

Australian Army Training Team
Vietnam (AATTV)

Monthly report and enclosures
1 - 31 May 1969

Series: AWM95 - Australian Army
commanders' diaries

Item: 1/2/65

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AUSTRALIAN FORCE VIETNAM



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AATTV MONTHLY REPORT - MAY 69

Attached for information is a copy of the AATTV Report for May 69.

Original

MA to CGS

SO to DCGS

DSD

D Manning

SD (Co-ord)

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(R.A. MAY)
Major General
Commander Australian Force
VIETNAM

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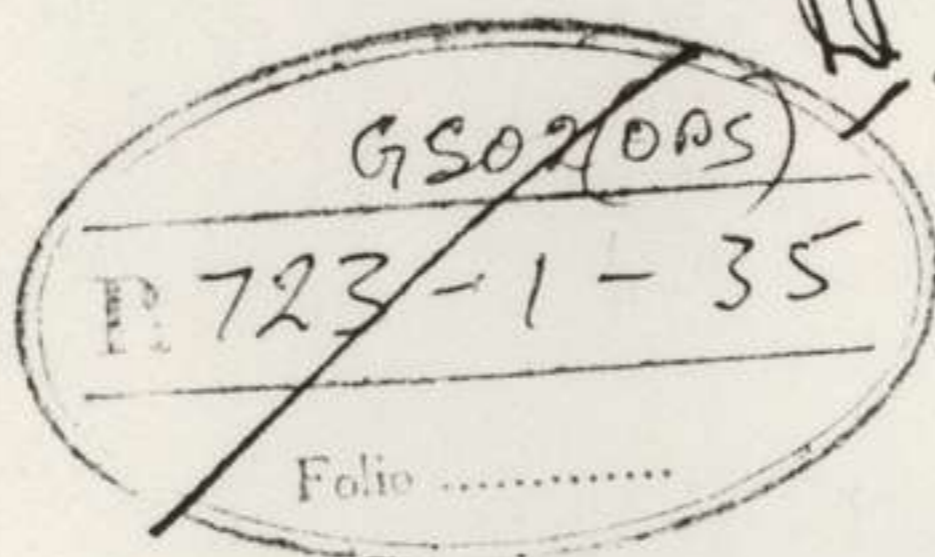


AUSTRALIAN FORCE VIETNAM

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HEADQUARTERS



Australian Army Training Team
Vietnam

// Jun 69

HQ AFV (3)

AATTV REPORT - MAY 1969

General

1. The level of operational activity in which members of AATTV were involved during May was essentially unchanged from that of Apr in I, III, and IV CTZs. In II CTZ however, members with the 2nd Mobile Strike Force (2MSF), based out of Pleiku, have been continuously committed throughout the period and contacts with the enemy have been heavy.
2. AATTV casualties for the period 1 May to 1 Jun were 1 KIA, 10 WIA and one injured in action.

Deployment

3. The deployment of AATTV as at 5 Jun 69 is attached at Annex A.

I Corps

4. Operational activity in which members of AATTV were involved throughout I CTZ was unchanged from the level of Apr. Contacts with the enemy were relatively light except during the period 11-17 May when the enemy was the most active he has been since the post TET 1969 offensive was initiated in late Feb.
5. Attached at Annex B is a summary of operational contacts in which units with AATTV advisors in I CTZ were involved.
6. Attached at Annex C are AATTV advisor reports of interest from I CTZ.

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7. The following AATTV battle casualties occurred in I CTZ during the period up to 1 Jun :

- a. WO2 R. Robinson (Advisor 4/2 ARVN Bn) was wounded by shrapnel from a friendly air strike - remained on duty.
- b. WO2 LI Morrison (RF Advisor Hoa-Vang) was wounded by an enemy grenade - evacuated to Australia.
- c. WO2 M. Kelly (Advisor 2/3 ARVN Bn) was wounded by shrapnel from an enemy mortar - hospitalised in I Corps.
- d. WO2 K. Gabriel (Advisor 2/1 ARVN Bn) was injured when the helicopter in which he was travelling was shot down - hospitalized in I Corps.

II Corps

8. All battalions of 2nd Mobile Strike Force (2MSF) were heavily committed to operations during the month. The three battalions based out of Pleiku, which until the end of May contained all the members of AATTV deployed with 2MSF, have mainly been involved in operations in the areas South-West of Ban-Me-Thuot and West of Kontum. Contact with platoon to battalion sized NVA forces have been frequent, particularly in the Kontum area (South-West of Ben-Het). The operation in this area commenced in early May and is continuing.

9. The proposed discussions by CO AATTV with HQ 5th SFG (A) and 2 MSF regarding the future strength of the MSF in II CTZ were held as planned (AATTV Report of 9 May refers). The intention is to reduce the strength of 2MSF from five battalions to two. These will both be based at Pleiku. It was agreed that the AATTV strength in 2MSF be slightly reduced, but with additional members going into the Training Company to assist in improving the training conducted at Pleiku for the CIDG members of 2MSF. This re-deployment into only two of the existing battalions and the additions to the Training Company have now been completed. No change to the current number of AATTV members with 2MSF is expected for at least the next six months, provided the proposed reduction in 2MSF and the enlarged training programme goes as planned.

