

OPERATION ORDER #160-68

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 1ST FORCE RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY (REIN)
 PHU BAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
 221400H Apr 1968

Ref: (a) Map(s), VIETNAM, Sheet(s) 6541 I,II
 (b) 1stRedonBn0 P03000.4
 (c) 1stMarDiv0 P3800.1F (Intelligence SOP)
 (d) 1stMarDiv0 P003330.2 (Rules of Engagement)
 (e) CoFragOrder #160-68

119968

Unit/Call Sign: STONE PIT (F-5) Patrol Leader: SSGT GRIGGS

1. Situation. (a) See current INTSUM'S
 (b) See current OPSUM'S and PIR'S
 (c) Attachments: NONE
2. Mission. Conduct reconnaissance and surveillance operations within your assigned NFZ/FFZ to detect possible VC/NVA troop movement or arms infiltration in the western Truoi River Valley area. Particular emphasis is to be placed on enemy storage areas, fortifications (trench lines, bunkers) harbor sites, and trail networks. Also maintain surveillance to observe possible rocket launching sites and mortar positions. Be prepared to call and adjust arty/air on targets of opportunity in support of Operation Houston.
3. Execution. Depart LZ 405 at 250830H; insert via YC982976. Extract at 291430H via YC976989.

a. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Coordinate with S-3, 1st FAG to ensure maximum effectiveness of supporting arms, including use of H&I, night defensive, "on-call", and counter-battery fires.

(2) Coordinate with S-3, 5thMar (Rear) in order to establish close liaison with any infantry elements operating near the patrol's NFZ.

4. Admin/Logistics. Reference (b), and verbal.

5. Comm/Electronics. Primary Freq: 47.0 Alternate 33.1
 Artillery: (a) SAND HURST 56.80 (155 Guns)
 (b) SAND HURST 56.80 (155 Guns)
 (c) BEECHNUT "D" 46.80 (105 & 155HOW)
 (d) BEECHNUT "E" 58.05 (155HOW)

1ST FORCE RECON CO
 S & C NO. 468-68

COPY 23 OF 26

DOWNGRADE TO UNCLASS AFTER 30 DAYS
 OPNAVINST 5500.40

DECLASSIFIED

OPERATION ORDER: 160-68
PATROL: STONE PIT F-5
OPERATION: HOUSTON
DEBRIEFER: GYSQT G.A. KOCH
MAPS: VIETNAM 1:50,000; AMS
LYOVI; SSET 6541 I&II

1ST FORCE RECONNAISSANCE CO. (REIN)
PHU BAI, RVN
DTG 291900H APR 1968

PATROL REPORT

1. SIZE, COMPOSITION AND EQUIPMENT:

- A. COMPOSITION: 10 ENL, 1 USN
- B. SPECIAL ATTACHMENTS: NONE
- C. COMM. AND OBSERVATION EQUIPMENT: 2 PRC-25'S, 1 7X50'S, 1 6X30.
- D. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT: 1 M-14, 1 M-79

2. MISSION: CONDUCT RECONNAISSANCE AND SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS WITHIN YOUR ASSIGNED NFZ/FFZ TO DETECT POSSIBLE VC/NVA TROOP MOVEMENT OR ARMS INFILTRATION IN THE WESTERN TRUOI RIVER VALLEY AREA. PARTICULAR EMPHASIS IS TO BE PLACED ON ENEMY STORAGE AREAS, FORTIFICATIONS (TRENCH LINES, BUNKERS) HARBOR SITES, AND TRAIL NETWORKS. ALSO MAINTAIN SURVEILLANCE TO OBSERVE POSSIBLE ROCKET LAUNCHING SITES AND MORTAR POSITIONS. BE PREPARED TO CALL AND ADJUST ARTY/AIR ON TARGETS OF OPPORTUNITY IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION HOUSTON.

3. TIME OF DEPARTURE AND RETURN: 250832H/291705H

4. ROUTE: (SEE PATROL ROUTE OVERLAY)

5. SYNOPSIS: 104 HOURS OF PATROLLING RESULTED IN ONE CONTACT WITH 4 VC AND TWO SIGHTINGS OF 2 VC. PATROL HAD TWO USMC MEC 15.1X (MED EVAC) HELOS. MED EVAC HELOS RECEIVED SA FIRE FROM SE.

6. OBSERVATION OF ENEMY AND TERRAIN:

A. ENEMY: 260425H YC973977 OBSERVED A VCS MOVING E ALONG TRAIL. BLACK P.J. NO WEAPON WAS OBSERVED.
261440H YC968974 OBSERVED ONE VC MOVING NW ON TRAIL. BLACK P.J. AND WEAPON WAS OBSERVED. PATROL ALSO HEARD SEVERAL VOICES IN THAT SAME GENERAL VICINITY, BUT PATROL COULD NOT SEE MORE THAN ONE VC.
281145H YD974983 PATROL HAD TWO USMC MEC 15.1X AND WHILE HELO CAME TO MAKE MED EVAC THE REAR SECURITY SPOTTED 4 VC 40 METERS UP THE HILL. PATROL OPENED FIRE, BUT VC DISAPPEARED INTO THE UNDERBRUSH. A SHORT TIME LATER PATROL RECEIVED ONE AR BURST AND SOME SA FIRE. PATROL BROKE CONTACT SINCE THEY HAD ONE MORE MED EVAC TO BE PICKED UP.

B. TERRAIN: MOUNTAINOUS WITH STEEP CLIFFS. VEGETATION ON TOP WAS THICK WITH CANOPY IN PLACES UP TO 100 FT. IN THE LOW GROUND VEGETATION WAS VERY THICK. MOVEMENT IN LOW GROUND APPROX 150 METERS PER HOUR.

7. OTHER INFORMATION:

INSERT LZ AT YC985979. FAIR 1 CH-46 ZONE. NOT RECOMMENDED TO BE USED AGAIN. HIGH BRUSH 10-14 FT HIGH. EXTRACT LZ AT YC973992. 2 CH-46 ZONE, LOW GRASS. OP AT YC978976 FAIR OP, COULD SEE TOWARDS NW AND NE. PATROL HAD TWO NBC CASUALTIES, ONE WITH SPRAINED ANKLE AND ONE MAN WAS BITTEN BY AN UNKNOWN SNAKE SUSPENDED FROM A VINE. THIS SNAKE WAS 3 FT LONG AND BROWN IN COLOR. YC969973. PATROL FOUND ONE HARBOR SITE THAT HAD BEEN USED AS REFUGELY AS TWO WEEKS. PATROL FOUND FRESH CIGAR CAN AND GRAINS OF RICE IN THAT AREA.

8. RESULTS OF ENCOUNTERS WITH THE ENEMY: UNKNOWN

9. CONDITION OF PATROL: EXCELLENT

10. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: NONE

11. EFFECTIVENESS OF SUPPORTING ARMS: NONE USED

12. COMMENTS BY DEBRIEFER: NONE YC96

13. PATROL MEMBERS: 99 +

PATROL LEADER
SSGT GRIGGS SSGT GRIGGS
SGT KELLY 5TH PLT, 1ST FORCE RECON CO.
HM2 HILGENDORF
CPL SCHLODER YC96
LCPL DUNLAP 99 +
LCPL TREURNIET
PFC WARDLOW
CPL OICALISE
PFC ADAMS MED EVAC SPRAINED ANKLE
LCPL WIKEL
PFC COLUCCI MED EVAC SNAKE BITE

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YC99
96 +