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AGAM-P (M) (15 Aug 67) FOR OT 67X003

23 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report - Operation Ahina, conducted by the 25th Infantry Division

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

Forwarded as inclosure is a Combat After Action Report for Operation Ahina. Operation Ahina was conducted by the 25th Infantry Division during the period 13-18 May 1967. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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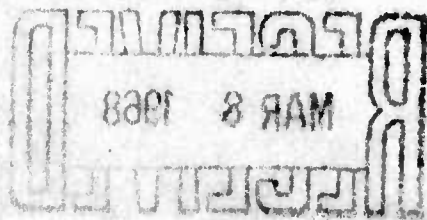
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96225

AVDCMHD

16 July 1967

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

THRU: Commanding General
IIFORCEV
ATTN: G-3 (D&T)
APO 96227

TO: Commander
U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam
ATTN: MACJ 343
APO 96243

1. (C) NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION: Operation AHINA was a search and destroy operation conducted in the east central portion of War Zone "C", bounded by XT6440, XT6450, XT5450 and XT6440. Its purpose was to engage and destroy VC/NVA forces known to be operating in the Area of Operations (AO), and to destroy VC/NVA base camps and facilities throughout the area.

2. (C) DATE OF OPERATION: 13 - 18 May 1967.

3. (C) LOCATION: East central portion of War Zone "C", TAY NINH and BINH DUONG Provinces, Republic of Vietnam.

4. (C) CONTROL OR COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 25th Infantry Division

5. (C) REPORTING OFFICER: MG John C. F. Tillson III

6. (C) TASK ORGANIZATION:

1st Bde, 9th Inf Div

2d Bn, 47th Inf
4th Bn, 39th Inf
2d Bn, 12th Inf (detach from 3d
Bde, 4th Inf Div)
Co A, 15th Engr Bn
Co C, 709th Maint Bn

3d Bde, 4th Inf Div

2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf
3d Bn, 22d Inf
2d Bn, 77th Arty (DS)
Co C, 4th Engr Bn (DS)
Btry B, 1st Bn, 11th
Arty (OPCON to 2/77
Arty)

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1st Bde, 9th Inf Div (Con't)

3d Bde, 4th Inf Div (Con't)

IPW Team, 9th MID
Plt, 9th MP Co
Plt, 9th Sig Bn
Det, 9th S & T Bn

Btry D (-), 5th Bn,
2d Arty (atch to 2/77
Arty) (GSR)

7. (C) SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Air Support.

(1) Close air support was provided throughout the operation by United States Air Force (USAF) fighters.

(2) Results of close air support were as follows: 2 VC Killed by Air Force (KBAF) possible (poss); 16 bunkers destroyed and 10 secondary fires ignited.

(3) There were 31 missions flown in close air support. USAF fighters flew a total of 77 sorties. Fifty-seven and a half tons of bombs and 59½ tons of napalm were expended.

b. Army Aviation Support.

(1) Army Aviation support was provided by the 25th Aviation Battalion, by the organic brigade aviation sections, and by the following units under the control of the 25th Aviation Battalion:

- (a) 187th Aviation Company (-)
- (b) 116th Aviation Company (-)

(2) Army Aviation support flew numerous airmobile assaults, resupply, command and control, evacuation and gunship support missions. The 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division Aviation section flew 219 sorties completing 125 missions alone.

c. Artillery Support.

(1) Artillery direct support was provided by 2d Bn, 77th Arty from its position at Fire Support Base (FSB) FANG (XT388624). Second Bn, 77th Arty was reinforced by Btry B, 1st Bn, 11th Arty at FSB FANG and by four M42 guns (self propelled twin 40mm cannon, commonly called "Dusters") from Btry D, 5th Bn, 2d Arty.

(2) Total missions and ammunition expended:

(a) Missions: 136 missions in support and 674 missions in harassment and interdiction (H&I).

(b) Ammunition expended: 4,261 rounds of high explosive (HE) and 154 rounds of white phosphorous (WP) ammunition were expended

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throughout Operation AHINA.

(3) Results of artillery support in causing enemy casualties were unknown.

8. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. General: The area of operation for AHINA was the east central portion of War Zone "C" bounded by the 40 grid line on the west, the 50 grid line of the east, the 54 grid line on the south and 64 grid line on the north. The area west of the NUI ONG mountain complex to the SUOI BA HA stream and north of DAU TIENG City has been a VC base area for an unknown period of time. The area is ideally suited for this purpose because of the natural obstacles formed by the upper SAIGON River and NUI ONG Mountain complex to the east and south and the SUOI BA HAO stream to the west and south. Enemy forces believed to have been located within the area of operations prior to AHINA were unidentified elements of the 7th NVA Division vic XT4375, elements of the 101st NVA Regt vic XT4365, elements of Group 82, Rear Services (COSVN) vic XT4359, elements of one local force company (unidentified) vic XT4456, and local guerrillas. Analysis by Order of Battle personnel indicated that contacts could be expected with elements of Group 82, Rear Services, the unidentified local force company and local guerrillas. Although a number of VC base camps were located and destroyed during the period 1 - 5 April during Operation JUNCTION CITY I, there existed indications that a number of VC base camps remained unlocated. The region was considered to be a VC supply base area for Group 82, Rear Services' elements of one of the main junctions of north-south and east-west supply infiltration routes. Operation AHINA included a sweep along axis SNAKE to the north by elements of the 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div. During the operation there were no large scale contacts with enemy forces. Small unit contacts were made on numerous occasions and captured documents identified elements of L35 Bn, 69th VC Arty Regt as combatants. The VC did not engage in decisive combat actions at any time. A large number of base camps, supply caches and operating facilities were destroyed. Included were over 130 underground fortifications and VC military structures. Significant among material captured or destroyed during the five day operational time frame of AHINA were supply caches totaling over 70 tons of rice and other foodstuffs.

