

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry
APO San Francisco, 96333

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AVDG-CB

18 June 1969

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report, Operation APACHE SNOW.

Commanding Officer
3d Bde, 101st Abn Div
ATTN: S3
APO SF 96383

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AUTHORITY OF DOD DIR. 5200.1 R
BY BAKERS ON 11 May 99

1. Name or Identity and/or type of Operation: Operation APACHE SNOW was a combined airmobile assault into the northern A SHAU Valley. This operation was performed in conjunction with the 9th Marines and the 3rd ARVN Regiment, to destroy NVA/VC forces; block enemy routes of infiltration from nearby Laos, destroy enemy base camps in the area; and to locate and destroy enemy caches.
2. Dates of Operation: 100730 May 1969 - 092400 June 1969.
3. Location: The area of operations was in the QUAN NAM HOA District and TRUNG HIAN Province, RVN. References for this operation were: Map, VIETNAM, sheet no. 6441 I, II, III, IV series L7014 and L7015. Area of operations; LZ's and routes of advance are shown in inclosure 1.
4. Control Headquarters: 1st Bn, 506th Abn Inf.
5. Reporting Officer: LTC J. M. BOWERS, Commanding Officer 1st Bn, 506th Abn Inf.
6. Task Organization:
A/1-506 Inf B/1-506 Inf C/1-506 Inf D/1-506 Inf E/1-506 Inf Demo Tms
B/326 Engrs.
7. Supporting Forces:
 - a. 3 Mar Div conducted operations in N/NW AO.
 - b. 1-1 ARVN w/attachments conducted operations in NW AO.
 - c. 2-501 Abn Inf conducted operations in NW AO.
 - d. 3-187 Abn Inf conducted operations in NW and adjacent AO.
 - e. 2-506 Abn Inf conducted operations in adjacent AO.
 - f. 3/1 ARVN Regiment w/attachments conducted operations SE TA BAT airfield in assigned AO.

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- g. 2/17 AIR CAV general support, air and ground recon.
- h. 7th AF provided CAS in AO, to include interdiction of the A SHAU Valley.
- i. 160th Aviation group provided airlift capability and resupply sorties.
- j. 45th Engr Gp continued to construct all weather road west to the A SHAU Valley.
- k. A/2-319 Arty DS, 1-506th Abn Inf.
- l. A/1-83rd Arty (8").
- m. A/2-138 Arty (155).
- n. B/2-11 Arty (155).

8. Intelligence: Operation APACHE SNOW was conducted in the northern portion of the A SHAU Valley which was a primary enemy LOC used for movement of material and infiltration of troops and enemy units throughout I Corps area. The enemy had maintained logistics installations and base camps in the northern A SHAU Valley which distributed supplies and replacements to units operating in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Province. The importance of the northern A SHAU as a vital location had increased when the friendly operations began to interdict other key enemy locations in Northern I Corps area. The senior enemy headquarters in this area was the TRI - THIEN - HUE Military Region (TTHMR). This HQ's, equivalent to Corps level, was responsible for military and political activities in QUANG TRI and THUA THIEN Provinces and the border area of eastern Laos. Principal combat units were 6th, 9th and 29th NVA Regiments, each with a reported strength of approximately 1800 men. Additionally, the 675th Arty Regt was reported to have been operating in the A LUOI - A SHAU area and Base Area 611, in eastern Laos.

9. Mission: At H-Hour on D-Day (100730 May 1969) the 1st Bn, 506th Airborne Infantry conducted a combat assault along the Laotian border into LZ RED (See incl 1), to destroy NVA/VC forces in assigned area of operations, interdict Route 923 from Laos, and locate and destroy enemy caches within assigned AO.

10. Concept of the Operation: Two concepts of operations were planned for the execution of this operation and are listed below. It will be noted that the alternate concept of operation was not necessary in the actual execution of this operation.

a. The 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry conducts a combat assault with three companies into LZ 1 (LZ RED) from PZ loc in staging area at FSB BLAZE with BRAVO Company inserted first to secure the LZ and sieze Objective 1. CHARLIE Company and ALPHA Company following in that order, occupy

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Objective 1 and seize Objective 2 respectively. The first insertion will be supported by a TAC air prep from H-50 to H-15 with a 15 minute artillery prep commencing at H-15. Priority of fires to units in contact.

b. Alternate Concept of Operation: In the event LZ 1 (LZ RED) becomes unusable, Bn conducts combat assault with three companies into LZ 2 with BRAVO Company being inserted first to secure the LZ and seizes Obj 1A, CHARLIE and ALPHA Companies following in that order, seize Obj 2A and 3A respectively. LZ prep and priority of fires remain the same.

11. EXECUTION:

a. Operations order 12-69 (APACHE SNOW) (U), this headquarters was published in preparation of this operation. Method of operation to execute OPCR 12-69 was as follows:

(1) A/1-506 Abn Inf. Conducted combat assault on LZ RED following CA by B/1-506 and C/1-506; moved to and secured Obj 3; and conducted reconnaissance in force and search and destroy operations in assigned AO.

(2) B/1-506 Abn Inf. Conducted combat assault on LZ RED; secured LZ RED for companies A, C and Command Group; seized Objective 1 and 2 on order; conducted reconnaissance in force and search and destroy operations in assigned AO.

(3) C/1-506 Abn Inf. Provided security for the Command Group; combat assaulted on LZ RED; occupied Objective 1; and initially assumed OPCON of the 81mm Mortar Section in direct support of operation until extraction of the 81mm Mortar Section on 12 May 1969.

(4) D/1-506 Abn Inf. Conducted heliborne movement commencing 080845 to vic TA BAT (YC 399949) and established security for construction of FSB CURRAHEE; prepared to become 3d Brigade RRF effective 100730 May with one platoon on 15 min alert and remainder of unit on 30 min alert; assumed OPCON of 81mm Mortar Sections in DS of FSB CURRAHEE.

(5) E/1-506 Abn Inf. RCN Plat released OPCON to 3d Bde eff 081200 May 1969. Ground Surveillance Section displaced to FSB CURRAHEE.

(6) Radio Relay Elm/HHC/1-506 Abn Inf. Moved to FSB EAGLES NEST from FSB BLAZE and acted as relay between forward units and Command & Control Headquarters and Rear Tactical Operations Center.

b. Operations Narrative:

(1) D Day (10 May 1969):

Operation APACHE SNOW commenced at 100730 hours, May 1969 as the

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first lift of Co B took off from the PZ vic FSB BLAZE for insertion into LZ RED. Insertion of B Company, was followed by Co C with the Command Group and 81mm attachments, and Co A was inserted last into LZ RED, completing the insertion at 1110 hours, 10 May 1969. Co A conducted reconnaissance in force operations in preparation to seize Objective 3. Co B (vic YC 312937) killed 1 NVA officer with small arms. Officer was wearing a 9mm pistol and carrying an AK-47. The NVA officer was dressed in khakis and a thorough search of the body revealed identification photos, and documents which were later confirmed to be plans of attacks on US positions. At 1300 hours, (vic YC 321929), Co B found a bunker and hooch complex consisting of 14 bunkers containing 60-60mm mortar rounds, 96 RPG rounds, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 40-82mm mortar rounds, 6 RPD MG's, 5 AK's, 14 rucksacks and 1 Chicom MG. All munitions were destroyed in place and all equipment was evacuated. C Co with attachments provided security for the Command and Control Group, and conducted RIF operations in assigned AO. Co D provided security for construction of FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) provided DS to FSB CURRAHEE. Recon Platoon OPCON to 3rd Bde, at FSB BERCHTESGADEN. All units moved into and occupied NDP's at 102030 hours, at following locations. Co A - YC 314943, Co B - YC 311957, Co C - YC 312949, Co D FSB CURRAHEE - YC 399949. Co E (-) FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(2) D Day + 1 (11 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Commenced RIF operations in assigned AO. At 1122 hours, Co A reported finding one recently constructed bunker, believed to have been built by trail watchers. One US rocket pod and a cable crossing a river was located vic YC 305938. Also in same vicinity, two hooches, 1 SKS rifle, one automatic weapon, and a garden plot containing bananas, corn, pineapples, and watermelons were found. All equipment was evacuated and defoliation mission was requested to destroy the garden complex.