10. The following AATTV battle casualties occurred in 2MSF during the period:

- a. WO2 M. Gill was killed in an operation in the area West of Kontum.
- b. Capt P. Harris was wounded by shrapnel in an operation in the area South West of Ban-Me-Thuot : remained on duty.
- c. WO2 R. Aylett and WO2 R. Cameron were wounded by shrapnel in an operation in the area South West of Ban-Me-Thuot : remained on duty.
- d. Sgt A. Shelton was wounded by shrapnel in an operation in the area West of Kontum : evacuated to 1 Aust Fd Hosp.

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e. WO2 K Payne and WO2 K Latham were wounded by shrapnel in an operation in the area West of Kontum : remained on duty.

f. WO2 A Kelly received a gun-shot wound in an operation in the area West of Kontum : evacuated to Australia.

III Corps

11. RF Training Phuoc-Tuy. A report by WO2 Kealy, the Senior Instructor of the RF Training Cadre, is attached at Annex D. The change to Sector Control and AATTV sponsorship of this project, which at first created some problems, is now working better. With the continued assistance of additional NCO and Pte instructors from 1 ATF, the revised course appears to be meeting the Province Senior Advisor/Province Chief's requirements.

12. IRP Training - Van Kiep

a. On 10 May 69, command of the IRP Wing changed from Capt R Hinde, who had completed his tour in AATTV, to Capt D Savage.

b. An extract from the report by Capt Hinde, on the 2/69 Course which marched out on 3 May is attached at Annex E (AATTV Report of 9 May refers). 3/69 Course commenced on 11 May.

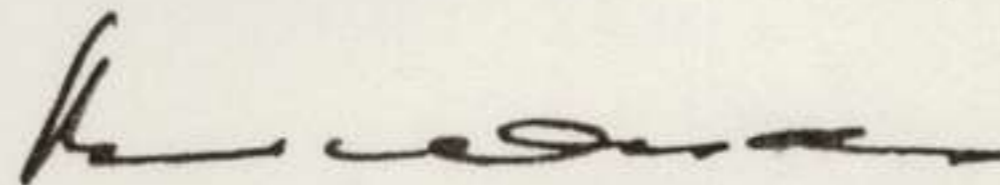
IV Corps

13. The new AATTV Village Defence Advisory Team (VDAT) project in the Delta, which was described in the last report, has had its teething problems, as was expected. The main difficulties have been in the provision of logistic support for the Teams and incorrect targeting by the Provinces to which they have been allocated. Steps have now been taken by HQ IV Corps to obtain the necessary logistic backing for the Teams and this problem should be corrected during Jun. The question of better targeting has been discussed with the Provinces by Maj Harkness (AATTV) in his capacity as a member of HQ IV Corps (CORDS) Advisory Staff. Where necessary, re-deployment and improved use of the Teams has now been achieved.

14. Despite these early problems, reports from the three provinces in which the VDATs are deployed, indicate that the project is well worthwhile. Difficulty was experienced by the Teams in operating when one member of the pair was absent on R&R or due to illness. It is obvious that a third member is required for each VDAT to enable it to operate effectively and this will be achieved over a period of time.

Administration

15. Five members of AATTV were hospitalised through illness during May. All were from I CFZ. Pending medical advice, two of these members may have to be returned to Australia during Jun.



(RDF LLOYD) Lt Col
Comd AATTV

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Annex 'E' to
AATTV Report - May 69

6 May 69

CO AATTV

LRP WING COURSE 2/69 10 MAR 69 - 3 MAY 69
COURSE REPORT

Course Standard

1. General. The general standard of this course was below average.
2. Minor Tactics. The patrols all had a good grasp of tactics and reached an adequate standard in LRP contact drills and techniques.
3. Marksmanship. The course level of marksmanship improved to an acceptable standard prior to the operational phase. M79 grenadiers however had insufficient ammunition to practice and in fact went on operations as an unknown quantity.
4. Physical Fitness. After culling out the obviously unfit, the course had no difficulty with the physical requirements of the course.
5. Map Reading. The level of map reading ability was well below average initially. After concentrated instruction the majority of the course reached an adequate standard.

Administrative Support

6. Administrative support during the whole course was good and most difficulties with the supply system appear to be solved.

Capt R. HINDE
Chief Instructor
LRP Wing, Van-Kiep NTC.

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AATTV DEPLOYMENT
AS AT 5 JUN 1969

Annex 'A' to
AATTV Monthly Report
for May 1969

Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>AATTV : SAIGON</u>							
Lt Col	RDF	Lloyd	RA Inf	HQ AATTV	Commanding Officer	Jan 70	Saigon
Capt	G..f.	Dennis	RA Inf	"	Adjutant	Nov 69	"
WO1	G.S.	Munt	RA Inf	"	Admin WO (Chief Clerk)	Mar 70	"
WO2	T.J.	Colbert	RAE	"	Admin WO (Pay)	Dec 69	"
Pte	G.H.	Davison	RAASC	"	Clerk	May 70	"
WO2	T.F.	Malone	RAAC	Armoured School	Instructor/Advisor	Oct 69	Thu-Duc (near S)
WO1	E.W.	Gason	RAAC	(On Pre-extension leave: Re-deployment on RTU not finalised		Dec 69	Aust

