

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRIGADE, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
"HIGHLANDERS"
APO San Francisco 96262

AVDDB-
C0

25 April 1970

Mr. Frank Camper
Birmingham, Alabama 35218

Dear Mr. Camper:

Thank you for your interesting letter concerning your assignment with the 2d Brigade LRRP platoon. The following is an attempt at answering your question of how the outfit is doing at present and your letter is being forwarded to the CO of the Ranger Company for any comments he may have.

On 6 October 1969, LRRP activities within the Division were reorganized to more efficiently use available LRRP assets. Prior to this LRRP activities were divided between the Division controlled Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry and the brigade controlled LRRP platoons. This organization produced duplication of effort and increased requirements for assets, both men and material. Neither the brigade nor the Division had the capability to monitor a large target area without difficulty with command communication and reporting.

After the reorganization was completed, the brigade LRRP platoons were absorbed into Company K, 75th infantry under the operational control of the Division G3. The centralization of LRRP assets is now being tested. Early indications are that the reorganization has resulted in a much improved 75th Infantry.

The most effective employment of Rangers is one in which a large number of teams are deployed in a given area to screen an enemy route of approach or withdrawal. An example of this employment occurred in early October when the 2d Brigade was withdrawn from its AO northeast of Pleiku, a 12-team LRRP platoon, with a platoon leader and control team, was deployed to PLEI MRONG and staged out of the Special Forces camp there. An average of eight teams were operational at all times, screening the mountain range west of PLEI MRONG, with the other four used as a rotational back-up for stand down and further patrol preparation.

When the 24th NVA Regiment began its move eastward toward Highway 19 on 12 October, its movement was reported by screen, and for four days the enemy was subjected to direct artillery and air strikes, and lost twelve men to ground contact with Ranger teams.

Given early warning, the 4th Division had moved a mechanized battalion into the PLEI MRONG area by the time the 24th Regiment emerged from the mountains. In a series of contacts the enemy lost over 100 men KIA and his offense was preempted.

I hope I have answered your questions. Good luck on the publication of your book, "LRRP".

Sincerely,
William E. Conger Jr.
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding