

CU CHI BASE CAMP, the events of February 26, 1969¹

History of the 242d Aviation Company (Aslt Spt Hel) 269th Aviation Battalion (Combat) 12th Aviation Group (Combat):

1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

Prepared by CW2 Lawrence M. Cain, Unit Historical Officer

(...)Then tragedy struck in the form of a vicious enemy sapper attack on the “North Forty” Chinook parking area. One crew member was killed (SP4 Isaac Stringer, Jr.) and 5 wounded with aircraft losses totaling 9 destroyed, 3 with major damage and 2 with minor damage. Around the clock work by the dedicated men of the 242d returned the unit to fully operational in 10 days.

Americans die awaiting orders to fire - The Times (London) 27 Feb 1969

by Nicholas Tomalin

“The Americans in Vietnam today officially declared that the fighting over the past four days, which has cost 250 American lives, and more than 3,000 Vietcong (sic) and North Vietnamese lives, could now be called “the communist offensive.”

They also released a short statement on an early morning attack on Cu Chi base, headquarters of the American 25th Infantry Division and one of the largest and best-defended camps in Vietnam. The base, the official report laconically said, received 10 enemy rockets, and some mortar shells.

The statement went on: “Simultaneously, an unknown size enemy force probed three locations of the perimeter, employing small arms and rocket-grenade fire. During the action, an unknown number of enemy sappers carrying satchel charges infiltrated a portion of the perimeter and caused light material damage before being killed or repelled.”

As it happened, some newspaper reporters visited Cu Chi base this morning. This is what we saw had actually happened. Twelve large double-rotored Chinook helicopters were put out of action by Vietcong saboteurs. Nine of these were destroyed. They lay, charred wrecks, in their protective bunkers.

An ammunition dump was blown up.

The total cost of helicopters and ammunition, bearing in mind that each Chinook costs 700,000 pounds was more than 7m pounds. The crucial destruction took only five minutes.

The Cu Chi base is one of the six most important American military establishments in Vietnam. It is the headquarters for the whole area to the north-west of Saigon towards Cambodia, through which North Vietnamese forces are advancing towards the capital. The base had received clear intelligence it was to be attacked.

Yet 80 Vietcong sappers managed to spend three and a half hours cutting through the 10 barbed wire fences that protect Cu Chi perimeter, without any of the American ambush patrols, sentries, and bunker defence units detecting them.

¹ Keyed from the original source materials cited, spelling errors generally retained. Abbreviations as they appeared in originals. (...) indicates irrelevant material excluded.

Rocket Signal

At 4 a.m., the first rocket signal for the attack landed on the base. Thirty Vietcong sappers simultaneously rose beside the Chinook helicopter pad and charged the defence bunkers.

The sentries, under orders to telephone headquarters for permission to open fire, did so. But the telephone failed. Before any answer arrived, the Vietcong had dropped concussion grenades inside the bunker.

One minute later the attackers had cut through the final wire defences round the Chinook helicopter pad.

In each Chinook helicopter a guard lay asleep. The first rockets woke them. At one minute past four, the first Chinook helicopter exploded, a satchel charge of plastic explosive thrown into its protective bunker. In the next four minutes, eight more Chinooks went up.

Garry Baker, in the third Chinook from the left in the first line, awoke to see Vietcong soldiers grinning through the side door. Unfortunately his rifle was not to hand. In his socks and white underpants Baker leapt from the aircraft and ran.

Jose Pridou, another guard, seized his .45 pistol and shot blindly at two Vietcong he suddenly saw facing him. He hit one with bullets in the eye, the arm and the leg. The other escaped. Pridou's helicopter was one of those that survived.

Three other guards, named Slinger (note: Stinger is correct), Milley and Cradock, started to run for the headquarters bunker. A rocket grenade caught Slinger (sic) in the back of the neck 50 yards from the bunker. It took his head off. Cradock also fell, wounded in the shoulder.

