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# AFTER ACTION REPORT OPERATION SANTE FE

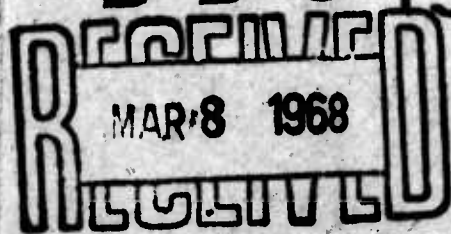
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1ST BN      27TH INF  
WOLFHOUNDS

DDC 13 JUN - 4 JUL 1966



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HEADQUARTERS  
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APO U.S. FORCES 96225

TLIBA-T

20 July 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report. (RCS: MACV J3-32)

THRU: Commanding Officer  
2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division  
ATTN: LBDB-T  
APO US FORCES 96225

Commanding General  
25th Infantry Division  
ATTN: AVTLGA-MH  
APO US FORCES 96225

TO: Commander  
U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
ATTN: J343  
APO US FORCES 96243

1. Operation: Sante Fe
2. Dates of Operation: 13 June - 4 July 1966.
3. Location: Rau Nghia Province, Duc Hoa District.
4. Control Headquarters: 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.
5. Reporting Officer: Lt Col Alvin L. O'Neal.
6. Task Organization:
  - A1/27 Inf (Capt Mayone)
  - B1/27 Inf (Capt Garrett)

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**Bn Control:**

Recon Plat  
AT Plat  
Hv Mort Plat  
Plat, Co B 1/65 Eng  
3d Spt Plat, 16th RRU  
Elem, 25th MID  
Elem, 125th Sig  
CT  
National Police  
Interpreters  
3B1/5 Mech Plat  
1A3/4 Cav Plat

**7. Supporting Forces:**

a. Artillery Support: Btry A, 1st Bn, 8th Arty, DS to 1st Bn, 27th Inf.

b. How and when Artillery employed: 1/8 Arty on 13 June established fire support base vic Bao Trai (XT527045). On 28 June, Btry A, 1st Bn, 8th Arty was attached and established a fire support base within the perimeter (XT570044). On 2 July, Btry A, 1st Bn, 13th Arty established fire support base vic Duc Lap (XT553053). Throughout the operation, 1/8 Arty supported with pre-planned and on-call fires.

c. Results of Artillery: Artillery support during the operation was greatly restricted due to close proximity of friendly and allied units and the many houses scattered throughout the AO.

**d. Army Aviation:**

(1) How and when aviation was used:

- (a) Command and control aircraft for ground opns.
- (b) Airlift of troops and equipment within the AO.
- (c) Resupply of rations, water, and equipment.
- (d) Evacuation of serious casualties.

(2) Results of Army Aviation: Army air support was a decisive factor in the accomplishment of mission in the AO. The helicopter support provided TF1/27 Inf with a high degree of flexibility and mobility which could not be achieved by other means due to the restrictive effects of the weather. 1/27 Inf utilized organic personnel throughout the operation to set up and control helicopter landing zones. This method proved extremely effective and 1/27 Inf was able to develop and establish a workable airmobile SOP.

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8. Intelligence:

a. Enemy situation prior to operation: Operational area has been the scene of numerous VC initiated incidents, and has long been regarded as a VC safe area where the VC could seek refuge. 3 VC platoons were estimated to be operating out of Ap Hau Hoa (3) (XT57-9035), Giong Lon (XT615018), and Nhanh Hoa (XT575019). The VC force which attacked C1/27 Inf ambush vic XT564046 on 3 May 1966, was composed of local guerrillas and an intelligence platoon from the 506th Local Force Bn. The C2 Co (Duc Hoa Co), strength 80, was normally located within the operational area. Co sized forces of the 506th Bn were also known to have operated in the southern portion of the AO. Recent VC activity include:

- (1) 26 May - 2 VC companies reported at XS500952 (Eval F-3).
- (2) 27 May - Unk number of VC directed harrassing fire on ARVN 3/50 at Duc Hoa.
- (3) 29 May - 5 roadblocks discovered at XT563063.
- (4) 1 Jun - 300 VC and 30 laborers at XT620063 (Eval F-4).
- (5) 1 Jun - 3/4 ton truck hit mine vic XT545049.
- (6) 2 Jun - 3 dirt mounds discovered at XT628003.
- (7) 2 Jun - 200 VC rptd XS525965 (Eval F-3).
- (8) 5 Jun - 80 VC rptd vic XT531059 (Eval F-3).

b. Enemy situation during the operation: Throughout the operation, the VC employed numerous grenade booby traps and mines. They also utilized snipers to harass and confuse US Forces. A major contact was made on 282300 June by Ambush Purple (Co A, 1/27 Inf) at XT551034. In this engagement, a recon element of C3 Com any, 506th Local Force Bn with a nine (9) man militia sqd attached, attacked the ambush patrol. The entire VC force consisted of 40-50 men. Identification of unit involved and unit strength was obtained from a VC WIA captured on 29 June 1966, documents captured from VC KIA on 3 July 1966, and National Police and Sector agent reports. In a heliborne operation in Bao Canh Na, the VC evidently had prior knowledge of our intention to operate in the area. The VC advised the villagers via their Psywar loudspeakers system to remain in their houses as they intended to booby trap the area. A number of villagers, VCC, VCS, and detainees, gave information that the VC used the following route to transport food, weapons, ammo, and VC WIA: Giong Loc (XT584015), to Bao Canh Na (XT562011), to Ap Thoi Moi (2) (XT544017), to Ap Bao Cua (XT5201), to canals vic XT5100 where sampans were waiting. The most active areas appeared to be: (1) Ap Giong Lon (XT6101), (2) Xom Giong Sen (XT5802), (3) Giong Loc (XT5801), and (4) Xom Giong Sen (XT5903).

c. Terrain and Weather: The terrain was flat with rice fields. The houses and hamlets were situated on high ground where dense vegetation was prevalent. The weather during the first 3 weeks made the terrain ideal for APC and Infantry operations. However, after this initial period, the terrain was rendered untrafficable and APC's experienced difficulty in supporting infantry elements.

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C. Civic Action/Psychwar Evaluation of the Population: An aggressive and intensive Medcap II program utilizing the 1/27 Inf Bn Surg and the 2 medics of the ARVN "Go Team", was conducted throughout the operational area. This program paid great dividends in the following ways:

(1) The villagers were treated for their illnesses and diseases.

