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

AVDDA-SC

31 July 1970

SUBJECT: (U) Operational Report of Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry for period ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

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

Section 1 (U) Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

1. (C) General.

a. During the period covered by this report, Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry continued to support 1st Brigade, 2nd Brigade, 1-10th Cavalry and 2-8th Infantry (Mech).

b. Task Organization. Throughout the reporting period the Company had no attachments. Two (2) Sniper Teams were detached to MACV District Headquarters. Company A, B 4th Aviation Battalion and 1-10th Air Cavalry provided air support. The supported unit provided general support.

c. Commanders and Principal Staff.

Commanding Officer	01 May 70 to 13 May 70	CPT Kim H. Olmstead
	14 May 70 to 21 Jul 70	CPT William A. Nunn III
	22 Jul 70 to 31 Jul 70	CPT Larry E. Penley
Executive Officer	01 May 70 to 26 May 70	1LT John T. Martin
	27 May 70 to 31 May 70	1LT Henry L. Alderson
Operation Officer	01 May 70 to 26 May 70	1LT Henry L. Alderson
	27 May 70 to 31 Jul 70	1LT Theodore D. Davis

d. Mission. The mission of Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry is 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.

2. (C) Intelligence.

a. The weather in the operational area was warm with light rains generally favorable for all operations in the Western Binh Dinh Province. During the early

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morning ground haze and fog is normally expected in the mountainous regions when precipitation is high.

b. The terrain varied greatly in the operational area. In the Northern portion of Binh Dinh Province, the terrain is rugged, mountainous and steep valleys. The Southern portion of the Province consists of rolling hills and rice paddies.

c. The enemy, 95th B Regiment conducted operations in the South-Western portion of Binh Dinh Province. The 3rd NVA Division operated in the North-Western portion of the Province. The enemy continued to travel in small groups of four (4) to eight (8) personnel using trails and waterways as routes of movement.

### 3. (C) Operations.

#### a. General.

(1) During the reporting period Company K (Rangers) 75th Infantry conducted a total of 164 missions, 114 separate enemy sightings, 15 enemy KIA and 1 POW. This unit supported the 1st Brigade in operations; Wayne Murdle, Wayne Wind, Wayne Fast, and Wayne Span, 2nd Brigade in operation Putnam Paragon, 2-8th Infantry (Mech) in operation Brandies Blue and 1-10th Cavalry in operation Park Silver in the An Khe area.

#### b. Highlights.

(1) On 22 July 1970 a stay behind operation at BR 349340 was conducted on an abandoned fire base, (Soper). The Ranger Team observed four (4) VC/VMC walking on the fire base gathering sandbags and other materials. The team initiated contact resulting in one (1) enemy KIA and one (1) POW. The team was extracted and a new team was inserted. This team observed three (3) VC/VMC on the fire base. The team initiated contact resulting in one (1) enemy KIA.

(2) On 26 July 1970 two (2) Ranger Teams were inserted approximately ten (10) kilometers North Northwest of An Khe on a search and clear operation. The teams found fifteen (15) large bunkers and ten (10) hootches with approximately one hundred (100) chickens and one hundred (100) pigs in the area. The area had signs of recent use, however, there were negative enemy sightings.

(3) On 29 June 1970 two (2) Sniper Teams were OPCON to MACV in Tuy An District, Phu Yen Province, with the mission of interdicting VC/NVA operations and movement. The Sniper Teams were employed along known trails and routes of enemy movement. The teams established an ambush position and observed approximately twenty-four (24) VC/NVA crossing an open field. The teams engaged the enemy pinning them down until artillery was employed resulting in eleven (11) probable enemy KIA.

### 4. Training.

a. Unit training. This Company instituted training programs to test, evaluate and improve Unit capabilities in Long Range Patrolling training programs, as standardized by the Division G-3 consists of the following:

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- (1) First Aid 3 hours
- (2) Communications 3 hours
- (3) Combat Intelligence 2 hours
- (4) Weapons and Demolition 9 hours
- (5) Physical Training 6 hours
- (6) Map Reading 9 hours
- (7) Artillery Adjustment 6 hours
- (8) Air Support 4 hours
- (10) River Crossing 3½ hours
- (11) Rappelling 5 hours
- (12) Immediate Action Drill 2 hours

b. Schools. Company K (Ranger) 75th Infantry received and filled quotas to Division and higher schools as follows:

School	Quota	Attended	Graduated
(1) MACV Recondo School	18	16	12
(2) Division Recondo School	N/A	81	65
(3) Division Sniper School	10	10	8

5. (U) Logistics. N/A

6. (G) Organization.

a. General. During the reporting period, the 3rd platoon was distributed to 1st and 2nd platoon. This was due to the lack of officers and enlisted men, this reorganization provided better control and leadership capabilities in Ranger operation.

b. Strength. The authorized and assigned strength as of the end of the reporting period is as follows:

	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
(1) Authorized	6	0	218	224

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	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
(2) Assigned	5	0	199	204
(3) Others	0	0	6, (2) KCS, (4) Montagnards	

c. Replacement and Rotations. The Company received a total of 2 officers and 103 enlisted replacements. During the same period, 3 officers and 88 enlisted men rotated out of the Company.

d. Casualties.

Company K (Ranger)	May			Jun			Jul		
	KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	WIA	MIA	KIA	WIA	MIA
	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0

e. Morale and Personnel Services.

(1) Awards and Decorations. During the reporting period the following awards and decorations were awarded:

SS	BSV	BSS	AM	AMV	ACMV	ACMS
0	1	18	44	1	2	2

(2) Promotions. Total promotions by grade during the reporting period were as follows:

E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	1LT	CPT
1	37	23	5	0	0	0	0	1

(3) Rest and Recuperation. During the reporting period the Company received 37 allocations and used 36 R & R allocations.

7. Others. N/A

Section 2 (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Observation. Adequate radio communications are essential to Ranger operation. Due to the terrain and great distance between Ranger Teams in the field and the Net Control Station, communications are either poor or require multiple radio relay stations.

b. Evaluation. In utilizing FM radios, it has been found that when a terrain feature is between, and at a higher elevation than, the transmitting and receiving stations, communications cannot be established. Additionally, this unit has teams operating at distances of thirty (30) to eighty (80) kilometers from the Net Control Station. The short range of FM communications equipment requires that extensive radio relay systems be established, resulting in unacceptable delay, and often distortion of the message to and from the teams in the field. This unit has recently

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started to experiment with AM radios (specifically the AN/PRC - 74) in order to overcome the difficulties.

c. Recommendation. That serious consideration be given to augmenting the present TOE by authorizing a family of AM radios to Ranger Companies.

1 Incl  
Annex A (Contact and Results)  
to Operational Report - Lessons  
Learned.

*Larry B. Penley*  
LARRY B. PENLEY  
CPT, Infantry  
Commanding

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(Contact and Results) to operational report - Lessons Learned.

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MAY

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
R-5	BR 409608	02 May	1 en KIA
R-11	BR 317596	04 May	UNK Res.
R-22	BR 309360	09 May	Rec. en sniper fire
R-7	BR 275545	10 May	1 en KIA
R-5	BR 355558	12 May	1 en KIA
R-25	BR 355521	13 May	1 en KIA, 1 en WIA
R-4	BR 293548	13 May	1 en KIA
R-5	BR 369554	14 May	1 en KIA
R-2, R-6	BR 294264	15 May	UNK Res.
R-4	BR 357532	17 May	UNK Res.
R-11	BR 309724	29 May	UNK Res.
R-2	BR 361608	21 May	UNK Res.
R-7	BR 370337	30 May	UNK Res.

JUNE

R-7	BR 369336	01 Jun	Rec. en sniper fire
R-7	BR 368336	01 Jun	1 en KIA
R-27	BR 137698	03 Jun	1 Montagnard CIA
R-22	BR 078704	04 Jun	UNK Res.
R-30	BR 101709	04 Jun	UNK Res.
R-2	BR 194194	04 Jun	UNK Res.
R-1	BR 158307	04 Jun	Rec. en sniper fire
R-13	BR 097705	07 Jun	UNK Res.
R-18	BR 197345	09 Jun	UNK Res.
R-14	BR 208286	09 Jun	UNK Res.
R-26	BR 366312	10 Jun	1 en KIA
R-13	BR 097705	07 Jun	1 en KIA
R-13	BR 159272	10 Jun	UNK Res.
R-15	BR 342615	16 Jun	UNK Res.
R-4	BR 338513	19 Jun	1 en KIA
R-16	BR 341349	22 Jun	UNK Res.
R-4	BR 295380	25 Jun	UNK Res.
R-17	BR 367312	25 Jun	UNK Res.
R-7	BR 379379	25 Jun	UNK Res.
R-26	BR 282372	26 Jun	1 WIA friendly
R-21	BR 309331	27 Jun	UNK Res.
R-6	BR 575897	30 Jun	UNK Res.

JULY

R-24	BR 599900	02 Jul	UNK Res.
R-22	BR 578906	02 Jul	UNK Res.
R-21	BR 605891	05 Jul	UNK Res.
R-16	BR 324346	06 Jul	UNK Res.
R-7	BR 345213	07 Jul	UNK Res.

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INCLOSURE

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## Annex A (Contact and results) to operational report - Lessons Learned Cont

JULY

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
R-23	BR 609970	08 Jul	UNK Res.
R-13	BR 563978	11 Jul	1 en WIA
R-26	BR 298272	13 Jul	UNK Res.
R-26	BR 303265	15 Jul	UNK Res.
R-25	BR 281270	16 Jul	1 en KIA
R-23	BR 263278	17 Jul	UNK Res.
R-5	BR 280272	17 Jul	UNK Res.
R-25	BR 271325	18 Jul	UNK Res.
R-13	BR 370552	19 Jul	1 en WIA
R-3	BR 278308	21 Jul	UNK Res.
R-12, R-16	BR 349340	23 Jul	1 en KIA, 1 en WIA, CIA
R-3 R-5	BR 349340	23 Jul	1 en KIA
R-3 R-5	BR 349340	24 Jul	UNK Res.
R-3 R-5	BR 349340	24 Jul	UNK Res.
R-3	BR 237161	30 Jul	2 en KIA

<u>TEAM</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>RESULTS</u>
R-6, R-14	Phu Yen Province	1 - 4 Jul 70	1 en KIA 8 probable en KIA
R-6, R-14	Phu Yen Province	5 - 11 Jul 70	1 en KIA 4 probable en KIA
R-6, R-14	Phu Yen Province	12 - 18 Jul 70	1 en KIA 19 probable en KIA
R-6, R-14	PHU Yen Province	19 - 25 Jul 70	4 en KIA 2 probable en KIA
R-6, R-14	Phu Yen Province	26 - 31 Jul 70	1 en KIA 4 probable en KIA

Remarks: On 29 July 1970 documents and equipment were captured by R-6 and R-14 as follows:

- (1) VC SOI
- (2) Many enemy documents and papers
- (3) 12 US Grenades
- (4) 8 Chi Com Grenades
- (5) Unknown number of medical supplies

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