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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 5TH CAVALRY  
9TH INFANTRY DIVISION  
APO 96370

G.D.S.

AVDE-CT

16 April 1968

From: Commanding Officer, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry

To: CCC, 3d Marine Division  
ATTN: G-3  
FPO 966C2

Subject: Combat Operations After Action Report

Reference: FRAGO 8-68

1. Operation Task Force Kilo, Phase I.
2. Initiated 291300H Mar 68 to 022400H Apr 68.
3. The operation was conducted in Gio Linh Sector of Quang Tri Province and in an area cornered on the NE at YD2376, on the NW at YD1873, on the SE at YD2668, and on the SW at YD2168.

4. Command Headquarters: HQ, 3/5 Cav

5. Sqn CO: LTC Hugh J. Bartley  
B Trp CO: CPT Anthony K. Holtry  
C Trp CO: CPT Peter F. Scott  
C Co, 2/34 CO: CPT Robert J. Kelly  
A Co, 1/502 CO: CPT Spiegleburg

6. Task Organization:

<u>TM B</u>	<u>TM C</u>	<u>TM D</u>	<u>TM E</u>	<u>Sqn CP</u>
B, 3/5 Cav(-)	C, 3/5 Cav Plt, C/2-34	C/2-34(-) Plt, A/1-502	A/1-502 Plt, B, 3/5 Cav	Prov ACAV Sect AVLB Sect

7. Supporting Forces: Artillery Support was provided by 12th Mar Regt and 1/40 Arty Bn.

8. Intelligence: Units expected to be encountered during the operation were the 3d Bn, 27th NVA Inf Regt; 4th Bn, 27th NVA Inf Regt; elements of the 48th NVA Regt, and the K-400 IF Inf Co. Interrogation of PW by ARVN units revealed that the unit contacted was the 5th Bn, 52d NVA Regt, also that this was their first major battle. Terrain was generally flat with rice paddies and dikes, or was covered with waist high vegetation affording good concealment for dismounted troops. Weather during the operation was fair and warm with early morning fog, which limited visibility until around 0900H.

9. Mission: 3/5 Cav(-TM C) attacks in zone at 0600H on 30 Mar 68 to seize obj Alpha, secure Rte #1; and continue attack to north on order.

10. Concept of Operation: On 30 Mar 68 at 0600H the Sqn(-) was to attack along axis Gold and Silver to seize obj Pine and Birch. Assault would be conducted with one Tm on each axis of advance and with Tm D in reserve. Sqn(-) would continue attack north on order to seize objectives Oak, Maple, Elm, and Fir (see Annex A). Tm C would conduct similar operation while OPCON to 2d ARVN Regt (see Annex A).

11. Execution: On 28 Mar 68 Tm C moved from Dong Ha to to secure psn Cherry and prepare area for Sqn Frwd CP to locate in that area on 29 Mar 68. On 29 Mar 68 Tm C moved from Dong Ha to psn Poplar (see Annex A) to stage and prepare for operation with 2d ARVN Regt. Also on the 29th, the Sqn Frwd CP and Tm D moved to psn Cherry to stage prior to moving out on the morning of 30 Mar 68.

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At 0600H on the of 30 Mar 68, Tm B and Tm E moved out of psn Cherry to attack northeast on axis Gold and Silver to objectives Pine and Birch (see Annex A) These objectives were secured by mid-morning without contact or incident. At approximately 1300H that afternoon, Tm D and the Frwd CP moved to a location vic YD219675 where the Frwd CP remained throughout the operation. Also on the 30th, Tm C moved to vic obj B and became OPCOM to 2d ARVN Regt. It remained at this location until 31 Mar 68 when it moved out to attack north. Late on the afternoon of 30 Mar 68, Tm B and Tm E consolidated their locations for the night in the vic of YD235699.

At approximately 0900H 31 Mar 68, Tm B and Tm E moved out from their night psn to attack northwest to objectives Maple and Oak. Tm E closed obj Oak early in the afternoon and Tm B closed Maple about mid-afternoon. Again, neither Tm B or Tm E encountered opposition throughout the day. Also Tm D (-it's Inf Plt) moved east into 2d ARVN sector to aid Tm C in their mission for that day. They completed a sweep mission with the ARVN Inf without contact and returned to secure Sgdn Frwd CP late that afternoon.

At 0700H, 1 Apr 68 (D-Day), both Tm B and Tm E attacked to the north to seize objectives Elm and Fir. With no opposition their sweeps were completed by early afternoon; they then went into defensive posture for the night.

On 2 Apr 68, with the operation drawing to a close, Tm B and Tm E swept down Hwy #1 to the Frwd CP. At this time Tm C was released OPCOM to 2d ARVN Regt and returned to vic of the Frwd CP.