(b) Co B: Commenced early RIF operations in assigned AO and at 0645 hours, one enlisted man was wounded by enemy small arms fire during the process of retrieving Claymores. The enemy was fired upon with small arms. Medevac was called and completed at 0815 hours. At 1115 hours, Co B found (vic YC 307939) 1200 lbs of polished rice and 40 lbs of TNT. Both were destroyed in place.

(c) Co C: Commenced early RIF operations in assigned AO and reported at 1121 hours the finding of 1 hooch, 10'X6'X5', containing garden tools and 5 gallons of kerosene. The hooch was surrounded by a garden. All were destroyed. At 1715 hours, Co C reported receiving incoming mortar rounds vic YC 312929. Mortars were coming from the west, suspected location vic YC 2893. Counter-mortar and artillery fire was employed. Gunships and flareships were called in and remained over night. Mortar attack continued for 1 hour and 15 minutes. Medevac's were called for 22 personnel. Medevac's were treated at FSB CURRAHEE and further evacuated for additional medical treatment. Medevac's were completed at 1910 hours.

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(d) Co D: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE. At 2100 hours, D Co LP vic YC 405293 reported hearing branches being broken and something entering the water. Small arms were fired, grenades were thrown, and a first-light search of the area was conducted with negative results.

(e) Co E (-): Continued DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at 2020 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. Co A - YC 308919, Co B - YC 314939, Co C - YC 312928, D Co - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(3) D Day + 2 (12 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO in preparation for seizing Objective 3.

(b) Co B: At 1100 hours, Co B 3rd platoon spotted 3 enemy and immediately employed small arms fire, resulting in 1 enemy KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. Artillery was called in on the enemy location.

(c) Co C: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO, and provided security for the Bn Command and Control Group.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE. Multiple AP's and LP's were established vic FSB CURRAHEE.

(e) Co E (-): Continued DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at 2015 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. Co A - YC 314940, Co B - YC 318946, Co C - YC 317942, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(4) D Day + 3 (13 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO. At 1110 hours, Co A reported spotting 1 NVA trail watcher. Small arms were fired and artillery called in. Subsequent search of the area revealed a blood trail with negative further findings. At 1305 hours, Co A reported finding 8 hooches, 10'X15', 3 rifle grenades, 1 drum of RPD 7.6mm ammo and 1 steel helmet, (vic YC 317922). All were destroyed in place.

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(b) Co B: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO. At 1000 hours, Co B reported finding vic YC 318948 a corn field enclosed with a fence 250 meters long and a recently used trail heading west. At 1220 hours, (vic YC 314947), Co B found 3 hooches, 20'X40', 2 hooches 10'X15' with 14 rounds of SA ammo. All were destroyed in place.

(c) Co C: Continued RIF operations and providing security for the 3rd Command and Control Group. At 1120 hours, Co C reported finding (vic YC 319941) 2 hooches 15'X20', 2 French bolt action rifles and 2 crosscut saws. All findings were in poor condition and were destroyed in place.

(d) Co D: Continued providing security for FSB CURRAHEE. At 0633 hours, Co D was given the mission of providing one platoon RRF for possible employment and movement to FSB AIRBORNE in support of 2/501 Inf. At 1457 hours, medevac was called for 2 personnel and completed at 1515 hours. One man had infected sunburn and one had been diagnosed as having flu.

(e) Co E (-): Continued DS FSB CURRAHEE and reported locating enemy observer vic YC 385953. Mortars and artillery from FSB CURRAHEE were fired.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. Co A - YC 317944, Co B - YC 322955, Co C - YC 321952, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

NOTE: At 1220 hours Commanding Officer 1st Bn, 506th Abn Inf was alerted to plan for the immediate movement of 1-506 units N and NW to reinforce the 3-187 Abn Inf vic YC 327982 which was in contact at that time. Plans were made and orders issued to all units to immediately move N/NW to support 3-187 Abn Inf.

(5) D Day + 4 (14 May 1969):

The 1-506 Abn Inf moved in a N/NW direction to reinforce 3-187 Abn Inf. Commanding Officer, 1-506 issued orders to Co B to immediately begin moving NW to vic YC 315975.

(a) Co A: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO, and moved N/NW to support 3-187 Abn Inf. At 1530 hours, vic YC 317961, Co A reported their point man had been killed by 3 NVA trail watchers. Enemy fled NE with Co A in pursuit. Subsequently, ARA was called in on enemy's last known location. Extraction of 1 KHA completed at 1742 hours.

(b) Co B: Continued RIF operations N/NW in assigned AO, to support 3-187 Abn Inf. At 1450 hours, Co B employed gunships for recon by fire, vic

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IC 319962. At 1540 hours, Co B requested medevac for 1 person with broken collar bone. Medevac completed at 1610 hours.

(c) Co C: Continued RIF operations in assigned AO and providing security for the Bn Command and Control Group. Co C continued movement N/NW to support 3-187 Abn Inf.

(d) Co D: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE.

(e) Co E (-): Continued DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2020 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. Co A - YC 319961, Co B - YC 316966, Co C - YC 321956, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(6) D Day + 5 (15 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued RIF operations N/NW in support of 3-187 Abn Inf. At 0905 hours, Co A reported their Objective 1, YC 327973 had been siezed and secured. Immediate RIF operations vic Obj 1 was initiated. Unit received small arms fire and returned with small arms and artillery fire on suspected enemy locations. Area was searched at first light, 16 May 1969 with negative results.

(b) Co B: Continued RIF operations N/NW in support of 3-187 Abn Inf. At 0905 hours, Co B reported their Objective 2 had been seized and secured. Enemy trail watchers were engaged by B Co 1st plat after receiving AK-47 fire, (vic NDP). Enemy was observed wearing khaki uniforms. At 1230 hours, Co B, 3rd plat spotted 1 NVA and engaged with small arms. Subsequent search of the area resulted Co B, 3rd platoon engaging an estimated enemy squad. Small arms fire was returned, and artillery and ARA called in on enemy location. At 1425 hours, Co B was again fired upon with small arms from an unknown size enemy force. Small arms fire was returned and artillery and ARA called in on enemy location. B Co suffered two US WHA. Medevac was completed at 1505 hours.

(c) Co C: Continued RIF operations N/NW to support 3-187 Abn Inf and providing security for the Bn Command and Control Group. At 1630 hours, medevac was called for 1 US with possible broken back. Medevac completed at 1722 hours.

(d) Co D: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE. At 1330 hours while conducting RIF operations vic YC 390948, Co D reported finding 1 hooch 10'X15' w/bunker underneath, 7'X10' with 2½' overhead cover. Also found old baskets, teapots, bow and arrows, 1 Chicom bayonet and 1 GI mermite can. All equipment was destroyed in place.