b. Terrain: The terrain varied from low flat terrain with scrub brush or elephant grass along the waterways to forested areas with double and triple canopy within the central portion of the area of operations. The jungle canopy greatly limited aerial observation and provided excellent concealment for the VC. Fields of fire for both direct and indirect fire weapons were limited in the heavy forested areas. Avenues of approach for tracked vehicles were generally limited to trails and cleared areas which were more prevalent in the eastern portion of the area of operations. Mechanized forces experienced difficulty in traversing the central portion of the area of operations

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which was heavily forested. Movement of foot troops was hampered only in the densely forested jungle areas since much of the terrain was dry during this period of the year. Obstacles included streams characterized by steep banks, silt bottoms, and in some areas, heavy mud. Only one all-weather road (LTL 13) existed in the area of operations, running east-west and serving as a northern entry into the area of operations.

c. Weather Summary: The weather during AHINA was mostly cloudy during the day and partly cloudy during the night. Ceilings were reported below 1000 feet on the morning of 14 May and patchy low clouds were reported on 16 and 18 May. Visibility was 3 - 6 miles in haze and ground fog during the morning hours but good for the remainder of the day. Surface winds were light and variable with a few gusts to 15 - 20 knots near the shower areas. Light precipitation occurred in the area in the form of widely scattered showers on 15 - 18 May. Temperature maximums were in the low 90's and the minimums were in the mid 70's.

9. (C) MISSION: The 25th Infantry Division conducts offensive operations to the northwest of DAU TIENG (XT4946) to destroy VC/NVA forces and installations.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION: On 13 May 1967, 25th Infantry Division crosses the SAIGON River in zone with one brigade (3d Bde, 4th Inf Div) and on order conducts search and destroy operations to the northwest to exploit ARCLIGHT and destroy VC/NVA forces, and installations. Another brigade (1st Bde, 9th Inf Div), on order, establishes blocking positions south of Route 13 to deny VC/NVA exfiltration routes to the north.

11. (C) EXECUTION:

a. On D-Day, 13 May, 3d Bn, 22d Inf and Co C, 4th Engr Bn, of the 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div were airlifted to XT459562 and emplaced a bridge there over the SAIGON River. The 2d Bn (Mech), 22d Inf moved by land and crossed its elements over the bridge by 1820 hours. There was no enemy contact at the crossing site. Meanwhile 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div moved Task Force (TF) 2-47, its major maneuver element in Operation AHINA, to blocking position JAGUAR vicinity XT425615 to prevent VC exfiltration from the AO. From there they moved to FSB FANG (vic XT-384624). A sweep was made of Route 13 through the AO. The only enemy contact occurred when a TF 2-47 APC detonated an AT mine vic XT388628 resulting in 3 US WIA.

b. On 14 May, Co's A & B of 2d Bn, 22d Inf conducted search and destroy (S&D) operations. A base camp was located at XT463571, contained 10 bunkers and 100 meters of trenches. Sniper fire was received there without any effect. Fourteen huts contained documents and two bicycles were located at XT465567. The huts were destroyed. At 1440 hours, 3 trucks were located, one of which had been destroyed by an airstrike. Nearby six bunkers, seven huts and a mess hall were located at XT458575. All were destroyed. TF 2-47 destroyed 3 - AT

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mines vic XT398663 and two CHICOM booby traps. An unknown VC force detonated a claymore and fired small arms weapons at XT397663. Fire was returned without results. Later an APC struck an AT mine at XT-588628, sustaining one WIA.

c. On 15 May, S & D operations continued. Co A, 2/22 Inf found extensive rice, foodstuffs, documents, clothing, a classroom and SA ammo at XT450580 and more foodstuffs at XT454584. More foodstuffs and structures were found at XT455602 by Co C, 2/22 Inf. Co A, 3/22d Inf made contact with 4 VC at XT425573, resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC). TF 2-47 continued S & D operations in zone. Ten bunkers were destroyed at XT401625, 18 more at XT423606. Two AT mines were destroyed at XT397682.

d. On 16 May, S & D operations continued. While there was no contact throughout the day, 2d Bn, 22d Inf found extensive enemy fortified positions, weapons equipment and foodstuffs vic XT450590 (See Tab "A" COAAR 3d Bde, 4th Div for full details). TF 2-47 moved from FSB FANG to blocking position JAGUAR. There was no enemy contact in this area.

e. On 17 May, 2d Bn, 22d Inf made contact with a VC squad at XT454637 at 1610 hours. Results were 6 US KHA, 11 US WHA. Six more US were WHA when an APC detonated an AT mine at XT454636. Third Bn, 22d Inf destroyed bunkers at XT419611 and XT415627. Contact with a VC squad was made at 1545 hours. Results were 5 VC KIA (BC), and 3 US WHA. Four VC weapons were captured. TF 2-47 continued blocking from position JAGUAR. The only contact there occurred when a 5 ton truck detonated an AT mine at XT305540 resulting in 1 US WHA.

f. Operation AHINA concluded on 18 May 1967. Second Bn, 22d Inf detonated an AT mine at XT422634 resulting in moderate damage to an APC. Contact with an unknown VC force at XT413633 resulted in 1 US KHA and 2 US WHA. The VC were driven off by two immediate airstrikes and gunships. VC casualties were unknown. Second Bn, 22d Inf returned to FSB FANG. Third Bn, 22d Inf was airlifted to PREK KLOK (XT277787) minus Co A, 3/22 and the Recon Platoon which moved to secure an FSB at XT232771. TF 2-47 closed at SUOI DA at XT344577, and prepared to return to BEAR CAT, to their own TAO.

