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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (6 Jan 67) FOR OT RD

12 January 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 173d Airborne  
Brigade (Separate) [U].  
*Headquarters*

11 15 Oct 66

12 31 p.

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

9 Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jul 66.

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned from Headquarters, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) for Period 1 May - 31 July 1966. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
Rept of 173d Abn Bde

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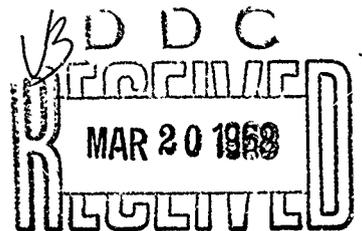
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HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)  
APO San Francisco 96250

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15 October 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned  
(1 May - 31 July 1966)

THRU: Commanding General  
II FFORCEV  
ATTN: G-3 D & T  
APO 96227

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff  
For Force Development  
Department of the Army  
Washington D.C. 20310

The inclosed Operational Report on Lessons Learned is forwarded in compliance with USARV Circular Number 870-2 and AR 1-19.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
as

*E. B. ROBERSON*  
E. B. ROBERSON  
1LT, AGC  
Asst AG

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## I. Significant Organization and Unit Activities

### 1. Introduction

Throughout the period 1 May to 31 July 1966 the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) has continued to conduct operations in and outside of its TAOR (Tactical Area of Operational Responsibility). Operations were conducted to continue to locate and destroy the enemy (Viet Cong) forces logistical installations and to reduce his hold on thousands of loyal Vietnamese.

To accomplish its missions, the Bde has conducted a total of six (6) combat operations of battalion size or larger.

The Bde has initiated several new projects under the Civic Actions programs. The scope of the programs are to be enlarged to assist ARVN forces through construction, training and medical care.

### 2. Organization

During this Operational Report of Lessons Learned the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) continues to occupy one base camp located near the city of Bien Hoa in Bien Hoa Province.

The 4/503 Inf arrived in this country on 25 June 1966 and was assigned to the Bde.

In accordance with guidance from Higher headquarters, a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol was formed 25 April 1966. Volunteers within the Bde were transferred and provided the nucleus to train and organize the platoon. The platoon provides another source of vital intelligence of the Bde

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The Bde organization is shown in inclosure two (2).

### 3. Intelligence

#### a. Enemy's order of battle in the TAOR:

The following units conducted sporadic harassing small unit tactics in and around the Bde's TAOR against the ARVN and US Forces.

(1) 270th Guerrilla Platoon

(2) 260th Local Platoon

b. Probable reinforcements included elements from the 800th Dong Nai Battalion and the 3d Battalion, 165th A Regiment.

#### c. The accepted location of these units are

<u>Units</u>	<u>Locations</u>
270th Guerrilla Platoon	Cong Thanh District (Bien Hoa Province)
260th Local Platoon	Duc Tu District (Bien Hoa Province)
800th Dong Nai Battalion	War Zone "D" (Bien Hoa Province)
3d Bn, 165th A Regiment	Di An District (Bien Hoa Province)
Military Region 7 Headquarters	War Zone "D" (Bien Hoa Province)

d. During this reporting period the Bde made contact with the following units:

<u>Operations</u>	<u>Enemy Units</u>	<u>Locations</u>
"DEXTER"	Local Guerrillas	Di An District Bien Hoa Province
"HARDIHOOD"	860th Local Bn	Phuoc Tuy Province
"HOLLANDIA"	860th Local Bn	Phuoc Tuy Province
"YORKTOWN"	308th Bn of 274th Regt (5th VC Div)	Long Khanh Province

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<u>Operations</u>	<u>Enemy Units</u>	<u>Locations</u>
"AURORA I"	Local Guerrillas	Long Khanh Province
"AURORA II"	Local Guerrillas operating a Tax Collection Station	Binh Tuy Province Lam Dong Province

e. Viet Cong Capabilities (Probable):

Ability to attack in the following areas. Priority areas of attack.

