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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO San Francisco 96345

AVID-T

1 July 1966

SUBJECT: Ground Forces Commander's Daily Situation Report (SITREP)  
300001 to 302400H Jun 66 (U)

TO: Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam  
ATTN: G-3  
APO 96266

RECORDED TO UNCLASSIFIED  
PER AUTHORITY DOD 5200. I-R  
DATE *3/27* NAME *Chris Eickman*

1. **U** OPERATIONS SUMMARY:

a. General: 1st Inf Div engaged in a major battle in the EL PASO II operation 30 Jun. This was the "Battle of BM 69" (Bench Mark 69) in the vicinity of XT7299. This engagement was with a VC force conclusively identified as the 271st VC Regt of the 9th VC Div. The battle developed when B/1/4 Cav, conducting a ROAD RUNNER operation along Hwy 13 north from HON QUAN to LOC NINH, made initial contact with an unknown VC force in the vicinity of XU725020 at 0930H. Trp B received a heavy mortar attack along the length of the column while in the vicinity of XU723020 at 0945H the troop began receiving SA and AW fire and became heavily engaged with what was then estimated to be a battalion size force. The VC were equipped with .50 cal MG's, two of the positions being located and destroyed early in the action. A heavy volume of Trp B's organic fire power, in addition to artillery and air strikes were delivered into the VC positions, dug in and concealed on both sides of the roads. 2/28 Inf was immediately alerted and other elements of 1/4 Cav (-) were committed to the battle. 2/18 Inf elements conducted an airmobile combat assault into an LZ to the N of the VC positions. The 5th ARVN Div elements responded immediately by the timely arrival of Lt Col TUAN, Deputy Division Commander to coordinate the employment of ARVN forces. Three CIDG companies were dispatched to blocking positions to the north. An APC troop and 2 companies of 1/9 ARVN Regt were placed under the operational control of the 1st Inf Div and initially occupied blocking positions to the south. The ARVN and US forces closely tied in their flanks and began constricting the area in a boxing-in maneuver on the NE, E, SE, S and SW. 1/2 Inf conducted an airmobile assault into LZ BLUE (XT670990) to the west and began sweeping to the east. The battalion that landed to the north (2/18 Inf) began sweeping from that position against the block. Artillery, air, and helicopter gun ships played important roles and responded in a minimum of time to supply timely and accurate fires into the VC positions. Armed CH-47 gun ships were in the target area within 15

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minutes of initial contact and poured a heavy and effective volume of fire into the VC positions. To gain the maximum effectiveness from the supporting fires, artillery fires were placed on one side of the road and air strikes on the other side. The heavy volume of air, ground, and artillery fire severely mauled the 271st VC Regt with the following results attained: 300 VC KIA (BC), 300 VC KIA (Prob); 8 VCC; 40 weapons among which were 2 57mm RR, and 1 7.62 MG on wheels. This major engagement necessitated the rapid deployment of 1st Inf Div forces and thus extensive realignment of units was made. Army Air and Air Force Airlift were immediately responsive to the requirements, and in a six hour period 5 plus infantry battalions, 1st Bde Hqs, and 2 artillery batteries were successfully redeployed. 1/28 Inf was moved from SONG BE to QUAN LOI. 2/18 Inf (-) was helilifted from QUAN LOI to LZ 2. 1/2 Inf was moved from PHUOC VINH to QUAN LOI, and further lifted into LZ BLUE. 2/2 Inf moved by fixed wing from LAI KHE to QUAN LOI. C/2/16 Inf moved from BEAR CAT to PHUOC VINH. 1/16 Inf moved overland from AO north of LAI KHE back to LAI KHE. A/4/33 Arty was moved (CH-47) from SONG BE to QUAN LOI. C/1/7 Arty was moved overland from QUAN LOI to HON QUAN. 1st Bde CP was moved from PHUOC VINH to QUAN LOI. Army Air supplied 30 UH-1D's, 3 CH-47's and 6 CV-2's in support of the operations and the Air Force supplied 4 C-123's in support of the division operations.

In addition USAF, USNF, and VNAF supported the division with a total of 100 fighter sorties. 4 of these sorties were SKY SPOT missions and 4 B-57 sorties flying seeding missions. Among the results of the close air support were (BDA) 1 57mm RR position and 3 machine gun positions.

(b) 1/18 Inf: The battalion remained under the OPCON of 1st Inf Div and continued to secure the MINH THAN base area. Security was also provided for the engineer work parties working in and around the airfield area. Company S&D operations were conducted in AO's BRANDY and GIN with negative contact.