12. (C) RESULTS:

a. Enemy Losses:

(1) Personnel:

VC Killed in Action (KIA) Body Count (BC) - 9

VC Killed by Air Force (KBAF) possible (poss) - 2

(2) Equipment losses: See para 12b of COAAR AHINA of 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div. Enemy equipment losses reported by the 1st Bde, 9th

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Inf Div were negligible, and were reported as part of their totals of Operation JUNCTION CITY.

b. US Losses:

(1) Personnel:

Killed by Hostile Action (KHA)	- 14
Wounded in Hostile Action (WHA)	- 38
Died of Wounds (DOW)	- 1

(2) Equipment Losses: 2 - Armored Personnel Carriers (APC) destroyed; 4 APCs, 1 - 5 ton truck, and one Armored Vehicle Launch Bridge (AVLB) damaged.

13. (C) ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS: Logistical support for this operation was provided by the 1st Logistical Command directly to the units through supply facilities at DAU TIENG base camp. Extensive use was made of aerial resupply for units participating in Operation AHINA.

14. (C) SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES: A light tactical raft (LTR) was emplaced on an unprepared site across the SAIGON River on 13 May 1967. After securing the raft infantry was airlifted into the area. The far side of the river (no LZ) was secured by infantry troops crossing with rubber boats. The bridging and engineer personnel were lifted into the site by CH-47. The bridge was emplaced with no difficulty and an entire mechanized infantry battalion was across the river in less than eight hours from the landing of the bridging platoon. The only reconnaissance made of the area was made by air. The detailed and accurate analysis of the terrain and careful preloading of the bridging elements proved to be the best methods of quickly emplacing a bridge. The bridge was then extracted by CH-47 making it unnecessary to secure the area of crossing. All troops then participated in the attack into enemy areas.

15. (C) COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS: Operation AHINA was successful because of the vast quantities of enemy material and equipment captured and destroyed. Intelligence had indicated that the area had long been an area of VC supply for units in War Zone "C". By disrupting the means of transport (sampans and trucks) and capturing much of the stores future VC operations will be hindered. The large quantities of good CHICOM weapons and munitions found indicates that the VC continued to be well supplied in this respect, probably from northern War Zone "C" and Cambodia. All evidence indicated that only rice and foodstuffs, as opposed to weapons and munitions, are being transported from the SAIGON River and adjacent areas.

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

FOR THE COMMANDER:

F. M. Crocetti
F. M. CROCETTI
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

2 Incl

1. [REDACTED], 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div
2. [REDACTED], 25th Avn Bn

NOTE: COAAR AHINA from 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div was included as part of their COAAR JUNCITY CITY. This report has already been distributed.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 3D BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96268

AVDDC-C

4 June 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation AHINA.

TO: Commanding General
25th Infantry Division
ATTN: AC of S, G3
APO US FORCES 96225

1. (U) NAME OF OPERATION: AHINA
2. (U) DATES OF OPERATION: 130600H May 1967 to 182400H May 1967.
3. (U) LOCATION: Western Binh Duong and Eastern Tay Ninh Provinces.
4. (U) COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 25th Infantry Division.
5. (C) COMMANDERS:

3d Bde, 4th Inf Div
2d Bn, 22d Inf (M)
3d Bn, 22d Inf
2d Bn, 77th Arty
3d Support Bn (Prov)
Co C, 4th Engr Bn
44th IPSD

COL KENNETH E. BUELL
LTC RALPH W. JULIAN
LTC JAMES E. HILMAR
LTC FRED J. MERRITT
MAJ RICHARD W. HOOVER
CPT CARL B. SCIPLE
1LT ROBERT T. FENNER

6. (C) TASK ORGANIZATION:

2/22 Inf (M)
3 Tms 44th IPSD
3 Tms, Co C, 4th Engr Bn

3/22 Inf
3 Tms 44th IPSD
3 Tms Co C, 4th Engr Bn

Bde Control
2d Bn, 77th Arty
Co C, 4th Engr Bn

7. (C) SUPPORTING FORCES:

a. Artillery:

(1) The 2d Bn, 77th Arty supported the 3d Bde for the duration of the operation.