- (1) Phouc Tuy Province
- (2) Binh Tuy Province (Rice Bowl - Vo Dat Town)
- (3) Long Khanh Province (Rice Bowl - Vo Zu Town)

The VC tactics during this period have not changed. They still avoid major or large scale contact with the US Forces. But each operation the Bde has conducted during this period has resulted in a loss of personnel, equipment and supplies to the VC. There still has been no indication that the VC are any less determined for victory than before.

f. VC losses for the period 1 May - 31 July 1966, are as follows:

KIA <u>84</u> (BC)	VCC <u>10</u>
KIA <u>69</u> (est)	VCS <u>250</u>
Ralliers: <u>None</u>	Refugees: <u>None</u>

Enemy Equipment Losses:

Weapons

Crew Served Arms . . . . . 0

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Enemy Equipment Losses:

Weapons

Small Arms . . . . .	28
Bangalore Torpedoes . . . . .	6
Anti-Tank Mines . . . . .	15
Booby Traps . . . . .	200

Ammunition/Munition

Small Arms Ammunition (rounds) . . . . .	6,382
Artillery (105) rounds . . . . .	7
60mm mortar rounds . . . . .	48
81mm mortar rounds . . . . .	26
700 lb bombs . . . . .	2
500 lb bombs . . . . .	2
Mines . . . . .	66
Hand Grenades . . . . .	81
Blasting Caps . . . . .	2,035

Communications Equipment

Transistor Radio . . . . .	1
AN-GRC-9 Radio . . . . .	1
AN-PRC-10 Radio . . . . .	2
Wind Generator . . . . .	1
Communications Wire . . . . .	3,035 ft.

Medical Equipment

Six-hundred (600) L.B.S. . . . .	2 tons
----------------------------------	--------

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Enemy Equipment Losses (VC):

Medical

Herion . . . . . 1 packet

Installations

Mess Halls . . . . . 3

Base Camps . . . . . 5

General Stores . . . . . 2

Tailor Shop . . . . . 1

Platoon-size Position . . . . . 1

Huts . . . . . 149

Food

Rice . . . . . 215 tons

Wheat . . . . . 1,200 lbs

Coffee . . . . . 1 ton

Salt . . . . . 9.1 tons

Flour . . . . . 300 lbs

Cooking Oil . . . . . 200 gals

Miscellaneous

VC Ponchos . . . . . 80

Clothing . . . . . 1,000 lbs

Sanpans . . . . . 31

Bicycles . . . . . 3

Four (4) passenger automobile . . . . . 1

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Enemy Equipment Losses (VC)

Miscellaneous

Several Weapon Magazines

Several Cooking Pots

DOCUMENTS 2,230

4. Combat Operations

General: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) conducted military operations over a large portion of III Corps tactical zone to find and destroy VC forces and installations. Operations varied in size from squad ambushes to multi-battalion search and destroy missions, with a rapid response to intelligence.

May: During the month of May, the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) continued operations to find and destroy the enemy installations or any enemy supply facilities in the AO.

The Bde initiated Operation "DEXTER" on 4 May, 1966. This operation was conducted in the vicinity of Tan Uyen. Participants of this operation were: 1/503 Inf, 2/503d Inf, 3/319th Arty, Troop E/17th Cav, Co D/16th Armor and PWLH (Prince of Whales Light Horse Troop). This operation deprived the VC of only small quantities of supplies, 1 KIA (BC) and 4 KIA (est). The operation terminated on 6 May, 1966.

11 May, 2/503d Inf was attached to the 1st Bde, 101st Airborne Division to participate in Operation "AUSTIN 6". They moved by C-130's and Army Air to Song Be. They worked their way north from Song Be on search and destroy mission. There was no significant contact during the operation and was terminated on 18 May 1966.

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On 16 May the Bde began Operation "HARDIHOOD" conducting a road convoy from its base camp, vicinity Bien Hoa to vicinity Baria. The 1/503d Inf was airlifted to a LZ at a Fire Support Base. They then conducted search and destroy operations east and central of the AO in preparation for the 1/ATF (First Australian Task Force) in the village of Long Phuoc.

