

2/19  
1/27  
A 1/30<sup>th</sup> MENTIONS

[REDACTED]

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION (AIRMOBILE) 19TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDAAR-4

20 April 1970

SUBJECT: After Action Report - Attack on FSB Atkinson

15 APRIL 1970

Commanding Officer  
1st Cavalry Division Artillery (AM)  
ATTN: 83  
APO 96490

15 APRIL 1970

I. GENERAL

15 215B

At approximately 152158 April 1970 FSB Atkinson (XT010788) was attacked by elements of the 95th NVA Regiment. An intense indirect fire attack was followed by a determined ground assault. A highly coordinated infantry - artillery defense repulsed the attack by 0230. The enemy was unsuccessful in his attempt to penetrate the position and 38 of the total 66 NVA dead were found in the immediate area, along with numerous crew served and individual weapons and a quantity of miscellaneous equipment.

II. BACKGROUND

FSB Atkinson had been occupied by the 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry to support their operations in the Dog's Head. The 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry had been operating in this area and relocating to a new FSB every three or four days since the attack on FSB Jay (XT039750) on 29 March 1970. The following was the artillery organization for combat at the time of the attack:

Organic

Location

RHAS, 2/19th Arty

Tay Ninh Base Camp (XT177520)

A/2/19th Arty

FSB Wood (XT044796)

B/2/19th Arty

FSB Atkinson (XT010788)

General Support

Location

B/1/27 Arty (155 SF)

FSB Wood

A/1/30 Arty (-) (31715)

Thien Ngan SF Camp (XT086813)

Incl 8

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General Support (cont)

Location

How Btry 1/11 ACR (155 SP)

FSB Kramer (XT020727)

A/2/32 Arty (-) (2X8")

FSB Wood

B/2/32 Arty (-) (2X8")

FSB Kramer

B/2/32 Arty (2X175)

FSB St. Barbara (XT276678)

A/2/20 Arty (ARA)

Tay Ninh Base Camp

Base defense was provided by the Battalion Headquarters, Company B and Company E (-). Company A was located at WT935815, Company C at WT930801, Company D at XT027759 and Echo Recon was just south of Atkinson at XT066775. Battery B, 2/19 Arty, the 105 battery habitually associated with the 2d Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was at Atkinson.

There had been no heavy contacts since the attacks on FSB's Jay and Illingworth (29 March and 1 April). The 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry (Mech) and the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment had encountered moderate contacts 7 to 10 kilometers south of FSB Atkinson. The most significant of these occurred on the night of 14 March at FSB Kramer, in which 20 NVA were killed and assorted individual weapons and miscellaneous equipment were captured.

III. THE ATTACK:

At approximately 2158 the FSB received a 40-60 round barrage of mixed 82mm and 60mm mortar, 57mm recoilless rifle and 240mm rocket fire. The indirect fire ceased after 15-20 minutes and approximately half of the rounds impacted outside of the perimeter. This fire was followed by snat-tack from the west and sapper attack from the southeast by an enemy force estimated to be battalion size. The enemy was engaged immediately with infantry organic weapons, direct fire artillery and supporting artillery from FSB's Wood, Kramer, and Tden Ngom.

The fire plan for the FSB was immediately put into execution and both the FSB and Echo Recon (some 2 kilometers south) were supported simultane-ously by cannon artillery, ARA, Nighthawk, Air Force Shadow with mini-guns and two Air Strikes.

The ground attack was repulsed by coordinated infantry-artillery direct and indirect fire, including thirty-five rounds of Beehive. Communications remained intact and the initial adjustment and coordination of fires was made by the Battery FDC.

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At least three NVA .51 cal machine guns attacked supporting aircraft. These were engaged and destroyed by ARA after many firing runs were made against intense fire.

Throughout the attack Lebo Recon heard and observed the enemy force all around their position. After difficulties were overcome in safely marking their position, they adjusted ARA and artillery both during and after the attack as the enemy withdrew past their position.

Contact broke at 0230 and pursuit fires were immediately placed to the south and southwest up to the Cambodian border. ARA continued to engage an estimated company size force fleeing west on LTL-20 to the border.

US losses were 7 KIA and 25 MIA. No artillerymen were killed, but 5 received minor wounds. There was no howitzer damage, however, one infantry 81mm mortar was destroyed by RPG fire.

Enemy losses were 66 NVA KIA, 3 POWs, numerous individual and crew-served weapons, and a quantity of ammunition and miscellaneous equipment and documents captured.

The artillery was credited with a total of 25 of the enemy KIA, 7 by ARA and 18 by cannon artillery.

Medevac and resupply aircraft were directed to and from the FSB utilizing pre-planned air corridors from 2330-0415 hours. Through careful coordination, air corridors remained open all during the employment of cannon artillery, ARA, Shadow and air strikes.

Total expenditures in defense and follow-up pursuit fires were:

105mm - 1544 (35 Boahive)

155mm - 704

8" - 170

175mm - 70

ARA - 13 sections

Tactical Air - 2 Sorties

Shadow - 1 Sortie

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IV. FOLLOW UP

Pursuit fires were employed to the west and southwest. There was no immediate pursuit by infantry maneuver elements and the enemy force withdrew towards Cambodia after contact broke.

THOMAS E. FITZGERALD  
LTC, PA  
Commanding