

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
COMPANY K (RANGER) 75TH INFANTRY
1ST SQUADRON 10TH CAVALRY
APO US FORCES 96262

31 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned Company K, 75th Infantry
Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Commanding General
4th Infantry Division
ATTN: AVDDH-GC-MH
APO San Francisco 96262

1. (C) OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

a. General

(1) During the reporting period Company K (Ranger), 75th Infantry continued its participation in long range patrols in support of the 4th Infantry Division.

(2) Task Organization. Throughout the reporting period, Company K, 75th Infantry was a supporting element of the following divisional units:

Effective 15 Feb thru 18 Feb Plt (-) supported Div G-3
Effective 19 Feb thru 6 Mar Plt (-) supported 1st Bde
Effective 19 Feb thru 10 Mar Plt (-) supported 2d Bde
Effective 11 Mar thru 18 Mar Plt (-) supported 1st and 2d Bde
Effective 18 Mar thru 30 Apr Plt (-) supported 1st and 2d Bde

(3) Commanders and Principal Staff as of the end of the reporting period:

Commanding Officer	CPT Kim H. Olmstead
Executive Officer	1LT John T. Martin
Operations Officer	1LT Henry L. Alderson

(4) Mission: The mission of Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry remains to provide Long Range Reconnaissance, Surveillance, Harassment and target acquisition patrol capability at division level. K-75 was also used in an economy of force role in areas which could not be covered by other means. K-75 also provided personnel and equipment to train, administer to, plan for and employ Ranger patrols as directed by Division G-3.

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b. Intelligence

- (1) Company K conducted long range reconnaissance missions in BINH DINH Province throughout the reporting period.
- (2) The terrain in this area varied greatly from rugged mountains with triple canopy jungle to rolling hills and open areas with scattered vegetation.
- (3) The weather was warm and sunny with very little precipitation.
- (4) In BINH DINH Province, K-75 continued operations against the 18th NVA Regiment. The mission of the 18th NVA Regiment is to interdict highways and fixed friendly installations. Ranger teams were deployed on known trails and other routes of movement to harass and interdict enemy movement. Ambush missions proved highly successful, one such ambush resulted in seven NVA KIA. The enemy continued to operate in small groups from four to eight personnel using trails and water ways for routes of travel relying on low ground trails for rapid movement and access to water sources. When travelling in large groups, the enemy stayed well spread out and used good security making it difficult to ambush.
- (5) Recapitulation of Enemy Battle Losses: Enemy losses for the reporting period were 52 KIA, 9 probable and three detainees.

c. Operations and Training Activities

(1) Operations

(a) During the reporting period Company K conducted a total of 236 missions and had 165 separate enemy sightings. Ranger teams supported the 1st and 2d Brigade operations WAYNE STAB, PUTNAM SHARK and EARHART WHITE in the AN KHE area. K-75 participated in 1st and 2d Brigade operations EICHELBERGER BLACK in BASE AREA 226.

(b) On 16 February 1970, K-75 conducted a company size operation to liberate POW's controlled by the K-18 POW compound. Unfortunately, the bulk of the POW's were evacuated prior to the raid and only one POW was liberated. In continuing the operation on a search and clear mission, a bread bakery and numerous small hootches and bunkers were found and destroyed. The company was extracted on 19 February 1970 from its area of operations.

In support of 1st and 2d Brigade operation EARHART WHITE, Company K, 75th Infantry acted as a screening force around the Division Ring. Ranger teams established ambushes along trails and other routes of travel to engage elements of the 18th NVA Regiment. The teams employed to the east observed heavy enemy movement north to south along high

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speed trails near the DAK KRONG BUNG River, vicinity BR 595675. From intelligence gathered it was decided to insert a platoon (-) along the DAK KRONG BUNG River south of axis of movement. Soon afterwards, seven individuals carrying weapons were observed moving south on a high speed trail towards the platoon's ambush position. The enemy entered the kill zone and the ambush was initiated. A search of the area after the contact revealed all seven NVA killed and one AK-47 and two SKS rifles captured.

(2) Training

Company K sent personnel to Division and higher schools as follows:

School	Attended	Graduated
MACV Recondo School	10	10
Div Recondo Prep School	11	9
Div Sniper School	6	6

d. Personnel

(1) Strength: Authorized and assigned strengths were as follows:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>
Authorized	6	0	218	224
Assigned	6	0	193	199
Scouts	0	0	5 MONTAGNARDS	

(2) Replacements: Company K, 75th Infantry received a total of one officer and sixty-seven enlisted replacements.

