21 Jan motor marched from vic YU117051 to vic YU081117 escorted by the 2/17 Cav. The move was uneventful and A Co commenced S&D operations in their new AO orienting NE.

e. B Co foot marched from their AO to SONG BE closing at 211500Jan. En-route the unit questioned 20 women and children with neg results.

f. C Co at 211945Jan killed 2 VC on the perimeter of the TAC-CP. A search of the area in the morning revealed 2 AK-47 assault rifles.

g. A Co, C Co, Reconco and the TAC-CP extracted from assigned AO beginning 220845Jan and closed SONG BE at 221545Jan. 2/502 assumed Bde IAF upon closing.

h. B Co air lifted to cold LZ vic TAC-CP 2/327 and became OPCON effective 221029Jan for a security mission.

i. 2/502 provided security for mini-firebase vic YU182238 and established a forward TAC-CP. A and C Co provided perimeter security at SONG BE and conducted S&D operations in assigned AO's on a rotating basis.

j. A Co while OPCON to 2/17 Cav vic YU104076 exhumed two graves resulting in 2 VC KIA. At 281930Jan vic YU122065 A Co engaged an unknown size enemy force resulting in 1 NVA KIA and capturing 2 AK-47 assault rifles.

(4)

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l. On 1 Feb A Co conducted a recon in force in AO Mary west of SONG BE. At 1230Hrs vic YU120164 they engaged 3 VC on a trail resulting in 1 VC KIA and capturing 1 AK-47 assault rifle. At 1427Hrs vic YU116055 A Co engaged approximately 40 VC in fortified positions. The enemy employed B-40 rockets and automatic weapons fire. A Co maneuvered to the flanks and swept the position with the following results: 16 VC KIA, 4 US WHA, 1 US KHA, 2 Medevac ships shot up, 2 AK-47 assault rifles captured, 24 82mm mortar rounds captured, 1 Chicom grenade and miscellaneous military equipment captured.

m. The mini-firebase was extracted to SONG BE beginning at 030900 Feb and closing at 031730 Feb. The Bn began preparation for deployment to BIEN HOA to assume the mission of 101 Abn Div IAF.

n. At 041700Feb the advance party departed SONG BE for BIEN HOA by UH-1D. At 041919Feb the first C-130 sortie departed SONG BE for BIEN HOA and the Bn fighting elements closed at 050230 Feb. 2/502 then assumed 101 Abn Div IAF mission.

o. A Co effective 051345Feb became OPCON to II FFV Fwd for a security mission vic XS810946.

p. B Co effective 071310Feb became OPCON to MACV Hqs for a security mission vic XS810945.

q. At 071200Feb 2/502 began road march to AO DAN to the east of BIEN HOA escorted by a platoon of A Cav's from the 2/11 Cav. The move was uneventful and at 1350Hrs 2/502 and G Troop 2/11 Cav rendezvoused to form TF DAN vic YT 133123.

r. At 071630Hrs the C&C ship spotted 1 VC. Recon was deployed resulting in 1 VCC. VC was classified as a CHIEU HOI from the 48th VC Bn.

s. At 091500Feb Recon picked up one VCC from a church where he was

(5)  
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hiding in hopes of surrendering to a US unit. Man was classified as a local VC CHIEU HOI.

t. B Co released from OPCON MACV Hqs and closed BIEN HOA at 091750Feb.

u. A Co released from OPCON II FFV CP Fwd and closed BIEN HOA at 101000Feb.

12. Results:

a. Extensive search and destroy operations were conducted with only sporadic light contact with local force units. Contact with main force VC/NVA units failed to materialize.

b. Statistics.

(1) US    KHA    3  
           WHA    23  
           WIA    2

(2) ENEMY VC KIA 23  
           NVA KIA 1  
           RETURNEE 2  
           WPNS CAPT 8 AK-47's

13. (C) Civil Affairs.

a. During operation SAN ANGELO the Bn S-5 conducted med-caps at NHAN HOA II in PHUOC LONG Province. NHAN HOA II is one of the New Life hamlets under the Revolutionary Program. 35 men, 33 women, and 41 children were treated by the med-cap team.

b. The companies in the Battalion donated 1050 lbs of food, 165 lbs of candy, and 35 lbs of soap to the S-5. These items were given to Brigade and the villagers in NHAN HOA II.

c. The Bn extracted 750 kilos of rice from the operational area. The Bn S-5 milled the grain on the local economy for 8 piasters per kilo. All the rice was distributed for use within the Battalion.

14. (C) Administrative Matters.

a. Logistics:

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 (6)