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(e) Co E (-): Continued DS security of FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2030 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP's established at following locations: Co A - YC 327967, Co B - YC 315970, Co C - YC 324956, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(7) D Day + 6 (16 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued operations vicinity of Obj 1 in support of 3-187 Abn Inf. At 0735 hours, vic YC 327967, Co A moved to search area where enemy was located on 15 May 69. An unknown size enemy force fired small arms at A Co, killing 1 US and wounding 7 personnel. Artillery, ARA and gunships were called in on enemy loc. Air strikes were employed at 0925, 1020, and 1040 hours. Medevacs were completed at 0810 hours. Immediately following completion of artillery, ARA, and air strikes, Co A continued to search for the enemy vic YC 328969, and found 1 bunker, picks, shovels, 2 Russian bandages, 2 Chicom Claymores, and numerous piles of bloody bandages and blood trails. At 1345 hours, vic YC 328969, Co A reported seeing 8-10 enemy armed with AK-47's and carrying bandoleers of ammo. ARA engaged the enemy, along with small arms from Co A. Subsequent search of the area resulted in Co A engaging and killing 1 NVA and capturing 1 AK-47. NVA were well fed, had clean haircuts and were in good physical condition. Co A also found numerous blood trails. At 1505 hours, Co A requested medevac for 2 US injured by lightning. Medevac completed at 1600 hours.

(b) Co B: Continued operations in support of 3-187 Abn Inf and at 1045 hours became engaged in enemy contact from unknown size force. Small arms and RPG fire was received from rear and front of Co elements. Flanking maneuvers employed by elements of Co B relieved the pressure on the elements engaged and resulted in contact being broken at 1250 hours. Medevac was called but was unable to evacuate the injured because of heavy sniper fire. By 1330 hours, all injured personnel had been evacuated by LOH to FSB CURRAHEE and by Dustoff to FSB BLAZE. 1 KHA and 8 WHA were evacuated.

(c) Co C: Continued operations in support of 3-187 Abn Inf and providing security for the Bn Command and Control Group.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE, employing multiple LP's and AP's vic FSB CURRAHEE.

(e) Co E (-): Continued DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2015 hours.

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Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP's were occupied at the following locations: Co A - YC 328969, Co B - YC 319972, Co C - YC 327965, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(8) D Day + 7 (17 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Operations continued. Contact w/enemy began with incoming mortar rounds at 0640 hours. Location of mortars were unknown and no casualties were suffered. At 0950 hours, Co A departed vic YC 328969 moving N/NW to higher terrain and at 1010 hours received small arms fire resulting in 1 KHA and 1 WHA. Co A reported that the enemy was well dug in and that elements of A Co were continuing up the ridge destroying bunkers on each side of the trail. Medevac was called at 1010 hours and completed for 1 KHA and 1 WHA at 1100 hours. At 1200 hours, Co A again received small arms fire from an unknown size enemy force, coming from well dug in bunkers and fighting positions. Artillery and ARA were employed, CS ship was called in and completed four runs. Using protective masks, Co A continued the attack and engaged an unknown size enemy force again at 1545 hours. Contact was broken by the enemy and during later maneuvers to the west of the ridge Co A was again fired on by well dug in NVA forces. Co A pulled back and coordinated artillery, ARA, and additional CS drops. An air strike was called in at 1840 hours, and resulted in one secondary explosion vicinity of A Company's contact. At 1900 hours, Co A once again received small arms fire resulting in 1 KHA and 1 WHA. Medevac was called and completed at 1940 hours.

(b) Co B: Continued operations in support of the 3-187 Abn Inf and began early movement to the NW, vic of Hill 900. At 1150 hours, Co B found 2 NVA helmets, 1 AK-47, 4 RFG rounds, canteens, pistol belts and 5 well-constructed fox holes and a machine gun position (vic YC 320972). All equipment was evacuated. At 1450 hours, movement was detected to the rear of Co B. Gunships were called in and artillery was employed. At 1630 hours, Co B was fired upon by an unknown enemy size force with small arms and RPG's. Gunships that were on station also receiving automatic weapons fire. One NVA attempted withdrawal and was killed in the process by elements of B Co. Co B had 1 US KHA and 2 US WHA. Artillery, ARA and air strikes were employed on the enemy's location. All WHA were medevaced and completed evacuation at 1855 hours.

(c) Co C: Continued operations vicinity Hill 900, and providing security for the Bn Command Group.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE and employed multiple LP's and AP's.

(e) Co E (-): DS security of FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

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All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 1955 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 328968, Co B - YC 320973, Co C - YC 326964, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(9) D Day + 8 (18 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued operations along the ridge line (vic YC 328968) and at 0700 hours received RPG fire from well-fortified bunkers to their north. There were no casualties. Artillery was placed on the enemy location. Air strikes were called in and completed at 0845 hours. At 0940 hours, artillery CS was employed (vic YC 328968). Immediately following the CS attack, Co A began receiving RPG and mortar fire. Gunships were employed. At 1531 hours, Co A observed 3 NVA. Enemy was fired upon resulting in 3 NVA killed. At 1545 hours, Co A reported receiving mortar rounds and that the unit was delayed in place by an unknown size enemy force in bunkers. Bunkers were attacked and destroyed and Co A proceeded to continue the attack, destroying the mortar position and killing 4 NVA. 4 US WHA's were medevaced. Co A continued the attack towards Hill 937 and reported their 4th platoon was in contact just south of Hill 937. Heavy RPG and automatic weapons fire was being received. Small arms fire was exchanged, and contact was broken by the enemy at 1935 hours. Co A reported finding and destroying 14 well-constructed bunkers, each containing 4-5 rounds of RPG ammo, vic YC 327973. At 1940 hours, Co A began to dig in for the night and at 1945 hours was again in contact. 1 NVA was killed and a base plate for mortar tube was destroyed.

(b) Co B: Continued their attack in the early hours and at 0900 hours, spotted 2 NVA attempting to sneak up on the rear element. When the NVA were close enough for small arms fire, Co B commenced firing and reported both NVA had been killed. At 1032 hours, (vic YC 320973) Co B received RPG fire, resulting in 1 US WHA. Medevac was called and completed at 1215 hours. ARA was called in on the enemy location. At 1115 hours, Co B was again under attack from all directions. Mortar fire, heavy RPG's and small arms fire was received. ARA was called in and mortar attack stopped at 1133 hours. At 1232 hours, Co B was again under mortar attack. Artillery and ARA were employed. Contact was made with 1 NVA (vic YC 321974), resulting in 1 NVA killed. Medevac was called at 1420 hours; however, wounded personnel had to be evacuated by the Battalion LOH. Due to enemy small arms fire, an LZ large enough to accommodate a LOH was available so the aircraft could land and be out of small arms fire. Again at 1620 hours, Co B engaged an unknown size enemy force. Medevac for 3 WHA was called and completed at 1640 hours. Contact was again made at 1910 hours. Contact continued until approximately 2040 hours. At this time, a LOH pilot was wounded in legs as he landed at Co B's LZ. Small arms fire was continually being placed on the enemy location and one platoon of Co B moved to and secured the downed LOH and wounded pilot.

NDP was established. At 2044 hours, Co B was attacked from the NE. Contact was broken by the enemy at 2055 hours resulting in 3 US persons MIA.

(c) Co C: Continued the attack up the ridge south of Hill 937. Security was provided for the Bn Command and Control Group. At 1700 hours, two elements from Co C were in contact, resulting in 2 NVA killed. At 1858 hours, contact was again made by Co C resulting in 2 more NVA killed. At 1940 hours, Co C linked up with Co A (vic YC 329972).

(d) Co D: Continued construction and security of FSB CURRAHEE. The 4th platoon Co D, departed FSB CURRAHEE at 0900 hours conducting RIF operations. At 1510 hours, 2 NVA were spotted at YC 392953. Artillery and ARA were employed with negative results.