al	Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>I CTZ</u>								
<u>AATTV : QUANG TRI Province</u>								
:	Maj	H.L.	Bell	RA Inf	Quang-Tri Sector	S3	Nov 69	Quang-Tri
:	WO2	P.V.	Roney	RAAMC	" " "	Medical Advisor	Apr 70	" "
:	WO1	P.J.	O'Brien	RAE	Trieu-Phong Sub-Sector	Assistant Advisor (S3)	Sep 69	Trieu-Phong
:	WO2	J.M.	O'Donnell	RAAOC	Cam-Lo Sub-Sector	" " "	Jan 70	Cam-Lo
:	WO2	E.W.	Snelling	RA Inf	1/1 ARVN Bn	Assistant Advisor	Jul 69	Quang-Tri
:	WO2	K.A.	Gabriel	RA Inf	2/1 ARVN Bn	" "	Nov 69	" "
:	WO2	H.H.	Beezley	RA Inf	3/1 ARVN Bn	" "	Jan 70	" "
:	WO2	W.E.	Tillett	RA Inf	4/1 ARVN Bn	" "	Feb 70	" "
:	WO1	S.D.	Rosenberg	RA Inf	1/2 ARVN Bn	" "	Apr 70	Dong-Ha
:	WO2	F.E.	Bell	RA Inf	2/2 ARVN Bn	" "	Mar 70	" "
:	WO2	R.K.	Gurney	RA Inf	3/2 ARVN Bn	" "	Feb 70	" "
:	WO2	R.E.	Robinson	RA Inf	4/2 ARVN Bn	" "	Aug 69	" "
:	WO2	J.B.	Barker	RA Inf	5/2 ARVN Bn	" "	Aug 69	" "
:	WO2	H.J.	Stuttart	RAAC	1/11 ARVN Cav	" "	Nov 69	Quang-Tri
:	WO2	D.N.	Gorman	RAA	11th ARVN Arty Bn	" "	Mar 70	" "

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I CTZ

AATTV : THUA THIEN Province

: Capt	: R.L.	:	Guest	: RA Inf	: Thua-Thien Sector	: Asst to Province Senior Advisor (Temp Duties)	: Aug 69	: Hue
: WO1	: W.	:	Brown	: RAAMC	: Thua-Thien Sector	: Medical Advisor	: Oct 69	: " X ✓
: WO2	: J.A.	:	McRae	: RA Inf	: Nam-Hoa Sub-Sector	: Assistant Advisor RF/PF	: Aug 69	: Nam-Hoa ✓
: WO2	: L.N.	:	Bootes	: RAAC	: 2/7 ARVN Cav	: Assistant Advisor	: Mar 70	: Hue
: WO2	: M.R.	:	Bolitho	: RA Inf	: Black Panther Coy	: " "	: Nov 69	: "
: WO2	: G.C.	:	Neitz	: RA Inf	: 2/54 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Aug 69	: "
: WO2	: L.	:	Jackson	: RA Inf	: 3/54 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Jul 69	: "
: Capt	: D.F.	:	Paul	: RA Inf	: 3rd ARVN Regt	: Bn Senior Advisor	: May 70	: "
: WO2	: C.R.	:	Ansell	: RA Inf	: 1/3 ARVN Bn	: Assistant Advisor	: Mar 70	: "
: WO2	: M.	:	Kelly	: RA Inf	: 2/3 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Aug 69	: "
: WO2	: T.P.J.	:	Van Bakel	: RAASC	: 3/3 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Nov 69	: "
: WO2	: K.J.	:	Troy	: RA Inf	: 4/3 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Mar 70	: "

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Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>AATTV : QUANG NAM PROVINCE</u>							
Maj	F.C.	Johnston	RA Inf	HQ I Corps	G3 (Trg) Advisor	Feb 70	Danang
Capt	J.P.	Nelson	RA Inf	" "	G3 (Ops)	May 70	"
WO1	J.	Geedrick	RA Inf	AATTV Danang	Admin WO	Sep 69	Aust House Dan
WO2	V.M.	Stack	RA Inf	" "	" "	Sep 69	" "
WO2	R.M.	Almond	RAAC	4 ARVN Cav	Assistant Advisor	May 70	Danang
WO2	V.L.	Farris	RA Inf	Hoa-Vang Sub-Sector	" " RF/PF	Feb 70	Hoa-Vang ✓
WO2	L.	Taylor	RAAOC	Quang-Nam Sector	Advisor RF/PF - Mobile Advisory Team	Jul 69	Moc-Bai ✓
WO2	M.T.	Jensen	RA Inf	HQ 1st Ranger Gp	Assistant Advisor	Nov 69	Danang
WO2	R.D.	Lylett	RA Inf	21st Ranger Bn	" "	Dec 69	" ✓
WO2	T.J.	Goddard	RAA	44th ARVN Arty Bn	" "	Apr 70	"
Capt	D.G.	Bent	RA Inf	1/51 ARVN Bn	Senior Advisor	Oct 69	Mieu-Bong (Reg)
WO2	E.H.	Martin	RA Inf	" " "	Assistant Advisor	Nov 69	" "
WO2	W.J.	Bruce	RA Inf	2/51 ARVN Bn	" "	Feb 70	" "
WO2	C.F.	Keioskie	RAASC	2/51 " "	" "(Designate)	Feb 70	Aust (Pre-Extn)
WO2	P.J.	Heslin	RAE	3/51 " "	" "	Mar 70	" " "