In their search the 1/503d Inf found extensive tunnel systems containing large caches of rice, medical supplies, salt and a hospital dispensary. On 18 May, 2/503d Inf was detached from the 1st Bde/101st Abn Div and landed at Bien Hoa. On 22 May they departed Bien Hoa by helicopter to secure the proposed base camp area of the 1/ATF (First Australian Task Force). As soon as the base camp was secured the 5/RAR (Fifth Bn of the Royal Australian Regiment) were landed at the base camp and immediately began search and destroy operations. Again the VC forces were deprived of numerous logistical installations, base camps and large quantities of supplies during this operation which extended into the month of June, 1966.

Operations during the month of May were supported by 104 TAC Air sorties and 101 FAC Air sorties. Artillery fired a total of 1,284 missions firing a total of 13,842 rounds. Army aviation flew 6,647 sorties during the month. Operations for May resulted in:

Enemy Losses (VC)	Friendly Losses (US)
KIA <u>49</u> (BC)	KIA <u>22</u>
KIA <u>34</u> (est)	WIA <u>132</u>

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<u>Enemy Losses (VC)</u>	<u>Friendly Losses (US)</u>
VCC <u>1</u>	MIA <u>1</u>
VCS <u>121</u>	Non Battle Dead <u>1</u>
Ralliers <u>None</u>	Non Battle Injured <u>17</u>
Refugees <u>None</u>	

General: The Bde conducted normal security operations, two (2) major operations, and detached units for participation in two (2) other operations during the month of June, 1966.

June: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) continued Operation "HARDIHOOD" NE of Baria in Phuoc Tuy Province, to secure area for the introduction of the 1/ATF (First Australian Task Force). This operation continued until 8 June, when it terminated and the Bde deployed on Operation "HOLLANDIA" on the same date. The Bde was deployed on the Long Hai Peninsula, SE of Baria (Phuoc Tuy Province), in an attempt to clear the area of Local VC Guerrilla Forces. On 19 June the Bde Supported Operation "UNIONTOWN", committing battalion force to the Long Binh sub-area. A platoon force also secured the RMK Rock Quarry, vicinity of Saigon University.

The Bde made 110 contacts with the VC during the month of June, of which 77 were VC initiated. Seventeen of these contacts occurred during Operation "HARDIHOOD", ending 8 June, 1966, 76 during Operation "HOLLANDIA" (9-18 June 1966) and 17 during Operation "YORKTOWN" (24-30 June 1966).

On 5 June, during Operation "HARDIHOOD", a medical supply

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cache containing an estimated 2 tons of medical supplies was located.

The most notable item of intelligence value gained from Operation "HOLLANDIA" was that the Long Hai Peninsula, long thought to be a VC stronghold was in fact very lightly defended by small local force elements. No positions or base camp areas were found to indicate units larger than platoon size inhabited the area. In addition, one (1) AN-GRC-9 radio complete with spare parts, keying device, and several replacement parts of Chinese manufacture, was located during Operation "HOLLANDIA".

On 22 June, Co A/82d Avn Bn supported an operation of the 25th Inf Div with six (6) HU-1D's, 1 light fire and 1 heavy fire team.

On 24 June, the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) was deployed on Operation "YORKTOWN" SE of Xuan Loc, Long Khanh Province. The mission of the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) was to locate and destroy NVA/VC elements in this area. This Operation continued throughout the end of the month. Normal security operations continued in vicinity of Bien Hoa Air Base.

On 29 June, Operation "YORKTOWN", A/2/503d Inf made contact with elements of what is believed to be the 308th Bn, 274th VC Main Force Regiment. Size of the VC force contact was estimated at 150 VC. Bde aircraft received fire on 16 separate occasions, and sustained 1 hit.

Operations during the month were supported by 94 TAC Air sorties and 80 FAC sorties dropping a total of 50.4 tons of ordnance, 890 artillery missions firing a total 6,007 rounds and 5,143 Army aviation

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sorties. There were 113 friendly initiated company size actions, 4 of which made contact. June's operations resulted in:

VC Losses	US Losses
KIA <u>27</u> (BC)	KIA <u>29</u>
KIA <u>29</u> (est)	WIA <u>123</u>
VCC <u>7</u>	MIA <u>0</u>
VCS <u>123</u>	Non Battle Dead <u>1</u>
Ralliers <u>None</u>	Non Battle Injured <u>10</u>
Refugees <u>None</u>	

General: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) conducted normal security operations and conducted three (3) major operations during the month of July, 1966.