Other rocket grenades exploded on three Chinooks, blowing off rotors, tailplanes, and undercarriages.

This helicopter unit, which I am forbidden by Army regulations to name, had 16 machines. Only three can still fly. The official statement said the unit had sustained "light material damage."

The official definition of "light damage" according to Military Assistance Command Vietnam regulations, is that a unit has sustained damage, but not damage that affects its capability to perform its normal military role.

"Boy, we were shot to hell and back," said one helicopter pilot. "Boy, we got it right where it hurts the most. But don't you mention my name."

Elsewhere in Cu Chi Base the Vietcong and North Vietnam troops made simultaneous diversionary attacks. Seven came in the main gate. They were all shot down. Their bodies still hung, this morning, on the perimeter barbed wire. Over on the south-west corner of the base another 20 came in. They overwhelmed and overran bunkers 19 and 20, and scattered into the camp.

Suicide squads

We talked with soldier after soldier, bewildered headquarters troops, drivers and teleprinter operators of the "reaction force" that had raced down to repel the attack. They did not talk like heroes.

Yes, they had seen the Vietcong. Yes, they'd shot back, they thought. But it was all too sudden and violent.

A young intelligence officer briefs us on the general situation. It looks as though North Vietnamese units, three regiments strong, are marching through the 25th Infantry

Division area. Mainly they are to attack bases and outposts there. But their target, documents say, is Saigon.

For half an hour, the gathered reporters appeal to the information men to allow them to write the truth. "Light damage," we argue, just seems ridiculous. The information officer, sweating and smiling, reminds us that the enemy must not be given comfort at this critical moment. "And our General, he just can't understand how it happened."

During the day, as the enemy attacks Bien Hoa, 10 miles to the north of Saigon, with all American troops hidden in bunkers even at the main United States base of Long Binh, the spokesmen continue to prevaricate.

They point out that the communist propaganda objective is to create the impression that this new offensive is putting the Americans into a panic. This is why they are making surprise attacks on United States bases with crack suicide squads.

At the same time, it is the American's duty to show the world that they are standing firm, inflicting huge casualties, and still winning. The Paris peace talks depend on it.

The audience of journalists, uncomfortably aware of the reassuring copy many of them have been sending home, hope that the entire military situation in Vietnam has not been distorted as has that at Cu Chi."

**Department of the Army
Headquarters 25th Infantry Division
APO 96225
INTSUM No. 057**

Period covered: 260001 Feb 1969 to 262400 Feb 1969

Summary of Enemy Activity:

Significant activities - 260400 Cu Chi Base Camp vic XT6515 received SA/RPG/mortar fire on the northeast portion of the bunker line. Fire was returned with SA/AW/dusters/LFT/Arty/Spooky. At 0430 the Base Camp began receiving 122mm, 107mm rkts and 75mm RR fire. At 0445 heavy SA fire was received in the western sector, and the enemy penetrated the perimeter in the southeast destroying 9 CH-47s and damaging 2. By 0630 fighting had subsided to occasional sniper fire. Results of the contact were 31 NVA KIA (BC), 8 NVA PWs, 36 RPG-2 Rds, 1 9mm pistol, 3 AK-47 rifles, 28 HG s, 175 sapper charges, 16 rds of RPG-2 ammo, 250 rds of SA ammo, 1 bangalore torpedo, 10 lbs of TNT, 1 pr of wire cutters, 1 walkie talkie, and 1 lb of documents evacuated. US casualties 13 US KIA, 28 US WIA.

(....)

