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PART III

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SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS, MARCH 1968

1. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS. (The following eight operations had moderate to significant contact):

a. Operation JEB STUART. During the period 1-31 March, the 1stACD continued search and destroy operations in Quang Tri/Thua Thien Provinces with moderate to significant contact for the period. On 3 March, B and C/1/502 engaged an unknown size enemy element, killing 60 NVA. On 8 March, A/1/502 engaged an estimated 2 NVA companies throughout the day accounting for 26 NVA KIA and on 9 March in coordination with B/1/502 and C/1/9 accounted for an additional 35 NVA KIA. On 12 March, D/2/5 engaged an estimated 400 NVA and with ARA and 1/9 accounted for 59 NVA KIA. On 25 March, A and D/1/8 Cav engaged an element of the 14th Battalion, 5th NVA Regiment. A/1/9 Cav supported with gunships and the contact lasted for approximately 10 hours accounting for 66 NVA KIA. Operation JEB STUART terminated 310800H March 1968. Casualties for the period were: USA: 105 KIA, 628 WIA; USMC: 7 KIA, 14 WIA; Enemy: 1066 KIA, 439 DET, 42 PW/VC, 36 PW/NVA, 2 Returnee/VC, 101 Civil Defendants, 258 Innocent Civilians, 230 IWC and 37 CSWC. Cumulative results are: USA: 284 KIA, 1717 WIA; USMC: 7 KIA, 17 WIA; USN: 1 WIA; Enemy: 3268 KIA, 723 DET, 51 PW/VC, 68 PW/NVA, 2 Returnee/VC, 1 Returnee/NVA, 115 Civil Defendants, 486 Innocent Civilians, 585 IWC and 148 CSWC.

b. Operation WHEELER/WALLOWA. During the period 1-31 March, the Americal Division continued search and destroy operations in Quang Nam and Quang Tin Provinces with moderate contact for the period. On 4 March, C/1/1 Cav engaged an unknown size enemy force for 2½ hours killing 38 VC. On 9 March, C/1/1 and A/3/21 engaged a large size NVA force accounting for 62 NVA KIA. On 11 March, B/3/21, while moving from their night defensive position on a search and destroy operation, received SA/AW fire from two directions. As they moved forward, they received sporadic mortar fire and AW fire from the north, northeast and southeast. Supporting arms were employed and C/2/1, with one platoon of F/17 Cav, moved to the contact site. D/2/1 and D/3/21 moved to the west and came into contact. Companies A, B and C/4/31 set up blocking positions to the northeast of the original contact. The enemy broke contact at dark leaving 78 NVA KIA. In a one hour fierce fire fight with an unknown size enemy force, A/1/1 and D/1/20 accounted for 64 NVA KIA. On 19 March, E/1/6 and F/17 Cav made contact with a VC unit and in a 2½ hour

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pitched battle accounted for 112 VC KIA, 12 IWC and 14 CSWC, while suffering only 18 USA KIA. Casualties for the period were: USA: 35 KIA, 331 WIA, 81 Refugees; Enemy: 1242 KIA, 484 Detainees, 12 PW/VC, 3 PW/NVA, 1 Returnee/VC, 21 Civil Defendants, 247 Innocent Civilians, 90 IWC and 43 CSWC. Cumulative results are: USA: 521 KIA, 2495 WIA; USAF: 1 KIA; USMC: 2 WIA; 6683 Refugees; Enemy: 7376 KIA, 3327 Detainees, 162 PW/VC, 51 PW/NVA, 28 Returnee/VC, 4 Returnee/NVA, 391 Civil Defendants, 2642 Innocent Civilians, 1113 IWC and 243 CSWC.

c. Operation FORD. During the period 14-20 March, the 1st Marine Division conducted search and destroy operations in Thua Thien Province with significant contact for the period. On 14 March, E/2/3 engaged an unknown size enemy unit, killing 11 NVA. On 18 March, E/2/3 had a heavy contact for 3½ hours with an unknown size enemy force. After the enemy broke contact, a search of the area revealed fresh dug graves containing 18 NVA. Also during the same period, 1/1(-) engaged an estimated 250 NVA. All contact ceased at 182000H with 59 NVA KIA and 2 IWC. Operation FORD terminated at 201800H March 1968. Casualties for the period were: USMC: 13 KIA, 113 WIA; USN: 1 KIA; Enemy: 145 KIA, 58 Detainees, 1 PW/VC, 4 PW/NVA, 2 Returnee/NVA, 2 Civil Defendants, 12 Innocent Civilians, 15 IWC and 4 CSWC.

d. Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE. During the period 1-31 March, the 3rd Marines (-)(Reinf), continued search and destroy operations in Quang Tri Province with moderate to significant contact for the period. On 1 March, M/3/1 came into heavy contact with a large enemy force while crossing a river by LVT. I Co moved to left flank of Co M securing southern portion of village. M Co secured river bank and while moving forward again came under heavy and accurate sniper fire. Contact continued until after dark. Enemy casualties were 36 NVA KIA, 3 PW, and 7 IWC. On the 2nd and 3rd of March, BLT 3/1 made search of village and the island south of the village discovering 83 NVA KIA, 1 PW/ and 22 Weapons. On 5 March, 2/4 chopped into the operation relieving 3/1. On 7 March, A and D/1/3 engaged an unknown size enemy unit while sweeping Phu Tai Village. The village was surrounded and on the morning of 8 March, a sweep of the area resulted in 27 NVA KIA and 22 Weapons. On 7 March, 2/4 also had a large contact accounting for 15 NVA KIA and 7 Weapons. On the afternoon of 13 March, H and E/2/4 made contact with a large enemy unit while conducting sweep of Lan Xuan Village resulting in 31 NVA KIA. On 18 March, 2/4 Command Group with companies E, G and H made a coordinated attack starting at 0645H after the objectives were prepped with artillery and Naval gunfire. E and G companies were hit with heavy SA and rockets. A/S were conducted along with artillery fire resulting in 130 NVA KIA, 4 PW's, 17 IWC and 4 CSWC.

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