July: The 173d Abn Bde (Sep) continued Operation "YORKTOWN" SE of Xuan Loc (Long Khanh Province). This operation was conducted until 9 July, which then commenced Operation "AURORA I". Operation "AURORA I" was conducted NW of Xuan Loc in the Province of Long Khanh. The 173d Abn Bde's (Sep) mission was to conduct roadrunner, Bushmaster, and Anti-VC Tax Collection operations in AO.

"AURORA I": The Bde continued this operation until 17 July, when it terminated and Operation "AURORA II" commenced NE of Phoung Lam.

"AURORA II": Operation "AURORA II" was conducted in Long Khanh, Binh Tuy and Lam Dong Provinces. Again the mission was to conduct Roadrunner, Bushmaster, and Anti-VC Tax Collection operations in AO. This operation terminated on 3 August 1966. Normal security operations were

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conducted in the vicinity of Bien Hoa Air Base throughout the month.

During the month of July, the primary efforts of the S-2 section were devoted to developing intelligence estimates for operations: "AURORA I", "AURORA II" and numerous contingency plans. The Bde made 87 contacts with VC elements during the month of which 59 were VC initiated. Thirty-three of the contacts occurred during Operation "YORK-TOWN", ending 9 July, 27 during Operation "AURORA I" (9-17 Jul 66), and 27 during Operation "AURORA II" (17-31 Jul 66).

Operations during the month were supported by 49 TAC Air sorties and 90 FAC sorties dropping a total of 38.9 tons of ordnance, 934 artillery missions firing a total of 8,716 rounds and 6,932 Army aviation sorties. There were 93 friendly initiated company size actions, 16 of which made contact. Operations for the month of July resulted in:

VC Losses	US Losses
KIA <u>8</u> (BC)	KIA <u>6</u>
KIA <u>6</u> (est)	WIA <u>41</u>
VCC <u>2</u>	MIA <u>0</u>
VCS <u>6</u>	Non Battle Dead <u>10</u>
Ralliers <u>None</u>	Non Battle Injured <u>30</u>
Refugees <u>None</u>	

No positions or base camp areas were located during this period adequate to support enemy elements larger than squad size. Failure to locate larger base facilities tended to verify that only small local force elements normally operate along Route 20 and throughout the AO's

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of: Operations, "AURORA I" and "AURORA II". Bde aircraft received fire on 27 occasions and five aircraft sustained 6 hits.

During this reporting period the 172d MI, in support of the Bde, participated in all combat operations. In addition to an interrogation section, the enemy's order of battle was in the field under the control of S-2. The following was significant during this reporting period:

Counterintelligence - Security sweeps of TOC (Tactical Operations Center) and other sensitive areas were conducted upon exit of each AO by the CI representative. Similar sweeps were conducted by the battalions. No security deficiencies were noted.

5. Training

a. The status of training within the Bde is excellent. Combat experience has been gained during all operations conducted during this reporting period. Emphasis has been placed on battle drills, defensive fires, artillery adjustment and patrolling at small unit level (squad and platoon). Training during combat operation has continued throughout the Bde in destruction, denial and tunnel exploitation.

b. During the period of 1-15 July, an intensive 'in country' training program was presented to 4/503d Inf in preparation for its assignment of combat missions. This program contained subjects to increase both individual knowledge and unit proficiency under local conditions.

c. All replacements undergo a 5-day combat orientation and training course before being introduced into an operation.

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## 6. Psychological Operations (Vicil Affairs Follow):

Throughout the period 1 May - 31 July, the use of psychological operations has proven to be of great value in supporting combat operations. The support rendered by the 246th Psychological Operations Company and JUSPAO has been excellent.

The delivery means for the leaflets has been excellent (C-47, HU-1D, U-10 and OH-13 aircraft). Many leaflets are delivered by US and ARVN personnel while participating on an operation, eg, MP Checkpoints, MEDCAP/DENCAP locations and distribution points.

The availability of a 1,000 watt loud speaker set has provided a means of exploiting captured VC, Ralliers and support for the cause of freedom. The S-5 carries to the field its own organic capability to tape certain priority messages, eg, the words of a willing rallier or captured VC. Loudspeakers support was provided for all operations when requested. Relative to the availability of such support, aircraft and vehicular speaker set-ups were used as an additional support in the AO.

### Civil Affairs:

The funds provided by the MACV Directive 37-13 has provided the Bde with funds to assist in the civic action programs. Up to 100,000 piasters can be utilized per month in support of Bde civic action projects. The projects and villages benefited are as follows:

<u>Project</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Village</u>
School Construction	Tan Phong	School Construction	Tan Hiep
School Construction	Tam Thanh	School Construction	Tan Mai

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<u>Project</u>	<u>Village</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Village</u>
School Construction	Ong Huong	School Construction	Dong Hai Hai
Well Construction	Tan Phong	Well Construction	Tan Phong
Latrine Construction	Hoa Binh	Latrine Construction	Hoa Binh
		School Furnishings	Dong Hai II

a. MEDCAP: The MEDCAP activities conducted in conjunction with all combat operations during this reporting period, accounts for the treatment of 8,157 patients.

b. Civic Action projects consist of support rendered to refugee camps, boy scouts, construction of wells, latrines, schools, and repairs to the existing facilities. Rural construction activities in this area have progressed and expanded during this period. Teacher's rooms and 3 schools were started, 30 school rooms continue in progress, while 4 were completed and 2 repaired. Four (4) wells in the area were started while 7 continue in progress. A very effective surgical program still continues in the Bien Hoa area. Four (4) Vietnamese have been operated on during this period by doctors of the Third (3d) MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital).

## 7. Aviation

a. Co A/82d Avn Bn continued to support the Bde in planning and conducting airmobile operations, aerial resupply, and providing aerial command and control. Their conduct of medical evacuation during this reporting period was excellent.

b. During this reporting period, Co A/82d Avn Bn flew 6,781

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sorties and had 7,369 hours. A total of 27,388 passengers and 1,190 tons of cargo was transported.

## 8. Logistics

During the period 1 May - 31 July 1966, logistical support was provided for all operations from the BSOC of the FLB (Forward Logistical Base). All tactical operations were adequately supported. No major logistical problems were encountered.

## 9. Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel (Strength): The assigned strength of the Bde as of 31 July 1966, was 114% of the authorized strength. As of 31 July, the Bde has sustained: KIA 57, WIA 296, MIA 1, Non Battle Dead 12, and Non Battle Injured 47, for a total of 422 casualties.

The changes in personnel strength for the Bde during the months of June and July are as follows:

<u>June:</u>	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>
Gains . . . . .	56 . . . . .	373
Losses . . . . .	27 . . . . .	369

<u>July:</u>		
Gains . . . . .	27 . . . . .	366
Losses . . . . .	37 . . . . .	404

Bde Morning Report strength as of 31 July 1966:

	<u>Off</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>
Authorized . . . .	267 . . . .	84 . . . .	4,278 . . . .	4,629
Assigned . . . . .	354 . . . .	59 . . . .	5,483 . . . .	5,896

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Bde Morning Report strength as of 31 July 1966:

	Off	WO	EM	AGG
Present for Duty . . . .	308 . . . .	59 . . . .	4,935 . . . .	5,302

US Casualties by month:

	<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>
KIA . . . . .	22 . . . .	29 . . . .	6
WIA . . . . .	132 . . . .	123 . . . .	41
MIA . . . . .	1 . . . .	0 . . . .	0
Non Battle Dead . . . . .	1 . . . .	1 . . . .	10
Non Battle Injured . . . . .	17 . . . .	10 . . . .	30

b. During this reporting period the Courts-Martial rate (by month) is as follows:

<u>May</u>	<u>Jun</u>	<u>Jul</u>
5.63	4.83	3.77

c. Discipline: The standard of discipline in the Bde remains high. During this reporting period No General Courts-Martial, 27 Special Courts-Martial and 15 Summary Courts-Martial. There were 219 Article 15's.

d. Morale: The morale and spirit of the soliders is excellent. They are bearing the great responsibility and understand the reason why they are here. They have preformed their duties in the highest tradi-tion of The '173d AIRBORNE PARATROOPERS'.

e. Finance: The 3.2% across the board pay raise has been paid to all personnel.