(2) The attitude of the people changed from that of passiveness which was almost hostile, to that of friendliness. This friendliness increased in each successive visit by the Bn Surgeon Villagers in the area where Medcap II was conducted, willingly began giving information pertaining to the VC. In Ap Hau Hoa (3) (XT5703), long a VC sanctuary, the villagers indicated booby trapped area, pointed out the house of the VC chief, and volunteered information on VC movement through the hamlet. In Duc Lap (XT5505), and Ap Charh (XT560050), the children pointed out booby traps, 60mm rounds, and grenade duds to the 1/27 Inf Recon Plat.

(3) Distribution of "Helping Hand" clothing, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, USAID clothing, candy, ice, burgum, tablets, pencils, and handbags, greatly aided in changing the attitude of the villagers throughout the AO.

9. Mission: 1/27 (-) conducts tactical motor march to AO 130900 June 1966; conducts S&D opns, combat patrols, and ambushes in AO to locate and destroy VC forces and supplies; conducts combined opns with local ARVN forces: establish liaison with Hau Nghia Advisory Team (XT5204); provide wire, pickets, and technical advice on installations to RF and PF units in AO; conducts road improvement operations in AO from XT585088 to XT526043 and from XT526043 to XT525048; and conducts Road Runner opns in AO.

#### 10. Concept of Operations

a. 1/27 Inf (-) (Wolfhounds) conducts S&D operations vic Ap Hau Hoa (XT575703) for approximately three (3) weeks beginning 130900 June 1966. Operations will be conducted in four (4) phases:

(1) Phase I: 1/27 Inf (-) (Wolfhounds) security plus quartering party escorted by 1/5 Mech element. conducts motor march from base camp to fwd def base, (XT570044). Element will sweep bn base site and secure for arrival of main body.

(2) Phase II: 1/27 Inf (-) (Wolfhounds) main body plus attachments conducts motor march from base camp to Ap Hau Hoa (3). Co A will occupy southern half of the base defense perimeter. Co C will occupy northern half. Bn truckmaster will muster empty trucks for return to Cu Chi. AT plat will begin security checks of civilians residing west of perimeter.

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(3) Phase III: 1/27 Inf conducts S&D operations in AO to include day and night patrols, ambushes, village searches, destruction of VC forces and supplies, and a vigorous CA program.

(4) Phase IV: 1/27 Inf returns to Cu Chi.

11. Execution: The 1st Bn 27th Inf (Wolfhounds) was tasked by CO, 2d Brigade, 25th Inf Div, to conduct search and destroy operations in Duc Hoa District, Hau Nghia Province, for approximately three (3) weeks commencing 13 June 1966. (2d Brigade OPORD 27-66, dtd 10 June 1966). CO, 1st Bn, 27th Inf planned a concept of operation and issued Bn OPORD 6-66 (Operation Sante Fe) at 120730 June 1966. The plan envisioned Bn TF (2 Companies plus attachments) moving by motor convoy to establish a fwd base North of Ap Hau Hoa (3) (XT570044). Upon establishment of bn base, TF 1/27 Inf was to conduct search and destroy ops throughout AO Sante Fe for a period of approximately three weeks. Where practical, combined ops with ARVN forces would be conducted. Road Runner, CA, road, and installation construction projects would be incorporated into the general plan.

a. 1st Bn 27th Inf (Wolfhounds) conducted motor march to vic Ap Hau Hoa beginning 130808 hrs to initiate its participation in operation Sante Fe. The security elements and quartering party departed base camp (Cu Chi) at 130808 hrs and arrived at bn fwd defense base at 130935 hrs. At 0847 hrs, the main body crossed the SP and at 1050 hrs the battalion task force closed battalion operational area. Bn CP was established at XT570044. B1/27 Inf remained in base camp Cu Chi and assumed responsibility for defense of 1/27 Inf base camp perimeter.

b. 131800 - 141800 June 1966: 1/27 Inf established eight (8) night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 132235 hrs, Ambush Sardine (XT560042), received ineffective fire from an automatic weapon and carbine. The firing appeared to originate from vic XT559047. The ambush did not return fire, but 6 rounds of 81mm mortar fire were called in with undetermined results. Ambush Sardine moved approximately 50 meters and no further contact was made during the night. All other ambushes had negative contact. At 140630 hrs, the Recon plot with attached Engineer mine detector team, moved out to secure Route Blue from base camp to road intersection at XT555053 - clearing the area 500 meters on either side of the road. The unit returned to bn fwd defense base at 141135 hrs. Negative contact was made and no tunnels or VC supplies were found. At 141415 hrs, attached RRU unit reported homing in on a suspected VC transmitter located at XT567039. 3A1/27 Inf was dispatched to the suspected site. After a thorough search, the element reported that it was unable to locate the transmitter and returned at 141545 hrs.

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141800 - 151800 Jun 66: TF1/27 Inf established 5 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 142155 hrs Bn fwd defense base received small arms fire (carbine), automatic weapons fire, rifle grenades, and 60mm mortar fire from vic XT568040. 1/27 Inf forces replied with small arms, and 40 ras from 81mm mortar platoon. Results were unknown. There were no friendly casualties. At 150700, the Recon Plt with attached mine detector team, moved out to secure Route Blue from Bn fwd base camp to road intersection at XT555053. The road was secured by 150830, and the attached engineer element moved out to help construct the ARVN outpost at Duc Lap airstrip. At 150701, one ARVN Mech Co, the 1/10, and a rifle company from the ARVN 4/49 Bn moved out of Ap Bao Trai to a blocking posn S of Hau Hoa (3), (XT575030). At 150900, TF 1/27 Inf commenced sweep south towards the objective area (Ap Hau Hoa). Numerous mines and booby traps were discovered and destroyed, but no contact was made with VC elements. A thorough search of the area and an extensive interrogation of the population by the ARVN "Go Team" yielded negative results. The ARVN blocking force to the south effectively sealed off the area, and no one was allowed to pass through the force without proper credentials. TF1/27 Inf returned to Bn fwd defense base at 151440, and the ARVN blocking force was released for their return to Bao Trai at 151445. The engineer element completed the earth work portion of their construction project at Duc Lap airstrip, XT543049, and returned to the Bn fwd base camp at 151515. 1/27 Inf elements continued to search for a VC transmitter reported earlier to be in close proximity to base camp. The transmitter was not located.

