

# CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY  
"RED WARRIORS"  
APO San Francisco 96262

AVDDB-121

27 March 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 144 for 260001H Mar to 262400H Mar 70.

## 1. (C) Operations Summary

### A. The 1/12 cont opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFF.

(1) A Co cont FSB construction and security; conducts a daily sweep, and maintains an ambush vic 528824; neg significant sightings or contacts.

(2) B Co cont RIF in area of interest bounded by checkpoints 480810, 500810, 480790, 500790 and establishes night ambushes. 3/B at 496804 found a 3' wide trail which cannot be seen from the air, hardpacked with neg recent use. 2/B at 501798 discovered 3 hootches, 6x6x4', 7-8 months old, neg recent use. 1/B at 498797 located the major trail of interest, hard packed trail which runs N-S, 6' wide and visible from the air. Along the main trail 1/B found wood stacked in piles and a camouflaged tube, 5x2', made of wood with steel bands; inside were 19 (4" dia), tubes made of fiberglass, an aluminum plate was tacked to the outer frame. On the same trail 1/B found a bridge, 5' wide, 6' long; made from 6" logs for frame and 2" logs for the flooring; rocket had partially destroyed the bridge. Nearby at 598794 the stream bank had been cleared and the ground covered with a clay, sand and water mixture..

(3) C Co cont to RIF in area of interest bounded by checkpoints 490850, 510830, 510850, 490830 and establishes night ambushes. The KCS of 2/C reports a 3 company sized element had occupied the area around the hootches at 497838, approximately 15 days ago; they moved to the west. At 497835 C Co received 25-30 rds of S/A fire from 2-3 individuals located to the SSW 50m; resulting in 1 US WIA. G/S received ground to air fire ~~which~~

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while expending on the SEL, from 500m W of this position; 4.2" employed on the second SEL. 3/C vic 496833 found 1 hootch, 10x10x5', containing 300 lbs rice, built and used 3 days ago by an undetermined number of people. In vic of 497832, 3/C found 2 bunkers, 4x6x4', with 1' 0/H and 3 hootches, 20x12x12' 5' off the ground, two of the hootches had been used as sleepers and the other for storage; 5-6 indiv had occupied these within past 24H. 1 and 3/C had 2-50 lb pigs wander in their night location at 497835, both died as a result of S/A wounds. 1/C found at 495835 a 2½' wide E-W trail not visible from the air; used by an unknown number of people in the past 24H. 3/C at 497832 found a 12" wide, E-WNW, high speed trail, not visible from the air with neg recent use. At 498834, 2/C found 2 hootches, 8x8x5', and 3 hootches, 4x6x5', used 2 weeks ago; the smaller hootches contained 3 cow bells, 4 SKS casings and a fish line. Nearby at 503833 2/C observed a gorge with 20 acres of potatoes and bananas, neg recent cultivation.

(4) D Co cont RIF in area bounded by checkpoints 531828, 542828, 535813, 547813, concentrates on the trail system and conducts night ambushes. 2/D amb at 503784 spotted 1 individual 25m away wearing black PJ's, no weapon visible; indiv fled east when M-79 and S/A were employed.

(5) Recon cont to RIF in area bounded by checkpoints 531828, 542828, 535813, 547813 and conducts night ambushes. At 540820, the point man sighted and engaged one indiv carrying rucksack and weapon, 2 additional individuals were also observed carrying weapons. The individuals were wearing khaki shirts and 1 was wearing a GI helmet liner. While sweeping the SEL Recon

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found 1 Montagnard basket,  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$ ' containing: 3' length of cloth with rice, GI sandbg of rice, (10 lbs), several small fruit baskets, tin pots and pans C-rat cans and accessory packs, 7 Chicom Mauser rds, one Chicom ammo pouch; vic 541820 a second basket, 12x10", was found with: pots and pans, new pipe, fresh fruit, sheet of plastic, and GI helmet liner. Vic 542819 Recon found a blood trail running along blue line from west to east vic of previous engagement, will investigate in the morning.

B. Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, beginning 15 Feb 70:

US Losses: 30 WIA; 4 KIA.

Rdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 9 enemy KIA, (BC); 4 S/A CIA; 3 radios, 4 field phones, 4 switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: None.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*John C. Frinab*  
1LT Armor  
FOR GORDON S. AXELSON  
MAJ, Infantry  
S-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
1ST BATTALION 12TH INFANTRY  
"RED WARRIORS"  
APO San Francisco 96262

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28 March 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 145 for 270001H Mar to 272400H Mar 70.

## 1. (C) Operations Summary

### A. The 1/12 Inf cont opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFF.

(1) A Co cont FSB security and construction and establishes an ambush vic 525824. Vic bunker 7 a trip flare went off, S/A employed, neg movement or findings.

(2) B Co continues to RIF and ambush in area of interest bounded by checkpoints 480810, 500810, 500810, 500790, 480790. Ambushes to be designated and oriented on major trail in area. At 495797, while working the major trail, B Co(-) found where 6" diameter trees had been cut and used to show the trail bed. The trail was hardpacked and barefoot and bootprints traveled east about 1 week ago; tire tracks were running both east and west. General trace of trail is 496797, 497797, 498794. At 495798 B Co(-) found a bridge 30m long, 5' above deep water; secondary trail intersect the main trail at bridge. This secondary trail runs NW-SE. Both tire tracks and footprints crossing the bridge were 1 week old. Next to the present structure was a partially destroyed structure, also a bridge. Vic of 495778 B Co found 3 hootches, 10x8x6', 6' off the ground, 2 w/ out walls, 6-9 months old; also 3 bunkers, 8x12x13', w/ 3' O/H and connecting tunnels. Inside the bunkers were 3 expended US smoke grenades; 3 bicycle rims; 1 front bicycle frame; 1 flashlight, NVA; parts of NVA ammo can, 2 C-ration cans, eaten 1 week ago; a "Standard Radio Corp" battery UM-2C-1.5V; 1 glass bottle, 4x2", with a wire filament used as a lightbulb; 3 electrical blasting caps; and scraps of paper with Vietnamese

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writing. Area could house 30 indiv, last used 1 week ago by 3-4 indiv. At 495796 B Co(-) found 1 hootch, 8x8x12', 3' off the ground, used by 2-3 indiv in the last week; hootch on a 1½' wide trail, not visible from the air. Nearby was a hootch, 25x18x8', 6' off the ground; 6 mo old but used 3 weeks ago by 2-3 indiv. 3/B at 493799 found an E-W trail, branching off the main trail on AZ 310°, 12" wide, not visible from the air; used by 2-3 indiv in the last 24H. At 487797, 3/B found trail intersection, on an AZ 160°, 18" wide had one set of footprints heading S, 2-3 weeks old; the other was 6" wide, E-W, with no recent use; Neither was visible from the air. Vic 493799 2/B located a punji stake oriented NW in a tree, trail 4-5' wide at this point, est 1-2 indiv in area last week. Summary of Trails: main trail runs NW-SE along ridge line 498794 to 494798 then along AZ 310° to 495805, possibly from there to west vic 490805. Trail running south AZ 160° from 487797 was definitely cut by NVA unit; undergrowth had been cleared, est 2 sqds, (16 indiv) did work.

(3) C Co cont to amb in assigned AO, bounded by checkpoints 490850, 510850, 510830, 490830; ambushes oriented along trails. 3/C ambush at 496839 took 10 rds sniper fire AZ 60°, rng 75m, est 1 indiv, amb had just begun moving to the SE. 1/C at 493838 found 3 hootches, 8x10x5', 4' off the ground, est 6 months old, neg recent use; contained 2 banana knives, 3 sleeping mats and 2 baskets.

