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FROM:
Controlling DoD Organization. Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development [Army], Washington, DC 20310.

AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 23 Jan 1976; AGO D/A ltr, 23 Jan 1976

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

18 OACSFOR

AGDA (M) (14 May 70)

FOR OT-UT 70/1234

22 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Infantry
Brigade, 5th Infantry Division

AD509189

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. 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

1 Incl
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HQ, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech)
Camp Red Devil
APO San Francisco 96477

AVBL-C

8 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

See Distribution

1. (C) Section I - Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Mission: 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) (Inclosure 1, Task Organization) in coordination with ARVN and GVN territorial forces conducted search and clear, reconnaissance in force and pacification operations within assigned area of operations (AO) (Inclosure 2, Area of Operations).

b. Operations. The following major operations were conducted by 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) during the period 1 November 1969 - 31 January 1970.

(1) Operation Fulton Square (1 Nov 1969 - 18 January 1970) consisted of search and clear, reconnaissance in force, pacification and rice denial operations. The operation stressed saturation patrols and night ambushes throughout the bde AO. The results of the operation were:

ENEMY					FRIENDLY		
KIA	FW	RET	IWC	CSWC	KIA	WIA	MIA
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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech),
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

(2) Operation Greene River. (19 January 1970 - 31 January 1970). This operation is currently being conducted. It began when the bde reorganized its task forces and reassigned responsibilities for task force AO's in preparation for a possible Tet offensive and the contingency operations which would be conducted in the event of such an offensive. This operation has consisted of the normal search and clear, reconnaissance in force, rice denial and ambushing operations. In addition, the bde conducted a three day artillery raid from the vicinity of Ca Lu (YD 0145) on 28 through 30 January. A statistical summary of the results of Operation Greene River will be included in the first ORLL after the operation termination.

2. (C) Section II Lessons Learned: Commander's observations, evaluations and recommendations.

- a. Personnel: None
- b. Intelligence: Tracking aid.

(1) Observation: A plant (scientific name unknown) which is commonly called "dying grass" is found in abundance in NICTZ. The plant is normally six to eight inches in height. Its stem has thorns similar to those on a rose bush. The lower portion of the stem is green and the upper portion is red. The plant has four fern - shaped leaves. When the plant is brushed against or stepped on the leaves close in upon themselves. After a period of 5 to 15 minutes, depending on the degree of contact, the leaves reopen to their normal size.

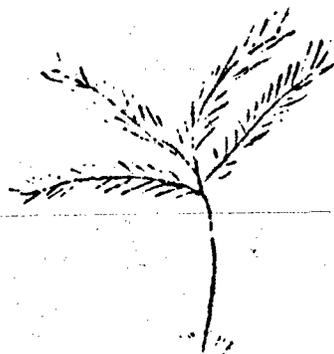


Figure 1 OPENED

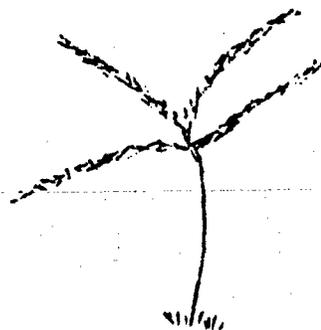


Figure 2 CLOSED

Inclosure

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(b) Evaluation: The plant is useful for determining if there has been recent traffic through an area and as an aid in tracking.

(c) Recommendation: That units incorporate information concerning "dying grass" into tracker and replacement training programs.

- c. Operations: None
- d. Organization: None
- e. Training: None
- f. Logistics:

(1) Trip flare wire.

(a) Observation: The trip wire is normally the first component of a trip flare to become unserviceable.

(b) Trip flare wire is often broken because normal use of the flares results in the wire being deployed and subsequently re-rolled numerous times. This results in a wire broken through fair wear although the flare proper is still serviceable. Entire flares must be requisitioned to obtain replacement wires, resulting in an excess of flares which are useless without wires.

(c) Recommendation: That trip flare wire be issued as a separate item of supply.

(2) Base Defense accounts.

(a) Observation: A subordinate tactical unit of this HQ assumed responsibility for defending a portion of the perimeter at a semi-permanent post. The unit experienced difficulty providing hand held illumination and other items for use in base defense.

(b) Evaluation: The shortage of items necessary for defense of base areas causes the commander to reduce the amount of the item issued to the unit's maneuver elements resulting in shortages of these items both in the rear and in the field.