Following are the names and unit identifications of the PW s in the attack on Cu Chi Base Camp on 26 Feb:

- a. Ha Chi Loi, PFC, 2nd Sqd, 5th Plt, 3rd Bn, 2nd Regt, 101st Front Division
- b. Nguyen Van Cau, PFC, 1st Sqd, 3rd Plt, 6th Co., 8th Bn (Sapper Unit)
- c. Doan Van Nhut, Asst Sqd Ldr, 3rd Sqd, 3rd Plt, 1st Co, 2nd Bn, 2nd Regt, 9th Div.
- d. Nguyen Xuan Thuong, Cell leader, 3 man Special Sapper Team and Plt Ldr, detached from 3rd Plt, 48th Co, B16 Sapper Bn, COSVN.
- e. Do Van Co, Sgt 1st Class, Asst Plt Ldr, 2nd Plt, 7th Co, 3rd Bn.

f. Ngo Van Huan, Asst Sqd ldr, 1st Sqd, 3rd Plt, 7th Co, 3rd Bn, 2nd Regt, 8th Worksite.

The above PW s were captured on Cu Chi Base Camp during an attack on the morning of 26 February. Preliminary interrogation has indicated that the attacking force was composed of a variety of sapper elements some of which were recently formed in War Zone C by personnel apparently drawn from existing units. One of the units indicated as contributing personnel was the B-16 Sapper Unit (AKA D5 Sapper Bn). Elements of this battalion were recently identified in sapper attacks against Dau Tieng Base Camp. One of the PW s Ngo Can Huan indicated that two platoons from his company did not come directly to the Cu Chi area but were to attack another base camp, unknown to source, and possibly a reference to the Dau Tieng attack.

All of the PW s indicated that they (*unintelligible*) in the Cu Chi Area from War Zone C. Most of the PW s had not been aware of the specific objective of the attack until immediately prior to the action taken against the base camp. With the exception of Nguyen Xuan Thuong, the PW s indicated that they had received little or no sapper training in preparation for these attacks. Thuong stated his unit coordinated with local force VC elements in the Cu Chi area on the evening of 25 Feb. Thuong's unit of approximately 18 men started moving forward and working their way through the base camp perimeter at about 0130 hours on 25 Feb. The PW further indicated that once inside the base camp he was to find the longest weapon possible and use it to fire against target within the camp. Two personnel, who had been trained to operate Allied tanks, were to locate a tank and drive it off the base camp if possible. The remaining personnel in Thuong's unit were to advance toward the Division Tactical Operations Center (DTOC).

Subsequent to the attack, the PW's unit was to be met by commo-liason personnel and led to an unknown location. Two of the PW s indicated a specific interest in destroying tanks, APC's and bunkers, while the remaining two PW s said that they were to search for and destroy the most lucrative targets they could find within the base camp.
(....)

Department of the Army
Headquarters 25th Infantry Division
APO 96225
INTSUM No. 058
Period covered: 27001 Feb 1969 to 272400 Feb 1969
(....)

Further interrogation of the 7 PW s captured in the attack on Cu Chi Base Camp of 26 Feb (Ref: 25th Inf Div INTSUM No. 057) revealed that four of them are most likely members of a newly formed unit, the 3rd Sapper Bn from the Katum Area of War Zone C.

According to the PW s the Bn is composed of 3 companies (the 7th, 8th, 9th) with a total strength of 300 personnel. The 7th Co has a heavy weapons platoon equipped with 2 61mm mortars and 1 82mm mortar. Support elements of the 3rd Bn are: a recon element, a communications section. One of the PW s was an assistant platoon leader who indicated that elements of this new Bn were formed by personnel drawn from other sapper units and from infiltration groups. The PW himself was originally a member of the B16 (AKA D5) Sapper Bn before joining the 3rd Bn. (25th Inf Div OB Comment: We believe