(3) Casualties:

	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
February	0	2	0
March	0	9	0
April	1	19	0

(4) Morale and Personnel Services: Awards and Decorations during the period were presented as follows:

Silver Star	0
Bronze Star (Valor)	23
Bronze Star (Service)	7
Air Medal	9
Army Commendation (Valor)	12
Army Commendation (Service)	17

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(5) Promotions: A total of twenty-eight enlisted personnel were promoted during the reporting period as follows:

<u>E-3</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-9</u>
1	19	7	1	0	0	0

2. (C) LESSONS LEARNED, COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS, EVALUATIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The flexibility of a Ranger company was demonstrated during this reporting period. In addition to conducting normal long range patrols, the company was able to conduct a well coordinated combat raid. On another occasion four Ranger teams were combined with a patrol leader (LT and assistant patrol leader SSG) to ambush a heavily used trail. Due to the high degree of skill and motivation of Ranger personnel, Ranger units can be tailored to meet the enemy situation.

1 Incl
Annex A to Appendix 6
of 4th Div Field SOP

William A. Olmstead, II Cpt
KIM H. OLMSTEAD
CPT, Armor
Commanding

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Appendix 6 (Long Range Patrol) to Annex A (Operations) to FIELD SOP
 1. PURPOSE: The purpose of this appendix is to establish the organization and concept of employment and command and control of K Co 75th Infantry (Ranger).

2. ORGANIZATION:

a. K-75 is the long range patrol company of the 4th Infantry Division. It provides the Division an organic capability for long range reconnaissance and combat patrols and is specially trained and equipped to conduct small unit operations in enemy controlled territory.

b. Detailed organization of K-75 is at Tab A. The 4th Division has augmented the authorized TO&E structure so that the company has a total of 30 Ranger teams organized with 3 platoons and a company headquarters. Total augmented strength of K-75 is 218 EM and 6 Officers.

c. All personnel of K-75 are volunteers and are recruited primarily from the replacement system. Although volunteers from other Divisional units are accepted, there will be no active recruiting of personnel in line units.

d. K-75 is attached to 1-10 Cav for administration and military justice.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES:

a. ACofS, G-3, has staff responsibility for training and organization, and recommends tactical employment of K-75.

b. ACofS, G-2, is responsible for briefing of reconnaissance patrols and debriefing of both combat and recon patrols. G-2 in coordination with G-3 recommends employment of elements of K-75 in the collection of information and intelligence.

c. ACofS, G-1, assists C.O. K-75 in the recruiting of qualified replacements and monitors the status of unit strengths.

d. DAVNO: Normally supports K-75 with the allocation of two-gunships and two UH-1's daily.

4. EMPLOYMENT:

a. K-75 is normally employed under Division control to accomplish tactical and intelligence objectives of the Commanding General. Priorities of employment are established weekly by the Commanding General.

b. When employed under Division control, K-75 is assigned one or more areas of operation and a mission to be accomplished in each. An approximate percentage of the company's total effort is assigned to each mission, e.g. 50% on ambush mission in AO Black, 25% Recon in AO Yellow, 25% Recon in AO White. ACofS, G-3, controls allocation of aviation assets and designation of a tactical unit for reaction. C.O. K-75 is responsible for maintaining liaison with the designated reaction unit.

c. Although LRP teams may be attached to Brigades, the normal procedure for providing long range patrols to subordinate Division units is direct support. The following procedures normally apply:

(1) Brigades submit request to ACofS, G-3, indicating the number of deployed teams desired, the mission, and the area in which teams are to operate.

(2) Based on priorities established by the Commanding General, G-3 directs C.O. K-75 to support the requesting Brigade by keeping a specific number of teams deployed on the requested mission.

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Appendix 6 (Long Range Patrol) to Annex A (Operations) to FIELD SOP
(3) The supported Brigade designates and clears an AO for operations by LRP teams. C.O. K-75 establishes a mission support site at the Brigade C.P. and receives detailed information from the Brigade on the area and instructions regarding the mission(s).

(4) Prior to deployment and immediately after extraction teams will report for briefing and debriefing at a location specified by the Brigade. During the conduct of the mission, the mission support site keeps the Brigade informed of all contacts, sightings, significant incidents, and relays instructions as appropriate.

(5) When a LRP team is engaged or endangered the decision to reinforce, extract, or take evasive action will be made by the supported Brigade. The Brigade commander is responsible for all decisions and actions taken as a result of contact with or sighting of enemy personnel or facilities. When practical LRP contacts will be immediately reinforced with combat troops rather than extracted.

(6) The C.O. K-75 is responsible for routine insertion, extraction, administration, and logistic support of LRP teams operating in support of the Division.

d. The following hypothetical narrative is provided as a clarification of the procedures described above:

C.O. 3rd Brigade requests that five LRP teams be deployed for two weeks as an ambush screen along the flank of a brigade operation. On approval of the request C.O. K-75 receives further instruction from the Brigade S-3. These instructions include the designation of an AO on the west side of the Brigade AO, general areas in which the Brigade desires teams employed, and instructions that a specific trail junction is to be kept under surveillance at all times. C.O. K-75 reserves eight teams for support of 3rd Brigade in order to insure that five teams can be operational in the field at all times. On D-1 teams are briefed by G-2 and the Brigade Staff, conduct a VR of the operational area, and select LZ's and tentative ambush sites. A mission support site is established at the Brigade C.P. On D-Day five teams are deployed under the direction of the K-75 platoon leader. On the second day a team radio fails and a replacement is flown in by K-75. On the third day two fresh teams are inserted (after coordination with brigade) and two teams extracted, with the extracted teams immediately delivered to the Brigade C.P. for debriefing. On the fourth day, a team leader is injured, the team is replaced after coordination with brigade. On the fifth day a team reports movement, the Brigade is immediately informed, and shortly thereafter, the team initiates contact with three enemy and is in turn engaged by a larger element. The Brigade commander directs the team to employ artillery and maintain contact until a reaction force can be inserted. The team remains in position, the reaction force is airlanded and sweeps the area, and the team is extracted with the reaction force on order of the Brigade commander. The C.O. K-75 replaces the extracted team at location coordinated with brigade and continues to maintain five teams in the field.

5. LRP REPORTS:

a. Spot reports on contacts and sightings submitted to G-3 Opns immediately by both K-75 and the supported unit.

b. C.O. K-75 is responsible for maintaining current locations on all deployed teams. Night locations will be submitted to G-3 Opns by 2000 daily.

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Annex 6 (Long Range Patrol) to Annex A (Operations) to FIELD SOP
c. LRP After Action Report: A LRP After Action Report will be submitted to G-2, ATTN: G-2 Operations, by Co K (Ranger) 75th Inf and by Brigade S-2's for DS teams after each LRP mission. This report will be submitted in two copies each with an overlay, 1:50,000 scale, depicting the area of operations, insertion and extraction points, route of march, night halts, and any significant information. After Action Reports will be submitted NLT 24 hours after extraction of the team. This report will be classified CONFIDENTIAL upon completion. An info copy will be forwarded to ACofS, G-3. (Tab B, LRP/Hawkeye After Action Report).
d. LRP Weekly Status Report: The LRP Weekly Status Report will be submitted to ACofS, G-3, by C.O., Co K (Ranger) 75th Infantry as of 2400 hours each Sunday so as to reach this headquarters NLT 1500 hours, Monday. (Tab C, LRP Weekly Status Report)

WALKER
MG

TAB A: A - Personnel Table and Organization Chart
B - LRP/Hawkeye After Action Report
C - LRP Weekly Status Report

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Personnel Table and Organization Chart) to Appendix 6 (Long Range
 (1) to Annex A (Operations) to FIELD SOP

Headquarters Platoon	Grade	MOS	Total
Headquarters Section:			
Company Commander	CPT	71542	1
Executive Officer	LT	71542	1
First Sergeant	E8	11G5P	1
Supply Sergeant	E6	76Y4P	1
Company Clerk	E5	71H2P	1
Asst Clerk/Driver	E4	71B2P	1
Armorer	E4	76Y2P	1
Supply Clerk	E4	76Y2P	1
Driver	E3	11B1P	1
			<u>9</u>

Operations and Training Section			
Operations Officer	LT	71542	1
Operations Sergeant	E7	11F4P	1
Intelligence Sergeant	E6	11F4P	1
Asst Opns Sergeant	E6	11F4P	1
Asst Intel Sergeant	E5	11F4P	1
Operations Specialist	E5	11F2P	1
Clerk	E4	71B2P	1
Training NCO	E6	11B4P	1
Instructor	E6	11B4P	3
Instructor	E5	11B4P	1
Instructor	E5	11B4P	1
Clerk/Driver	E4	71B2P	1
			<u>14</u>

Transportation & Maintenance Section			
Motor Sergeant	E5	63B40	1
Mechanic	E4	64B20	1
Mechanic Helper	E3	63A10	1
Driver	E4	11B2P	3
			<u>6</u>

Mess Section			
Mess Steward	E7	94B40	1
1st Cook	E6	94B20	1
1st Cook	E5	94B20	2
Cook	E4	94B20	2
Cook's Helper	E3	94A10	1
			<u>7</u>

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Communications Section

Section Sergeant
R Field Radio Repairman

E7 05B4P
E5 31E2P

1
1

5 Mission Support Section

Section Sergeant
Chief Radio Operator
Radio Operator

E5 05B4P
E4 05C2P
E4 05B2P

5
5
5
17

3 Patrol Platoon HQ

Platoon Leader
Platoon Sergeant

LT 71542
E7 11F4P

3
3

15 Recon Patrols

Patrol Leader
Asst Patrol Leader
Radio Operator
Sr Sct Observer
Sct Observer

E6 11F4P
E5 11F4P
E4 11B2P
E4 11B2P
E3 11B1P

15
15
15
15
15

15 Hawkeye Patrols

Patrol Leader
Asst Patrol Leader
Radio Operator
Sr Sct Observer
Sct Observer
Sct Observer

E6 11F4P
E5 11F4P
E4 11B2P
E4 11B2P
E3 11B1P
E3 11B1P

15
15
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