d. 151800 - 161800 Jun 66: TF1/27 Inf established six night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact except Ambush Hawk (XT541033). At 152155, Ambush Hawk saw 5-6 VC moving in line formation from S. to ambush site. Mortar concentrations were fired. Results unknown. At 160300, Ambush Hawk received small arms fire, automatic weapons fire, possible MG fire and 5-7 rifle grenades from the South, Southwest, and Southeast. Mortars were fired with undetermined results. There were no friendly casualties. At 160700, the Recon Plt moved out to secure Route Blue from base camp to road intersection at XT555053. The road was secured at 160800 and the attached engineer element moved out to assist in the construction of the ARVN outpost at Duc Lap airstrip. At 160830, TF1/27 Inf began a sweep south towards Ap Hau Hoa XT579035, the Bn Obj for the day. Numerous grenade booby traps and AT mines were discovered and destroyed, and approximately 60 "L" shaped trenches were filled. At 161024, 1/27 Inf received small arms fire from an estimated 2 VC from Loc XT583027. At 161037, Co A received additional carbine fire from estimated 4 snipers at location vic XT579026, and XT574036. A1/27 Inf maneuvered elements, but snipers could not be located. Intelligence information from villagers indicated that approximately 5 VC armed with rifles and pistols belts with ammo had been in the area, but had not fired and moved southward when US forces approached.

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After securing Ap Hau Hoa, extensive Medcap and Helping Hand activities were conducted and smallpox inoculations were administered to indigenous personnel throughout the area. AT platoon supported by National Police continued to screen and check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT587044. A total of 80 Vietnamese civilians were checked. All had proper identification cards.

e. 161800 - 171800 June 66: TF1/27 Inf established six night ambushes in Ao Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 162158 hrs, TF1/27 Inf elements on bn fwd defense base perimeter noted 1 VC in vic XT572040. Three M-79 rounds were fired. A thorough search of the area at 170700 failed to reveal any signs of VC. At 170700 hrs, the recon platoon moved out to secure Route Blue from base camp to road intersection at XT55-5053. The road was secured at 170800 hrs, and the att chd engineer platoon moved out to assist in the construction of the RVN outpost at the Duc Lap airstrip and to continue road improvement operations between Duc Lap and the bn fwd defense base. In vic Duc Lap intersection (XT555052), the engineer platoon destroyed 3 grenades and 1 AT mine. The grenades and the AT mine appeared to have been laid the night before. Of interest, is the fact that the location of the grenades and mines were pointed out to the U forces by children who were playing in the area. It appears that the intensive Medcap activities which had been conducted throughout Ao Sante Fe by 1/27 Inf forces had made a marked impression on the indigenous population, and had served to strengthen US and RVN influence throughout the area. At 170830 hours, Co A and Co C moved out on a sweep to the SE and SW respectively. Numerous booby traps and rifle grenades were located and destroyed by both companies. At 171114 hrs, C1/27 Inf encountered sniper fire from two snipers vic XT581022. C1/27 Inf returned with small arms and artillery. C1/27 Inf reported finding fresh blood on the trail at XT581020, indicating at least 1 VC KIA (poss). No further contact was reported by either company and both units closed on bn fwd defense base by 1445 hrs. Extensive Medcap activities were conducted in Ap Hau Hoa. A total of 112 personnel were treated. All appeared to be appreciative and extremely happy to see the bn surgeon. The mutual trust which has developed between U forces, RVN elements, and the indigenous population was readily apparent. The villagers openly offered information to U forces on VC movements and activities. At 171330 hrs, a Vietnamese Intelligence Agent accompanying the Medcap Team, reported that a dwelling in Ap Hau Hoa at XT57-7034, belonged to a VC hamlet Chief, and had been visited by both the hamlet Chief and the village Chief between 162400 and 170015 hrs. An ambush was established near the site that night in anticipation of a return visit, but the VC failed to return. The Recon platoon conducted Ro drumner ops between Duc Lap and Duc Hanh B, XT575075. AT platoon supported by Nat'l Police continued to screen and check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 106 Vietnamese civilians were checked. All had proper identification cards.

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f. 171800-181800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established five (5) night ambushes in AO Santa Fe. At 180045 hrs, ambush Austin (AT557054), reported that it had been hit by automatic carbine fire and that there was 1 US WIA. Two APC's from attached 5th Mech platoon were dispatched to evacuate patrol. The wounded individual died enroute to bn fwd defense base. At 180715 hrs, Recon plat moved out to secure Route Blue from bn fwd defense base to road intersection vic AT555053. The road was secured at 180808 hrs. At 180800 hrs, companies A and C were airlifted from defense base to Bao Canh Na loc vic AT551007. Airlift consisted of thirty-three UH-1H lifts, and was conducted in a highly orderly and expeditious fashion. At LZ Red, south of Bao Canh Na, TF1/27 Inf (-) exited the choppers and quickly deployed into the woodline on the southern edge of the objective. At 180820 hrs, TF1/27 Inf (-) commenced its sweep from S to N with attached 1/5 Mech plat positioned North of the hamlet as a blocking force. The initial civilian reaction appeared to be one of surprise. However, upon questioning the villagers, it was learned that the VC with loudspeakers had been through the obj area on the night of 17 June, and had warned the villagers that US troops would be entering the area on 18 June. Villagers were also informed that they were to remain indoors because the area would be booby trapped. Information received also reported there were 20-30 VC in Bao Canh Na on 16 June 1966. Only one booby trap was found in Bao Canh Na. It was destroyed in place. Four VC were captured vic AT556015, and a total of 8 VCS were detained. At 181149 hrs, A/27 Inf encountered automatic sniper fire from an estimated 3 VC. AT557-7018. A1/27 Inf engaged the snipers and made a thorough search of the area, but was not able to locate VC. At 181300 hrs, 1 APC from 5th Mech plat hit an AT mine at AT56202. No damage was done to vehicle or personnel. C1/27 Inf and A1/27 Inf closed bn fwd def base at 181226 hrs and 181350 hrs respectively. No drummer ops were conducted between base camp and Duc Hanh B by the Recon. Plat. At plat supported by National Police continued to screen and check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at AT56044. A total of 80 personnel were checked. All personnel checked out satisfactorily.

g. 181800 - 191800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Santa Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 190715 hrs, Recon Plat moved out to secure Route Blue from bn fwd def base to road intersection at AT555053. The road was secured at 190800 hrs, and the Medcap element secured by 1st plat, A1/27 Inf, proceeded to Duc Hanh A and B to carry out Medcap activities. A total of 176 patients were treated. Element returned to fwd base camp at 191200 hrs. At 190800 hrs, C1/27 Inf moved from fwd base camp to Obj Kitty, vic AT603025 to conduct Sab operations against a suspected VC force. At 190850 hrs, C1/27 Inf stated that villagers reported 4 VC running across field vic AT59-9036. Helicopter recon failed to locate VC. At 190948 hrs, C1/27 Inf received sniper fire from vic AT604030. Arty fire was placed on suspected VC locations. Results undetermined. From 191002 hrs to 191030 hrs sniper fire was received from Obj Kitty. A thorough search of the area, however, produced negative results. C1/27 Inf did locate a building complex on Obj Kitty which might have at one time housed a VC hospital with a 30-40 patient capacity. Indications were that it had not been used recently.