(2) Positions Occupied:

BTRY	COORD	DATES OCCUPIED	MEANS OCCUPIED	SORTIES	DISTANCES
A/2/77	Base Camp	12 May - 14 May 67	N/A	N/A	N/A
B/2/77	Base Camp	12 May - 15 May 67	N/A	N/A	N/A
C/2/77	Tay Ninh	12 May - 19 May 67	Convoy	N/A	15 mi
A/2/77	XT388624	14 May - 19 May 67	Convoy	N/A	28 mi
B/2/77	XT388624	15 May - 19 May 67	CH47	9	1600 mtrs
HQ/2/77	XT388624	15 May - 19 May 67	CH47	3	1600 mtrs

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(3) Artillery Statistical Data:

(a) 105 mm A/2/77 B/2/77 C/2/77

(1) HE	1483	1230	1548
(2) WP	53	39	62
(3) Ill	0	0	0
(4) Beehive	0	0	0

(b) Fusion

(1) PD	1479	1221	1544
(2) T1	52	47	36
(3) VT	5	1	30

(c) Missions by type

(1) H&I	148	197	329
(2) Support	58	62	16

b. USAF:

(1) Tactical air was used in support of immediate requests and preplanned missions. Standard air request channels were used.

(2) Statistical Data:

(a) Missions:

Preplanned missions requested	30
Preplanned missions flown	26
Preplanned sorties	63
Immediate missions requested	1
Immediate missions flown	1
Immediate sorties	3
Combat proof missions requested	3
Combat proof missions flown	2
Combat proof sorties flown	3

(b) Results of Tactical Air:

VC KBA (EST)	2
Structures destroyed	4
Bunkers destroyed	21
Trench destroyed (meters)	75
Secondary fires	9

c. Engineer Support:

(1) Three engineer teams and one senior NCO were attached to each of the 3d Brigade's infantry battalions. On D-Day, the 3/22 Inf air assaulted an area west of the Saigon River. The 3/22 Inf secured a bridgehead (XT459562) across the river. At 1100H a CH-47 took off from Dau Tieng and initiated the air delivery of engineer troops (1 sortie) and LTR bridging (6 sorties). These sorties were completed by 1150H. After site reconnaissance and bank preparation (this stretch of the river had never been bridged), construction was initiated (1330H). The bridge required 10 pontoons and the gap was 125 feet. The first vehicle, an M-113 from the 2/22 Inf (M), to reach the bridge crossed it at 1617H. The bridge was extracted the next morning. Between 1050 and 1150H the engineers and bridge were flown out of the bridgehead.

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(2) The 1st Bde, 9th Div planned to place 2 AVLB's across the Rach Sanh Doi (XT390628) and Suoi May Tau (XT397632). They were unable to accomplish this due to high water and enemy mines encountered. On D+1 the LTR used by C/4th Engrs was flown in for A/15 Engrs reinforced by 1 platoon of C/4th Engrs. The LTR was placed across the Rach Sanh Doi on the evening of D+1. On D+2 a trestle and 2 dry spans, airlifted to A/15 Engrs, were used to cross Suoi May Tau. The LTR and the trestle and dry spans were extracted by 1st plt, C/4th Engr and A/15 Engrs on 18 May, and were flown by CH-47 (12 sorties) back to Camp Rainier.

d. Army Aviation:

(1) Initially on 13 May the 3/22 Inf was airlifted to XT4656 using 4 sorties from the 187th CAH Co and Co A, 25th Aviation Bn. A total of 489 personnel, combat loaded, were lifted in less than two hours.

(2) The second lift was conducted on 13 May by two CH-47's from the 213th CASH Co. In seven sorties (one of personnel, six of bridge) they lifted an LTR (Light Tactical Raft) and one platoon of engineers to XT459562.

(3) On 14 May the LTR was extracted. The 162d CSH Co lifted the bridge out and carried it to a crossing site being used by the 1st Bde, 9th Div. The 3/22 Inf used the same CH-47 with hoist to extract wounded from an area where there was no landing zone for a UHLD. The battalion was resupplied by dropping C-rations from a UHLD.

(4) On 15 May the 213th CSH Co lifted one battery of artillery from Dau Tieng (XT492473). Ten sorties were used for the lift and an additional seven sorties were used for supply.

(5) On 16 May 2 UHLD's were used to resupply the 3/22 Inf and six sorties by CH-47 were used to resupply the 2/22 Inf (M). On the backhaul from 2/22 Inf (M) 270 bags of rice and seven cows were evacuated to Camp Rainier (Dau Tieng).

(6) On 17 May routine resupply was conducted for the 3/22 Inf by UHLD.

(7) The 2d Bde Aviation Sections supported Operation AHINA flying 219 sorties to complete 125 missions and carried 167 passengers. There are 13 medical evacuation missions using 33 sorties in the above totals.

8. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. Intelligence concerning the Brigade TAOR for Operation AHINA was obtained from 25th Division G2, 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division S2, 4th MI Detachment, Tay Ninh Sub-sector, VR sightings and past operations.

b. Information received indicated that there were a number of base camps unlocated during Operation JUNCTION CITY, and this area is considered to be one of the main junctions of north-south and east-west supply infiltration routes in War Zone C. Enemy units believed to be operating within the area were some unidentified elements of the 7th NVA Division (XT4365), unidentified elements of one local force company (XT4456) and a local guerrilla unit securing the supply routes and caches.

c. As the operation began forces were unopposed as they started their search and destroy mission. Large amounts of foodstuff, particularly rice, were located along with livestock. Also located were a great number of well constructed bunkers, trench systems and many huts, all of which were destroyed. The polished rice was evacuated. Captured documents confirmed elements of Group 82 Rear Service operated in the area.