(e) Co E (-): DS security, FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at 2040 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 327974, Co B - YC 322974, Co C - YC 329972, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(10) D Day + 9 (19 May 1969):

(a) Co A: At 0800 hours, Co A reported their forward element had received RPG fire and was in heavy contact, 3 US were WHA with shrapnel. Medevac was called and completed at 1020 hours. At 1035 hours, Co A engaged and killed 3 NVA in bunkers. Search of the bunker area revealed AK's, RPG's, and one .51 Cal MG. Since it was necessary to continue the attack immediately, Co A was unable to accurately count all the weapons but reported to the Bn Command Group, that Co C was following them and would pick up all weapons. Numerous bunkers were destroyed during the next few hours, and sporadic enemy contact continued until 1405 hours when Co A spotted 1 NVA and fired on him. Additionally 10-12 NVA were pinned down in bunkers to their immediate front. CO, Co A reported at 1450 hours that they had counted at least 20 bunkers with 2 NVA manning each bunker. The bunkers were well-fortified and were defended with AK's, RPG's, and LMG's. CO, Co A also reported that there were many more bunkers, and that he would continue the attack and destruction of the bunkers as rapidly as possible. At 1540 hours, Co A reported 4 NVA KIA, and at 1715 hours, had reached the top of Hill 900, just south of Hill 937. At 1837 hours, Co A engaged an unknown size enemy force and reported killing 6 NVA, all of which had neat hair cuts and appeared to have been in good physical condition. At 1910 hours, Co A found 1 dead NVA killed by small arms, and 3 killed by shrapnel. At 2003 hours, CO, Co A reported body count for the day was 18 confirmed. Also that NVA KIA's were wearing green khakis, NVA helmets, and some with leather shoes. At 2045 hours, CO, Co A reported 2 US KIA and 19 WHA's were evacuated. 4 WHA's were

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not serious enough for immediate evacuation. Elements of 3-127 Abn Inf were observed on Hill 937.

(b) Co B: CO, Co B reported that the air strike in vic of his location was complete at 0835 hours. At 1030 hours, Co B reported that the pilot and LOH had been flown out of the area where it had been shot down on 18 May 69.

(c) Co C: Continued the attack at first light and continued to secure the Bn Command and Control Group. At 0742 hours, (vic 329972) Co C found 1 .51 Cal MG. At 0915 hours, Co C found 1 NVA body killed from previous day's contact. At 1340 hours, CO, 1-506 Abn Inf directed that Co move up and relieve the pressure on Co A which had been in constant contact during most of the day. Co C maneuvered rapidly and by 1430 hours had linked up with Co A (vic YC 327974). At 2003 hours Co reported having killed 10 NVA during the day. Equipment captured from the NVA KIA's consisted of the following: 1 AK-50, 4 AK-47's; 2 .51 Cal MG's; 2 unknown type MG's; 1 RPG-2 (B-40); 2 RPG-2 rounds, medical supplies; 60 rounds .51 Cal MG ammo; 4 AK magazines, 1 Chicom telephone; 1 mount for .51 Cal MG; 2 rucksacks, 2 Russian ammo boxes. All equipment was evacuated.

(d) Co D: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE and conduct RIF operations vic FSB CURRAHEE. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

Units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 327974, Co B - YC 324976, Co C - YC 327968, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(11) D Day + 10 (20 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Operation APACHE SNOW continued and at 0745 hours CO, Co A reported that air strikes in their vicinity had been completed and that his company had begun to move forward. The NVA were still on the hill, and at 0930 hours, Co A encountered and killed one NVA who threw a dud hand grenade. Continued search and destroy operations resulted in Co A receiving small arms and RPG fire at 1055 hours from vic YC 320973. Co A spotted 4 NVA at this location and called in artillery. At 1115 hours, Co B linked up (vic YC 320973) with Co A to establish blocking positions (vic YC 324975). At 1345 hours, Co A had moved to top of Hill 900, (vic YC 328976). At 1458 hours, CO, Co A reported receiving incoming mortar fire from the west. Artillery and ARA were called in on the suspected enemy location and air

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strikes were requested. Co A continued the attack with sporadic contact throughout the remainder of the day. At 1945 hours, Co A linked up with 3-187 Abn Inf and the 1-1 ARVN Bn vic YC 327977.

(b) Co B: Continued operations and made contact with an unknown enemy size force at 0935 hours, (vic YC 324976). Co B continued to maneuver and at 1115 hours, linked up with Co A to establish blocking positions vic YC 325976. At 1125 hours, HQ's 3rd Bde notified the Bn Command Group that indications were that the enemy was withdrawing towards Co B's location. At 1145 hours, CO, Co B reported that the enemy was to their front and firing RPG's and small arms. Co B maneuvered and flanked the enemy and engaged them with small arms and called in artillery. At 1150 hours, CO, Co B was directed to move across the draw to the west (vic YC 320971) and that Co C would take up the blocking positions. At 1155 hours, Co B engaged 3-5 NVA. The enemy used RPG's, hand grenades, and small arms, attacking from the NE. At 1540 hours, CO B reported entering the area where enemy mortars were being fired from (vic YC 328976). Contact with the enemy was made at 1620 hours, with NVA in fortified bunkers, with 2 enemy personnel per bunker. Co B suffered 2 KHA's and 4 WHA's with small arms wounds. Medevac was completed at 1815 hours. At 2020 hours, Co B reported that 5 NVA had been KIA during the contact and Co B had suffered 1 KHA and 7 US WHA's.

(c) Co C: At 0745 hours, CO, Co C reported that his unit was occupying a blocking position vic YC 327968, as the Battalion reserve. Sporadic contact continued throughout the day and at 1200 hours, CO, 1-506 directed that Co C move to vic YC 324971 and relieve the pressure on Co B and that B Co move to new blocking position's (vic YC 320971). Co C relieved Co B at 1420 hours. At 1620 hours, 1 platoon of Co C was reported in contact with NVA located in well-constructed and fortified bunkers. Co C continued to press the attack and suffered 2 US KHA's and 2 US WHA's. Medevac was completed at 1910 hours. Enemy casualties were unknown.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE and continued RIF operations vic FSB CURRAHEE.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

Units established NDP's at 2040 hours, and employed multiple LP's and P's. NDP's occupied at: Co A - YC 327977, Co B - YC 327967, Co C - YC 327968, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(12) D Day + 11 (21 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Search and destroy operations were continued by Co A

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in vicinity of Hill 900. At 1055 hours, Co A found a diary and 82mm mortar firing data chart. Both were evacuated to HQ's 3rd Brigade. At 1300 hours, Co A began to search and destroy the bunker complex that they had fought through earlier. As a result of this search, they found 18 NVA KIA in the bunkers, killed by small arms and grenades. At 1500 hours, 6 more NVA KIA's were found and at 1540 hours, Co B found 6 more NVA KIA which were accredited to Co A's operation on 20-21 May 69. At 1535 hours, Co A found a bunker complex vicinity Hill 900, (YC 327977), containing 14 Chicom grenades, 4 RPG tubes, 40 B-40 rockets, 20-60mm mortar rounds, 4 AK-47's, 8 Chicom claymores, 5,000 rounds AK ammo, and several documents. All was destroyed except the documents and weapons which were later evacuated to HQ's, 3rd Brigade. Light contact continued, and at 1925 hours Co A once again found and entered a 28 bunker complex. In the complex, Co A found 25-82mm mortar rounds, 25-60mm mortar rounds, 5 RPG rounds, 1 RPG launcher, 1 PPD MG, and 13 Chicom grenades, 10 NVA rucksacks with new clothing, 1 diary and 7 NVA bodies. The weapons and equipment were evacuated and all bunkers were destroyed.

(b) Co B: Continued their search and destroy operation south of Hill 900, making contact throughout the morning hours. Sporadic contact continued and at 1540 hours, Co B found 6 NVA KIA that had been killed by Co A on 20 May 69. One .51 Cal MG was also found and evacuated. At 1645 hours, Co B captured one POW and evacuated him to HQ's, 3rd Brigade. At 1610 hours, contact was made with an unknown enemy size force and resulted in 2 US WFA. A medevac was called and completed at 1640 hours. Co B's 3 KHA's from 20 May 69 were found and evacuated from vicinity YC 327968 at 1825 hours.