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f. Chaplain: There were a total of 222 services held during this reporting period with an attendance of 10,974 personnel.

g. Special Services: Out of country R/R quotes 1,035 personnel from 1 May - 31 July 1966.

h. Red Cross: There were 557 new and/or reopened cases during this reporting period.

i. Awards and Decorations: There were a total of 1,960 awards, awarded for valor and meritorious service during this quarter. They are as follows:

Silver Stars . . . . .	39
Air Medal (V) . . . . .	16
Air Medal (M) . . . . .	1,122
Bronze Star (V) . . . . .	155
Bronze Star (M) . . . . .	106
AMC (Army Commendation Medal)(V) . . . . .	78
AMC (M) . . . . .	143
Purple Hearts . . . . .	301

The Bde was honored by Vietnamese Government Awards. Presented are as follows:

Cross of Gallantry w/Palm (Gold or Silver Star) . . . 19

Chemical Operations (addition): The Bde chemical section developed and field tested a chemical delivery system. It has twenty-millimeter rocket tubes attached to a helicopter and filled with grenades. When released by the pilot, a grenade falls every 4 meters.

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II. Commanders Observations and Recommendations

1. Observations (Lessons Learned)

PERSONNEL

REPLACEMENTS

Item: Replacement Pool

Discussion: Providing a steady flow of personnel to units without holding a reserve at the replacement detachment/company, has proved to be a problem when units are in contact and sustain a large number of serious casualties.

Observation: Pooling of personnel at the replacement area, a ready reserve force is on hand, giving the necessary flexibility to react and provide mass replacements for units needed.

OPERATIONS

Item: Artillery and air operations can be conducted simultaneously in the same area

Discussion: Detailed preplanning to include the establishment of safe air corridors will allow for continuation of artillery preparations during air-mobile operations without the risk to friendly aircraft and personnel.

Observation: All operation order and tactical plans, to include the reaction forces, must provide for simultaneous employment of artillery and air strikes.

MAP READING

Item: Map Coordinates

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Discussion: All units occupying terrain which is unfamiliar or heavily forested, may misjudge their actual location.

Observation: Coordinates should be verified by an airborne observer whenever possible.

Item: Points of Origin

Discussion: Points of origin provide a fast means of locating friendly forces without compromising their position. They also provide simple and simple encoding systems for passing target information.

Observation: The system should always be published at the highest level necessary to insure all agencies have access.

## PATROLLING

Item: Saturation Patrol(s)

Discussion: Saturation patrolling can be used as an effective measure to severely hinder VC activities in populated areas. VC main forces are forced to withdraw because the difficulty in location of main friendly forces by infiltration.

Observation: Saturation should be considered in establishing security in populated areas.

## U.S. PACIFICATION OPERATION

Item: Workable pacification operations are necessary.

Discussion: To win the cooperation of the people in the area of operation or outlying areas, security against the VC is essential. The people must see stability and the capability to maintain peaceful and improving conditions.

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Observations: The pacification program should always or whenever possible be employed against the VC operating in the populated areas.

## VIET-CONG TACTICS

Item: Viet-Cong Discipline

Discussion: In areas and instances where convoys have been ambushed, the convoy was preceded by an observer in an aircraft. The VC did not fire, but held his fire until vehicles were in the ambush.

Observations: All personnel must be trained to the fact that the VC is well disciplined in Guerrilla Warfare. A negative sighting does not necessarily mean that no VC exist in the area, and alertness must be maintained at all times.

## MEDICAL (HELICOPTER EVACUATION)

Item: A Forest Penetrator and Stokes Litter

Discussion: There are instances when wounded must be evacuated from a LZ where clearance is at a minimum. Air Force helicopter equipped with the Stokes Litter or Forest Penetrator have been called.

Observations: If Army Air ambulances are equipped with the modified Forest Penetrator and Stokes Litter, it would reduce the time lag between request and evacuation.

## CHEMICAL

Item: Tunnel Support (Chemical Team)

Discussion: Many spider holes, and wells are found during operations and are mistaken for tunnel systems. On some occasions the

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chemical team has called to find out what is needed.

