



# UNCLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS  
52D RANGER BATTALION  
ADVISORY TEAM #87  
APO US FORCES 96376

SUBJECT: LETTER OF APPRECIATION

1 March 1968

TO: OFFICERS AND MEN OF "C" 1/83 Artillery

The 52d Ranger Battalion and its advisory team wishes to take this opportunity to extend its grateful thanks and appreciation to the officers and men of Battery "C", 1/83d Artillery for the tremendous support during the recent attacks on Xuan Loc, 1-4 February.

On the night of 1 February 1968, Heavyweight Charlie materially assisted the 52d Rangers in establishing a common perimeter about the Xuan Loc Airstrip with troops, material and equipment. When the Viet Cong launched their night attacks upon Gate 2, the battery, firing in direct support of the Rangers, were able to successfully demolish a determined assault. This is the first time in the Province that weapons of such large caliber have been fired so close and so effectively.

On the night of 2 February, the Viet Cong again attacked Gate 2 and the Ranger Command Post with an estimated battalion of Main Force troops. Again, Heavyweight Charlie, firing in direct support, was the primary factor in halting the charge. On this night, over 110 rounds of 8" was fired within 100 meters of the Rangers and with devastating results for the enemy. A morning sweep of the area revealed that Battery "C" could justifiably claim a probable kill of over 80 VC, and one machine gun that was observed to take a direct hit. It is the opinion of the Battalion Commander that without the extremely accurate and timely fire from Battery "C" that Gate 2 and the 1st Company CP would have been overrun.

At 1400 hours on 3 February, a Ranger escort was ambushed at Suoi Cat. Again, the Battery came to the assistance of the Rangers and successfully demolished a well-laid ambush and permitted the Rangers to withdraw without injury.

At 2300 Hours, 3 February, an estimated 2 Viet Cong companies assaulted the Ranger Basecamp. Having only 22 armed soldiers, the necessity for quick artillery fire was paramount. Again, Battery "C" responded quickly, effectively demolishing the threat.

The 52d Ranger Battalion is a proud fighting unit. One of the things it takes greatest pride in, though, is the friendship of Battery "C". There are many Rangers living today from the Battle of Suoi Long on 28 June 1967 to the recent defense of Xuan Loc that can justifiably say they owe their lives and their success to your artillery. From the Battalion Commander to the lowest private, the Rangers say "Thank you very much."

Thieu Ta Nguyen Hiep  
Commander  
52d Ranger Battalion

Captain Keith Nightingale  
Senior Advisor  
52d Ranger Battalion

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Incl 1 to Annex G (Artillery) to TET Offensive After Action Report (U).