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d. There were many modes of transportation discovered during the operation. One sampan with USAID motor, Briggs and Stratton was located via XT463559. Three trucks were discovered, one burned by a previous airstrike, the other two were evacuated to base camp. The truck demolished by a previous airstrike is considered to have been in use recently, the remaining two probably were in use 6 to 8 months ago. Also located were four bicycles and 20 lbs of parts; two of the bicycles were rigged for heavy loads.

e. On 16 May 1967 forces located a weapons factory at XT459598. Munitions found were 16,000 mine parts, 48 rifle grenades, 38 hand grenades and equipment to manufacture small arms. Documents dated 1967 indicated that the site was subordinate to military region IV.

f. The following are the VC contacts made during Operation AHINA: On 14 May 1967 the 3/22 Inf vic XT443567 made contact with VC resulting in 1 VC KIA (BC), 1 WIA (Poss) and 1 light machinegun captured. On 15 May 1967 3/22 Inf vic XT425573 made contact with a small VC force employing SA and B-40's resulting in 1 VC KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. Later the same day 4/22 Inf (M) vic XT454588 made contact with an estimated squad employing SA and claymore mines, with unknown results. On 17 May 1967 contact was made by both 3/22 Inf and 2/22 Inf (M). Initial contact was made by 3/22 Inf vic XT417628 with an unknown number of VC resulting in 5 VC KIA (BC), 3 AK-47 rifles and 1 B-40 AT weapon. 2/22 Inf (M) vic XT454636 encountered an estimated reinforced squad in well fortified trenches employing SA and B-40's resulting in destruction of 2 APC's, VC casualties were unknown. In all of the engagements no unit identification could be determined.

9. (C) MISSION: 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in conjunction 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division was to conduct offensive operations to destroy VC/NVA forces and installations in War Zone C.

10. (C) CONCEPT OF OPERATION:

The 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div was to conduct offensive operations employing two battalions in conjunction with 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div. The operation was to be conducted in five phases:

a. Phase I: D-1, One battery 2/77 Arty moves overland to Tay Ninh.

b. Phase II: D-Day, H-Hour (130630H May 67), 2/22 Inf (M) was to attack along AXIS SNAKE to engineer bridge site, cross Saigon River and relieve 3/22 Inf of security of bridge site. 3/22 Inf was to conduct airmobile assault from Camp Rainier to LZ HOOD (XT465565), secure the LZ and engineer crossing site. C/4th Engr was to airlift one platoon and LTR into position, remove the bridge upon completion of 2/22 Inf (M) crossing.

c. Phase III: D+1, 2/22 Inf (M) and 3/22 Inf were to conduct S&D operations in zone toward PL BUSHMASTER. One btry 2/77 Arty was to move by air to FSB FANG (See overlay).

d. Phase IV: D+2, 2/22 Inf (M) and 3/22 Inf were to continue S&D operations in zone to PL BUSHMASTER. One btry 2/77 Arty was to helilift from Camp Rainier to FSB FANG.

e. Phase V: 2/22 Inf (M) and 3/22 Inf were to cross PL BUSHMASTER continue S&D in zone toward PL RATTLER, link up with elements of 1st Bde, 9th Inf Div south of Hwy 13.

f. Fire Support: Tactical air was on call. Direct support artillery was provided by 2/77 Arty.

g. References:

OPORD 7-67, Hq 3d Bde, 4th Inf Div, dtd 10 May 1967.
FRAGO 1 to OPORD 7-67, dtd 12 May 1967.
FRAGO 2 to OPORD 7-67, dtd 16 May 1967

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11. (C) EXECUTION: **CONFIDENTIAL**

Chronological Summary:

15 a. D-Day, 13 May 1967: 2/22 Inf (M) moved overland to crossing site of Saigon River. 3/22 Inf and C/4th Engr airlifted to crossing site, emplaced LTR and all elements of the 2/22 Inf (M) crossed the Saigon River by 1820H. There was no enemy contact, however 3/22 Inf found 300 lbs cordite and one sampan with tools, gasoline, and motor in the vicinity of crossing site.

b. D+1, 14 May 1967:

(1) 2/22 Inf (M): Companies A&B conducted S&D operations in zone and Co C along with Recon Platoon provided CP security. At 0850H Co B found a base camp at coord XT463571 containing 10 bunkers and 100 meters of trench. At 0948H at XT55567 Co A received SA fire from the west from an estimated one VC. Fire was returned with neg results. At 1026H Co B found a small base camp with five bunkers 6'X8' at coord XT463571. At 1237H the Bn CP displaced to a new site vic XT471577. At 1345H Bn CP closed XT471577. At 1420H Co B found 14 huts with bunkers under them, two bicycles and a few documents at coord XT465567. The huts and bunkers were destroyed. At 1440H Co A found 3 VC trucks, one of which had been destroyed by an airstrike. The other two trucks were evacuated. At 1457H at XT458575, Co A found 450-500 meters of trench with some overhead cover, six bunkers, seven huts and one small mess hall. All structures were destroyed.

(3) 2/77 Arty: A/2/77 moved by convoy to FSB FANG.

c. D+2, 15 May 1967:

(1) 2/22 Inf (M): Units conducted S&D operations in their respective areas. At 0844H Co A found three graves which appeared to be one month old at XT456578. At 1116H at XT450580 Co A found 3,000 lbs of bagged rice, 330 lbs bagged beans, two coconuts and one empty 55 gal drum. At 1202H Co A at XT450580 found documents, two bicycles, one classroom, one rifle grenade, misc clothing, 300 rds 7.62 ammo, one box of plasma and 50 lbs of polished rice. At 1500H Co A at XT454584 found a large building which contained 12 five gallon cans of coconut oil, 30 two and one-half gal cans of beans and 20 lbs of polished rice. The rice was mildewed and was destroyed. At 1625H at XT456598 Co B found a VC body in a foxhole which was estimated to be 3-4 months old. At 1300H Co C had a training patrol depart the perimeter. At 1705H Co C at XT455602 found one mess hall 15'X10', five huts 8'X10', 600 lbs of polished rice, one AT mine, booby traps throughout the area. All items were destroyed except the rice which was evacuated.

(2) 3/22 Inf: Bn continued S&D operations in assigned zone and at 1100H Co A made contact with 4 VC, with following results: 1 VC KIA, and 1 AK-47 captured vic XT425573. At 1630H the Bn established a night defensive perimeter vic coord XT409573.

(3) 2/77 Arty: Hq 2/77 and B/2/77 airlifted to FSB FANG.

d. D+3, 16 May 1967:

(1) 2/22 Inf (M): Units conducted S&D in zone. At 0730H at XT453590 Co A found seven cows which were evacuated to the Bde S5. At 0945 Co A at coord XT451590 found 9 huts, 1 US hand grenade, and 1 US set of fatigues, 1-81mm mtr rd that was booby trapped, 2 bicycles, 20 lbs of clothing, 5 lbs of documents, 15 lbs of batteries, 50 lbs of peanuts, 9 lbs of peas and 200 lbs of rice. At 1130H Co A found two bicycles rigged for carrying equipment at coord XT450590. At 1151H Co B at coord XT459595 found 7 bags of rice, some misc clothing, soap and misc pots and pans. At 0905H Co C found 30 lbs of clothing, 150 M-16 rds, 100-.30 cal rds, one grenade and various bicycle parts. At 1230H Co C found a booby trapped trench system, 8 cases (550 rds ea) of AK-47 ammunition at coord XT452584. At 1445H Co C at coord XT464657-XT466602 found a large base camp area. Items found were three RPG II rds, 15 rifle stocks, 7 AK-47 magazines, one 12 gauge shotgun, 84 rifle grenades, 18 lbs gunpowder, 1 M-1 rifle barrel, 38 frag grenades,

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3 Chiocom hand grenades, 4 M-79 grenades (US) one smoke grenade (US), one trip flare (US), one claymore mine, one IDT spreader, SKF manufactured gears, one metal lathe (table size), misc machine parts, weapons parts molds, 20 lbs of clothing, 10 lbs of documents, 10 lbs dried fish, 10 lbs of polished rice, 8,000 mine adapters, 200 pistol barrels, 200 rds SA ammo, 100 ft electrical cord, 45 ft steel cables, 20 coiled springs and one single cylinder engine.

(2) 3/22 Inf: Bn continued S&D operations until 1613H when a bn night defensive perimeter was established vic coord XTH23603.

e. D+4, 17 May 1967:

(1) 2/22 Inf (M): Units conducted S&D in zone. At 1610H a second platoon of Co B at XTH54637 made contact with an estimated VC reinforced squad. The enemy was well dug in and employed RPG II small arms and automatic weapons fire. The action resulted in 2 APC's destroyed, 1 APC damaged, 6 US KIA and 11 US WHA. At 1728H at XTH54636 Co A's maintenance APC detonated an AT mine resulting in 6 US WHA.

(2) 3/22 Inf: Bn continued S&D operations and at 0915H Co A found 12 old bunkers vic coord XTH19611. At 1330H Co B had two heat casualties. Casualties were sling-loaded from LZ at 1410H by helicopter. Co A located and destroyed 4 bunkers with overhead cover vic coord XTH15627 at 1500H. At 1545H the bn was halted when Co B made contact with approximately one squad of VC. Contact was broken at 1710H with following results: 5 VC KIA (BC), 1 RPG rocket launcher, 3 rifles captured, 3 US WIA (walking wounded). The bn swept north and reached LTL 13 at 1730H, then moved west along LTL 13 and established a night defensive perimeter vic coord XT391628.

f. D+5, 18 May 1967:

(1) 2/22 Inf (M): At 0758H Co C departed perimeter to start clearing route to FSB FANG coord XT388627. At 1045H at coord XTH22634 an APC from Co A detonated an AT mine causing moderate damage to the APC and neg casualties. At 1112H Co B started receiving RPG II rds and SA fire at XTH13633. Two immediate airstrikes, and a light fire team were employed and contact was broken. Action resulted in 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA. At 1315H all elements of the bn had closed FSB FANG at XT388627 and had assumed security for the entire base.

(2) 3/22 Inf: At 0645H the bn moved by foot to FSB FANG vic coord XT387623 and was helilifted from FSB FANG to Prek Klok vic coord XT277787. The 1st lift began at 0730H and the 13th (final lift) was completed at 0930H. Upon landing, Co A and the Recon platoon moved to vic coord XT232771 to secure a possible FSB. Companies B and C remained vic coord XT277787.

12. RESULTS:

a. US Losses:

(1) Personnel: 21 WHA, 7 KIA, 1 DOW

(2) Equipment: 2 APC's destroyed, 2 APC's damaged.

b. Enemy Losses:

(1) Personnel: 7 KBGF (BC), 2 KBA (Poss). In addition 6 graves were located in three separate locations. Three were dug up and appeared to have been one to four months old or badly burned from an airstrike, probably napalm.

