

Headquarters, Australian Force
Vietnam (HQ AFV)

Monthly reports
June to December 1966

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MONTHLY REPORT

FOR

JUNE 66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FILE

R723 : 1 : 13

Headquarters
Australian Force VIETNAM

8 Jul 66

AFV MONTHLY REPORT - JUNE 1966

GENERAL

Introduction

1. This is the initial monthly report submitted in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Directive by the Chiefs of Staff Committee to Commander Australian Force Vietnam which was issued under cover of Chiefs of Staff Minute No 44/1966 dated 4th May 1966. This report covers the period up to 30th June 1966.

Command

2. Major-General K. MACKAY MBE assumed command of Australian Force Vietnam on 3rd May 1966.

Statistics

3. Basic statistics are attached as follows :-
- a. Annex 'A' - Casualty statistics
 - b. Annex 'B' - Monthly Strength Return and Location Statement.

1 AUSTRALIAN TASK FORCE

General

4. During the period 1 RAR returned to Australia by air commencing on 1st June 66. HQ 1 ATF established itself in the new operational area on 5th June and on 6th June 1 ATF came under the operational command of HQ 2 Field Force Vietnam. 6 RAR joined 1 ATF in the operational area on 13 June.

Summary of Operations

5. Operational activity has been directed principally towards searching and clearing the Tactical Area of Responsibility in the environs of the operational base out to a radius of 4000 yards. This has been done by means of intensive patrolling in great detail with patrols of up to company strength. 6 RAR commenced Operation Enoggera which aimed at the completion of the destruction and searching of LONG PHUOC Village. The civil population had previously been resettled.

Development of the Operational Base

6. Operational Base development is proceeding satisfactorily despite heavy tropical rain storms.

AUSTRALIAN ARMY TRAINING TEAM VIETNAM

Deployment

7. During June 66, a firm allocation of Advisory positions in

PHUOC TUY Province was negotiated with HQ, MACV, and a compensating reduction of AATTV effort in I Corps area agreed. It is anticipated that by 31st July 66, one Officer and four Warrant Officer Advisors will be located in Sector and Sub Sector Advisory Teams in PHUOC TUY, in addition to four Warrant Officers who are now working directly under 1 ATF on Civic Action tasks.

8. As 1 ATF operations develop more AATTV representation will be required in PHUOC TUY Province.

Operations

9. The majority of battalions in 2 ARVN Division and several Battalions in 1 ARVN Division to which AATTV advisors are allotted have been engaged in search and destroy and harrassing operations during the latter half of Jun 66, following termination of the political unrest in THUA THIEN and QUANG TRI Provinces. Advisory effort in I Corps area is now fully redeployed in the field.

BIEN HOA DETACHMENT

10. A rear party of approximately 40 personnel under command of HQ AFV are located at Bien Hoa for security of stores awaiting movement from the area. High priority stores are being moved by air to Vung Tau. Other stores are being programmed for movement through US channels.

11. About 550 short tons of stores and equipment remain to be moved to Vung Tau. Up to the end of the reporting period the following tonnages had been moved :-

a. By LSM Vernon Sturdee	3300
b. By USA Shipping	820
c. By RAAF Caribou	280
d. By USAF Aircraft	160
e. By RAAF C130 Courier	30

RAAF

12. Air Commodore J. DOWLING AFC assumed command of the RAAF Component of the force and the appointment of force Deputy Commander on 13th June 1966.

13. The RAAF Component is settling in satisfactorily and there are no major problems.

14. The following is a summary of flying hours for the month of June :-

a. No 9 (Helicopter) Squadron (UH-1B)	-	90 hrs 30 mins
b. No 35 (Transport) Squadron (CV-2B)	-	516 hrs 40 mins
c. No 161 Reconnaissance Flight :-		
(1) Rotary Wing	-	323 hrs 05 mins
(2) Fixed Wing	-	163 hrs 05 mins

CIVIC ACTION

15. Civic Action carried out during the month included :-

a. 1 ATF

(1) Medical and dental civil aid programme within HOA LONG Village (YS 420640)

(2) Planning for water reticulation, the construction of a market, medical dispensary and toilets for the proposed HOA LONG Community Centre.

(3) Purchase and assembling of stores for the projects to be carried out in the Community Centre.

b. 1 ALSG

(1) Medical and dental civil aid programme in the VUNG TAU area.

(2) Distribution of surplus food (damaged, time expired, etc) to a local orphanage, families of Popular Force personnel, refugees and ARVN junior ranks stationed at the VUNG TAU Naval Base. All tins are punctured on issue to ensure immediate consumption.

(3) Acquisition of land for commencement of construction of a medical dispensary near 1 ALSG camp area (YS 287451).

(4) Advisory assistance to Popular Force soldiers in the construction of a small accommodation hut at CAT LOE (YS 349517).

(5) Reconnaissance and planning for projects in the VUNG TAU Boys Junior Military Academy which will be adopted as a major long term commitment. Projects include water reticulation, construction of an auditorium or gymnasium and provision of library facilities.

16. By the end of the reporting period \$Aust 10,000 had been drawn and committed to projects approved by Commander AFV.

1 AUSTRALIAN LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP

17. 1 ALSG development is continuing at a satisfactory rate.

18. Arrangements are being made to employ 82 indigenous civilians on camp construction tasks in order to speed development of the ALSG and release army manpower for functional tasks. The number is being kept low to ensure that associated administrative and security aspects present no problem.

COMMUNICATIONS

19. Voice and secure telegraph communications were established on United States bearer circuits between each of the following :-

HQ AFV - HQ 1 ATF
HQ AFV - 1 ALSG
HQ 1 ATF - 1 ALSG
1 ALSG - RAAF Communications Centre VUNG TAU.

20. The Australian Signal Centre and switchboard at BIEN HOA closed 14th June 1966.

21. A daily helicopter courier service has been introduced between HQ AFV, 1 ATF, 1 ALSG and HQ 2 Field Force Vietnam.

22. Good progress is being made with the installation of an exclusive voice and secure telegraph communications system between HQ AFV, 1 ATF and 1ALSG. This system will have a link land line to RAAF elements in VUNG TAU.

MEDICAL

23. In general the health of the force has been good. Major items for comment are :-

a. Skin Diseases. As would be expected in a new force the incidents of these complaints has been relatively high but no greater than had been anticipated. Very few require RTA.

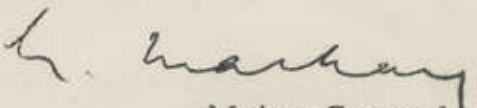
b. Dianhocal Diseases. As experienced by all other forces there was an initial spate of these di seases despite rigid sanitary precautions. In the latter part of the month this tailed off.

c. Malaria. There has only been one case in 1ATF since arrival. This is being investigated.

d. Venereal Disease. This was less than anticipated with troops newly arrived and with few amenities. Very few man hours have been lost because the majority of cases are gonorrhoea or non-specific uretheritis which, in general, do not require hospitalization.

LOGISTIC SUPPORT

24. After the JEPARIT has been unloaded in early July adequate stocks will have been delivered to the theatre to enable a normal maintenance system to operate. In the meantime priority demands are being met and there are no serious difficulties.


Major-General
Commander
Australian Force VIETNAM

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