that the 3rd Bn may have been involved in the recent attacks on Dau Tieng and may explain the reason for the multiple unit identifications from the PW s captured during the attack. Documents captured from an enemy KIA at Cu Chi identified the 262 Sapper Bn which is believed to be an independent Bn operating in the Katum area. There is not sufficient evidence at the present to determine if the 3rd Bn is an AKA for the B16 Sapper Bn or possibly for the 262 Bn.) All of the PW s indicated that they had not been informed of the specific objectives of the attack until shortly before the action began. Only two of the PWs had received extensive sapper training; the rest of them received a minimum of preparation. The PW who was the assistant platoon leader (Do Van Co) stated that his unit coordinated with Cu Chi (V) local force elements on the evening of 25 Feb and received diagrams and sketches for their plan of attack. His unit of approximately 18 men started moving forward and working their way through the base camp perimeter at about 0130 hrs. Once inside the camp his unit was to: (1) Look for the largest weapons they could find, possibly a 105mm Howitzer and use it to fire against targets within the base camp; (2) Two personnel who had been trained to drive allied tanks were to capture a tank and drive it off the base camp. If they were unable to leave the base camp, they were to perform a suicide mission and destroy as many targets as possible; (3) The remaining personnel were to advance toward the DTOC. This was to be accomplished by using the drawings and sketches of the base camp obtained from the local populace. These sketches indicated all roads and opponent units where no defensive positions would be set up. The unit was to move toward the DTOC in a zig-sag fashion. Another PW indicated that his unit prior to the attack divided themselves into groups of eleven personnel and spaced themselves along the perimeter at different intervals. One man with each element led the way for the remaining ten members cutting the wire and avoiding the trip flares. After reaching the last wire and cutting through it they were to break down into three man cells and disperse with one cell attacking bunkers along the perimeter and others moving into the base camp to destroy bunkers, APC s, tanks, and any other lucrative targets. Other PW s indicated that their units were targeted against tanks, bunkers, APC s and the airfield and helicopter pads. Two of the prisoners indicated that they were given rallying points for reassembly outside of Cu Chi Base Camp after the attack. One PW stated that the attack, within the base camp, was to last for one hour. A PW said that he had been told to be prepared to continue to fight though another indicated that Cu Chi Base Camp was not to be reattacked. Two of the prisoners said their units were to return to Katum after the attacks. Explosives used by the sappers consisted of satchel charges, HG s, RPG s, various amounts of TNT, C4 and bangalore torpedoes. In conclusion, we believe that the 3rd Sapper Bn with a strength of approximately 300 personnel was primarily responsible for the attack on Cu Chi Base Camp and was also involved in the recent attack on Dau Tieng. The attack was evidently supported by a rocket and/or artillery unit and possibly by other smaller sapper elements which have not thus far been identified. We believe that the attack was centrally planned and controlled by COSVN.

Daily Staff Journal/S2 Staff Section /65th Eng Bn 0001-2400 26Feb69

0455 Captain Richard R. Sonsteli to bunkerline south (kept the log)

(....)

0630 MSG Collins, SP/5 Caviness and SP/4 Preston to southeast section of bunkerline w/ battle wagon loaded w/ 50 Cal

1020 LT Malie, MSG Collins, SP/4 Mercer transport bodies of NVA killed on bunkerline to ARVN post in Cu Chi village.

Daily Staff Journal/S3 65th Eng Bn 0001-2400 26Feb69

Harold V. Hooks, MAJ, CE Opns Officer (kept the log)

0353 Cu Chi Base Camp came under mortar, rocket and ground attack

0801 Notify all companies to organize and feed men and carry on with normal activities

(....)

0855 No information will be passed to any source regarding attack on Cu Chi until it is officially announced.

(....)

0911 Small rocket landed in our MP and hit a truck; on fire; 0955 fire out

0947 There are 16 sappers still on Cu Chi Base Camp: notify your people and conduct a thorough search of your area and bunkerline; 1012 Penetrations were also made in B and C sectors of the bunkerline and these are the people we are looking for; 1037 HHC and C Cos report neg findings and have areas secured

(....)

1020 Have B Co repair wire on bunkerline. Place many more trip flares than have previously been employed, enough to insure they will be tripped. Hang warning devices in the wire such as tin cans. Insure claymores are place properly, that all key areas are covered--recheck system thoroughly. Repair breaks in wires and insure existing wire is adequate. If necessary reinforce wire. Check out new bunkers and determine what is needed before they can be put into use.

