

AVBE-SC/11D

15 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

(10) 021400 BS709102 C/7/17 Air Cav 25 km NW of LZ English, a LOH acft rec'd AW fire from an unk size enemy force and crashed resulting in 2 US KIA and 1 US WIA. The Aero-Rifle platoon was inserted and rec'd SA/A* fire resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 LOH damaged. The Aero-Rifle platoon reached the downed acft and recovered the 2 KIA and 1 WIA who were extracted. Gunships expended in the area w* unk results. The 2d platoon of D/2/50C was also inserted and rec'd sporadic SA fire while sweeping the area but suffered no cas. Results of the action were 2 US KIA, 2 US WIA, 1 LOH destroyed, 1 LOH moderately damaged. Enemy cas were unk.

(21) 031230 BS700098 Elements of the C/7/17 Air Cav loc 18 km NW of LZ English, eng 3 indivs who were in front of a cave. The fire was returned and 1 LOH was hit and moderately damaged. There was 1 US WIA. Artillery eng the area with unk results.

(96) 191830 BS746108 The Aero-Rifle Plt, C/7/17 Air Cav, loc 15 km SW of LZ English, was inserted on a sighting of 7 VC/NVA and eng them w* SA fire. The area was checked and numerous blood trails and 7 rucksacks were fd. Results were 7 VC/NVA KIA (poss).

June (3) 011130 BS836104 The C&C Acft, C/7/17, observed 1 VC and the Aero-Rifle Plat was inserted, approx 11 km NNW of LZ English, and det 1 VCS. At 1415 hours a cave was observed and as the element approached, MG fire was rec'd resulting in 1 US KIA and 1 Kit Carson Scout WIA. The cave was engaged *w HGs which surpressed the fire and the cave was closed *w demolitions resulting in 5 VC KIA (poss). The WIA were extracted.

(11) 031440 BS845140 C/7/17, loc 13 km NW of LZ English, observed 3-5 indiv hiding in rocks and caves resulting in 3 VC/ NVA KIA (BC) by gunships.

(22) 031830 BR915938 Hawkeye 27 C/7/17, loc 4½ SE of LZ English, observed 2 VC flee into a bunker and observed 30-35 bunkers in the area which were uncovered by arty fire in the area. 5x bunkers were destroyed creating a secondary explosion. There were 8-9 other secondary explosions observed within a 50m rad. 1x VC was observed dragging another out of a bunker into another. Arty was adjusted on to target result in 2 VC KIA (poss). At 1935 hrs an airstrike was conducted in area with unk results.

(24) 201400 BS 715115 Gunships, C/7/17 Air Cav, loc 18 km NW of English, rec'd SA fire and expended resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC).

IN ANALYZING THE REQUIREMENT TO EXTEND THE UMBRELLA OF PERMANENT SECURITY OVER ALL THE POPULATION IN THE AO, WE VISUALIZED THAT THE FOCAL POINT OF DETAILED PLANNING AND OPERATIONS WOULD BE AT DISTRICT LEVEL. ALL PLANNING AT BRIGADE LEVEL HAS SINCE BEEN BASED ON THIS PRINCIPLE. THE BRIGADE STAFF DEVELOPED A PLAN, COORDINATED WITH BOTH PROVINCE AND 22D ARVN DIVISION, WHICH SUBDIVIDED THE POPULATED AREAS OF THE FOUR DISTRICTS INTO SIX SUB AO'S (CHART 1). THUS THE BRIGADE'S FOUR MANEUVER BATTALIONS--4/503, 2/503, 1/503 AND 1/50 (MECH)--AND THE TWO REGIMENTS OF THE 22D ARVN DIVISION--THE 40TH AND 41ST--EACH HAVE SEPARATE AO'S. THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF THE AO ARE SCREENED BY BRIGADE RECONNAISSANCE ELEMENTS WHICH INCLUDE TWO COMPANIES OF RANGERS AND A TROOP OF AIR CAVALRY. ALL OPERATIONAL BOUNDARIES COINCIDE WITH POLITICAL BOUNDARIES: DISTRICT BOUNDARIES WHEREVER FEASIBLE, AND VILLAGE BOUNDARIES