During the entire operation neither Tm's B, D, or E encountered any opposition, other than a few land mines. However Tm C on 30 Mar 68, while conducting a search and clear operation with the 2d ARVN Regt, ran up against a well dug in NVA En vic YD257707. Contact was established at 1210H and continued through out the afternoon and into the early evening. Contact was broken at 1945H at which time Tm C withdrew south to reorganize and prepare for the attack at dawn. However, during that night the enemy took advantage of the darkness and withdrew to the north, leaving the battle area covered with dead and with discarded equipment. Results of the C Trp action found 9 US KHA, 2 US MHA, and 37 US WHA. Enemy losses were 182 KIA, 4 POW, 49 small arms, 13 crew served weapons, and 2 radios. Also during the action, Tm C lost 3 APC's.

12. Results of Overall Operation:

a. Friendly Losses: 9 US KHA, 2 US MHA, 20 WHA (EVAC), 30 WHA (Slight), and 3 APC's destroyed. 4 tanks, 3 APC's, 1 VTR damaged by mines.

b. Enemy Losses: See section 10 last para.

13. Administrative Matters: None

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: None

15. Commander's Analysis: None

16. Recommendations: None.

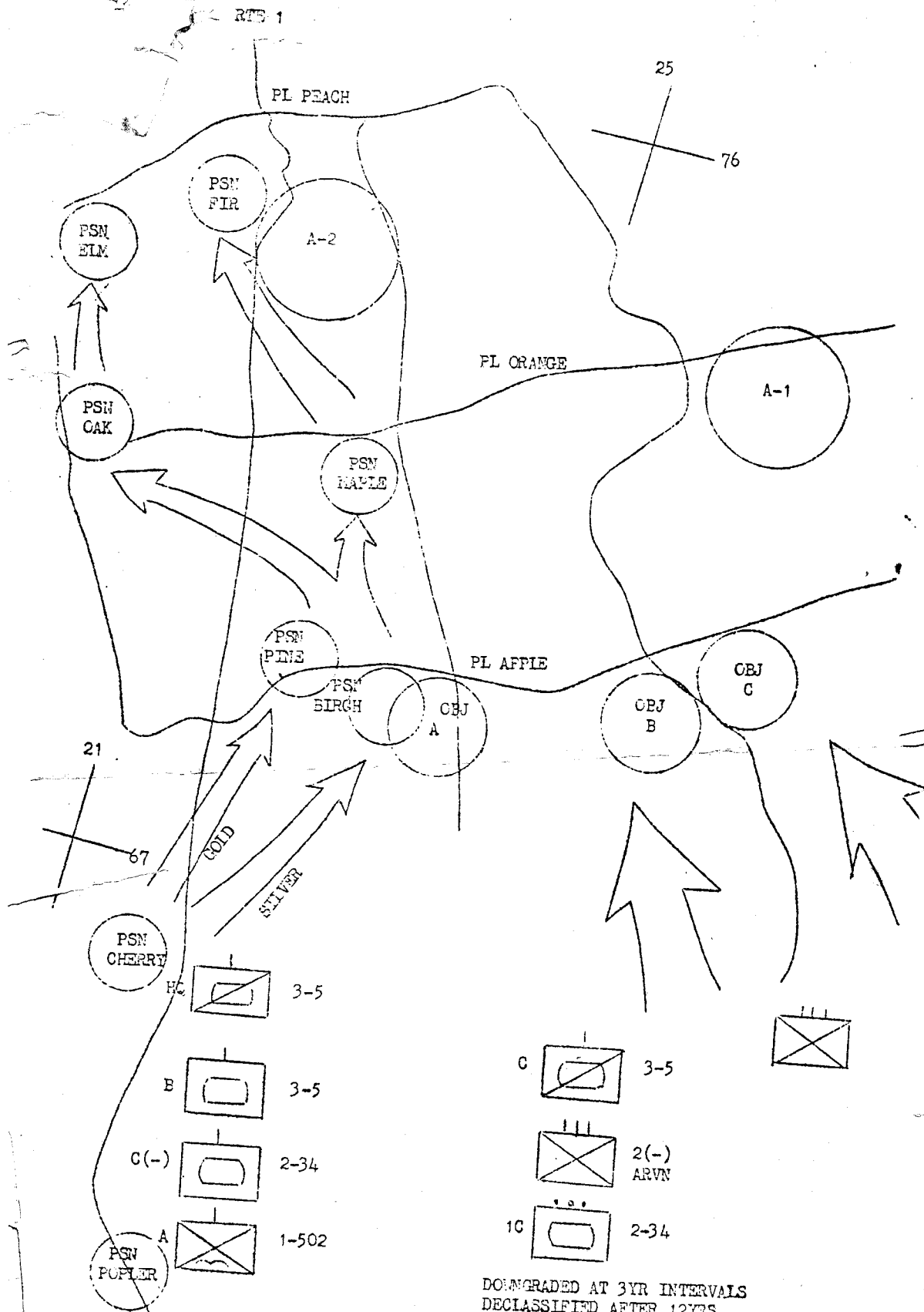
FOR THE COMMANDER:

*David L. Webb*  
DAVID L. WEBB  
1Lt Armor  
S-3 Air

Annexes:

A-Opn Overlay

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DOWNGRADED AT 3YR INTERVALS  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12YRS  
 DOD DIR 5200.10