



SYKES REGULARS

1ST BATTALION 20TH INF



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LZ LIZ, VIETNAM

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DELTA DESTROYS GRENADE FACTORY

GORILLAS WORK THE AO

Last week, Delta Co. routed a VC main force basecamp in the 515 Valley, eight kilometers southwest of Liz. That basecamp was believed to be a cooking center, a VC kitchen, that prepared food for company-size elements in the field.

This week, the company uncovered another enemy support camp--this one a VC main force ordnance camp in the mountains, four kilometers southeast of the VC kitchen.

Friday, the company CP and the 3d platoon's 1st Squad were on a patrol in the flatlands at the base of the Nui Con Vus. The men came upon some fresh tracks leading up into a mountain and called for an 11th Brigade visual tracker team. The team lead the men up the east slope and stopped just short of what turned out to be the ordnance factory.

The next morning, the men went back up the slope, this time without the assistance of the tracker team, and at the insistence of SSG Phan Van Tinh, the company's interpreter, pursued the trail further. Signs of an enemy encampment became more apparent as they found piles of rice husks and trench networks in the area.

They soon found more fresh tracks, a freshly dug bunker, an AK47 round, and clothing hung out to dry.

The patrol broke up into two elements with SSG Tinh and the CP's Kit Carson Scout, Nguyen Si, walking point. Following the tracks, the CP element entered the basecamp and found it deserted. There were two hooches, one a general cooking area, and the other an ordnance plant in which the men found a five-gallon can of petna and three complete homemade grenades.

A further search of the camp revealed a bag containing 17 more grenades, an ammo can full of tools, two protective masks, and another AK round.

The enemy had made good use of springs near the camp and had constructed troughs of banana stalks and used helmets for collecting vessels. The trench network provided straight-shot communication. According to CPT James Whitaker, Delta's (GRENADE FACTORY continued on next page)

TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY

In support of Bravo Co.'s pacification efforts on the Red Ball is the six-man Gorilla Squad, a mobile and explosive team that seeks out the enemy elements in the who attempt to frustrate the company's mission along the highway.

The Gorillas were formed in October and since then have conducted patrols nearly everywhere in the battalion's AO--east to the Cau River, south to the Iron Mountain, west past the railroad berm, and north past the North Bridge on the Red Ball.

The squad moves light, catching the enemy and their supporters off-guard, and pose a harassing threat to VC operations in the area.

The team is composed primarily of PFCs. Ken Noftz (Vermillion, Ohio) serves as the squad's leader and received valuable training at the Americal Division's Leadership School in Chu Lai. Woodrow Banta (Richmond, Calif.) is the point man, Richard Pina (San Antonio) humms the radio, Walter Linn (Niles, Mich.) doubles as a rifleman and demo-man, Larry Ogden (Wooster, Ohio) is the assistant gunner, and SP/4 William Miles (Wooster, Ohio) carries the M-60.

SSG Dan Wills (Chicago), the "Old Ranger" and former leader of the infamous Ranger Squad, commented on the Gorillas:

"They're a close-knit, tight unit, and they're thinking more and more alike. They're all volunteers, and they have a lot of confidence which is necessary to have a sound, effective squad. They know they can rely on each other."

SGT COBB IS NOO OF THE WEEK
SGT Clifford L. Cobb, squad leader of Alpha Co.'s 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, is the SYKES' REGULARS' NOO of the Week for the week of Jan. 14-20. A native of Richmond, Calif., he has been in the Army for six years and has three years prior service in the Navy.

During his Army career, he has spent 32 months in Germany, and has served a previous tour in South Vietnam with the 25th Infantry Division out of Cu Chi as an APC driver with the 1st Battalion, 5th Mechanized Infantry. His last duty assignment before joining the SYKES' REGULARS was at Ft. Ord with the 2nd Brigade ALT Committee Group, APC Training.

CHARLIE COMPANY

SYKES' REGULARS NET THREE ENEMY KIAs; UNCOVER SIX TUNNELS

The SYKES' REGULARS were again busy throughout the AO this week by achieving significant reductions of enemy personnel, encampments, and ordnance. The battalion killed three enemy, detained six VC and 24 Vietnamese civilians for interrogation, uncovered one enemy basecamp and six tunnels, and found two booby traps and a sapper satchel charge.

Jan. 12th, Bravo Co. detained ten civilians for questioning. Charlie Co., operating in the southern portion of the AO, destroyed two booby traps. The first was a hand grenade attached to a trip wire firing device. The second, found by the 1st Platoon, was a 500-pound bomb with a metal to metal contact firing device.