Sl	Rank	Init's	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>AASTV : QUANG TIN and QUANG NGAI Provinces</u>								
:	WO2	D.R.	Truelove	RA Inf	1/4 ARVN Bn	: Assistant Advisor	: Sep 69	} Quang-Ngai Province (Regt HQ r Quang-Ngai)
:	WO2	M.J.	Poole	RA Inf	2/4 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Nov 69	
:	WO2	R.D.	Cameron	RA Inf	3/4 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Feb 70	
:	Capt	R.L.	Smith	RAE	1/5 ARVN Bn	: Senior Advisor	: Apr 70	} Quang-Tin Province (Regt HQ r Tam-Ky)
:	WO1	E.J.	Morrison	RA Inf	" " "	: Assistant Advisor	: Dec 69	
:	WO2	E.L.	Saxby	RAE	2/5 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Jan 70	
:	WO2	K.J.	Rowe	RAAC	4/5 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Sep 69	} Quang-Ngai Province (Regt HQ r Quang-Ngai)
:	WO2	T.F.	Dolan	RA Inf	1/6 ARVN Bn	: " "	: Jan 70	
:	Capt	A.J.	Mogridge	RA Inf	2/6 ARVN Bn	: Senior Advisor	: Apr 70	
:	WO2	W.S.	Dickey	RA Inf	" " "	: Assistant Advisor	: Jul 69	} Quang-Ngai
:	WO1	J.B.	Staunton-Latimer	RAAC	2/4 ARVN Cav	: " "	: Feb 70	

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ial	Rank	Init	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location	
			<u>II CTZ</u> <u>AATTV : PLEIKU</u>						
	Maj	J.W.	Brydon	RA Inf	2nd Mobile Strike Force Command, Det B-20, 5th Special Forces Group (Airborne)	Bn Comd	Feb 70	Pleiku (Base)	
	Capt	DWT	Rowe	RA Inf	" " "	Bn XO (Temp duties)	May 70	"	
	Capt	PJS	Harris	RA Inf	" " "	Coy Comd	Mar 70	"	
	WO2	B.	Tolley	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Jun 69	"	
	WO2	K.	Payne	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Feb 70	"	
	WO2	J.R.	Stewart	RA Inf	" " "	Coy Comd (Trg Coy)	Aug 69	"	
	WO2	S.J.	McLaughlin	RA Inf	" " "	" " (Designate)(TrgCoy)	Apr 70	"	
	WO2	R.S.	Simpson	RA Inf	" " "	Instructor (Trg Coy)	Feb 70	"	
	WO2	K.G.	Latham	RA Inf	" " "	Pl Comd	Dec 69	"	
	WO2	B.	Walsh	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Mar 70	"	
	Sgt	A.J.	Shelton	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Feb 70	"	
	Sgt	D.W.	Scheele	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Sep 69	"	
	Sgt	D.H.	Wright	RA Inf	" " "	" "	Oct 69	"	
	WO2	J.P.	Vincent	RAA	" " "	Employment not yet finalised.	May 70)Attending 5t)Combat Orien)Course, Nha-	

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al	Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>II CTZ (Cont'd)</u>								
<u>AAITV - II CORPS AREA</u>								
:	WO2	I.J.	Jewell	RA Inf	Recondo School 5SFG(A)	Instructor	Jun 69	Nha-Trang
:	WO2	C.Y.	Jamieson	RA Inf	Mobile Training Team (PRU's II CTZ)	Assistant Instructor	Mar 70	" " (Ba (On Pre-Extr leave in hon
:								
:	WO2	G.T.	Smith	RA Inf	Ranger Training Centre	Instructor/Advisor	Jul 69	Duc-My
:	WO1	E.B.	Ostara	RA Inf	Province Recce Unit	Advisor Binh-Dinh Province	Aug 69	Qui-Nhon

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1	Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>III CTZ</u>								
<u>AATIV : III CORPS AREA</u>								
:	Capt	D.G.	Savage	RA Inf	LRP Wing Van-Kiep National Training Centre	CI	Aug 69	Baria x
:	WO2	R.	Bury	RAEME	" " "	Admin WO	Jan 70	"
:	WO2	B.L.	Young	RA Inf	" " "	Patrol Comd/Instructor	Feb 70	"
:	WO2	J.W.	Wigg	RA Inf	" " "	" " "	Jan 70	"
:	WO2	A.C.	Urquhart	RA Inf	" " "	" " "	Sep 69	"
:	Capt	F.M.	Kudnig	RA Inf	PRU Training Centre	Chief of Operations and Training	Jun 69	Near Vung-Tau
:	WO2	C.S.	Ison	RA Inf	Province Recce Unit	Advisor Phuoc-Long Province:	Apr 70	Phuoc-Binh
:	WO2	C.	Kealy	RA Inf	Phuoc Tuy Sector (Att)	RF Trg Cadre (Sen Instructor)	Jan 70	18 ARVN Div T School, near
:	WO2	W.D.	Frost	RA Inf	" " " (")	" " " (Instructor)	Aug 69	" "
:	WO2	AJA	Joyce	RA Inf	" " " (")	" " " (Instructor)	Jan 70	" "
:	WO2	J.H.	Macartney	RAASC	Phuoc-Tuy Sector	Assistant Advisor, A & L Coy (RF)	Jan 70	Baria