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C1/27 Inf returned to Bn fwd defense base at 1615. B1/27 Inf conducted sweep between Duc Hanh A and Bn fwd defense base commencing 191134. No VC contact was made, but 5 VCS were detained vic XT530058. B1/27 Inf found approximately 20 bamboo stakes with attached propaganda leaflets along the road vic XT578049. The stakes appeared freshly planted. AT platoon supported by Nat'l Police continued to screen and check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 110 personnel were checked. All personnel checked out satisfactorily. Road runner operations were conducted between base and Duc Hanh B by Recon Platoon.

h. 191800 - 201800 Jun 66: TF1/27 Inf established 7 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 200430, TF1/27 Inf (-) moved out on S&D mission to Obj Cat vic XT609001. At 200600 attached mech plat departed Bn fwd defense base to act as a blocking force SE of Obj Cat. At 0655, B1/27 Inf received sniper fire from XT603022. Friendly casualties: 1 MIA, 1 WIA. TF1/27 Inf returned fire with unknown results. At 200715, the decision was made to expand the Bn obj to include the hamlet complex to the SE of Obj Cat. At 200755 several booby trap signs and a VC trench network were uncovered vic XT699022. At 0802 hrs, 8 VCS were detained at XT609022 - two of which later proved to be VCC. One VCC stated that he had hidden a weapon under his bed. A thorough search of his hut produced negative results. At 100930, TF1/27 Inf wheeled north and swept the operational area again. Successive sweeps N to S and E to W produced negative results. At 200945, TF1/27 Inf encountered additional VC trenches and booby trap signs. At 1115, after the objective had been thoroughly searched, TF1/27 Inf with attached mech Plat moved NW to Obj Cat, where B1/27 Inf suffered 1 slightly WIA by a booby trap. TF1/27 commenced return march to Bn fwd defense base at 1315. Enroute to base camp, B1/27 Inf located a fully armed CHICOM claymore. It was set up and ready to fire. The claymore was brought back to Bn fwd defense base. TF1/27 Inf closed at 1520. At 200810 hours vic XT570045, a CHICOM claymore was found and detonated approx 50 meters in front of the perimeter, slightly wounding 1 US soldier. A thorough search of the area was conducted and a CHICOM battery and 300 meters of detonating wire were found. Medcap was conducted at Ap Chanh (3) vic XT559048. Approximately 79 patients were treated. AT plat supported by Nat'l Police continued to check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044.

i. 201800 - 211800 Jun 66: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 210715, Recon Plt moved out to secure Route Blue from base camp to road intersection at XT555053. Road was secured at 210745. At 210815, Bn Recon Plat reported that small children at Duc Lap intersection were reporting the location of old US hand grenades and 60mm mortar cuds.

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Between the hours of 1815 and 0950, a total of 22 hand grenades, one grenade booby trap, 16 60mm duds, and two 155mm duds were found and destroyed. At 210800 hrs, B1/27 Inf moved by motor convoy to detruck point located XT526642. Upon reaching destination, B1/27 Inf dismounted and began a two pronged sweep East utilizing one plat to the North and one plat to the South. At 210937 hrs, vic XT551-030, B1/27 Inf encountered booby trapped signs. One booby trap was destroyed. Two US WIA occurred as a result of tripping grenade booby traps. Two VCS were detained and brought back to base. One proved to be VCC, and when questioned gave much intelligence information to MID. This information included names, orgns, and opns of VC in area. Attached Medcap Team treated 6 villagers enroute to base camp. The people encountered during the sweep appeared very friendly to US personnel. B1/27 Inf closed base camp at 211145 hrs. At 210945 hrs, 16 RRU reported picking up signals from a VC transmitter at XT557080. 3B1/5 Mech was dispatched to investigate but was unable to locate the transmitter. Recon plat conducted a Roadrunner opn from Duc Hanh B to base camp. AT plat supported by National Police continued to screen and check all civilian personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 50 persons checked out satisfactorily.

j. 211800 - 221800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 212010 hrs, Ambush Tiger, XT589-043, noted 7 VC walking along the trail towards their ambush site. When the VC were approx 30 meters from the ambush site, US Forces opened up with M-16 and hand grenades, resulting in 2 VC dead (poss). The VC did not return the fire although the ambush patrol did receive fire from huts located vic XT588042 and XT595038. The VC ran towards the East and the US patrol called in 81mm mortar fire. The ambush patrol relocated to XT589044. A thorough search conducted in the area during the morning produced negative results. At 212013 hrs, Ambush Sheep vic XT559051, received a short burst from an automatic weapon vic XT560053. Fire was not returned. At 212023 hrs, the ARVN outpost at XT577074, received SA fire North of outpost. At 211943 hrs, the bn perimeter received 4 incoming rds from vic XT57-2040. Fire was returned with M-79. Results unknown. At 220845 hrs, 3B1/5 Mech plat departed base camp to set up blocking pns SE of Ap Tram Loc vic XT636044. At 220905 hrs, a two (2) company airlift commenced, and by 220945 all elements had arrived at LZ. Movement thru the obj was slow, and the entire area was thoroughly searched. At approx 221030 hrs sniper fire was received vic XT622033. Fire was returned. Results unknown. At 221450 hrs, C1/27 Inf touched off two booby traps (XT622033) and sustained one WIA. Dustoff evacuated WIA at 1520 hrs. At XT602033, 221410 hrs, C1/27 Inf again received SA fire. 3B1/5 Mech deployed but could not locate VC. A total of two VCS were picked up in the AO. TF1/27 Inf was extracted at 221530 hrs, vic XT619033. 3B1/5 Mech, which was being used as a blocking force, located a cache of approx 1500 lbs of rice, vic XT622033. The rice was brought back to base. AT plat supported by National Police continued to screen and check all personnel passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 50 persons were checked. All checked out satisfactorily.