(....)

1541 LTC Gibson notified me that he wants a double load of illumination rds for the bunkerline. 1620 Have 9 tripflares in front of each bunker; repaired wire; placed noisemakers on wire closest to bunker; repaired fuegas (sic) and claymores in front of bunker 62; work around 59 will be completed in 30 minutes. Ans: Do not forget to place claymores in from of bunkers 57, 58, 59.

1641 At 1800 we go on amber alert. Must have 7 men in each bunker, 2 men in each fighting position, 4 men awake in bunkers at all times. Must have 3 men per tower with 2 awake at all times. All guards must be in uniform. Vehicles must be parked in Task Force assembly area. Forces must be able to assemble on 15 minute notice. Must have 2 ea 2 man roving patrols. Clubs will remain open.

(....)

1720 From Sgt Millet 554 S3 to BTOC SSG Talkington. Request the use of one of your water trucks to fill the NCO and officer showers in our Bn area. We lost 2 of our water trucks last night.

1951 From OD LT Nester to BTOC SP Alward. The following is the number of trip flares in front of each bunker: 57-3; 58-6; 59-5; 60 left 9; 60 right-6; 61-4; 62-3. We are still putting up flares at this time, in front of all bunkers.

2105 From SOG SGT Duncan to BTOC SSG Talkington. I have a man in bunker 62 who was hit in the arm with SA fire. Also bunkers 57, 58, 59 are receiving SA fire. Also 57 thinks he sees movement 100 ft to his left. Request permission to fire flare. Ans: Permission to fire flare granted, and to engage movement.

Daily Staff Journal/S2/3 Section, 2d Bde, 25th Inf Div 0001-2400 26Feb69

Carl E. Anders., LT. kept log

0418 Cu Chi is under ground and air attack

0420 Cu Chi being hit on all sides by ground attack (S3 Major Downing)

(...)

0940 Co A 2-27 requests dustoff for 1 urgent litter at XT518160. Completed at 1000.
1000 Co A 2-34 at XT700172 found trails that have been used in last 48 hours and also a hole that could be used for a mortar position. At XT693175 found new bunkers and tunnels.

1000 Co C 1-5 requests dustoff for 2 US urgent litter. Loc at XT605224.

(...)

1010 Element of 1-5 received AK fire. Have 3 US WIA from 65th Eng. 1 gunship wound.

(...)

1950 2-34 rear received 10-12 unknown size rockets. Damaged 3 buildings, results 1 US KIA.

(...)

2115 Cu Chi receiving incoming fire; red alert.

(...)

2230 DISCOM has put Cu Chi off red alert at 2230.

Daily Staff Journal/S3 Section, 25th Med Bn, 25th Inf Div 0001-2400

26Feb69

B. Richard Laaken, CPT. kept log

0400 Received notification that Cu Chi Base Camp was under ground attack.

0415 Received call from MAJ Cunningham, Support Command S3, requesting ambulance at bunker #22, C sector

(...)

0431 Received word that infiltrators were in our bunkers on bunker line. Dispatched personnel to Bn perimeter.

0458 Received orders to get all aircraft off airfield. Talked to COL Atwell ref tactical situation of airfield. All dustoff aircraft in air (3); Tay Ninh Ship 156, (1st up) and 162 (2nd up). Other three not flyable.

0555 CO of S&T Bn called CPT Laaken for doctors. Was informed that doctors were tied up at our dispensary.

0620 Received call from Support Command requesting ambulance at Bunker #21. Ambulance dispatched from dispensary.

0635 Received call from Support Command requesting ambulance at bunkers #18 and #19. Ambulances dispatched from dispensary.

0719 CPT Laaken called Support Command to check on ambulance dispatched to bunker #21. Was informed that ambulance was at bunker with flat tire. Driver and patients still there.