(c) Div Rear: 1st Engr Bn had a command detonated mine set off between two vehicles at 1710H in the vicinity of XT931080. No damage or casualties resulted and the fire was not returned.

(2) 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div:

(a) General: 1st Bde CP moved to a forward position from PHUOC VINH to QUAN LOI by airlift closing at 1530H. The brigade CQ assumed operational control of 1/2 Inf, 1/28 Inf, 2/18 Inf and 1/4 Cav (-) at that time. 1/2 Inf was also airlifted to QUAN LOI. A total of 20 C-123 and CV-2 sorties were used for the lift. At 1745H C/2/16 Inf arrived at PHUOC VINH from BEAR CAT and assumed the mission of providing security for the PHUOC VINH base camp perimeter.

(b) 1/2 Inf: At 1003H the battalion was alerted for air move to QUAN LOI (XT8190). The first lift commenced at 1234H and the battalion closed at 1530H. The battalion then conducted an airmobile assault into LZ BLUE (XT670995) at 1625H in support of the Battle of BM 69 with the 271st VC Regt of the 9th VC Div. The battalion closed into the LZ at 1809H. A total of 54 sorties of UH-1D's were utilized. Co A commenced movement to an objective in the vicinity of XU685005. There was negative contact by the battalion. The battalion positions are as

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follows: Hqs and Co C-XT676996, Co A-XU685005, Co B-XT685993. The Battalion established overnight ambush sites at XU685012, XU683014, XT685990 and XT685990.

(c) 2/18 Inf; 1/4 Cav (-): At 1550H 1st Bde assumed control of both elements. In the earliest part of the day 1/4 Cav (-) and 2/29 Inf made contact and became involved in a major battle with the 21st VC Regt-the Battle of BM 69. Trp B came under heavy mortar attack in the vicinity of XU725020 at 0930H while conducting a ROAD blocking operation north along Hwy 13 to LOC NINH. At 0945H Trp B became heavily engaged with an estimated 400 VC at XU723020. The VC were using mortars, RR, AW and SA fire. 2 MG positions were spotted and these were .50 cal MG's mounted on a chassis with wheels. Co C/2/29 Inf and Trp C were called in to relieve the pressure on Trp B. The VC appeared to be making an attempt at 0950H to try and split the 2/29 column. The VC were located on both sides of the road. Air strikes and artillery fires were immediately employed, with artillery on one side of the road and air strikes on the other. This control measure allowed for the maximum use of supporting fires. Armed CH-47's answered the call for support and were on station at 0945H. Organic mortar, air, and artillery fires were heavily poured into the VC positions and inflicted a heavy toll of the VC. Co B was moved by truck from BAN LOI to HON QUAN at 1030H. Co C became heavily engaged at 1100H, while enroute to Trp B's position, in the vicinity of XT720986. A conducted an airmobile assault into LZ 2 (XU724014) followed by 2/29. Co A then pushed their attack to the south, staying on the west side of Hwy 13. The battalion CP displaced to LZ 2. ARVN elements assisted in the operation as 3 CIDG companies were employed to occupy blocking positions to the south. Trp C maintained a blocking position to the SE. 2/29 was airlifted into LZ BLUE (XT6799) to the west and commenced operations to the east against the blocks. Blocking forces continued restricting the area and tied in their flanks to block-in the VC forces. Companies of 2/28 Inf and C/1/4 Cav were engaged with the heavy contact lasting until 1730H. The VC force was a minimum of a regiment and subsequently found to be the 271st VC Regt of the 9th VC Div. Results of the battle up to this time (2400H) are 300 VC KIA (BC); 300 VC KIA (C); 8 VCC (wounded); 1MG; 2 57mm RR; 37 SA (rifles).

(3) 2d Bde, 1st Inf Div:

(a) General: 2/16 Inf conducted a company size patrol north of the brigade BEARCAT base camp with negative contact. One company was also airlifted to PHUOC VINH at 1725H where it was placed under control of 1st Bde. 1/18 Inf remained OPCON 1st Inf Div. 2/18 Inf also remained under OPCON 1st Bde. 4/23 Inf continued operations under CPLAN (Operation UNIONTOWN) and continued S&D operations to the NW of the area with one company.