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(2) Enemy Equipment Evacuated:

WEAPONS & AMMUNITION

3 AK-47
1 SKS carbine
1 RPG II rocket launcher
1 Chicom IMG, type 56 w/magazine
and 100 rds ammunition
1 M-1 rifle barrel, receiver group
8000 brass mine adapters
8000 detonator components
100 feet electrical cord
200 smooth metal cylinders, believed
to be pistol barrels

OTHER

1 truck, Willys panel
1 truck, Landrover type
70 lbs clothing
Misc machine parts, weapons molds
1 fire extinguisher w/IDT spray
1 single cylinder gas engine
20 springs, 3" in diameter 10" long
1 outboard engine, 9 HP Briggs &
Stratton, w/misc tools and spare parts

FOODSTUFFS

7650 lbs polished rice
330 bags unpolished rice
(200 lb bag)
7 cows

MEDICINE

1 roll gauze
6 btl toothache pills
1 bottle aspirin
3 btl misc pills & medicine,
type unknown

(3) Enemy Equipment Destroyed:

STRUCTURES

54 huts (includes 4 kitchens & 4
classrooms)
42 bunkers w/overhead cover
1200 meters trench w/foxholes

FOODSTUFFS

Bin unpolished rice 5'X5'X5'
Bin unpolished rice 10'X5'X5'
Bin unpolished rice 6'X4'X2'
2300 lbs polished rice
9 lbs peas
50 lbs peanuts
1 hog (killed by airstrike)
3 quarts cooking oil
12 cans (5 gal ea) coconut oil
30 cans (2 ga ea) beans

OTHER

1 truck 3/4T dodge, WW II type
(damaged from previous airstrike)
Numerous pots and pans, cooking
utensils
2 fish nets
8 bicycles w/misc repair parts
2 sampans
1 winch w/30' cable
2 hammocks
2 gal gasoline
1 gal kerosene

ORDNANCE & MUNITIONS

90 rifle grenades
63 frag grenades
11 anti-tank mines
1 RPG II rd w/2 fuzes
18 howitzer rds, believed to be
Japanese pack-howitzer rds
1.81mm rd
100 rds .30 cal
150 rds 5.56mm
4600 7.62 rds (short) for AK-47
1400 7.62 rds misc size
15 rifle stocks
12 magazines, 30 rd "banana" clip
for AK-47
1 shotgun
8 lbs black powder
4 M-79 rds
1 trip flare (US)
1 anti-personnel mine 8" diameter
6 CBU bomblets
300 lbs cordite
5 casings for shape charge
9 60mm mtr rds
1 shape charge, 10 lb
15 lbs batteries
1 metal lathe
1 drum, 55 gal

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13. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:

- a. Personnel: The SI Section operated from Camp Rainier with reports being sent directly to Camp Rainier.
- b. Supply: Operation AHINA was supported from Dau Tieng without any significant difficulties encountered. Aerial resupply was the primary method used and continues to be suitable for operations of this nature.
- c. Maintenance: There were no serious maintenance problems during this operation.
- d. Status of Each Class of Supply:
- (1) A ten day stockage of C Rations and one day of A Rations were maintained at the FSE (Sgt Bn).
 - (2) Class III:

MOGAS	5 days
JP-4	5 days
AVGAS	10 days
Diesel	5 days
 - (3) Class V: Battalions and separate units maintain their basic load plus ASR items in accordance with current directives.
- e. Medical: Casualties were evacuated by helicopter to Dau Tieng or Tay Ninh.

14. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT & TECHNIQUES:

A light tactical raft (LIR) was emplaced on an unprepared site after securing it with infantry airlifted into the area. The far side of the river (no 12) was secured by infantry troops crossing with rubber boats. The bridging and engineer personnel were lifted into the site by CH-47. The bridge was emplaced with no difficulty and an entire mechanized infantry battalion was across the river in less than eight hours from the landing of the bridging platoon. The only reconnaissance made of the area was made by air. The detailed and accurate analysis of the terrain and careful preloading of the bridging elements proved to the solution quickly emplacing a bridge. The bridge was then dismantled and extracted by CH-47 making it unnecessary to secure the area of crossing. All troops then participated in the attack into enemy areas.

15. COMMANDERS ANALYSIS:

a. Operation AHINA is considered a success primarily as a result of the vast quantities of enemy material and equipment captured and destroyed. Intelligence had indicated that the area had long been an area of VC supply activity and a major route of supply for units in War Zone C. By disrupting the means of transport (sampans and trucks) and capturing much of the stores future VC operations will be hindered. The large quantities of good Chicom weapons and munitions found indicates that the VC continue to be well supplied in this respect, probably from northern War Zone C and Cambodia. All evidence indicated that only rice and foodstuffs, as opposed to weapons and munitions, are being transported from the Saigon River and adjacent areas.

b. Lessons Learned:

- (1) Item: Dissemination of Intelligence.

Discussion: During the operation a mechanized platoon on a reconnaissance mission was ambushed with RPG II and automatic weapons resulting in 7 US KIA, 22 US WHA, 2 APC's destroyed, and 1 APC damaged. The following day the S2 received an intelligence document dated four days earlier giving enemy unit locations and including an enemy regimental size force located approximately two kilometers north of a proposed laager site. Had this information been received earlier a dismounted rifle Co would have been given the reconnaissance mission, thereby possibly avoid, or reducing the effect of the successful enemy action.