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Serial	Rank	Inits	Name	Corps	Unit	Employment	Due RTA	Location
<u>AATTIV : IV CORPS AREA</u>								
00	Maj	A.	Harkness	RAA	CORDS, IV Corps	Assistant to Chief of Territorial Security	Apr 70	Can-Tho
01	WO2	M.L.	Deanshaw	RAAMC	HQ IV Corps	Medical Advisor	Jul 69	" "
02	WO2	J.D.	Poy	RA Inf	Dinh-Tuong Sector	Village Defence Advisory Team (Aust) - (VDAT)	Mar 70	Dinh-Tuong
03	WO2	A.A.	Welsh	RAE	" " "	" " "	Dec 69	" "
04	WO2	L.W.	Forden	RA Inf	Kien-Hoa Sector	" " "	Oct 69	Kien-Hoa Pr
05	WO1	J.W.	Lann	RA Inf	" " "	" " "	Nov 69	" "
06	WO2	G.S.	Horne	RA Inf	Vinh-Long Sector	" " "	Nov 69	Vinh-Long P
07	WO2	G.E.	Munro	RA Sigs	" " "	" " "	Jul 69	" "
08	WO2	R.M.	King	RA Inf	" " "	" " "	Sep 69	" "
09	WO2	W.J.	Grogan	RAEME	Vinh Binh Sector	Advisor RF (Mobile Advisory Team)	Aug 69	Vinh-Binh P
00	WO2	R.C.	Carter	RA Inf	Province Recce Unit	Advisor Sadec Province	Dec 69	Sadec

SUMMARY OF OPERATIONAL CONTACTS IN WHICH
AATTV ADVISORS INVOLVED - I CTZ

1. In the period 27 Apr to 3 May in the SW of Quang-Tri the 4th and 5th Bns of 2nd ARVN Regiment were in daily contact with squad to company sized enemy forces. These engagements included at least two company sized ground attacks.
2. Of particular interest were the discoveries by 5/2 ARVN Bn of two extensive bunker complexes near LZ BLAZES on 30 Apr and 1 May.
3. In the Southern Danang TAOR during 4 May to 10 May, 1st ARVN Ranger Gp killed 19 enemy in two contacts with estimated company sized enemy forces : Whilst in the SE quadrant of Quang-Nam elements of 3/51 ARVN Bn and 2/54 ARVN Bn accounted for 70 enemy KIA as well as the capture of 17 PW's, 22 individual and three crew served weapons, on an operation launched on 5 May. The heaviest contact in Quang-Ngai during 4 May to 10 May, was when 1/6 ARVN Bn killed 10 enemy in a brief engagement with an unknown sized enemy force.
4. In the early morning of 12 May in the Danang TAOR 39th and 21st ARVN Rangers were attacked by an unknown sized enemy force. The Rangers killed 116 enemy and captured 41 weapons.
5. In Quang-Ngai Province on 17 May 1/6 ARVN Bn while on a search and clear operation, engaged an unknown sized enemy force ten kilometers WSW of Binh-Son. Twenty two enemy were killed.
6. In Quang-Nam Province in the Danang TAOR, on the morning of 19 May, 44th ARVN Arty Bn received a ground attack from an unknown sized enemy force. Eighteen enemy were killed, five prisoners taken and 10 weapons captured.
7. In Quang-Tin Province a significant engagement occurred on 20 May when 1/5 ARVN Bn contacted elements of 557th NVA Battalion 11 kilometers SSW of Tam-Ky. At least 20 enemy were killed and one crew served weapon captured.

J. Johnston
Major
AATTV

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Annex 'C' to
AATTV Report - May 69

INDEX TO AATTV ADVISOR REPORTS OF INTEREST - ICTZ

The following reports of interest from AATTV advisors in I CTZ are attached.

- Annexure 1 - Report by Maj H Bell, S3 Quang-Tri Sector.
- Annexure 2 - Report by WO2 J. Barker of 5/2 ARVN Bn on Operation LAM SON 277/1
- Annexure 3 - Report by WO2 R Gurney of 3/2 ARVN Bn

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MONTHLY REPORT MAY 69 : QUANG-TRI

General

1. The situation in Quang-Tri Province remains stable. The increasing capability of 1ARVN and 3 Mar Divs to contain NVA intrusions across the DMZ and Laos border has permitted a reduction in regular FVMAF/ARVN forces in these areas. 1 Bde 5 Mech Div (US) is now concentrated in the populated coastal plain and both 1ARVN and 3 Mar Div have detached a brigade equivalent each to current operations in the ASHAU Valley, THUA THIEN Province.
2. Operations in the ASHAU, involving 4 brigades, is still proceeding and no reports are available at this location. Both 1st and 2nd ARVN Regiment report direct to HQ 1 Div at HUE and little current tactical information is made available to Quang-Tri Sector, both VN and US. This is a serious gap in the Provinces' military organization and has resisted attempt at rectification, no doubt due to internal Vietnamese political ramifications of which we have little understanding. The ASHAU operation is known to be producing much evidence of enemy resupply routes and the fighting involved is heavy.
3. The situation in the populated areas of Quang-Tri is one of rapidly progressing pacification. Unescorted jeeps traverse the entire road system without incident, most advisors travel unarmed (rashly, it is considered), economic and governmental activity proceeds with no hindrance and most contact with VC is resulting from RVNAF reaction to civil informants. The major problems are refugees, numbering one third of the population, whose return to original hamlets would bring them dangerously close to the DMZ. Small enemy probes enter the population area but are invariably disposed of by the RF/PF with no requirement for Regular Forces. Attacks by fire have increased with little significant result.