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k. 221800 0 231800 Jun 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 5 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact except Ambush Yankee. At 230730 hrs, Ambush Yankee (Recon platoon), reported seeing 30 civilians gathering at XT609031. As the Recon plat maneuvered towards vic XT609031, in order to better observe what was taking place, it received 4 rds of sniper fire from vic XT609032. Additional fire was received from XT618020, resulting in one US WIA. Bn CO ordered 5th Mech platoon to proceed to Recon location to aid engaged element. 5th Mech and Recon platoon cleared area from where sniper fire originated with the help of two gunships which arrived at 230943. A thorough search of the area was made with negative results. However, 2 VC women were detained and returned to base camp for interrogation. Mech and Recon platoons reached base camp at 231148. At 230536, B1/27 Inf moved to village vic XT554033. The village was sealed off, and a thorough search of the area was conducted. The entire opn was so well executed that the villagers were caught completely by surprise. Not a single villager managed to escape the cordon which was placed around the village. The search netted a total of 10 VCS detainees and 5 VCS. VCS and VCC detainees were transported to base camp fwd for interrogation. B1/27 Inf returned to base camp at 231045 hrs. C1/27 Inf was airlifted to Bao Canh Na, XT562008 at 230822 hrs. No VC contact was made, and the company proceeded with its pacification and Med-cap opns. A total of 47 patients were treated. 2 VC were detained at XT562017 and XT562010. C1/27 Inf returned to base camp at 1500 hrs. AT platoon supported by Nat'l Police continued to check and screen all civilians passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 60 personnel checked out satisfactorily.

l. 231800 - 241800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 231950 hrs, fwd defense base received 6 probing rounds from BAR and rifle grenades from vic XT574043. Fire was returned with M-79 and 81mm mortars. Results unknown. At 240540 hrs ambush Eagle, (Co B - XT558017) reported that it had 1 WIA from a booby trap which it had encountered on return to fwd defense base. WIA was evacuated to Cu Chi. At 240800, B1/27 Inf was airlifted from base camp fwd to LZ Bravo, XT612034. The entire air movement was well coordinated and executed. No VC contact was made during B1/27 Inf opn. Very few indigenous people were seen during the sweep. B1/27 Inf returned to fwd defense base at 1410 hrs. C1/27 Inf commenced move south to Obj X, XT581024, at 0830 and reached the Obj area at 0915. Several freshly planted grenade booby traps were encountered at XT580025. Two US WIA by booby traps were reported at 241015. WIA's were evacuated to Cu Chi. A total of 5 booby traps were destroyed within Obj X, and two VCS detainees were taken from XT581024 at 241030. C1/27 Inf returned to base camp at 241515 hrs. The attached 5th Mech platoon was released from TF1/27 Inf control effective 241200 hrs. 1A3/4 Cav platoon replaced the 5th Mech platoon.

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At 240820 hrs, Recon Plat reported that children in the vic of XT55-6053 were again pointing out hand grenades and mortar duds. The children pointed out a total of 1 CBU bomb, 7 hand grenades, and 2 60mm duds. All were destroyed in place. Medcap Team was dispatched to Ap Chanh (3) vic XT560047 at 240900 hrs, to treat the indigenous personnel. A total of 108 patients were treated. All appeared extremely appreciative of the help rendered them by the US personnel. AT platoon supported by Nat'l Police, continued to screen and check all civilians passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 55 personnel checked out satisfactorily.

m. 241800 - 251800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. At 241942 hours, B1/27 Inf received 3 probing B&R rds from vic XT573042. B1/27 Inf returned with M-79, SA, and 81mm mortars. Results unknown. At 0853 hours, the Medcap Tm commenced opns at Obj B, Xom My Tau, XT568059, after it had been secured by B1/27 Inf. A total of 58 patients were treated. When Medcap had been completed, B1/27 Inf continued with its sweep to the NE thru Xom Luc Vien (2), vic XT580063, and returned to bn forward defense base. No VC contact was made nor were any mines or booby traps encountered. The people appeared friendly throughout the sweep. C1/27 Inf commenced pacification of Ap Hau Hoa (3) at 250815 hrs. The people in the village stated that at 241930 hrs, a platoon of VC had entered the village to check on the possibility of constructing a roadblock on the main road, and that 3 VC decided to fire 3 rounds at the 1/27 Inf perimeter. When 1/27 Inf returned fire, the VC changed the plans and moved out of the village. This would coincide with the firing which 1/27 Inf experienced at 241942 hrs. While pacification operations were being conducted, a number of ARVN and US advisory personnel visited Ap Hau Hoa, and observed the Medcap Tm administer aid to some of the 144 patients treated in the hamlet that day. At 251100 hrs, 1 APC from 1A3/4 Cav, which had been given the mission of screening the road from bn forward defense base, south to XT580022, fell into a tank trap vic XT572040. Dimensions were 16' X 14' X 6'. The vehicle was pulled out of the trap undamaged. 1 WIA resulted (broken jaw and ribs), and was evacuated to Cu Chi. 3 booby traps were found at XT578035 at 1425 hrs, resulting in 1 US WIA. 8 "L" shaped trenches were also destroyed at same location. At 1330 hrs, vic XT578035, C1/27 Inf destroyed 2 small bunkers and 1 VC house. By 1520 hrs, C1/27 Inf had completed the pacification of Ap Hau Hoa and returned to base camp. Throughout the opn, Recon platoon continued to secure the road from base camp to Duc Lap. At 1030 hrs, Recon platoon found a small child on the road approx 200 meters north of the perimeter, vic XT557048. The child was dead and was turned over to his parents who evacuated him to Bao Trai.