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Observation: Immediate dissemination of intelligence information is vital to successful exploitation.

(2) Item: Heat Exhaustion.

Discussion: The combination of rough terrain and steady movement during Operation AHINA caused several cases of heat exhaustion, particularly among men carrying the PRC 25 radio.

Observation: In addition to the usual precautions against heat exhaustion it is advisable to alternate personnel carrying radios and other heavy loads.

(3) Item: Radio Communications.

Discussion: Range of the PRC 25 radio is reduced considerably when used with short antenna under heavy jungle canopy. This is especially critical for artillery forward observers moving with ground units.

Observation: A continuous airborne radio relay is the best way to insure reliable communications with direct support artillery.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Jerome J. Palmer, W. J.
GILBERT M. REESE
Major, Infantry
Adjutant

~~1 Annex - Operation Overlay~~ W/d

DISTRIBUTION:

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- 2 CO 3/22 Inf
- 2 CO 2/77 Arty
- 2 CO 3d Spt Bn (Prov)
- 1 CO C/1/10 Cav
- 1 CO C/4th Engr
- 1 CO C/588 Engr
- 1 Radio Research Unit
- 1 Bco Signal Officer

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HEADQUARTERS
25TH AVIATION BATTALION (INF DIV)
APO SF 96225

AVDCAVB-C

5 June 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (U)

TO: Commanding General
25th Infantry Division
ATTN: AVDCMHD
APO 96225

1. (U) Identity of Operation: Operation Ahina.
2. (U) Dates of Operation: 13-18 May 1967.
3. (U) Location: Binh Duong and Tay Ninh provinces.
4. (U) Control or Command Headquarters: 25th Infantry Division.
5. (U) Reporting Officer: LTC William A. Bearden, Commanding Officer
25th Aviation Battalion
6. (C) Task Organization:
 - a. Control Headquarters: Headquarters 25th Aviation Battalion.
 - b. Assigned:

Co A, 25th Aviation Battalion

Co B, 25th Aviation Battalion
 - c. Other Units Under 25th Aviation Battalion Control for Portions
of the Operation:

187th Aviation Company (-) APO 96216

116th Aviation Company (-) APO 96353
7. (U) Supporting Forces: N/A
8. (U) Intelligence: N/A
9. (U) Mission: The 25th Aviation Battalion (+) provided aviation support to the 25th Infantry Division during the conduct of Operation Ahina to include airmobile combat assaults, aerial resupply, command and control aircraft, aerial reconnaissance, med evac, firefly, and armed helicopter support.

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DOWNGRADED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS

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10. (C) Concept of Operation: 25th Aviation Battalion with 187th Aviation Company (-) and 116th Aviation Company (-) attached was to conduct airmobile assaults for: 3/22 Infantry Battalion from Dau Tieng airfield to LZ Knox (XT468567); A Company, 115th Engineer Battalion from PZ (XT269691) to LZ Fang (XT455620); 36th ARVN Ranger Battalion from PZ (XT269691) to LZ Campbell (XT385618) on 13 May 1967. After completion of airmobile assaults 25th Aviation Battalion was to furnish direct support of Operation Ahina as required. This included resupply, command and control, med evac, firefly, and gunship support. The overall controlling headquarters for the aviation support during Operation Ahina was the 25th Aviation Battalion.

11. (C) Execution:

a. The 25th Aviation Battalion and supporting units lifted 3/22 Infantry Battalion into LZ Knox and A Co, 115th Engineers, and the 36th ARVN Ranger Battalion into LZ Fang on 13 May 1967. First lift started at 0735- last lift completed at 1340.

b. B Company 25th Aviation Battalion provided "Firefly" support for the 3rd Brigade 4th Infantry Division for the duration of Operation Ahina. Firefly operations were planned to interdict enemy LOC's. However due to poor weather all but one mission was aborted. B Company 25th Aviation Battalion also provided one UH-1C Light Fire Team in support of the 1st Brigade 9th Infantry Division throughout Operation Ahina.

12. (C) Results:

- a. No friendly aviation personnel were wounded in action.
- b. No VC were killed or captured by aviation elements.

13. (C) Administrative Matters:

- a. Supply: Adequate
- b. Maintenance: Adequate
- c. Treatment of casualties and evacuation and hospitalization: N/A
- d. Transportation: N/A
- e. Communications: Adequate
- f. Medical evacuation: N/A

14. (U) Special Equipment and Techniques: UH-1C Light Fire Team was successfully used to screen an open flank. Although this involved considerable flying time and netted no VC casualties this technique was successful in preventing an enemy attack on one exposed flank.

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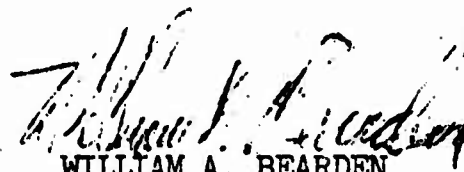
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15. (C) Commanders Analysis and Recommendations;

a. Tactical operation: No difficulty was encountered with any phase of combat airmobile operations during Operation Ahina.

b. Aerial resupply: Adequate



WILLIAM A. BEARDEN

LTC

INF

Commanding

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