(b) 2/16 Inf: Co A moved into an area north of BEARCAT controlled by YTL30025, YTL59085, YT240080, YT240050, YT182010, and YTL60034 for constant company size patrolling. There was negative contact. Co A remained in an overnight position in the vicinity of YTL75074. Co B was controlled by as brigade RRF and Co C was alerted at 1435H for a move to PHUOC VINH. The airlift commenced at 1725H with Co C closing at 1813H. The mission of base camp security.

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(c) 4/23 Inf: The battalion secured the RMK rock quarry and the STARCOM site with Co A. Co D continued S&D operations in the area bounded by YT1104, YT1106, YT1304, YT1306. No enemy contact was made and the unit occupied an overnight position in the vicinity of YT110052, and established ambush sites for the night. Co C conducted S&D operations in area C (YT0416), but with negative contact.

(4) 3d Bde, 1st Inf Div:

(a) General: The brigade TF continued their participation in EL PASO II in the SONG BE AO. A battalion and a company airmobile assault was conducted in the AO and 2 artillery batteries displaced to new positions (one airlift).

(b) 1/28 Inf: At 1000H 1/28 Inf conducted a combat assault from LZ RED to Obj 1. Upon landing the battalion received scattered SA fire. Patrols searched the area with negative results. At 1020H the battalion was ordered to QUAN LOI. The battalion (-) was already on Obj 1 and Co A was still on LZ RED. Co A was moved to NUI BA RA. The battalion (-) was moved to NUI BA RA Airfield closing at 1350H. The last lift of Co C was lifted directly from Obj 1 to QUAN LOI. The battalion (-) was then lifted from NUI BA RA to QUAN LOI by UH-1D closing at 1620H. Upon closing, the battalion came under OPCON 1st Bde.

(c) 2/28 Inf: At 0900H Co B conducted a combat assault into an LZ in the vicinity of YU190134. Co B secured an area for arrival of B/1/5 Arty by CH-47. At 1500H the battalion patrol found several well camouflaged bunkers with good overhead cover. Several houses in the area had tunnels under them. 1 bag of rice was found and destroyed. At 1510H C/2/13 Arty moved to NUI BA RA and closed 1545H. ARVN supplied trucks and provided road security. Co A moved by foot from their overnight position to NUI BA RA Airfield, closing at 1745H. The battalion (-) remained at NUI BA RA Airfield. Co B and B/1/5 Arty remained in the vicinity of YU190134.

(d) 1/16 Inf: The battalion continued their S&D operation north of LAI KHE without contact, and at 1420H were ordered to return to LAI KHE base camp, closing at 1717H. Upon arrival the battalion assumed responsibility for security of the LAI KHE base camp.

(5) 1st Inf Div Arty:

(a) Div Arty Fwd: B/1/5 Arty airlifted from the vicinity of YU145072 to the vicinity of YU192130 closing at 1040H. 8/6 Arty (-) provided artillery support for 1/4 Cav operation throughout the day. C/2/7 Arty conveyed to the vicinity of XT766897, closing at 1400H. A/2/33 Arty was airlifted from the vicinity of SONG BE (YU145072) at 1735H to the vicinity of XT814905. All tubes were in position at 1850H. A/2/33 Arty was attached to 8/6 Arty. C/2/13 Arty conveyed from the vicinity of YU195037 to YU145027 and closed at 1508H.

(b) LAM SON II: 1/26 Inf, in cooperation with 5th Recon Co, 5th ARVN Div, and A/1/4 Cav, successfully sealed HOA THANH in the vicinity of XT849137 at 0630H. The BINH DUONG Search Forces entered the hamlet, assembled a total of 159 men, ages 15-45, screened them at National Police Hqs and searched the village. Three of these men were apprehended as they attempted to leave the hamlet. Of the men screened there were 3 VCS, 10 draft dodgers, 7 deserters, and 4 males with false ID cards.

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Within the cordon and search area, search forces apprehended 2 VC after they were identified by PF soldiers in the hamlet. A total of 92 villagers were screened in the 969 interrogation tents. The majority of the people were uncooperative during the 969 interviews. Nine names of VC operating in the PHU HO village were added to the blacklist. Both of the VCO were on the blacklist utilized by interrogation teams. In the operational area, search forces discovered one tunnel which was destroyed by a demo team. 4 hand grenades were found and destroyed and one COMMUNIST flag was captured. Approximately 450 people took part in the festival activities. 205 people were treated by the MEDCAP teams. The VIS team provided PSY WAR movies and rice was distributed in 2 kilo bags to 106 villagers. Province youth services prepared popcorn for the children and the Province Agricultural Services prepared 3 gallons of bulgar wheat for sample distribution. Entertainment was also provided by the 5th ARVN Cultural Team and the 5th ARVN and RF Bands. Approximately 450 meals were served to the villagers. In addition, a raffle was conducted in which 7 villagers received prepared gift packages. 4/1/68 Inf, while participating in the seal of HOA THANH, pursued 3 VC in the vicinity of XT855135 at 0925H. Contact was never gained with the fleeing VC, however the company captured 1 pistol bolt and 2 grenades while in pursuit.