0730 Received damage and casualty report for Support Command; A Co has no damage or casualties, C Co has no damage or known casualties (3 men unaccounted for in ambulance on bunker line) and 159th has no damage or casualties.

0735 Notified that Replacement Training is canceled until further notice.

0737 Standdown.

(...)

0830 Received instruction that VC were still in Base Camp. Check all areas for VC.

0955 CPT Laaken notified HQ & Co A, C Co and Lodger units to have a complete check of their areas, hootches, culverts, between sandbags, etc. for possible VC hiding.

(...)

1150 Received request for 2 ambulances from Graves Registration. Needed to transport 15 KIAs to Tan San Nhut. CPT Laaken turned down request due to shortage of ambulances.

1200 The following information given to MAJ Cunningham concerning casualty figures at Cu Chi Base Camp; 74 US WIA, 1 civilian WIA, 2 VC WIA. Persons admitted: 2 to 25th Med Bn and 37 to 12th Evac.

(....)

1430 Sappers (4) found in Finance bunker. Notified companies to re-sweep areas.

(....)

1500 Vietnamese documents turned in by 1SGT Rinehart, Dispensary NCOIC. Discovered under sheet in litter.

(....)

1615 Briefing canceled. Condition yellow. Clubs will close at 1730.

Daily Staff Journal/HQ 12th Evac Hospital 0001-2400 26Feb69

Michael W. Courtney, 1LT, MSC, Adjutant kept log

(....)

0355 Notified by DISCOM that Cu Chi Base Camp under mortar attack

0420 107 mm round landed in hosp area adjacent to Bldg T-4113. Minor damage to Bldgs T-4113 and T-4111. No casualties.

0600 107 mm round landed in rear of Bldg T-4138 (Ward C-5) adjacent to Bldg T-4141. Minor damage to Bldgs, electrical cable and loss of 4-55 gal drum of fuel oil. Generator operator received minor frag wound. Treated and returned to duty. No other casualties.

0720 SGM Regier received call from DISCOM - notification of Standdown.

(....)

2130 DISCOM called on Red Alert - VC on bunker line.

2140 First casualty received in ER.

(....)

Summary: Approximately 55 casualties arrived from the Cu Chi incident.

Daily Staff Journal/G3, 25th Inf Div 0001-2400 26Feb69

Ronald C. Meeks, MAJ kept log

(....)

0354 DISCOM (COL Atwell). Cu Chi Base Camp is on Red Alert. Bunkers #19, 20 have mov't., bunker #22 rec'g mortar fire.

0440 DISCOM (Duty officer) Cu Chi B/C Main Gate rec'g SA fire. Bunkers 19 and 20 also rec'g SA/RPG as well as the North side of the perimeter; no significant pressure.

0441 Mission to 3-4 Cav (LT Dixon) Alert 1 trp 3-4 Cav for possible commitment to Cu Chi area

0444 AAE: there are 3 LFTs on sta as well as Spooky 71

(....)

0504 MP s (SP/Cochran) O/A 0425 MP Patrol eng'd 1 personnel running, near chopper resupply point. 1 body located carrying RPGs (EOD team confirmed)

(....)

0514 DISCOM (Duty Officer) At 0505 reported POL/rearm pt/Salvage Yard are burning, extent is unknown; there are 8 CH-47 burning

0520 At 0510 all Little Bears and 116th AHC A/C that can fly are airborne and moving from Cu Chi C/B; 3-4 Cav also moving A/C. MP (SP/Cochran) also reports bunker #20, 21 or 23 is firing inside the base camp.

0540 DISCOM (MAJ Cunningham) DISCOM CO recommends scrambling all aircraft to other airfields (CG approved; AAE notified)

(....)

0642 (....)Total results so far, 9 NVA KIA (BC). There are some US casualties in Bunkers 18, 19 & 20. More casualties to follow

0730 DISCOM CO (COL Atwell) recommended standdown; CG approved.

(....)

