

Bd After Action Report
OP TACOMA/HOUSTON

2/18 - 3/6/68

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 873541

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE), 502D INFANTRY
 APO SF 96383

AVBD-C

20 Mar 1968

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON(U)

TO: Commanding Officer
 1st Bde, 101st Abn Div
 ATTN: AVBD-C
 APO SF 96383

- 1.(U) Name of Operation: TACOMA/HOUSTON
- 2.(U) Dates of Operation: 18 Feb 68 - 6 Mar 68.
- 3.(U) Location: Danang Province, RVN. Map Series L7014, Scale 1:50000
 Sheet Number 6641 I, 6541 I, 6541 II.

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

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

6.(U) Task Organization:

- a. Co A
 Engr Clr Tm
- Co B
 Engr Clr Tm
- Co C
 Engr Clr Tm
- Recondos
 Engr Clr Tm
- Battalion Control
 3 Plt (-), 2-326 Engr
 C 2-320 Arty (DS)
 Mort Plat (DS)
 1 PW, 181 MI Detch

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

(1) During course of the operation on 280001 Feb, control headquarters was changed from 1st Mar Div to 5th Marine Regiment.

7.(U) Supporting Forces:

- a. 1st Marine Air Wing provided close air support. GROUP-4
 DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

CONFIDENTIAL

file on

2-05

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 873541

CONFIDENTIAL

C/2/320 and 11th Marine Regiment provided artillery support including illumination and contact missions.

c. 3/A/326 (DS) provided engineer teams to each element for LZ construction, EOD missions, mine clearing, and enemy complex destruction.

d. 1st MAW provided helicopter support.

8(c) Intelligence: Enemy activity in the vicinity of Hai Van Pass consisted of interdicting Highway 1 by blowing bridges and culverts. It was estimated that a VC sapper company had the above mission and were basing out of the high ground vic of Hai Van Pass. Enemy contact was limited to small meeting engagements. The concept of Search & Destroy in the rugged highlands resulted in finding 2 base camps with large caches of explosives.

Once his base camps were destroyed few incidents occurred along Highway 1 and all convoys were successful in going through the pass.

9(c) Mission: 2-502 Strike Force conducted search and destroy operations and saturation ambushes and patrols in AO to secure road and key installations along Highway 1.

10(c) Concept of Operation:

a. 2-502 deployed to AO by foot, motor convoy, and helicopter to close AO at 181220H, began recon in force in assigned sector and road security.

b. Mortar Platoon deployed with Co C 2-502 to established forward fire support base vic Long Go Bridge.

c. Night security provided National Route 1 by use of saturation ambushing.

11(c) Execution:

a. Beginning 180730 Feb, 2-502 deployed to AO by foot, motor march, and helicopter closing AO at 181220H. Insertion was unopposed.

b. A Co at 191210 Feb received AW fire from AT916910, results

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

Authority 873541**CONFIDENTIAL**

1 US WHA. At 1445H A Co found enemy base camp with a large quantity of munition, explosive and other sapper materials.

c. B Co at 190900 Feb detonated an AP mine, results 2 US WHA, coord AT902956. Two additional command detonated mines were found at the same coordinates and destroyed in place.

d. C Co at 191200 Feb vic AT903936 spotted 13 VC eating, engaged with small arms, results 2 VC KIA, 1 AK-47, 1 SKS, 1 60mm Mortar complete.

e. A Co at 201655 Feb had three VC walk into their perimeter vic coord AT926909, results 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured.

f. C Co at 201345 Feb found vic AT903936 additional sapper equipment, 60mm bipod and 4 - B40 rockets.

g. A Co vic AT919913 at 211155 Feb engaged a small size enemy force, results 1 VC KIA, 1 AK-47 captured.

h. A Co vic AT910914 at 231530 Feb engaged 2 VC on trail, results VC fled North, 1 US WHA.

i. B Co 250840 Feb at coord AT 912944 found 5 Claymore type mines all destroyed in place.

j. C Co detonated a trip wired grenade at coord AT904953 on 261205 Feb with a result of 3 US WHA.

k. Recondo element at 261630 Feb, vic coord AT929904 found one fresh grave, exhumed results 1 VC KIA.

l. C Co at 271240 Feb reported friendly convoy had a truck hit a pressure mine, results 2 US WHA, 1 2½ ton truck damaged.

m. On 29 Feb Co B was removed from AO to rear base for refitting. They were reinserted by road at 011420 Mar to continue mission of Search and Destroy in assigned AO.

n. In A Co's AO vic coord AT924926, at 040245H Mar a large

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

Authority 873541

damaged bridge, road unpassable. Engineers reconstructed and opened by 041200 Mar.

o. C Co was relieved in place by a unit of the 1/5 Marines on 051550 Mar and deployed by motor convoy to Gia Le Base.

p. A Co at coord AT923926 at 051945H engaged 2 or 3 VC with small arms. Sweep at first light revealed 1 Chicom Claymore and 300 feet of copper wire. At 2300H they received a single sniper round, result 1 US WHA.

q. At 061000H, 2-502 was relieved of TAOR by the 1/5 Marines and began move to close Gia Le Base.

12(C) Results:

a. Extensive Search & Destroy and saturation ambushing was conducted with only sporadic contact with local force units. Contact was negative with main force VC/NVA units.

b. Statistics

(1) US KHA 0

WHA 11

NBC 9

(2) Enemy: VC KIA 5

DETAINEE 1

WPNS CAPTURED - 3 AK-47
1 SKS
1 60mm Mortar
1 RPG

13(C) Civil Affairs:

a. During Operation TACOMA/HOUSTON the Bn S-5 worked closely with the 1st Mar Div. No refugees or innocent civilians were relocated.

b. A total of 15 Vietnamese were treated medically (8 men and 7 children) at the village of Lang Co, Phu Loc District. The Bn surgeon visited Lang Co to check on possibility of plague, Neg. results. 2600 dose of plague vaccine were obtained from CAS to start an immunization program.

CONFIDENTIAL