(4) D Co cont to RIF S and W to locate major E-W trail then ambush on area of interest, center of mass 502775. At 503782 D Co found an 18" wide trail, E-W, not visible from the air; neg recent use; near main trail was an NVA pouch that was not there yesterday. Vic of 504775

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a bridge 15' long 7' wide, 6 months to 1 year old with neg recent use. D Co found numerous punji stakes at 506767 and 1 unarmed spear type booby trap, 4-6 months old.

(5) Recon cont to amb in the area of interest bounded by checkpoints 528828 549828, 549810, 538810. Neg significant findings or contacts.

B. Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, starting 15 Feb 70:

US losses: 30 WIA; 4 KIA.

Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 9 enemy KIA (BC); 4 S/A CIA; 3 radios, 4 field phones, 4 switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: None.

*John C Frenick*  
1LT ARMOR

FOR GORDON & AXELSON  
MAJ INFANTRY  
S-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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"RED WARRIORS"  
APO San Francisco 96262

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29 March 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 146 for 280001H Mar to 282400H Mar 70.

1. (C) Operations Summary

A. The 1/12 Inf cont opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFF.

(1) A Co cont FSB construction and security; also maintains three ambushes 517817, 544815, 523823, Reports neg significant sightings or contacts.

(2) B Co cont RIF and ambush operations in area bounded by checkpoints 480810, 500810, 500790, 480890, oriented generally to the NW. 3/B at 488798 found a trail marker pointing to the south which directed them to a trail 1' wide running north to south, not visible from the air. The trail had had neg recent use. Beside this trail was a hollow tree with a cover that could have been used for storage, 6 months old. At 493799, 2/B found a 1½' wide trail running E-W; much undergrowth, neg recent use; not visible from the air. 3/B vic 487798 found a 12' long, 8-10" wide bridge which had been partially destroyed, 6-8 months old with neg recent use. At 487799 3/B discovered an old hootch, 10x14x6', neg recent use. B/Co at 487805 found 1 hootch, 6x8x5', 1' off the ground, and a fireplace 6-9 months old. Area appeared to have been used by 3-4 indiv in the last 24H, they departed on a 1' wide trail AZ 270°, not visible from the air. Old punji stakes were placed throughout the area in the trees waist high and on the ground.

(3) C Co continues to ambush in area of interest bounded by checkpoints, 490850, 510850, 510830, 490830; oriented on trails in the AO. At 498836 3c/C ambush heard an est 5-6 indiv and received several rounds of S/A fire from 75m west. A scream was heard when they returned S/A fire. While maneuvering to sweep the SEL they found 1 KIA wearing khaki trousers, green

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shirt and webb belt with 2 magazines and ammo; also 1 AK-47, (SN12051535).  
1c/C ambush at 492837 observed and engaged 4 individuals on AZ 255° and  
180° at 20-30m, neg results. At 493826 1b/C amb observed 2 individuals 30-40m  
away and engaged with S/A. A sweep of the SEL revealed 1 KIA with AK-47  
(SN2712), wearing green fatigues, webb belt, 2 US grenades and poncho, also  
found a heavy blood trail moving on an AZ of 300°. 1/C at 491839 detected  
movement, sounded like someone kicking a can, S/A employed, neg results.

(4) D Co ambushes in present area of interest in morning and then moves  
to PZ vic 510765 for extraction to CAMP RADCLIFF. Rundown of bridges found  
so far: 25 Mar, 503776, 40' long 6' wide; 26 Mar, 498787, 30' long, 6' wide;  
25 Mar, 504773, 15' long 6' wide; 25 Mar, 503771, 30' long, 6' wide. Trace  
of trail in 5076: 503771 to 505768 to 507768 to 510765. D Co at 504764  
received 30 rds S/A fire at thier PZ, AZ 240°, rng 75-100m; est 2 indiv  
neg casualties; G/S expended.