Ist ARVN Regiment

4. Activity, Ist Regt is committed to the ASHAU and reports of this operation will not be forthcoming until next month. One battalion of the regiment has operated in HAI LANG District, on the coastal plain, but this operation is really a "rest-off" from the more arduous operations for each battalion in turn. The RF will take over the area in the next 2 months, and this will leave no regular ARVN involved in pacification operations.
5. Advisory Staff. The members ^{of the} advisory team of Ist Regt are obviously on good terms with their counterparts. Unfortunately there has been little contact with the Aust advisors since the ASHAU operation commenced. WO2 Gabriel was slightly wounded when a helicopter was shot down in the ASHAU.

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2nd ARVN Regiment

6. Activity . 2nd Regt continues the responsibility for manning the DMZ, but has deployed 2 of its 5 battalions into operations on the Northern border of the Province. 5/2 Regt in operation LAM SON 277/1, from 22 Apr - 2 May accounted for 117 NVA KIA for a loss of 35 KIA and 92 WIA. The other battalions have had small contacts resulting in enemy losses with few ARVN KIA, however the continuous drain of WIA, malaria casualties and lack of reinforcement has temporarily immobilized 2 Regt.

7. Advisor WO2 Robinson (4/2 ARVN Bn) received a minor wound from shrapnel.

11th ARVN Cavalry

8. 11th Cav has carried out only limited operations during the month due to its imminent conversion to tanks.

11th ARVN Artillery

9. Activity. This fire unit continues to display its usual efficiency and is operating in the ASHAU.

10. Advisor. WO2 Gorman narrowly escaped injury when a CH-46 helicopter ferrying in CP stores was shot down on top of the CP itself.

Quang-Tri Sector

11. No major operations took place other than an abortive cordon and search of Xom Con, isolated village of 8000 on the Cua Viet estuary. An after action report will be forwarded with next months report. One result of this operation is a Sector SOP for cordon & search operations I have written at the direction of the PSA. A disturbing feature of activity is that a large amount of the MACV advisory effort is expended on reporting and briefing procedures of US staffs and not enough on working with Vietnamese. Notwithstanding, Quang-Tri Sector remains a model of pacification.

(H Bell)
Maj.

2 Jun 69

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Annexure 2 to
Annex C of AATTV
Report - May 69

REPORT BY WO2 J E BARKER - ASST ADV 5/2 ARVN BN
ON OPERATION LAM SON 277/1

- 22 Apr Bn transported to CAM LO from DONG HA via trucks. Arrived 0830 hrs. Bn air lifted by 101st Airborne Slicks Lift from PZ to LZ SPARROW completed by 1120 hrs without incident.
- 1200 hrs Commenced to move toward 1st objective when sniper fire was received - sniper fire suppressed by ground force. 1 NVA KIA, Nil friendly cas. This incident occurred at GR 050662.
- 1400 hrs Rear (2) two Coys began moving to the SW and had proceeded approx 1 Km when the 2nd Coy sighted 1 Squad NVA across the stream at GR 055652. ARVN Arty called for - results 7 NVA KIA - 4 POW. Nil friendly Cas.
- 1600 hrs CP moved to night locations where interrogation of prisoners took place at GR 057640. Prisoners were reported to be rice bearers for a large NVA unit. They also passed the information that the enemy were very active particularly in the area of LZ SPARROW - this information was substantiated at a later date when the 4/2 Bn and 5/2 Bn encountered heavy enemy resistance of approx 3 Coys.
- 23 Apr 0800 hrs LZ prepared for extraction of NVA prisoners - extraction completed 0900 hrs.
- 1000 hrs Two lead Coys had moved to southern objectives when the Coys were engaged by heavy small arms fire from an estimated NVA Coy at GR 054642.
- 1400 hrs Contact broken - Medevac called for to extract friendly cas : 5 KIA 3 WIA (En Cas - 4 KIA)
- 1400-1700 hrs Negative further enemy contact.
- 1700 hrs Comd 1 Div arrived and made an appreciation of Bn position.
- 24 Apr 0400 hrs Outpost to the West of Bn perimeter attacked by approx 1 Coy of NVA - attack repulsed when SPOOKY and BASKETBALL arrived on the scene - during the lull in the attack NVA used loudspeakers calling on the ARVN troops to surrender and that they were to urge the advisors to call on the SPOOKY aircraft. This led us to believe that it was a substantial enemy force in the area.