1003 20 NVA killed (BC), 7 PW s

1035 G2 (log) at 0958 C/3-17 Cobra rec'd SA fire, took hits & was downed at XT125685. A/C 4-23 securing aircraft, 1 slight WIA (pilot)

(....)(rocket/mortar activity described)

2124 DISCOM (COL Atwell) informed DTOC (MAJ Meeks). At 2113 Cu Chi is on Red Alert.

2340 Summary:(....)The results of the action are as follows: 14 US KIA, 9 CH-47 helicopters were destroyed & 2 more have moderate dam, 31 NVA KIA (BC), 8 PW s. At the time Cu Chi was being hit with rockets, mortars and ground attack the following FSBs rec'd mortars: St. Barbara, Reed, and Patton.

Facts on File Yearbook, 1969 - The Index of World Events, Facts on File, Inc. Thursday, Feb. 27 - Wednesday, March 5, 1969

Communist troops carried out heavy ground assaults against two major installations in the Saigon area Feb 26. At Cuchi (sic), 20 miles northwest of the capital, enemy commandos penetrated the perimeter of the base of the US 25th Infantry Division by cutting through 10 barbed wire fences. The commando force, estimated at 80 men, destroyed nine large transport helicopters and killed 13 Americans and wounded 50 in the 3 1/2 hour operation. Viet Cong losses totaled 31 killed(....)

Department of the Army

HQ, 554th Engineer Battalion (Const)

APO San Francisco 96353

EGEC-2

6 March 1969

Memorandum for Record

Subject: Ground attack on HOTEL Sector, Cu Chi Base Camp by NVA Forces on 26 February 1969

0200 - 1LT Stares, the Officer of the Guard, called DISCOM for flare support, received it, and reported a negative sighting.

0330 - 1LT Stares fired hand flares and M-79 rounds at enemy in wire and again reported a negative sighting.

0400 - RPG and SA fire received in A and D Company areas.

- DISCOM called alert for ground attack - 554 siren sounded.
 - SP5 Johnson of D Company while enroute to showers was shot and killed by NVA.
 - SP5 Jackson and SP5 Goodale of A Company were killed by enemy RPG and SA fire in company area.
 - Companies were notified to reinforce secondary line on perimeter.
 - Bunker 66 was blown by satchel charges from NVA forces - SP4 Koski and SP4 Tennant were KIA, SP4 Ervie WIA. This report was not confirmed until 0630.
- 0410 - Two NVA killed in A Company area - one of these was seriously wounded and later died about 0500.
- Two NVA killed in D Company area, one by 1LT Benson. The other was killed in motor pool area. He was carrying satchel charges -- because of this it was at first thought the body was booby-trapped. This was later disproven.
 - Incoming mortar round from Vinh Cu village hit helicopter rearm point behind bunker 63 and 64. This caused secondary explosions to continue until approximately 1300 hours.
- 0415 - RPG hit roof of EM barracks in C Company area.
- C Company went to man secondary positions behind bunkers 70-73. When 5-ton dump truck stopped to unload 1st platoon personnel, 2 RPGs were fired at point-blank range killing 4 US: PFC Alferink, SP4 Barnett, SP4 Pearson, and SP4 Quigley. Five others were seriously wounded. Captain Calek's driver, SP4 Taylor, killed this NVA with SA.
 - Two water trucks destroyed by RPG fire near Company A showers.
 - Companies A, B, C, and D in position on secondary line.
 - One NVA killed by RPG misfire as he attempted to destroy bunker in A Company.
 - SP5 Williams of C Company killed one NVA moving toward perimeter road from 3/4 Cav area.
- 0418 - Medics called to evacuate C Company killed and wounded.
- 0420 - A Company barracks belonging to 515th Asphalt Platoon destroyed by PRG and satchel charges.
- 0435 - Personnel in bunker 64 knocked out enemy machine gun firing from village with M-79 fire (no BC).