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n. 251000 - 261800 June 1966: TFL/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 251814 hrs, one of the APC's that was carrying Ambush Wolf to its ambush site hit an AT mine, vic XT553038. APC was badly damaged and 8 WIA were sustained. A VTR was called in to help extract the damaged APC. An evacuation chopper was also called in to remove the wounded. The APC could not be extracted. One reinforced rifle squad from BL/27 Inf was dispatched at 1950 hrs to help provide security for the 3/4 Cav plat. Vehicle was extracted the next morning and the security element returned to BL/27 Inf. At 260530 hrs, BL/27 Inf moved out to secure the village of Ap Bao Son (2) vic XT556025. BL/27 Inf made a thorough search of the area and detained a total of 25 VCS for questioning (17 detainees, 8 VCS). Once secured, pacification and Medcap opns were undertaken by the ARVN "Go Team" and US medical pers. The people were most responsive to the pacification opns and welcomed the Medcap pers. A total of 94 patients were treated. At 260920 hrs BL/27 Inf moved N to Ap Bao Son (1) vic XT554032. Pacification opns were again conducted with the same general response. A total of 114 personnel were treated by Medcap pers. Co sustained one WIA (slightly) from booby trap vic XT557036. BL/27 Inf closed base camp at 261300 hrs. At 260700 hrs, CL/27 Inf was airlifted to LZ at XT626055. Aircraft reported automatic wpns fire from vic LZ. However, CL/27 Inf reported negative contact upon landing. Numerous sampans, SA ammunition and mines were destroyed in CL/27 Inf sweep to the MI. 3 grenade booby traps were destroyed. Motor convoy departed base camp at 1500 hrs and picked up CL/27 Inf at the entrucking area, XT576077. CL/27 Inf closed base camp at 261555 hrs. Eng plat continued with road improvement opns from bn fwd def base to Duc Lap commencing 261300 hrs. AT plat supported by National Police continued to check and screen all civilians passing BL/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 37 personnel were checked. All checked out satisfactorily.

o. 261800 - 271800 June 1966: TFL/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 270700 hrs, 1 plat of CL/27 Inf moved to Xom My Tau, vic XT568049, and Go Cao, vic XT543042, with the mission of searching the area. Plat at My Tau reported negative contact and returned to base camp at 0940 hrs. The platoon searching Go Cao detained 1 VCS vic XT544041. Another VCS was detained at XT544046. No VC contact was made and the element returned to base camp at 271230 hrs. At 270630 hrs, BL/27 Inf moved with the ARVN "Go Team" to search and secure the village of Giong Loc vic XT583015. At 0910 hrs, while enroute to obj area, BL/27 Inf received sniper fire vic XT575009 from an estimated 3-5 VC. VC were engaged but results unknown. At 1210 hrs, BL/27 Inf apprehended 4 VCS at XT570020 and at 1030 an additional 6 VCS plus the wife and 3 children of a confirmed VC were apprehended. At 1100 hrs, blood and expended carbino rounds were found vic XT570020. Villagers stated that 2 VC had been seen dragging away a badly wounded comrade (1 VC KIA, poss). SA fire was again received at 1105 hrs from vic XT575012. BL/27 Inf engaged and pursued snipers but were unable to track down VC. When BL/27 Inf finally arrived at Giong Loc, it made a thorough search of the area with negative results.

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p. 281800 - 291800 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 5 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 282310, Ambush Purple located at XT551034, made contact with a large VC force estimated to have consisted of seventy (70) VC. When the engagement began, firing could be heard at the battalion defense base. Radio contact was lost between patrol and parent company immediately. A1/27 Inf fired 81mm mortars around ambush locations with unknown results. At 282315 hrs, the battalion reaction force, 1A1/27 Inf was ordered to go and assist the patrol. 1A1/27 Inf departed wire at battalion defense base at 282345 hrs, and reached the ambush location at 290113 hrs. 1A1/27 Inf made negative contact with both VC element and the US ambush. 1A1/27 Inf continued to search for the ambush until 290345 hours, at which time it returned to the battalion defense base due to intense darkness. A1/27 Inf departed the battalion defense base at first light to continue the search for ambush Purple. At 290705 hrs, A1/27 Inf encountered a soldier who claimed to be a survivor of the ambush group being sought, but could not provide any information as to what happened. At 290822 hours, the Bn S-3 sighted the lost ambush from the air via XT551034. He notified CO A1/27 Inf, who was on the ground approximately 200 meters away. All 12 patrol members were dead. They had made contact with a superior sized VC force and had been overwhelmed in position. A1/27 Inf called for Dustoff to remove the dead. A1/27 Inf commenced a search of all houses and growth in the area for signs of VC. Much blood was found in the vic of the ambush site indicating that US troops killed many VC. A1/27 Inf continued to search area within 1500 meters of the ambush site, apprehending three VCs at 291015 hrs via XT542026. A1/27 Inf returned to bn fwd defense base at 291115 hrs. At 0800 hrs, B1/27 Inf received the mission of assisting in search of VC who had hit Ambush Purple. B1/27 Inf moved to vic XT564009, Bao Canh Na, conducted a search of the villagers, swept E to vic XT583015, and headed N to base camp. At 291050 hrs, B1/27 Inf apprehended 3 VCs via XT561045 at 1245 hrs, and commenced a search 1000 meters either side of Route 9 up to Bao Trai (XT526044). C1/27 Inf apprehended 8 VCs at 1410 hrs and closed Bn forward defense base at 1500 hrs. 4/49 ARVN swept area W of AO Sante Fe. 34th RVN Ranger swept S of AO Sante Fe bounded by coord 5500, 5597, 5897, 5800. None of the units participating in the search for the VC who attacked Ambush Purple were able to locate anything of significant value.

q. 291800 - 301000 June 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 300340 hrs, Ambush Tiger (AT558040) spotted 15-30 approximately 500 meters NW of ambush site. At 0430 hrs, the same ambush noted what they believed to be a squad sized unit moving toward a nearby woodland. 81mm mortar fire was called in, and the area was kept under surveillance.

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AT 0615 hrs, Ambush Tiger found 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 VC KIA, and 2 VCS women. Blood was found in the immediate vicinity of the site indicating that more VC were KIA. Ambush Tiger returned to base camp at 0800 hrs. Ambush Tiger results: 8 VC KIA (poss), 1 VC KIA (BC), and 3 VCS apprehended (1 VCC and 2 VCS). A1/27 Inf departed base perimeter at 0730 hrs for S&D opns in Bao Canh Na (XT562009). At 0745 hrs, A1/27 Inf destroyed 1 freshly planted booby trapped grenade vic XT569035. A1/27 Inf reported that woman stated that VC in area had warned people to stay out of rice paddies because they were mined and booby trapped. A thorough search of Bao Canh Na produced negative results. B1/27 Inf departed fwd def base at 0752 hrs by motor convoy to psn Yankee (XT5759079), and commenced S&D opns in NE sector of AO. B1/27 Inf apprehended a total of 10 VCS during the opn. B1/27 Inf closed bn fwd def base at 1410 hrs. C1/27 Inf departed base camp at 0815 hrs and swept along grid line 04 to coord 5404. At grid line 5404, the company turned N and swept to road where they were picked up by motor convoy and returned to bn fwd def base at 1155 hrs. Along assigned route, C1/27 Inf destroyed 1 booby trapped hand grenade vic XT558042. A thorough search of assigned sector produced negative results. C1/27 Inf departed bn fwd def base at 1530 hrs for base camp Cu Chi, and closed base camp Cu Chi at 1630 hrs. 1A3/4 Cav, with attached mine sweeper team from Eng unit, cleared road between base camp and rice mill vic XT582023. 1A3/4 Cav provided flank security for return sweep of A1/27 Inf. Eng plat conducted road improvement operations from base perimeter (XT570044) to Duc Lap (XT555053). AT plat supported by National Police continued to check and screen all civilians passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint at XT567044. A total of 30 personnel were checked. All checked out satisfactorily. At 0930 hrs the Medcap Tm escorted by Recon plat moved to Duc Hanh A to conduct Medcap operations. A total of 90 patients were treated. The Medcap team closed the bn fwd def base at 1250 hrs. At 1435 hrs, Recon reported that it had destroyed 1 60mm dud and 3 hand grenades at XT556052. Children in area had again pointed out the duds and grenades to the Recon Plat.