(c) Co C: Continued search and destroy operations and providing security for the Bn Command and Control Group. Sporadic contact continued throughout the day, resulting in Co C finding 9 NVA KIA at 1300 hours, and finding 15 bunkers, 25-82mm mortar rounds, 25-60mm mortar rounds, and 1 RPG launcher. All were destroyed, except the RPG launcher, between 1345 and 1600 hours.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE by employing daylight VIF operations and multiple LP's and AP's at night.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2020 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 327977, Co B - YC 327968, Co C - YC 327968, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(13) D Day + 12 (22 May 1969):

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(a) Co A: Scheduled air strikes delayed the movement of Co A until 0945 hours. Three air strikes were employed vic YC 320970, with last air strike being completed at 0925 hours. FAC reported to Bn Command Group that one of his jets received heavy machine gun fire from Hill 916, (vic YC 315970). Artillery fire was placed on this area. Co A began movement at 0945 hours and made sporadic contact with the enemy throughout the morning hours. At 1215 hours, (vic YC 327977), Co A found 4 satchel charges, and 1,000 AK rounds. All were destroyed. Visual contact was established with elements of 1-502 Abn Inf at 1240 hours, after which Co A withdrew to the west, continuing their search and destroy mission.

(b) Co B: Movement was delayed because of air strikes, and at 0945 hours began to maneuver (vic YC 327968). At 1025 hours, Co B found and destroyed 4 well-constructed bunkers. The bunkers contained 3 Chicom grenades, 2 RPG cleaning kits (evacuated), 1 .51 Cal MG mount, 1 loaded RPG launcher, 1 AK-47, and 7 NVA KIA. The RPG launcher and the AK-47 was evacuated. At 1120 hours, Co B found 3 NVA gas masks that were booby trapped. All 3 were destroyed. At 1240 hours, Co B found 1 NVA KIA and 26 fresh graves, probably killed by Co C on 21 May 69. At 1400 hours, (vic YC 333968) Co B found a bunker complex with well-constructed fighting positions near each bunker. Also a resupply and suspected hospital complex was found. All bunkers and supplies were destroyed. At 1715 hours, Co B found 26 NVA KIA that had been recently killed by air strikes or artillery.

(c) Co C: Began movement at 0945 hours. At 1110 hours, (vic YC 327-968) Co C found 7 NVA KIA's who were killed by small arms fire. Sporadic fire was received throughout the day, and at 1630 hours, (vic YC 324969) Co C found 11 well-constructed bunkers that had been destroyed by artillery or air strikes. Search of the bunkers resulted in 18 NVA KIA and numerous trails caused by bodies having been dragged away. The search of the area continued and at 1920 hours, vic YC 327968 Co C found 19 more fighting bunkers of which 15 had been destroyed by artillery and air strikes. All were destroyed.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE by employing RIF operations and multiple LP's and AP's.

(e) Co E (-): DS security, FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2045 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 327977, Co B - YC 327968, Co C - YC 327968, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(14) D Day + 13 (23 May 1969): UNCLASSIFIED

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(a) Co A: Air strikes on Hill 916 again delayed the early movement of all companies. Air strikes were employed and completed at 0810 hours. Co A began movement (vic YC 324977) and found 3 NVA shirts with T/2-6 embroidered on them. Also North Vietnamese writing on the trees in the area: "To stay and fight - not run. This area is good to fight in." Co A received the order to commence movement to vic YC 315970. At 0945 hours movement began and immediately contact was made with an unknown size enemy force. Fighting continued throughout the morning, and at 1450 hours, Co A found over 100 RPG rounds and 1200 lbs of rice (YC 322973) that had been partially destroyed by air strikes. At 1545 hours, Co A found (vic YC 322973), 4 M2 Carbines, 18 RPG rounds, assorted medical supplies, 180 Chicom grenades, 300 lbs polished rice, 1-82mm mortar sight, and 7 NVA KIA. All the equipment except the weapons was destroyed in place. At 1615 hours, Co A found a number of NVA shirts with embroidered patches on each left pocket: T2/8, T2/6, and T.2. The T.2 had a red circle around it. The shirts were evacuated to HQ's 3rd Brigade. At 1910 hours, (vic YC 322973) Co A found 11 well-constructed frame bunkers 8'X4'X4' with 3' of overhead cover. All were destroyed.

(b) Co B: At 0915 hours, Co B began to advance (vic Hill 916). At 1050 hours, Co B was ordered to move his unit to YC 325973. Co B immediately began maneuvering and at 1050 hours, (vic YC 325973) found 3 bunkers containing RPG's and SKS's, 3 fresh graves, communication wire, and a water line system. At 1120 hours in the same area, Co B found another bunker containing mortar equipment, SKS's, AK-44's, RPG's, and 1 mortar tube. The weapons were evacuated, and the bunkers were destroyed. At 1135 hours, Co B found a cache of AK-47's, RPG's and numerous containers of small arms ammunition. All were evacuated. At 1150 hours (vic YC 321973) contact was made with an unknown size enemy force. Artillery and ARA were called in with unknown results. Co B continued their search and again at 1530 hours began receiving mortar and RPG fire. Artillery was called in on the suspected enemy locations. At 1600 hours (vic YC 315970) Co B found one MIA. The body was extracted at 1805 hours.

(c) Co C: At 1010 hours Co C and Bn Command Group began to advance. Sporadic contact continued throughout the morning hours, and at 1340 hours, Co C linked up with Co A at YC 322973. At 1415 hours Co C found the bodies of 5 NVA KIA that had been killed by small arms fire from elements of Co C on 22 May 69. The search continued and at 1540 hours the company received fire from a well-constructed bunker. The fire was returned with M-79's and a subsequent search revealed one NVA KIA in the bunker. A large bunker complex was found at YC 318971. Artillery was called in and Co C suffered 5 WHA's by shrapnel from friendly ARA. The 5 WHA's were medevaced at 1620 hours. The search operations continued throughout the remainder of the day.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE. At 1345 hours, FSB CURRAHEE received 6 incoming 122mm rockets. Counter-artillery was fired and the rocket attack terminated at 1520 hours. All rockets hit outside the

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perimeter. Co D suffered 1 US WHA with shrapnel wounds.

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(e) Co E (-): Continued DS security, FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDF's located at: Co A - YC 323976, Co B - YC 323974, Co C - YC 324973, Co D - FSB GURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB GURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(15) D Day + 14 (24 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Co A continued to search the area and spent the day destroying bunkers and small caches. By 1100 hours, the company had destroyed 16 bunkers, 8 fighting positions and at 1753 hours, found and destroyed 5 - 8'X8'X8' bunkers. At 2010 hours, CO, 1-506 Abn Inf reported to CO, Co A that radar had picked up 10-15 NVA approximately 700-800 meters from their location, moving in their direction. Artillery was called in by Co A on the suspected enemy location. Search and destroy operations continued until Co A occupied their NDP at 2045 hours.

(b) Co B: Co B began the day's operation by receiving incoming mortar fire at 0750 hours. Artillery was employed on the suspected enemy location. At 0820 hours, (YC 323974) this company found 1 bunker containing 1 RPD MG, 42 SKS rifles, 1 M-16 rifle, 3-60mm mortar rounds, 2 US Carbines, 7-82mm mortar rounds, 1 AK-47, 50-60mm mortar fuses, 128 powder charges for 60mm mortars, 4 propelling charges for 82mm mortars, 24 Chicom grenades, 15 RPG-2 rounds, 3 RPG charges, and 1 belt of 7.62 Russian manufactured ammo. All equipment was evacuated. At 1014 hours Co B began to advance and linked up with A Co at 1145 hours. Co B continued their search and destroy operations throughout the remainder of the day. At 2122 hours movement was detected by the company at YC 327469. Artillery was called on the suspected enemy location. Results were unknown. NDP occupied at 2030 hours.