(5) Recon cont RIF and ambush operation in assigned area. At 546820 one  
ambush found a grave where the body had been exhumed, still contained a  
poncho, 2-3 days old.

B. Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, since 15 Feb 70:

US losses: 30 WIA; 4 KIA.

Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 11 enemy KIA, (BC); 6 S/A KIA; 3 radios, 4  
field phones, 4 switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: None.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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GORDON S. AXELSON  
MAJ, Infantry  
S-3



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30 March 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 147 for 290001H Mar to 292400H Mar 70.

1. (C) Operations Summary

A. The 1/12 Inf con opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFFE.

(1) A Co cont FSB security and construction and maintains three ambushes at 517819, 524815, 523824. The FSB received several S/A rds from AZ 320<sup>0</sup>, rng 300m, when Gladiator 27 was on a final approach to land. Aircraft returned fire; also A Co returned S/A fire, and MG fire. 81mm was employed.

(2) B Co continues ambush operation in assigned area bounded by checkpoints 480810, 500810, 500790, 480790. B Co vic 479811 found one hootch, 8x10x8', built 6-8 months ago and improved w/in the last two weeks, by 1-2 indiv. At 473817 B Co found a trail junction, one trail running NW, the other running N. The second had been deliberately camouflaged with branches and brush; the NW trail is 6' wide and visible from the air. Along the second trail were 2 hootches, 10x10x5', 2 months old, partially completed, area used by 4-5 indiv in the last 2 weeks. At 474818 B Co found 1 hootch, 15x25x12', and 2 hootches, 15x30x12'; one had a false floor with a space for 1 indiv, 3-4 months. Area est to have been occupied by 10-15 indiv at one time; the area contained: 1 NVA shitter; 4 old fighting positions; clothesline; chicken coop; 5x2' table; water buffalo hitching post; spider hole; and a second

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trail intersecting the main trail, (following AZ 270°) going to the North. Secondary trail then turned NE and returned to the main trail at 474818. Three signs were located at the trail junction.

- 1) NÔI NGA Loidéóó
- 2) AIACH NHUM<sup>3</sup> TRA TNREN OMHÚQ \*
- 3) not readable.

(3) C Co cont ambush operations in assigned area bounded by checkpoints 490850, 510850, 510830, 490830. Neg significant sightings or contacts.

(4) D Co located in Bn trains area preparing for training cycle after brief stand down.

(5) Recon cont amb opn in assigned area bounded by checkpoints 537827, 548827, 548810, 537810. At 544813 Recon found signs of recent Montagnard activity, 18" wide trails not visible from the air used by 2-3 indiv in the last week, also found pottery and baskets.

B, Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, since 15 Feb 70:

US losses: 30 WIA; 4 KIA.

Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 11 enemy KIA, (BC); 6 S/A CIA; 3 radios, 4 field phones, 4 switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: None.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GORDON S. AXELSON  
MAJ, Infantry  
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APO San Francisco 96262

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31 March 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 148 for 300001H to 302400H March 1970.

## 1. (C) Operations Summary

A. The 1/12 Inf cont opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFF.

(1) A Co cont FSB construction and security, maintaining three ambushes vic 522813, 528815, 517827. Neg significant sightings or contacts.

(2) B Co cont to ambush on its assigned area, bounded by checkpoints 460830, 480830, 480820, 490820, 490810, 460810. Neg significant sightings or contacts reported.

(3) C Co ambushes in its assigned area bounded by checkpoints 490850, 510850, 490830, 510830. Neg significant sightings or findings.

(4) D Co cont training cycle and maintenance stand down at CAMP RADCLIFF.

(5) Recon ambushes in its assigned area bounded by checkpoints, 540820, 550820, 540800, 550800, during the morning. After 1400H prepares to CA from PZ, vic 543812, to LZ vic 530852. Neg significant sightings or contacts.

B. Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, since 15 Feb 70:

US losses: 30 WIA; 4 KIA.

Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 11 enemy KIA, (BC); 6 S/A CIA; 3 radios, 4 field phones, 4 switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: None

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GORDON S. AXELSON  
MAJ, Infantry  
S-3

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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APO San Francisco 96262

AVDDB-121

1 April 1970

SUBJECT: Daily SITREP 149 for 310001H Mar to 312400H Mar 70.

## 1. (C) Operations Summary

A. The 1/12 Inf cont opn PUTNAM SHARK, N of CAMP RADCLIFFE.

(1) A Co conducts CA from FSB NIAGARA into an LZ vic 489872, and orients on the trail network in area of interest bounded by 480890, 500890, 500870, 400870 and establishes night ambushes. Near the LZ in which A Co was inserted vic 487870, they found a 100' square banana grove and a 2 month old hootch, 10x8x10'; the area was used by 2-3 indiv in the last month. At 486672 A Co found a 6x6x7' grain bin with 3-4" of rice on the floor, the entire bin with rice weighed 50-100 lbs.

(2) B Co conducts CA from PZ vic 461814 into FSB NIAGARA, assumes FSB security, ambushes and sweeps. Neg significant sightings or contacts.

(3) C Co conducts ambush operations in area of interest bounded by checkpoints 480860, 480840, 500860, 500840. 2 & 3/C at 495845 found a hootch, 10x8x5', approx 1 year old with neg recent use. The hootch contained a cross-bow, some digging tools and old potatoes. 2/C at 483842 found 3 hootches, 8x10x6' 2' off the ground, about 1 month old. They contained 15 rds AK/ SKS ammo, 1 cross bow, a bundle of 100 punji stakes and a small aid bag. Under 1 hootch was a bunker, 3x7x3' with 18" O/H. Near by were 2 pig pens 8x15', and 3 chicken coops 3x4x3'. Area had been used within the last week. 2/C at 495844 found 1 hootch, 15x20x6', a 10x20' pig pen with 15 pigs, ranging from 50-100 lbs and a bunker 8x10x4' with 2' O/H. Hootches contained 3 cross bows, 2 pair black pants and 1 green shirt. Area used by 3-4 indiv in the past 24H. 1/C at 489847 found 7 hootches, 16x10x5' on 4' stilts, approx 1 year old, with neg

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CLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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recent use. A scrap of paper was found with Vietnamese writing which will be backhauled.

(4) D Co conducts training cycle at Camp RADCLIFF and is Division reaction Co.

(5) Recon conducts ambush operation in area of interest bounded by checkpoints 524863, 537836, 524850, 537850. At 524857 Recon found a 2' wide trail, NE-SW with punji stakes for 50m on either side; KCS identified stakes as being 2 days old. Found and disarmed 5' long spear type booby trap aimed chest high. In the same area Recon found numerous punji stakes and spring type booby traps, 1 man injured; area set up in last 2 days by 5-6 indiv. Trail was followed between 524857 and 522856, 2' wide and used within the last 48H; turns to the NW with many small branching trails which were camouflaged. Trees had been cut in half and bent over trails within the last 36H. Vic of 526857 Recon's ambush detected movement to the west and heard the chopping of wood. Indiv observed between the two ambushes wearing shorts and carrying a weapon, AZ 280<sup>o</sup> rmg 75m, S/A employed.

B. Cumulative results of opn PUTNAM SHARK, since 15 Feb 70:

US losses: 31 WIA; 4 KIA.

Fdly losses: 1 KCS WIA.

US inflicted enemy losses: 11 enemy KIA, (BC); 6 S/A CIA; 1 PRC-10, 2 Chicom radios CIA; 4 Chicom field phones and 4 Chicom switchboards CIA; 76,220 lbs rice CIA.

2. Remarks: MG Walker, CG 4th Inf Div visits NIAGARA.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GORDON S. AXELSON  
MAJ, Infantry

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