Jan. 13th, Bravo Co. detained ten civilians for questioning and picked up four VC. Two of the VC were detained five kilometers northeast of Liz, just west of Ho Duc. One VC was a security chief and the other was a confirmed guerrilla. They were picked up along with three other military age males believed to be draft dodgers. In the same area, the Gorilla Squad reported three VC KIAs who attempted to evade in a sampan.

Recon picked up four civilians for questioning and detained a 20-year-old VC who was carrying papers of commendation from his CO for operations against the ARVNs. The platoon also found and destroyed a mortar round found in the area.

Jan. 14th, Bravo and Delta companies each discovered 50-foot tunnels... which were destroyed. Delta also detained three Vietnamese, one of whom was believed to be a VC tax collector.

Jan. 15th, Delta found another tunnel, three kilometers southwest of Liz, which was concealed in a bamboo hedgerow and covered by a trap door. Charlie Co. found two more tunnel complexes, four kilometers southeast of Liz, one of which was 200 meters long, branching off in many directions, and containing a number of rooms.

Jan. 16th, Charlie Co. dusted off a VC who was wounded when he set off an enemy booby trap. Recon, operating eight kilometers northeast of Liz, fired on a VC who was heading toward the men with a weapon. The enemy soldier was wounded in the con-

tact, but managed to evade. The platoon also engaged three more VC who evaded to the north. That evening, Delta's 3rd Platoon fired on a VC approaching its night defensive perimeter. The next morning, the men found his racing sneakers.

Jan. 17th, Recon picked up a Vietnamese civilian for interrogation and engaged a four-man VC element dressed in khaki uniforms and carrying a weapon. The platoon pursued the group and called in Sharks to continue the chase. Meanwhile, Charlie Co., ten kilometers north of Liz, dug up a satchel charge containing explosives and a homemade firing device. The charge weighed about ten pounds and included some kind of persistent CS gas.

Jan. 18th, a LOH reacting to intelligence chased down and detained a Vietnamese evading in the Gaza Strip. A Warlord team, working eight kilometers north-east of Liz, snatched three civilians who evaded into a bunker. Also on the 18th, Delta was in the mountains west of Liz and uncovered the VC main force basecamp.

GRENADE FACTORY continued
CO, the VC could get into a trench and beat a direct path to the basecamp and OPs, which were located at large rocks on the slopes and provided excellent observation of the entire valley.

"The VC had definitely been there recently," explained CPT Whitaker. "A lot of the thatching was still green and the cuttings on the bamboo stalks were still fresh. They must have beat it out the back way just as we came in."

Due to Delta's efforts, the VC main force in the area is now without two of its fundamental support groups--its mess hall and its ordnance plant.

SYKES' REGULARS REPORTER

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The battalion's RE-UP NCO, SSG Robert L. McKissic, has made available an outline of options which will help you to assess both the immediate and long-range opportunities that a reenlistment offer.

1. Did you know you may reenlist for another unit? The only requirement is you must have a minimum of six (6) months retainability in RVN.
2. The following is a complete list of units and locations available:

NHA TRANG
18th MP Bde
44th Med Bde
1st Avn Bde
1st MI Bn
4th Psyops Gp
34th GS Gp

DA NANG
44th Med Bde
1st Avn Bde
1st Log Comd
1st MI Bn
507th Trans Gp
4th Psyops Gp
34th GS Gp

SAIGON
1st MI Bn
4th Psyops Gp
507th Trans Gp
525th MI Gp

CAM RAHN BAY
18th MP Bde
1st Log Comd
507th Trans Gp

PHU BAI
18th MP Bde
1st MI Bn

AN KHE
44th Med Bde

PHU LOI
34th GS Gp

VUNG TAU
34th GS Gp

QUI NHON
18th MP Bde
44th Med Bde
1st Log Comd

LONG BINH
18th MP Bde
44th Med Bde
1st Avn Bde
1st Log Comd

CAN THE
1st Avn Bde
1st MI Bn
507th Trans Gp
4th Psyops Gp

3. In addition to location of choice you may also choose a different MOS. The following fields are now available:

Motor Transportation
Military Police
Supply
Food Service

Auto Mechanics
Data Processing
Door Gunner
Metal Working

Aircraft Maintenance
Clerical Administration
Medical Care & Treatment
Drill Sergeant

4. All personnel who reenlist are authorized a 30 day leave home, and a tax free cash bonus. This does not adjust your DEBOS. You will still rotate as now scheduled. Also you still may take R&R and a 7-day leave.

5. For further information contact your unit commander who will arrange an interview with the Reenlistment NCO at LZ Bronco.