(c) Co C: Co C and the Bn Command Group began to advance at 0745 hours and at 1003 hours, at YC 324973, found 4 bunkers containing 4 Chicom grenades, 22-82mm mortar rounds, 12-60mm mortar rounds, 40 lbs of polished rice, and 2 SKS rifles. All items were evacuated except the following items which were destroyed: 33 Chicom grenades, 17 RPG rounds, 1 battery, 8 electric blasting caps, 7 non-electric blasting caps, 2- $\frac{1}{4}$ lb blocks of TNT, 2-82mm mortar fuses and 4 ignition fuses for 82mm mortars. At 1100 hours, CO 1-506 Abn Inf reported that Co C had destroyed 19 bunkers 6'X6' of which 11 had sleeping positions. That afternoon the company found 20 more well-constructed bunkers, 20 RPG rounds, 50 Chicom grenades, 3,000 rounds AK ammo, and 100 lbs of NVA demolition. Destruction of bunkers and cache kept the company busy for the remainder of the day until they occupied their NDP at 2040 hours.

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(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE, employing multiple daylight RIF's, night LP's and AP's.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2045 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP locations: Co A - YC 327974, Co B - YC 327969, Co C - YC 327969, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(16) D Day + 15 (25 May 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued their search and destroy operations throughout the day with no enemy contact. At 1220 hours Co A found items of US equipment that had been booby trapped with 1-82mm mortar round. BBT was destroyed in place. At 1220 hours, a recently used area was discovered containing 1 NVA canteen, numerous first aid bandages both new and used, and 1 bottle of unknown type pills. At 1607 hours, 3 electrical wires, running N & S were discovered. They were made of 20 gauge copper wire with white insulators. The wire was cut in numerous places.

(b) Co B: Conducted reconnaissance in force operations in assigned AO and had no enemy contact during the day.

(c) Co C: Continued to provide security for the Bn Command Group and conducted reconnaissance in force operations in assigned AO and had negative contact with the enemy.

(d) Co D: Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE by employing multiple RIF operations, LP's and AP's.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 333967, Co B - YC 327965, Co C - YC 327965, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(17) D Day + 16 (26 May 1969):

Operation "APACHE SNOW" continued with units conducting search and destroy operations within their assigned AO's. At 0950 hours, the CG 101st Airborne Division visited FSB CURRAHEE and presented the Silver Star to LTC JAMES M. BOWERS, Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry

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for his action's on 20 May 69, vicinity Hill 937.

(a) Co A: Continued search and destroy operations in assigned AO. No enemy contact was made during the day.

(b) Co B: Continued their search of bunker complexes and at 1835 hours reported finding 49-60mm mortar rounds, 2-60mm mortar charges, 35 RFG-2 rounds, 12 rifle grenades, 33-82mm mortar charges, 25 propellant shells, and 7 AK-47 magazines at YC 336961. All were destroyed in place except the mortar ammo which was extracted to HQ's, 3rd Brigade.

(c) Co C: Continued their search and destroy operations and at 1430 hours, linked up with Co B at YC 333966. At 1514 hours, the Bn Command Group and Co C found high tension wires with 2 different type insulators at YC 333966. Bicycle tracks were found throughout the same area on numerous recently used trails found in the same vicinity. At 1527 hours, the company discovered numerous bunkers with fighting positions, located at YC 337963. Also 23 hooches were found, each with bunkers underneath and fighting positions nearby. The bunkers were 6'X8' and 6'X10' with 2-3' overhead cover. In the same area 12-60mm mortar rounds, 3 RFG-2 rounds, 1 large 2-man cross-cut saw, and miscellaneous tools were found. All were destroyed except the mortar ammo which was extracted to HQ's, 3rd Brigade.

(d) Co D: Continued the security of FSB CURRAHEE, employing multiple daylight RIF's, night LP's and AP's.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

Units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 347969, Co B - YC 331996, Co C - YC 337963, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(18) D Day + 17 (27 May 1969):

Operation "APACHE SNOW" continued as units of the 1st of the CURRAHEES conducted search and destroy operations in vicinity of Hill 937. At 0820 hours, Co B reported finding one fresh grave containing 1 NVA KIA, killed by small arms and wearing US type web gear. At 1545 hours, Co C found a corn field 25 meters long. The field was destroyed. All units continued reconnaissance in force operations but there was no contact with the enemy during the day. All units moved into NDP's at 2030 hours and established multiple LP's and AP's. NDP's located at: Co A - YC 348972, Co B - YC 337962, Co C - YC 348961, Co D - FSB CURRAHEE, Co E (-) - FSB

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CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(19) D Day + 18 (28 May 1969):

All units continued operation "APACHE SNOW". The major event of the day was the exchange of missions and AO's between D and C Co's. Co A was airlifted to FSB CURRAHEE and assumed the mission of securing FSB CURRAHEE; D Co replaced Co A in the AO. A round-robin-type airlift commenced at 1310 hours, with last PZ/LZ being completed at 1402 hours. Report was received from 3rd Brigade that FSB BRADLEY had been attacked at 0440 hours. CO, 1-506 informed the rear TOC to increase security of FSB CURRAHEE and to increase their H & I fires. All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2045 hours and established multiple LP's and AP's. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 350962, Co C - YC 355964, Co D - YC 351974, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(20) D Day + 19 (29 May 1969):

3rd Brigade notified CO, 1-506 that the RCN Plat would be relieved of FSB security of FSB BERCHTESGADEN on 31 May 69, and would return to Battalion control. Also that operations in 101st AO would be halted from 300600 May to 310600 May in observance of Buddha's birthday.

(a) Co A: Continued the security of FSB CURRAHEE by conducting daylight RIF operations and employing multiple night LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: Began RIF at 0800 hours and reported 1 US with high fever. Medevac was completed at 0900 hours. The company continued search and destroy operations throughout the day without enemy contact.

(c) Co C: Continued security of the Bn Command Group and at 0936 hours, reported finding 4 bunkers 4'X3'X3' (vic YC 356966). Two had 2-3' overhead cover of dirt and logs and all were destroyed.

(d) Co D: Began RIF at first light and moved (vic YC 360973) and found 1 hooch with a well-constructed underground bunker containing 1 box of M-60 ammo, 2 blocks of TNT, 40 AK-47 rounds, 2 empty M-16 magazines, 1 steel folding chair, and miscellaneous pottery and silverware. Bunker and all findings were destroyed.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: OPCON 3rd Bde, FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

At 1121 hours, FSB CURRAHEE received six incoming 122mm rockets which landed just outside the perimeter with negative casualties.

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All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2045 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located vic: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 365966, Co C - YC 369966, Co D - YC 369966. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(21) D Day + 20 (30 May 1969):

Operations in support of "APACHE SNOW" were halted in observance of the Buddha's birthday. All units utilized this time to prepare their equipment for future operations. NDP's were occupied at approximately 2045 hours and multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 365954, Co C - YC 369966, Co D - YC 369966. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE. RCN Plat - FSB BERCHTESGADEN.

(22) D Day + 21 (31 May 1969):

Operation "APACHE SNOW" resumed at 0600 hours, with all units beginning to RIF at 0705 hours. RCN Platoon was relieved of security for FSB BERCHTESGADEN and was air lifted to FSB CURRAHEE, completing the move at 0933 hours.

(a) Co A: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE, assumed OPCON RCN Plat and employed it in RIF operations in vic FSB CURRAHEE.

(b) Co B: Conducted search and destroy operations in assigned AO, with negative enemy contact.

(c) Co C: Conducted search and destroy operations in assigned AO, with negative enemy contact.