(c) Recommendation: That separate accounts be established for base defense requirements at ammunition supply points.

- g. Communications: None
- h. Material: None

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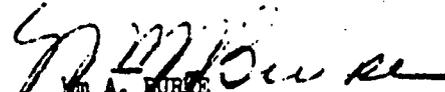
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1. Other: CA/PSYWAR funds.

(a) Observations: At the beginning of calendar year 1970, CA/PSYWAR funds were reduced by 70% from the monthly level of 1969 without advance notice. Brigade commitments to approved jointly developed projects were in danger of abandonment. It became necessary to delay the initiation of new projects and slow down work on others.

(b) Evaluation: The unforeseen reduction of funds has a great impact on jointly developed plans for CA projects. These projects are planned in cooperation with and designed to support the programs of the district and province governments. Their failure would reflect adversely upon the Vietnamese government and its officials.

(c) Recommendation: That every effort be made to provide the earliest possible warning of any fund reductions which affect the pacification and development efforts of the government and assisting military commanders.


Wm. A. BURKE
Brigadier General, USA

2 incl

- 1 - Task Organization
- 2 - Map of Brigade AO

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AVII-OCT (8 Feb 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div
(Mech), Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ, XXIV Corps, APO San Francisco 96349 5 MAR 1970

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375

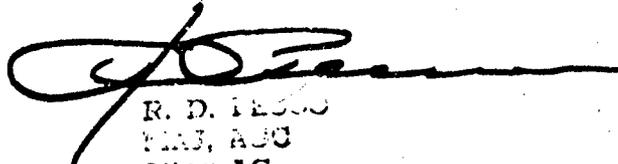
1. The OMLL for the 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) has been reviewed by this headquarters and is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. Except as noted this headquarters concurs with the report.

a. Reference paragraph 2f (1), page 3. Nonconcur, surface flares, both M48 and M49, are issued with an adequate supply of trip wire for normal operations. Trip wire is flexible enough that two or more broken pieces may be spliced together for re-use. Institution of trip wire as a separate supply item of issue is not considered practicable or warranted.

b. Reference paragraph 2f (2), page 3. Hand held illuminants, specifically L-312, and surface flares (L-495) have been recently allocated Army ammunition items due to theater shortage. L-312 is currently an allocated item. HQ, XXIV Corps receives an allocated quantity authorization from HQ, USARV which is subsequently sub-allocated to major XXIV Corps OPCON units. Major OPCON units in turn sub-allocate to their respective subordinate units. It is imperative that commanders insure optimum utilization of these items in view of limited availability.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


R. D. FESSENDEN
LTJG, USN
ASST AG

AVHGC-DST (8 Feb 70) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div
(Mech), Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFCR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 06 APR 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mech) and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Tracking Aid", page 2, paragraph 2a. Item has been extracted for possible inclusion in the next issue of the Combat Intelligence Lessons.

b. Reference item concerning "Trip Flare Wire", page 3, paragraph f(1): concur. A message has been dispatched to the Ammunition Procurement and Supply Agency advising them of the problem, requesting status and time frame required to support a requirement for trip wire. The 1st Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) was info on the message and will be informed of the reply received. It is believed that the requirement for the trip wire is valid and if available may reduce the demands on the trip flare M49 (L495) which is presently on allocation.

c. Reference item concerning "CA/PSYWAR Funds", page 4, paragraph 21: concur. Guidelines on use of the fund are contained in MACV Directive 37-13. MACV controls and administers these funds and as soon as reductions are considered necessary and amounts identified, they are announced to field units.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


L. D. MURRAY

CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
XXIV Corps
1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div

GPOP-DT (8 Feb 70) 3d Ind (U)

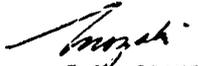
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 1st Infantry Brigade, 5th Infantry
Division (Mech) for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65
(R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 15 APR 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


L. W. OZAKI
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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Inlosure 1 Task: Organization to Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st
Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

1-11 Inf

1-61 Inf (Mech)

1-77 Armor
A/4-12 Cav

3-5 Cav
C/2-34 Armor

Bde Control
HHC, 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech)
5-4 Arty
75th Supt Bn
P/75th Ranger
Bde Security Plat
43d Inf Plat (Scout Dog)
A/7th Engr
298th Signal Co
407 RRD
517 MID
86th Chem Det
48th FI Det

This task organization reflects the permanent OPCON/attachment relationships
within the Brigade. Forces are tailored by cross attachment on a mission
type basis.

Incl 1

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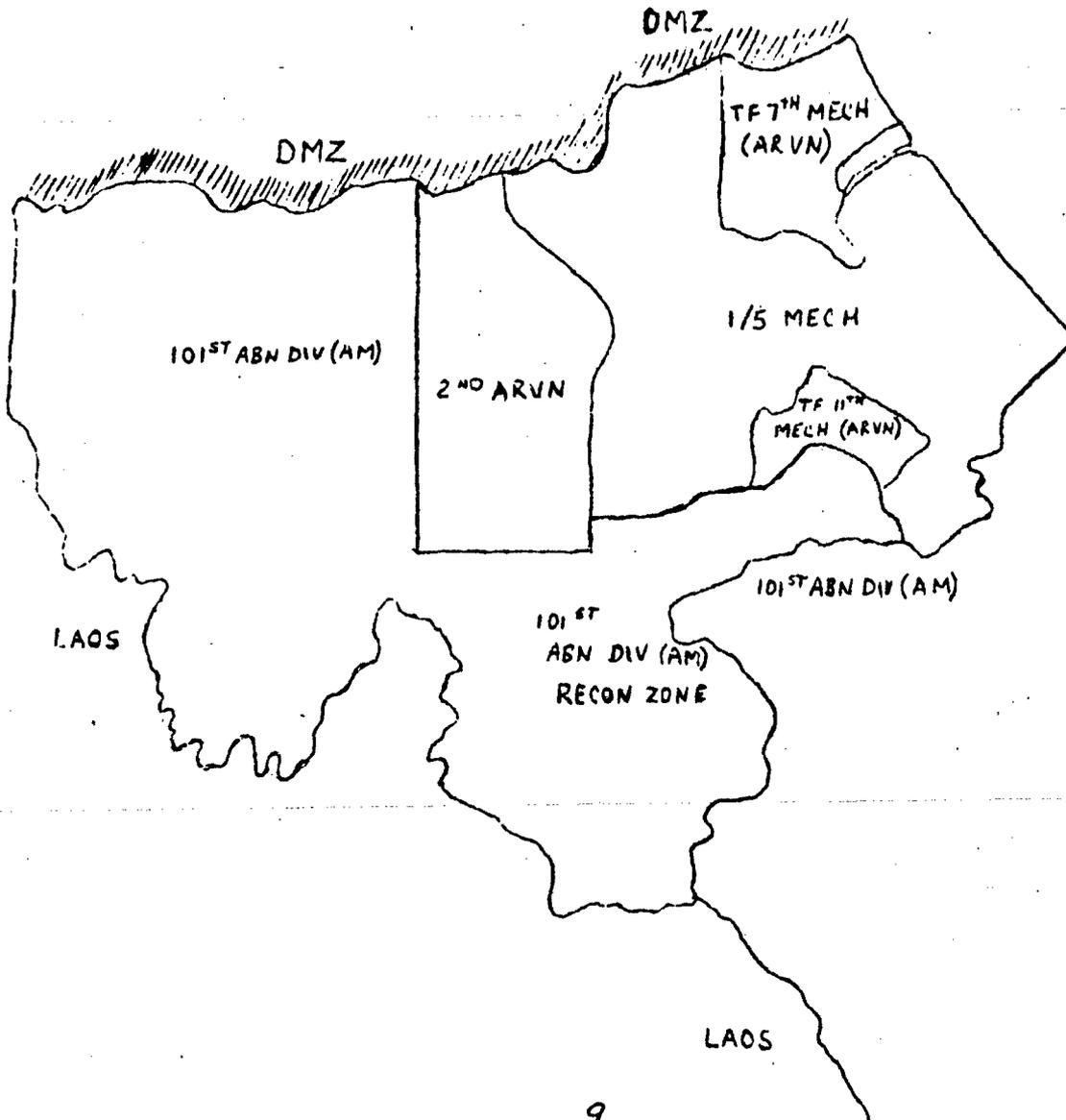
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Inclosure 2 to Operational Report - Lessons Learned 1st Inf Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech), Period Ending 31 January 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)



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Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.			
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