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- 0800 hrs A search and clear of the area revealed 8 NVA KIA - 3AK 47
1 CKC : Friendly cas 4 KIA - 4 WIA.
- 0900 hrs Bn continued the advance so the next objective where 3 bunkers
were attacked knocking one out - it was suggested at this stage
that the 57mm Recoilless Rifle be used. This suggestion was
completely ignored (GR 045639). Friendly cas : 2 KIA - 8 WIA.
En Cas - unknown.
- 1600 hrs Bn moved into position for night locations which were sited in the
vicinity of GR 050630 - negative activity between 1900-0200 hrs.
- 25 Apr 0200 hrs Attacked from SW and NW by approx two Coys NVA. ARVN Arty called
for and used most effectively in suppressing the attack.
- 0300 hrs SPOOKY arrived and put down a withering fire - contact began to
fade and break off 0400.
- 0430-0630 Contact and further ground action resumed until daylight. Friendly
cas : 4 KIA - 8 WIA. En cas: 4 KIA.
- 0800 hrs Medevac called to extract the dead and wounded but on approaching
LZ was brought under small arms fire, helicopter withdrew until
gunships were able to suppress fire - the Bn resupply came in
under the same conditions. Medevac and resupply friendly completed
successfully.
- 1400 hrs Advance continued until lead Coy came under attack from 82mm
mortar fire (GR 062628) - Friendly Cas : 2 KIA - 9 WIA. En Cas:Nil.
- 1500 hrs Negative further contact - Bn able to move to an LZ to have
medevac extract the dead and wounded.
- 26 Apr 0800 hrs Bn again continued the advance after no incidents during the night,
towards the East - encountered en 82mm mortar fire at GR 082622 -
negative results.
- 1630 hrs Moved into night locations at GR 091619 - during the night position
fired on by B40 (3) negative results.
- 27 Apr 0645 hrs Bn divided into two groups on the approach to hill 162 (GR 068635).
The two groups halted whilst ARVN Arty prepared the area for
approx 2 hrs.
- 1600 hrs Secured for night locations.
- 28 Apr 0800 hrs Left night locations and moved along previous days route to Hill
162.
- 1200-1500 Prepared objective (GR 060635) with US Arty - requested and
received 2 missions.

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- 1530 hrs Began attack along ridge towards the objective.
- 1600 hrs As the lead Coy reached near part of the objective they began to receive concentrated small arms, automatic, 82 mm and 60mm mortar fire. A few moments later the CP began to take heavy mortar fire. Bn Cav called ARVN Arty, advisors called US Arty with excellent coverage on the suspected area. After the counter mortar fire and the objective had again been prepared, the leading Coy renewed its attack against the bunkers.
- 1630 hrs The lead Coy again began to receive heavy 82mm mortar fire causing them to break and retreat. The CP which was directly behind the lead Coy also began to fall back. At this stage of the action there was negative flank or rear protection. The whole Bn then began to flee to Hill 162 in a disorganized rout casting field packs, weapons en route-during this incident the Bn Comd was seriously wounded by mortar shrapnel.
- 1930 hrs Medevac called for as casualties at this stage were mounting. Friendly Cas - 30 WIA and a large number of wounded and KIA left on the objective.
- 2000 hrs Medevac completed and defensive routine organized on Hill 162. At this stage the Bn XO had assumed the role of Bn Comd. Negative night action from enemy troops - ARVN Arty gave H and I with illum throughout the night.
- 29 Apr 1000 hrs Air strikes were called on to prepare the objective with napalm and HE.
- 1400 hrs Ten M48 Tanks with APCs arrived with a reinforcing Coy of 2/2 Bn from position C2 - during the approach to Hill 162, two M48 Tanks were immobilized due to A/TK mines (no friendly cas).
- 1530 hrs Began the attack along the same route as the previous day with two Coys and four Tanks and 1 flame tank. The two coys moved onto the rear edge of the objective without any resistance. Continuing to move forward they then encountered heavy resistance from well bunkered enemy. Tanks then began to prep fire the bunker area and followed the infantry trying an assault, which bogged down. Repeated attempts to assault were broken by heavy SA and automatic fire. At this stage the FO was seriously wounded. The flame tank was then brought forward and another assault tried but again bogged down. These assaults on the bunkers left many ARVN dead and wounded near the bunkers. The Bn Comd then moved forward with another Coy in an effort to reclaim the dead and wounded.
- 1900 hrs After this assault failed the remnants of 5/2 Bn withdrew to Hill 162. During the night 175mm delay fuze was used to prep the objectives for another assault the following day.

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- 30 Apr 0900-1230 During this period 8 inch arty with delay fuze was used to prep the objective plus 15Ords of 81mm mortar plus two Air strikes.
- 1230 hrs Began the attack along the same route. Moved onto the objective encountering little resistance pausing only to clear heavily brushed areas. Found many deep well fortified bunkers and fighting holes on each of the three objectives with supporting fields of fire interlocking each objective. Much comm wire was found in the area interlinking all bunker systems with many command wired claymores (NVA type) below the bunker eye level. Bunkers were solidly constructed with excellent overhead cover and use of natural camouflage.
- 1400 hrs Objective secured.
- 1600 hrs Ist Coy continued the attack across the stream to the North and encountered many NVA in bunkers. Arty and tank fire along with 81mm mortars were fired in support.
- 1830 hrs Attack ceased. Two coys remained on objective (GR 059634) - remainder returned to Hill 162 and the CP.
- 2300 hrs Sporadic probe by two squads of NVA on the perimeter of objective. No cas.
- 2330 hrs Received 5 rds of 105mm Arty on objective from C-2 - check fire called - No one injured.
- 1 May 0315 hrs Perimeter objective attacked by one pl of NVA at the Southern edge - 2 friendly WIA. Illumination called for - NVA repulsed.
- 1130 hrs After objective had been finally prepared an attack was made with two coys - Negative resistance. Found same type of bunkers on this objective with many dead (NVA) and by the stench many entombed in bunkers.
- 1900 hrs 6 x 122mm rockets fired on to Hill 162 - Negative casualties. Bearings taken from Hill 162 - 4/2 Bn and our position: determined the GR at 050660 - Counter artillery called and secondary explosions recorded.
- 2 May 0800 hrs Continuing the search and clear of the objectives 13 brand new A/TK mines (East German origin) plus 50 x 82mm mor rds.
- 1000 hrs Moved back to C-2 and relieved by 2/2 Bn then changed over with 3/2 Bn at C-1.