(d) Co D: Commenced RIF at first light and at 1217 hours made contact with an unknown size enemy force (vic YC 375967). Small arms fire and grenades were received from approximately 30 meters away. Contact was broken by the enemy at 1310 hours. Co D suffered 4 US WHA with shrapnel wounds. Medevac was completed at 1320 hours. Continuing the RIF at 1610 hours, Co D made contact again by an estimated squad size enemy force resulting in one US WHA. Enemy casualties were unknown. Medevac was completed at 1749 hours.

(e) Co E (-): DS FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: DS FSB CURRAHEE.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2020 hours, and established multiple LP's and AP's. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 376942, Co C - YC 379962, Co D - YC 377967. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB CURRAHEE.

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(23) D Day + 22 (1 June 1969):

CO, 1-506 Abn Inf was given the mission of providing 2 companies for a combat assault operation vic YC 349990 to search for and destroy NVA/VC forces and caches. Plans were formulated and orders were issued for Companies B and D to begin movement immediately east to FSB CURRAHEE to prepare for combat assault operations on 3 June 69. (See inclsure 2 for area of operations).

(a) Co A: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE by conducting RIF operations and employing multiple LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: Search and destroy operations continued and at 1100 hours, Co B had one man medevaced for a broken leg. Medevac was completed at 1237 hours. The company continued to search the area of operation east towards FSB CURRAHEE without enemy contact.

(c) Co C: Continued to provide security for the Bn Command Group and conducted search and destroy operations throughout the day without enemy contact.

(d) Co D: At 0915 hours, vic YC 375968 the company found 1 fighting position with 1-60mm mortar complete, 28-60mm mortar rounds with primers, 4 rucksacks, 100 lbs polished rice, 1 US protective mask, 2 boxes 60mm mortar fuses, 2 Chicom grenades, 1 Chicom claymore, and 1 NVA pistol belt. The pistol belt had "HO6", "GIAN YOIEN", "HT 165521T" and "HGUYIR GUON LOC TRAN" written on it. All fighting positions were destroyed, and all equipment was evacuated. The company continued their search and at 1100 hours found a bunker complex (YC 376967) with 4 bunkers, 2 with overhead cover and 2 under construction. In the same area, three cooking hooches were found. All bunkers and hooches were destroyed. Search of the area was continued and at 1347 hours, 1 metal badge with silver writing on it was found. In the same area 2 bunkers 1-2'X4'X2' and 1-12'X20'X8' with 3' overhead cover were found which had been recently constructed. All equipment was extracted and all bunkers were destroyed. The search continued eastward towards FSB CURRAHEE without enemy contact.

(e) Co E (-): Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2010 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 395947, Co C - YC 393955, Co D - YC 390966, Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB CURRAHEE.

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(24) D Day + 23 (2 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE by employing multiple daylight RIF's and night LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: Began moving at first light and at 0710 hours closed at FSB CURRAHEE. The company conducted maintenance of equipment and was given a stand down. Showers, clean clothing, ice cream, and repair teams for ordnance and signal items were provided. Remainder of the day was devoted to preparation for the next day's operation.

(c) Co C: Continued their early movement with the Bn Command Group and closed FSB CURRAHEE at 0830 hours. The company conducted maintenance of equipment and was given a stand down. Showers, clean clothes, ice cream and repair teams for ordnance and signal items were provided. The remainder of the day was devoted to maintenance and relaxation and preparation for future operations.

(d) Co D: At 0820 hours, YC 311966 found 1 hooch 15'X25'X10' with thatched roof and a bamboo floor. An animal pen was close by and showed signs of recent use. Hooch and pen were destroyed. The company continued RIFing eastward and closed FSB CURRAHEE at 1045 hours. The company conducted maintenance of equipment and was given a stand down. Showers, clean clothes, ice cream, and repair teams for ordnance and signal items were provided. Remainder of the day was devoted to maintenance and relaxation and preparation for future operations.

(e) Co E (-): Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Returned to Camp Evans for repelling training.

All units moved into NDP's at approximately 2045 hours vicinity FSB CURRAHEE.

(25) D Day + 24 (3 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE employing multiple RIF operations and LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: Conducted airmobile combat assault vic YC 347990. 1st lift departed FSB CURRAHEE at 0808 hrs and completed insertion at 0833 hours. LZ was cold. One man was injured with a possible fractured leg. Medevac called and completed at 0905 hours. Operations continued and at 0935 hours vic YC 346983 found 2 bunkers, 1-10'X15'X10' and 1-4'X5'X4' with 2' overhead cover. Both bunkers were destroyed. At 1050 hours, vic YC 345985 the company found and destroyed 1 Chicom claymore mine that was hanging in a tree. Movement continued and at 1136 hours, the point element of Co B spotted 2-3

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NVA and engaged them with small arms fire. Subsequent search of the area revealed 1 NVA KIA, 1 AK-50 captured and indications that another body had been drug away from the contact area. At 1145 hours, vic YC 345985 an arm and another AK-50 was found. Both weapons were evacuated. At 1255 hours, 1 NVA with RPG was spotted moving west. ARA and gunships were employed with negative results. Continuing the search, movement was again spotted at YC 345985. Gunships were employed. At 1427 hours the company came under attack with an unknown size enemy force firing small arms and RPG's. Small arms fire was returned and artillery called in with negative results. Operations continued throughout the day with negative enemy contact.

(c) Co C: Remained at FSB CURRAHEE providing security and construction of FSB CURRAHEE.

(d) Co D: Conducted airmobile combat assault into an LZ vic YC 347990. LZ was cold. First lift departed FSB CURRAHEE 0828 hours, and insertion was completed at 0900 hours. At 1445 hours, vic YC 355974 Co D found 3 spider holes recently used with 2' of overhead cover. All were destroyed. Operations continued and at 1555 hours, the company found some printed material and a published letter from Ho Chi Minh telling NVA what a good job they were doing. Publications were evacuated. The operation continued with negative enemy contact during the day.

(e) Co E (-): Continued to provide security for FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Continued repelling training at Camp Evans.

Units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2045 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - 342982, Co C - FSB CURRAHEE, Co D - YC 357995. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - Camp Evans.

(26) D Day + 25 (4 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued security and construction of FSB CURRAHEE and employed multiple RIF operations, LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: At 0710 hours, Co B's 1st and 4th platoons departed the NDP leaving 2nd platoon as a stay-behind force at the NDP. At 0739 hours, 1 NVA entered the NDP. Small arms fire was employed resulting in 1 NVA KIA and 1 AK-47 captured. At 0835 hours, 1 NVA was seen moving into the ambush position. Small arms fire was employed and Co B's 2nd platoon began receiving RPG rounds from an unknown size enemy force. Artillery was called in on the suspected enemy location with unknown results. Co B suffered 6 WHA's from shrapnel. Medevac completed at 1000 hours. Operations continued and at 1407 hours, 1 anti-aircraft position and 4 mortar positions, well camouflaged were found. All positions were destroyed. The company continued to search

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throughout the day and found numerous recently used trails. Negative further enemy contact made during the remainder of the day.

(c) Co C: Continued to provide security and construction of FSB CURRAHEE.

(d) Co D: Began moving at 0710 hours and at 1110 hours found an NDP position vic YC 362996 with 20 fox holes. All positions were destroyed. No enemy contact was made throughout the day.

(e) Co E (-): Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Continued repelling training at Camp Evans.

Units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2015 hours. Multiple LP's and AP's were employed by all units. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 344984, Co C - FSB CURRAHEE, Co D - YC 365995. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - Camp Evans.

(27) D Day + 26 (5 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Continued security and construction of FSB CURRAHEE and employed multiple RIF operations, LP's and AP's.