r. 301800 Jun - 011800 Jul 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 4 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. At 010035 hrs, Ambush Mercedes, XT563053, observed 4 VC by starlight setting up a mortar 600 meters away vic XT569050. Indirect fire was called and the VC dispersed. Results unknown. At 010112 hrs, Ambush Mercedes observed 12-20 VC vic XT569050. 4.2 mortar fire was called. At 010225, Ambush Mercedes again observed, through the starlight, 7-9 VC crawling in a rice paddy approximately 500 meters East of their location. Artillery fire was called and the VC ran toward a nearby treeline. At 010300 hrs, Ambush Mercedes saw 6-8 VC in the woodline vic XT569058. 81mm mortar fire was called, VC dispersed, results unknown. At 010458 hrs, 1 plat, 3/4 Cav and A1/27 Inf departed for ambush Mercedes location to make a thorough check of the area.

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A total of 14 VCS were found in vic XT562030. The VCS were returned to base camp. At 010856 hrs, 1A3/4 Cav and A1/27 Inf reported that they could find nothing further and returned to base camp. Recon plat secured Route Blue and found one hand grenade vic XT556053, at 1130 hrs. Two 60mm duds and one hand grenade were found at XT555053 at 1430 hrs. All were destroyed in place. At 1140 hrs, a small boy was brought to Bn Aid Station for treatment of a badly infected hand. A small boy who was found in the vicinity of XT564045, reported to the Recon Plat that a VC was in a house located at XT559047. A thorough search of the hut resulted in one VCS. AT plat continued to check Vietnamese passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint. A total of 50 personnel were checked. All checked out satisfactorily.

s. 011800 - 021800 July 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 2 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes reported negative contact. On 2 July 66, the Bn TF effort was devoted entirely to the conduct of a County Fair in Ap Hau Hoa, vic XT576036. At 0526 hrs, Co A moved out and sealed off the southern boundary of the village to insure that no one escaped, while 1A3/4 Cav secured the route from bn fwd def base to the southern edge of Ap Hau Hoa. At 0645 hrs, Co B swept through the village, policed up the inhabitants, and moved them to a centralized screening area. GVN National Police, with the assistance of the AT plat, screened the civilians to determine their true status, and a complete census of the population was conducted. After Ap Hau Hoa had been secured, and the screening process begun, the County Fair activities commenced. TF1/27 Inf scheduled medcap and Helping Hand, movies, volleyball games, Vietnamese and American entertainment, and visits by ARVN and GVN officials. The County Fair activities were well received by the village inhabitants, although they seemed to be rather bewildered at the vast array of entertainment. At 1415 hrs, the County Fair was completed, and TF1/27 Inf closed bn fwd def base at 1605 hrs. 1A3/4 Cav plat was released from TF1/27 Inf control at 1515 hrs and returned to Cu Chi. 3B1/5 Mech was attached to TF1/27 Inf effective 1515 hrs.

t. 021800 - 031800 July 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 3 night ambushes in AO Sante Fe. All ambushes had negative contact. The Operation for 3 July 66, envisioned a sweep by B1/27 Inf from NE portion of AO to bn fwd def base. A1/27 Inf was to be utilized as a blocking force a few hundred meters NE of bn fwd def base, while 3B1/5 Mech would be tied in on the left flank of A1/27 Inf and would be utilized to block traffic moving west of Route Blue. 4/49 ARVN from Bao Trai, established an additional blocking psn along the Duc Lap - Cu Chi highway. By 0835 hrs, A1/27 Inf, 3B1/5 Mech, and 4/49 ARVN elements were in their assigned blocking positions, and B1/27 Inf was ready to commence its sweep from psn Yankee (XT585087) to bn fwd def base. B1/27 Inf had negative contact throughout the sweep.

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A1/27 Inf, however, spotted two (2) men running approximately 300 meters from its blocking position. A1/27 Inf challenged the individuals with voice commands and warning shots, but personnel continued to run and were subsequently cut down by US SA fire. Only 1 body could be found, but it contained documents which indicated that individuals was VC. A search of the immediate vicinity produced blood around area where the other VC had been observed. A thorough search was undertaken but the other VC could not be located. All elements closed on fwd defense base by 1405 hrs. AT plat assisted by National Police continued to check Vietnamese passing 1/27 Inf checkpoint. A total of 35 personnel were checked. All personnel checked out satisfactorily. At 1445 hrs, a suspected enemy transmitter was traced to vic XT569045. A thorough search of the area was made with negative results.

u. 031800-041800 July 1966: TF1/27 Inf established 2 night ambushes in AO Santa Fe. At 032245 hrs, Ambush Red, XT559047, reported observing 10 VC vic XT559038. Ambush Red engaged VC with 81mm Mortar fire and estimated that three VC were KIA (poss). VC dispersed in a NE direction. A thorough search of the area was made by Ambush Red, the following morning, producing negative results. A "Lighting Bug" mission was flown over TF1/27 Inf AO during the night. SA fire was received from vic XT614015 and SA fire was received from vic XT611015. The "Lighting Bug" retaliated with suppressive fires, results unknown. Additional fire was received from vic XT559012. TF1/27 Inf departed fwd def base by motor convoy to base camp Cu Chi in two march serials. Serial #1 departed fwd base at 0944 hrs and closed Cu Chi at 1025 hrs. The second serial departed at 1247 hrs and closed base camp at 1340 hrs. No enemy activity was encountered by either serial along the return route to Cu Chi. The entire operation was conducted in an orderly fashion. A C&C UH-ID controlled the movement and a UH-ID fire team was on immediate stand-by alert. The closing at base camp Cu Chi marked the termination of Opn Santa Fe.

