

1/35th Infantry Regiment

Battles of 1 and 6 March 1967

In Memory of these Cacti Brothers...

Recon 1/35th - 1 March 1967 - Sgt. Frank Bazell, Pfc. David Ramirez, Pfc. Edward Reid

AVDC-C-CP 1 May 1967

SUBJECT: Inclosure 1: Combat After action Report for PERSHING

ED Note: Op. Pershing was conducted from 12 February to 19 April 1967, with the 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Div OPCON to the 1st Cav Division (Airmobile).

Location of Operation: The area designated for Operation PERSHING included sandy shorelines and coastal plains as well as mountainous area rising precipitously from near sea level to 700 meters or more. The Nui Mieu Mountain Area with the center of mass at BR9875 rises from near sea level to 600 meters. The Crescent Area includes the flat coastal plain between the Nui Mieu Mtns to the south, the Cay Giep Mtns (BR9389) to the north, the South China Sea to the east and the high ground from BR9276 to BR8887 to the west; Hwy 1 bisects the Crescent area. The 506, Kim Son, and Soui Ca Valleys are located with center of masses BR8480, BR7381, and BR8065 respectively. (ED – From the AAR for Op. PERSHING)

1. Battle of 1 March 67:

a. Units involved: Reconnaissance Platoon, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry and Co A, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

b. Mission: The Recon Platoon was on a search and destroy operation moving from east to west along the ridge vic BR890775. Co A was on a search and destroy operation moving south on three axes vic BR877780.

c. Terrain: The terrain in the area was characterized by a high ridge line, sparsely vegetated in most areas along the crest with deep, densely vegetated draws and underbrush between the crest and the low ground.

d. Enemy: No known enemy units were reported in the area prior to the fire fight. The enemy has been known to use vegetated portions of the ridge for routes of movement from north to south.

e. Synopsis of actions:

(1) At 1330 hours, 1 March, the Recon Platoon was moving from east to west along the south side of the Crescent Ridge. Since the platoon was south of the top of the ridge, the movement was characterized by traversing of cross compartments. The platoon was in a column with point and flank security.



(2) At 1345 hours, the platoon reached a stream bed at BR889777. The point man heard movement on the higher ground to the west and then spotted several NVA. The point opened fire and the enemy returned the fire from prepared positions. The enemy had several automatic weapons and at least one machine gun.

(3) The platoon leader moved his platoon on line and maintained a heavy volume of fire to the front. Attempts to flank the enemy were fruitless since the machine gun (s) on higher ground prevented movement out from the cover of the rocks in the streambed. At this time the platoon was engaged at a range of 20 meters.

(4) The platoon leader called for fire support. The battalion commander decided to use gunships for fire/support due to the close quarter fighting. Co A was ordered to move south and east as rapidly as possible to cut off exfiltration routes. The Recon plat was placed OPCON to Co A. Blocking fires by artillery were fired for the area south of the contact (an area characterized by dense vegetation and a cliff) .

(5) Gunships were employed (4 ships) to fire on the area of contact. The Recon Platoon Leader directed the fire to within twenty meters of his own troops. After the first two runs, the firing by the enemy failed to let up. Two more runs were made and reduced the enemy volume of fire. The Recon Plat continued to fire at the enemy throughout the period.

(6) As the enemy fire diminished (1500 hrs) The Recon Plat attempted to move forward with some success. One enemy round hit a WP grenade carried on a soldier's harness. The explosion killed one soldier and wounded 3.

(7) The Recon Plat was ordered to hold its advance at 1515 since Co A was then 200-300 meters away closing on three axis to link up at the contact area. The artillery was used to block exfiltration to the south.

(8) Contact was broken at approximately 1530 hrs.

(9) Results:

a. US Losses: 3 KHA, 5 WIA

b. Enemy Losses: 7 NVA KIA, Captured: 2 AK-47, 2 SKS.