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Overall results of operation for 5/2 Bn.

Friendly: KIA - 35, WIA - 92.

Items captured from Enemy

500 kilos rice
16 individual weapons
16 crew served weapons
2000 metres commo wire
245 rds 82mm mortar
254 rds 60mm mortar
1 radio/telephone
13 A/TK mines/TNT/detonators
16 Claymore mines
45 uniforms
2 Cooking houses
1 Hospital (plus medical equipment)

Enemy Losses - KIA 117 - POW 4

This concludes my report for operation LAM SON 277/1.

WO2 J.E. Barker

MONTHLY REPORT BY WO2 R. GURNEY
3/2 ARVN BN

Security Operations Month of May 1969

1. The 3/2 Bn was assigned security operations in Quang-Tri Province for May 69.

Location

2. a. On the 1 May 69, 3/2 Bn was located at C1.
b. 2 May 69, 3/2 Bn vacated C1 for the North East Area of Operations of 2nd Regt and HQ was located on A1.

Command

3. Command and control was retained by 2nd Regt HQ.

Task Organization

4. a. BATMAN Company. This is a specially formed company and is a permanent fixture at A1.
b. Armour. A platoon of ARVN Armour was initially located at A1. This platoon moved to Oceanview 15 May 69.
c. A section of US DUSTERS was located on A1 17 May 69. From time to time, a Quad .50 cal is located on A1.
d. Artillery ARVN Arty Sp is from A2 and C1. US Arty Sp is very restricted in use because of limitations and restrictions imposed on clearances for firing.
e. Naval Gunfire The use of naval gunfire shows an increase this month. Mainly due to the fact that it can be employed in the DMZ where a safety distance of at least 1,000 M can be employed.
f. Air Nil requested or received this month.

Intelligence

5. Very little. When received to late to act upon.

Mission

6. To deny enemy infiltration/exfiltration activities in the 2nd Regt's North East A.O.

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General Outline

7. 3/2 Bn was to have a company based at A2 another at B2 and remainder of force located at A1. The Bn would then operate from these 3 positions main emphasis to be on security of the bases and night ambushes to deny safe routes to the enemy,

Execution

8. a. Night ambushes ranging from Squad size to Bn minus have been set up every night.
- b. During the hours of daylight the largest patrol to go out has been platoon size. The main effort of daylight patrols have been the continuous maintenance of the wire between A1 and Oceanview.
- c. On 15 May 69, Oceanview was evacuated by Marines and taken over by a company of ARVN and a Pl of ARVN Armour.
- d. On 22 May 69 Company from A2 was relieved by 5/2 Bn, this company was relocated at A1.

Result

9. Enemy

KIA : 31

Wpns : 1 x Rpd, 13xAK47, 1xCKC, 1xM16

Misc : 6 Chicom Claymores, 2 pair wire cutters, various items of clothing and equipment.

Friendly

KIA : 1

WIA : (enemy action) 5

WIA : Friendly A/P mine @ A1 - 1

" " Booby Trap @ B2 - 2

Special Equipment and Techniques

10. The Batman Coy was raised on the 4th April 69 supposedly from 2nd Regt but was from 1/2 Bn. The purpose of raising this company was to prohibit infiltration and sapper squad activities in the 2nd Regt. N.E. AO. Their first operation was on the 20 Apr 69. They are armed with starlite scopes on the basis of 1 per squad. A similar Coy was raised from 5/2 Bn and is located at A2.

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Comments

11. The supposed restrictions on US Air and Artillery support in the 2nd Regt area of operations seems to cause some deal of confusion amongst various people.

As far as I can gather the request has only to be sent by the ARVN commander of the particular AO and the request will be fulfilled. This is a stated fact.

Where the delay and confusion occurs is that after the initial request has been received at the Dong-Ha FDC it then goes by another direction and means of communications back to the AO commander for clearance.

I believe that the proposed de-escalation of artillery advisors as at August 69 is having an adverse effect just now. Once the fact is accepted we may get back to a sane and sensible co-operation on clearances of US support.

A possible immediate solution is the placing of ARVN Arty liaison groups with US batterys in support of ARVN troops operating in ARVN AO's. This way it would only require the commanders request and this would give an automatic clearance.

R. GURNEY
WO2

29 May 69

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Annex D to
AATTV Report - May 69

1 Jun 69

CO AATTV

MONTHLY REPORT - RF TRAINING PHUOC-TUY : MAY 69

1. During the month of May Course No 1/69 graduated. On Wednesday 21 May 69 Course 2/69 marched in. To compensate for the late arrival of the course longer hours have been worked with the aim of marching 2/69 Course out on time.
2. The Course consists of seventy (70). One platoon of 25 from 772 Coy. Another platoon from 576 Coy, also of 25 and two squads each of ten men from 613 & 612 Coy. The standard of the troops appear to be above average. To this date we have no AWOL.
3. The work by the members attached from 1 ATF is of a good standard.

C. Kealy
WO2
Senior Instructor

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