b. Plans Summary:

(1) 1/18 Inf: The battalion will continue to provide security for the MINH THANH base perimeter and the engineer work parties. A company size S&D operation will be conducted in AO BRANDY. 2/2 Inf remains OPCON 1st Inf Div and maintains security of the division base and facilities in the QUAN LOI AO.

(2) 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div: The brigade will position forces to prevent VC withdrawal into safe havens. 1/2 Inf secures LZ BLUE for arrival of A/2/33 Arty with one company NLT 0630H; 1/2 Inf (-) moves on axis LEMON to seize and secure Obj 1 (XU698027) subsequent to seizure of bridge at XT683998 by 1/4 Cav (-); upon arrival on Obj 1 1/2 Inf (-) prepares to conduct combat patrols to the northwest or to conduct heliborne assault into LZ PINK (XU594033) or LZ PURPLE (XT581961). 1/28 Inf conducts airmobile assault on LZ GREEN (XT616995) commencing 0900H and seizes Obj BASEBALL (XT623995). 1/28 Inf on order moves to LZ WHITE (XU656037) on axis PEACK; upon arrival LZ WHITE conducts combat patrols with primary attention to the southeast. 2/18 Inf moves to and occupies blocking position CONGO (XU707012) commencing 0600H and prepares to attack to the west in event 1/2 Inf establishes contact. 2/18 Inf prepares to conduct airmobile assault on LZ PINK or PURPLE on order. 1/4 Cav (-) moves on Route HANK to secure bridge at XT683998 commencing 0630H; continues to move on Route HANK to seize Obj SOCCER (XT674998); 1/4 Cav detaches one troop to secure A/2/33 and on order moves on Route HANK to seize Obj BASEBALL (XT623995).

(3) 2d Bde, 1st Inf Div: 2/16 Inf will continue company size patrolling of BEARCAT base camp with Co A and will maintain Co B as brigade RRF. Co C will remain attached to 1st Bde. 4/23 Inf (-) will continue their security mission under ORLAN 9-66 (Operation UPTOWN). Co B will complete S&D operations in the vicinity of YT1205 and will be extrated from the area at approximately 1200H.

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(4) 3d Bde, 1st Inf Div: On 1 Jul B/1/5 Arty will be moved from their present location to QUAN LOI by CH-47. Upon completion of the move of B/1/5 Arty, B/2/28 Inf will be moved to NUI BA RA Airfield by UH-1D. 2/28 Inf will conduct local patrolling in the vicinity of NUI BA RA Airfield. 1/16 Inf will continue to secure the LAM KHE base camp area.

(5) 1st Inf Div Arty: Div Arty Fwd will continue support of Operation EL PASO II. A/2/33 Arty will be airlifted to the vicinity of XT669982 at 0630H. B/1/5 Arty will be airlifted from the vicinity of SONG BE (YU192130) to an LZ in the vicinity of XT814905. The PHU LOI Pacification TF continues Operation LAM SON II with 1/26 Inf conducting S&C operations and establishing overnight ambush sites in assigned AO's. Security will continue to be provided for cadre teams operating in TAN PHUOC KHANH and BINH CHUAN. 3/C/1st Engr Bn continues construction of a road to connect TAN PHUOC KHANH with Hwy 313 and roadwork south of TAN PHUOC KHANH.

c. Major Unit Operations:

(1) Operation LAM SON II: 1st Inf Div Arty; continuing.

(a) US LOSSES:

1 Personnel: 6 KIA, 71 WIA.

2 Equip Damaged: 2 APC's/

(b) EN LOSSES:

1 Personnel: 8 KIA (BC), 12 KIA (est) total of 625 VCS as follows: 23 VC probation violators; 28 individuals on blacklists; 15 false ID cards; 44 deserters (ARVN, PF); 209 draft dodgers; 307 VCS held for interrogation.

2 Equip Captured: 5 SA; 1 syringe; 1 pistol bolt; various documents; 1-60mm mortar base plate; 15-60mm mortar rds; 2 bicycles; 1 plastic gas mask w/2 packets of chemicals; 1 diary.