(b) Co B: Began early movement and at 0810 hours, vic YC 353986 found 2 overnight sleeping positions that were used during the night. Search operations continued and no enemy contact was made during the day's operation.

(c) Co C: Began early preparations for movement by helicopters to Eagle Beach. Movement began at 0915 hours and was completed at 1020 hours.

(d) Co D: Departed the night NDP at 0745 hours and moved east continuing the search and destroy mission. At 1100 hours, vic YC 368994, the company found 4 hooches 10'X10'X10' with 5 well-constructed bunkers 4'X5' with 2' overhead cover. One container of .51 Cal MG ammo with 30 rounds was found in the bunker. All bunkers were destroyed and the ammunition was evacuated. Movement continued and at 1445 hours, vic YC 371986 a fighting trench, 3'-5' deep with overhead cover was found. Sleeping positions were abundant. Trench was approximately 120' long, and was destroyed. No enemy contact was made during the day's operation.

(e) Co E (-): Continued security and construction of FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Continued repelling training at Camp Evans.

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Units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2000 hours and established multiple LP's and AP's. NDP's located at: Co A - FSB CURRAHEE, Co B - YC 367982, Co C - Eagle Beach Rest Center, Co D - YC 371987. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - Camp Evans.

(28) D Day +27 (6 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Began early preparations for movement to Eagle Beach. Helicopter movement began at 1120 hours and was completed at 1235 hours.

(b) Co B: Continued search operations and had negative enemy contact during the day's operation.

(c) Co C: Returned to FSB CURRAHEE from Eagle Beach closing at 1311 hours and assumed security for FSB CURRAHEE.

(d) Co D: Continued operations in assigned AO and had negative enemy contact during the day's operation.

(e) Co E (-): Continued security FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Completed repelling training at Camp Evans.

All units moved into and occupied NDP's at approximately 2015 hours and employed multiple LP's and AP's. NDP's located at: Co A - Eagle Beach, Co B - YC 389977, Co C - FSB CURRAHEE, Co D - YC 385983. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - Camp Evans.

(29) D Day + 28 (7 June 1969):

(a) Co A: Returned to FSB CURRAHEE from Eagle Beach and were immediately inserted into an LZ vic FSB GEORGIA, YD 410033. Insertion was completed at 1117 hours.

(b) Co B: Began early movement for extraction and movement to Eagle Beach. At 0845 hours, YC 392977 the company found 4 bunkers, 8'X8'X4' with 3' overhead cover. All bunkers were destroyed. The company arrived at the PZ at 0915 hours vic YC 401976 and began extraction to Eagle Beach. Movement was completed at 1040 hours.

(e) Co E (-): Continued security of FSB CURRAHEE.

(f) RCN Plat: Conducted move from Camp Evans to FSB CURRAHEE and was inserted into FSB GEORGIA at 1720 hours. LZ was cold.

Locations of units were: Co A - NDP, YD 422036, Co B - Eagle Beach, Co C - FSB CURRAHEE, Co D - Eagle Beach. Co E (-) - FSB CURRAHEE, RCN Plat - FSB GEORGIA.

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(30) D Day + 29 (8 June 1969):

Operation "APACHE SNOW" officially terminated for the 1st of the CURRAHEES at 082400 hours. The day's activities consisted of Co A continuing operations northeast of FSB EAGLES NEST; Co B assuming responsibility for FSB BERCHTESGADEN and FSB EAGLES NEST; Co C and D being inserted into FSB GEORGIA for operations northeast of FSB EAGLES NEST; and Co E (-) remained as security for FSB CURRAHEE pending relocation of 1-506 Abn Inf Tactical Operations Center to EAGLES NEST on 9 June 1969.

12. Results:

a. The mission given the 1st of the 506th was successfully accomplished by destroying NVA/VC forces, base camps, and caches and denying him the use of the area of operations as a resupply location and staging area for replacement personnel.

b. Enemy losses:

(1) KIA: 159

(2) KBAA: UNK

(3) KBA: UNK

(4) CAPTURED: 1

c. Friendly losses:

(1) KHA: 22

(2) WHA: 136

(3) MHA: 1

d. Body to weapons ratio: 2:1

e. Enemy to friendly killed ratio: 7:1

13. Administration: Current ADMINO used.

14. Logistics: Current ADMINO used.

15. Chemical: N/A.

16. Civil Affairs: N/A.

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17. Psychological Operations: N/A.

18. Communications: N/A.

19. Engineer: Two engineer personnel were attached to each company during Operation APACHE SNOW. Engineers were primarily used in demolition roles in destroying caches, bunkers, etc.

20. Artillery: N/A.

21. Special Equipment and Techniques: N/A.

22-23. Commander's analysis and recommendations:

A. (1) Observation. Units capturing enemy personnel are not permitted sufficient time to interrogate these personnel in order to obtain immediate tactical information.

(2) Discussion. On 21 May 1969 an NVA soldier was captured by B Company 1-506 who indicated a willingness to assist US forces. At the time of capture he had a shrapnel wound in the right leg and was treated by medics from B Company which helped to increase his willingness to cooperate. The Battalion was informed to immediately evacuate the individual to higher headquarters. Approximately six hours later the Battalion was informed that the POW revealed that an enemy recon platoon was located only 300 meters west of Co C 1-506 who had encountered enemy in that location the previous evening.

(3) Recommendation. That units be permitted to retain POW's for a sufficient period of time to obtain information of an immediate tactical value.

B. (1) Observation. Slow reaction time and inaccuracy of CS employment by UH-1 aircraft.

(2) Discussion. It took excessive time to get a CS ship on station and then CS was dropped so high that it was inaccurate and was greatly effected by wind.

(3) Recommendation. That more frequent use be made of CS drops and that CS pilots continually stay abreast of friendly locations and situations.

C. (1) Observation. When attacking enemy bunker complexes many chest wounds are constantly inflicted by small arms and fragments from RPG's, claymores and grenades.

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(2) Discussion. Company C of the Battalion made use of flak jackets while attacking a bunker complex and also for protection of secondary 8" Artillery fragments that were firing a destruction mission on the complex. The objective was completely destroyed by the 8" fire and no enemy fire was encountered. No casualties were suffered from secondary fragments.

(3) Recommendation. That troops encountering bunker complexes utilize flak jackets and that 8" Artillery be used for destruction missions on bunker complexes prior to the assault. These type fires can be called in within 300 meters of friendly troops when troops take cover and utilize flak jackets.

D. (1) Observation. Very few adequate LZ's were available within the area of operation.

(2) Discussion. A rifle company must remain within a one hour distance from an LZ for immediate extraction for contingency plans, medovac's, resupply, reinforcements, etc.

(3) Recommendation. That all rifle companies cut a minimum of one LZ daily. This can be accomplished by the platoon providing security for the company CP while the remaining platoons are conducting search and destroy or reconnaissance in force operations.

E. (1) Observation. Employing stay-behind forces upon departure from night defensive positions.

(2) Discussion. On 4 June 1969, Co B 1st Bn, 506th Abn Inf departed the NDP leaving the 2nd platoon as a stay-behind force. (See par 11 b. (26)). This action resulted in Co B springing a successful ambush when two NVA entered the NDP area within 30 minutes after B Company's departure.

(3) Recommendation. That all units employ maximum stay-behind forces. This type operation will normally yield more enemy contact and further, will confuse the enemy so that his plans must be changed.

F. (1) Observation. Units requiring resupply of water were witnessing a loss of water through use of plastic 5 gallon containers that were cracked when dropped from resupply ships.

(2) Discussion. Units of the 1st Bn, 506th Abn Inf required resupply at a higher rate than normal. Throughout, water containers were in short supply. 155 powder bag containers were used to resupply all units w/water and proved very effective for kick-out missions. They are water tight and sturdy enough to penetrate the jungle canopy when dropped from heights of 100 - 150 feet.