0430 (sic) - NVA deployed themselves between bunker 69 and 70 in drainage ditch. SSG Covington and SSG Bailey crossed perimeter road to their front and fired at the enemy. NVA returned AK-47 fire and hit SSG Covington. At this time 1LT Titus crossed road to aid SSG Covington who later died of his wounds. SP5 Brown, SP4 Maxwell, and 1LT Titus evacuated SSG Covington, after throwing several hand grenades at the enemy position. SSG Bailey provided covering fire this whole time.

- 1LT Stares and SP5 Brown assaulted and killed two NVA beside bunker 69 with hand grenades and SA fire.

0615 - Elements of A Company were responsible for capturing several (6) prisoners of war.

0620 - Headquarters Company started sweep of battalion area for NVA stragglers, booby traps, satchel charges, etc.

0745 - DISCOM called a stand-down and all units dispersed back to their area.

- EOD team arrived on bunkerline to clear area for sweep.

0750 - D Company platoon led by 1LT Benson made a sweep of bunkerline area. Many blood trails were found leading to Vinh Cu village. Protective barbed wire was completely cut through by NVA sappers between bunker 69 and 70. At bunker 66 the two innermost wire barriers had been cut.

0800 - Headquarters Company sweep team reported negative findings.

RESULTS: 10 US KIA, 29 US WIA; 11 NVA KIA (BC); 6 NVA POW
Captured 6 AK-47s, 1 pair of wirecutters, one 9mm pistol, one RPG-2 launcher, an unknown number of SA rounds, RPG rounds, ChiCom grenades, homemade satchel charges, and several documents identifying enemy units and individual soldiers.

Signed: David D. Zaus, 1 LT, SIGC, S2

Logs that appeared to be more or less routine for the period of the attack:

Daily Staff Journal/S4 Section, 25th Med Bn, 25th Inf Div 0001-2400 26Feb69
Lawrence G. Blitz, CPT kept log.

Daily Staff Journal/DISCOM DTO 25th Inf Div 0001-2400 26Feb69
Juan Benitez Torres, Major. TC, Div Trans Officer kept log

Daily Staff Journal/725th Mn Bn/HQ & Co A 0001-2400 26Feb69
J.R. McGurk, CPT, OrdC Commanding kept log

Transcribed from original sources: Constance@Menefee.com

Daily Staff Journal/725th Mn Bn/Co B 0001-2400 26Feb69

James W. Ritt, CPT, OrdC, Commanding kept log

Daily Staff Journal/725th Mn Bn/Co D 0001-2400 26Feb69

Edward M. Voelker, Jr., CPT, OrdC, Commanding kept log

Daily Staff Journal/725th Mn Bn/Co E 0001-2400 26Feb69

Paul J. O'Donohue, MAJ kept log

Casualty Record: 725th Mn Bn 0001-2400 26Feb69

(statistics, no names) Frank B. Mayer, CPT, OD Adjutant

Daily Staff Journal/DISCOM S-5 Section 25th Inf Div 0001-2400 26Feb69

William M. Menzel, 1LT

0830 All Med Caps canceled due to VC activities in local area.

CLM note for the record:

KIA 26 Feb 1969 at Cu Chi Combat Base

554th Engineer Battalion

Jerry L. Alferink (PFC)

Iria D. Barnett (SP4)

Hobart E. Covington (SSG)

Leon R. Goodale, Jr. (SP5)

David C. Jackson (SP5)

Richard M. Johnson (SP4)

Larry C. Koski (SP4)

Van Harvey Pearson (SP4)

Henry L. Quigley (SP4)

John R. Tennant (SP4)

242nd ASHC (Muleskinners)

Isaac Stringer, Jr. (SP4)

25th Infantry Division

Donald C. Le Blond (SSG)

Ronald L. Quigley (PFC)

William B. Wilson (SGT)