3 Equip destroyed: 8 tunnels; 32 hand grenades; 5 base camps; 900 rds SA; 12 rds 105mm, 7-155mm rds; 4 CBU bomblets; 3-8 inch rds; 9 AP mines; 1 WP rocket; 15 rifle grenades; 5 huts; 3 rucksacks; 2 helmets; 3 wells; 3 Lambrettas; 17 uniforms; 5 gal gasoline; 1 qt oil; 150 lbs rice; several booby traps; 10 lbs demo; 4-4.5 V batteries; 1 shelter half; 30 foxholes; 15 pots and pans; 2 claymores; 1-20lb bomb; 3 trench systems with foxholes; 50 foot traps.

(2) Operation EL PASO II: 1st Inf Div; continuing.

(a) US LOSSES:

1 Personnel: 76 KIA, 251 WIA.

2 Equip Damaged: 2 UH-1B; 6 UH-1D; 3 OH-13; 3 APC; 3 tanks; 1 CH-47; 105 mm howitzer.

3 Equip Destroyed: 1 APC; 1 CH-47, 1 UH-1D.

4 Equip Lost: 1 M60 MG, 3 M16's, 1 PRC-25.

(b) EN LOSSES:

1 Personnel: 533 KIA (BC), 791 KIA (est): 26 VCC; 61 VCS; 1 Rollier.

2 Equip Destroyed: 27 81mm rds; 33 60mm rds; 2 155mm rds; 3 105mm rds; 1-3.5 rocket; 1 AT mine; 2 Claymore; 2 AP mines; 1 CBU bomblet; 22 base camps; 118 huts; 14 sampans; 172 bunkers; 2 hospitals 6 tires; 1-1/2 ton trailer; 2 hand carts; 30 gal sauce; 6-5gal cans tobacco

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3 Equip Captured: 1522.5 tons rice; 5400 sheets tin; 25 tons salt; 16.5 tons dried fish; 1 60mm mortar; 5 57mm RR; 79 AS; 184 grenades; 64 60mm mortar rds; 9 RPG2 grenades; 2478 rds SA; 1 MG-42HB; 1-7.62 MG on wheels; 2 Panzerfausts; 1000 gal kerosene; 1000 cans sardines; 500 hoe heads; 600 gal oil; 8000 aluminum pans; 300 lbs tea; 900 soup ladles; 20 kerosene stoves; 15 thermos bottles; 1/2 lb TNT; 2 typewriters; 1 water pump 2-7 HP motors; 2 web belts; 1350 lbs flour; 2 bicycles; numerous documents; medical supplies; kitchen facilities.

2. U) STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS:

C. Objectives:

	<u>Province</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Init/Term</u>
C1	BIEN DUONG	XT885172	S&C	LAM SON II	231430H May/Cont
C2	BIEN LONG	XU735089	S&D	EL PASO II	021430H Jun/Cont

D. Force:

	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Obi</u>	<u>Contact</u> <u>Inti/Term</u>	<u>Init By</u>	<u>Ltr Spt</u>	<u>NGFS</u>
D1	1st Inf Div Arty	C1	1000H/1020H	Frd	0	0
D2	1st Inf Div	C2	0930H/1930H	Frd	F4/Navy F100/AF A1E/AF A1H/VMAF	0

K. Losses/Damage:

K1 Enemy:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Size/ID</u>	<u>KIA/VCC</u>	<u>Wpns</u>	<u>Armo</u>
D1	2/Unk	0/2	0	0
D2	Regt/271st	300 (BC) /8 300 (est) /8	2 57mm RR, 1 7.62 Hvy MG 37 SA	0

K2 Enemy: None

K3 Friendly:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Size/ID</u>	<u>KIA/WIA/Cptr 1/MIA</u>	<u>Wpns</u>	<u>Armo</u>
D2	Regt/27sst	10/66/0/0	0	0

K4 Friendly:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Size/ID</u>	<u>Structures</u> <u>Dest/Den</u>	<u>Material</u> <u>Dest/Den</u>	<u>LOC</u>
D2	Regt/27st	0/0	1 UH-1D, 2UH-1D, 1 tank 2 APC's	0

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K5 Total friendly initiated small unit actions w/o contact: 42

K5A Friendly initiated small unit contacts: 0

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DEPUY  
Maj Gen

/s/ WILLIAM G YARBOROUGH  
/t/ WILLIAM G YARBOROUGH  
Cpt. Arner  
S3 Air

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