12. Results:

a. VC losses: 4VC KIA (BC), 16 VC KIA (poss), 21 VCC, 65 VCS, 82 VCS detainees.

b. Captured and destroyed enemy equipment and material:

- (1) Two (2) Chicom claymores.
- (2) Thirty-six (36) booby traps.
- (3) Sixty-three (63) hand grenades.
- (4) Three (3) AP mines
- (5) Eleven (11) AT mines.
- (6) Two (2) 7.62 Chicom carbines.
- (7) One (1) VC tunnel.
- (8) Forty (40) 60mm duds.
- (9) Ten (10) 105mm duds.
- (10) Two (2) 155mm duds.
- (11) Sixty-eight (68) "L" shaped trenches.
- (13) One (1) CBU bomb.
- (14) Four (4) VC huts.

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- (15) Twenty-five (25) sampans.
- (16) Assorted medical supplies.
- (17) One hundred sixty (160) rds of cal 30 ammo.
- (18) Two (2) pistol belts

- c. Friendly losses: 14 KIA, 30 WIA.
- d. Friendly equipment destroyed or damaged:
  - (1) Five (5) M-16 rifles
  - (2) Three (3) Cal 45 pistols
  - (3) One (1) M-14 rifle
  - (4) Two (2) M-14E2 rifles
  - (5) Two (2) M-79 grenade launchers.
  - (6) One (1) M-60 machine gun
  - (7) One (1) starlight scope
  - (8) Two (2) PFC 25 radio sets.

## 13. Administrative matters:

a. Supply: Resupply was accomplished by motor convoy. A scheduled convoy was dispatched from Cu Chi once each day and adequately met the requirements of TF1/27 Inf. Supplies required on an emergency basis were flown in by Helicopter.

b. Maintenance: Normal maintenance of weapons and equipment was performed prior to, during, and after the operation.

c. Treatment of casualties and evacuation: The Bn Aid Station accompanied the Bn CP group. Casualties were treated by the aidmen attached to the rifle companies, then moved to the aid station by litter or helicopter for further treatment. C&C and resupply helicopters were utilized to transport wounded requiring evacuation. Emergency cases were evacuated utilizing both Dustoff aircraft and assigned MH-IDs.

d. Communications: TF1/27 Inf utilized numerous means of communications during Opn Sante Fe. FM and AM-RTT/CW/Voice were established by 1/27 Inf communications platoon. Elem 125th signal provided TF1/27 Inf with VHF Sole User, Common User, and Land Line teletype capability. No communications difficulties were encountered during the operation.

## 14. Commanders Analysis:

a. TF1/27 Inf accomplished its mission. TF1/27 Inf entered a long established VC stronghold, and through a balanced combination of tactical opns and civic action programs, was able to dominate the terrain and population. The effects of TF1/27 Inf extensive Medcap and civic action program will most likely make a more lasting impression upon the indigenous population than the display of US tactical power.

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The use of the ARVN "Go Team" materially aided 1/27 Inf in accomplishing its mission. Members of the team were familiar with the customs and many knew the local village inhabitants. They were thus better qualified to determine which segment of the local populace was sympathetic to the Viet Cong. This assistance helped unit commanders to apprehend many VCS who later proved to be VCC.

c. Airmobile operations greatly enhanced the combat capability of TF1/27 Inf. As the operation progressed, it became increasingly apparent that the rising water level was causing personnel to experience fatigue. APC's also became increasingly dependent upon the road, and their cross-country mobility was cut to a minimum. The use of the helicopters enabled TF1/27 Inf to operate unfatigued in a designated operational area, and eliminated the need for extensive APC support during movements to and from bn fwd defense base. Greater results could be attained if a DS airmobile Co were available to the battalion commander:

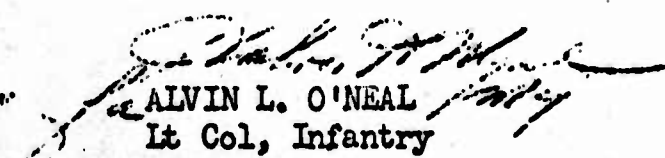
## 15. Recommendations:

a. GVN and ARVN personnel be immediately prepared to actively assume responsibilities for areas cleared by US Forces. Although TF1/27 Inf controlled AO Sante Fe from 13 June to 4 July '66, future GVN influence will be minimal if appropriate measures are not taken to actively continue the pacification effort.

b. That every effort be made to provide TF1/27 Inf with the same aviation company throughout the duration of any operation.

c. That a helicopter fire team be on standby status to insure a quick reaction capability. Use of the fire team is invaluable in sealing off an objective, and preventing the escape of VC.

d. That a C&C helicopter be assigned to 1/27 Inf for the entire day. On numerous occasions it became necessary to release the helicopters due to higher priority commitments. This often occurred during the critical stage in the operation, and resulted in the ground elements being left without essential air surveillance and protection.

  
ALVIN L. O'NEAL  
Lt Col, Infantry  
Commanding

Annexes:

A-Operations Overlay

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Annex A (Operations Overlay) to Combined After Action Report to OPOKD 6-66 (Operation Sante Fe)  
dtd 11 June 1966;

Ref: Map, RVN, 1:50,000 Sheet 62431

DUC LAP

Acknowledge:

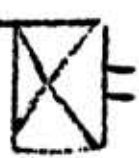
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O'NEAL  
Lt Col

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TLIBA-T (20 July 66) 1st Ind (C)  
SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (Opn SANTE FE) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO 96225 3 August 1966

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: ACofS G3 (D&T)  
APO 96227

TO: Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam, ATTN: J343  
APO 96243

1. Operation SANTE FE is one of four operations conducted to date with primary emphasis on pacification. This operation successfully extended GVN and US influence throughout the assigned area of operations.

2. Operations of this type should be followed closely by a determined effort by ARVN and Province forces to keep the area pacified. Without such effort, the advantages obtained are quickly dissipated and the initiative again given to the VC.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Philip U. Bondi*  
PHILIP U. BONDI  
CPT, AGC  
Adjutant General

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CG, IIFORCEV, ATTN: ACofS G3 (D & T)  
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CG, USA Armor School, Ft Knox, Ky.  
USACDC Ln Off APO 96558  
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DOWNGRADE AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFY AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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