SEPT 1, 1969

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned Report of Company H (Ranger), 75th Infantry (Airborne) for period ending 31 August 1969.

Section I. Lessons Learned:

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) When debriefing a Patrol which has made contact or experienced an event whereas detailed notes could not be taken, it is often helpful to refer to the communications log. The log contains critical times that aerial support, artillery support, ground troops etc. were deployed in support of the operation. Utilizing the log, a sequence of events can be readily available to assist the patrol leader in remembering details of events reported by the patrol or otherwise.

(2) During the Monsoon, special protective measures must be taken to insure that communications equipment is ready for immediate use. Insulating tape (electrical) is used to tape the handset to the audio connector post, this cuts down the possibility of water seeping into the contact points, which, should it occur, would cause a continuous key. There still remains a possibility of moisture gathering on the contact points. Each time a patrol stops for a long halt, the handset is removed and an eraser is used on all audio connectors and contact points of the handset to insure they're dry. All knobs on the radio are then checked to insure they're properly secured.

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence:

(1) It is known that the enemy will use the same cache site several
times even if it has been discovered and destroyed by friendlies. Patrols encountering evidence of an old or destroyed cache should thoroughly investigate any structures or holes in the surrounding areas. Walls and bottoms of bunkers should be probed at least 6" in depth and any evidence of digging should also be probed. The enemy's use of tributaries as transportation routes adds to the possibility of cache sites, along and in the banks of waterways. Probing in the mud above the high waterline or under overhanging branches often uncovers the enemy cache site.

e. Logistics: None

f. Organization: None

g. Other: None