Observation: Trained tunnel teams in each battalion should be able to exploit and destroy VC tunnels. A training program is being set up to provide personnel with the necessary training.

Item: Use of C.S, Crystals

Discussion: Due to the psysical inability of units on the ground to cover all possible exits, infiltration routes, avenues of approach into abjective area; as well as the ability to deny the enemy use of bunkers, tunnels and known ambush sites; the Bde continues to develop and use C.S. Crystals.

Observation: Through coordination with the Bde chemical officer and the commanders on the ground, a method of seeding either by hand or air delivery was developed. The air delivery system utilized a metal container and GP (general purpose) bursters and has proven very effective on target areas.

Item: Roadrunner Operations

Discussion: During Roadrunner operations the Bde has at times experienced difficulty in killing, capturing or identifying VC at VC Tax Collection Points, because they have preplanned escape routes to mingle with the civilians.

Observation: In conducting Anti-VC Tax Collection operations, it is absolutely necessary to make both a detailed map and an air-re-connaissance of the area in order to seal off all likely escape routes. It is also necessary when dispersing a Tax Collection Point to conduct

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a thorough search of the surrounding area in order to discover any caches of supplies taken from the Vietnamese people.

2. Recommendations: Stated in Observations (Lessons Learned).

### SUMMARY:

This report summarizes the operations and many activities of the 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE) for the period: 1 May - 31 July, 1966. Certainly these operations met the criterias of accomplishing the missions in duration, in size and Area of Operation. These operations were conducted as noted throughout, in close coordination with Army aviation and extensive use was made of the Air Force capabilities in the role of reconnaissance and fire power support.

Throughout this quarter the Bde worked closely and effectively with ARVN units when in the Areas of Operation.

The Bde has learned much that has been applied since these operations. The Bde learned that certain changes are still in order to improve the TO&E of an Airborne Brigade (Separate). Lessons were also learned that have resulted in improved techniques and tactics. Overall, every member of the Bde has done an exceptional job.

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15 October 1966

SUBJECT: Roster of Key Personnel

UNIT/DUTY	NAME/BRANCH/SERVICE NUMBER	AUTH ACT
1. BRIGADE COMMANDER . . . . .	SMITH, PAUL F . . . . . GO, 033 169	BRIG//BRIG GEN //GEN
2. Deputy Bde Comdr . . . . .	CHMAR, PAUL . . . . . Inf 037 040	COL/COL
3. Bde/XO . . . . .	SIGHOLTZ, ROBERT H . . . . . Inf 087 614	LTC/LTC
4. Bde/S-3 . . . . .	MC GILL, JOHN C . . . . . Arty 067 940	LTC/MAJ
5. Bde/S-1 . . . . .	BLANCO, SILVIAN J . . . . . AGC OF 104 379	MAJ/MAJ
6. Bde/S-2 . . . . .	BROWNLEE, ROBERT W . . . . . Inf 066 138	MAJ/MAJ
7. Bde/S-4 . . . . .	SPARKS, JAMES J E . . . . . Inf 01 924 867	MAJ/MAJ
8. Bde/S-5 . . . . .	TERRY, RICHARD T . . . . . Inf 071 288	/MAJ
9. Bde/Avn Off . . . . .	ADDIS, DANIEL A . . . . . Inf 04 030 789	MAJ/MAJ
10. Bde/Sig Off . . . . .	DARLING, GREGORY . . . . . SigC 099 812	MAJ/MAJ
11. Bde/Surgeon . . . . .	HIMMA, EINAR . . . . . MC 088 395	MAJ/MAJ
12. Bde/Provost Marshall . . . . .	FRIEND, BERNARD D . . . . . MPC 094 927	MAJ/CPT
13. Bde/Hqs Comdt . . . . .	VAN DINTER, WILLIAM F . . . . . Inf 05 301 813	CPT/CPT
14. HHC/Comdr . . . . .	DANKERT, DERALD T . . . . . Inf 090 804	CPT/CPT
15. 1/503d Inf/En Comdr . . . . .	GOAD, LEWIS H . . . . .	LTC/LTC

Inclosure 1 to Inclosure 1

1

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AVBE-SC  
 SUBJECT: Roster of Key Personnel

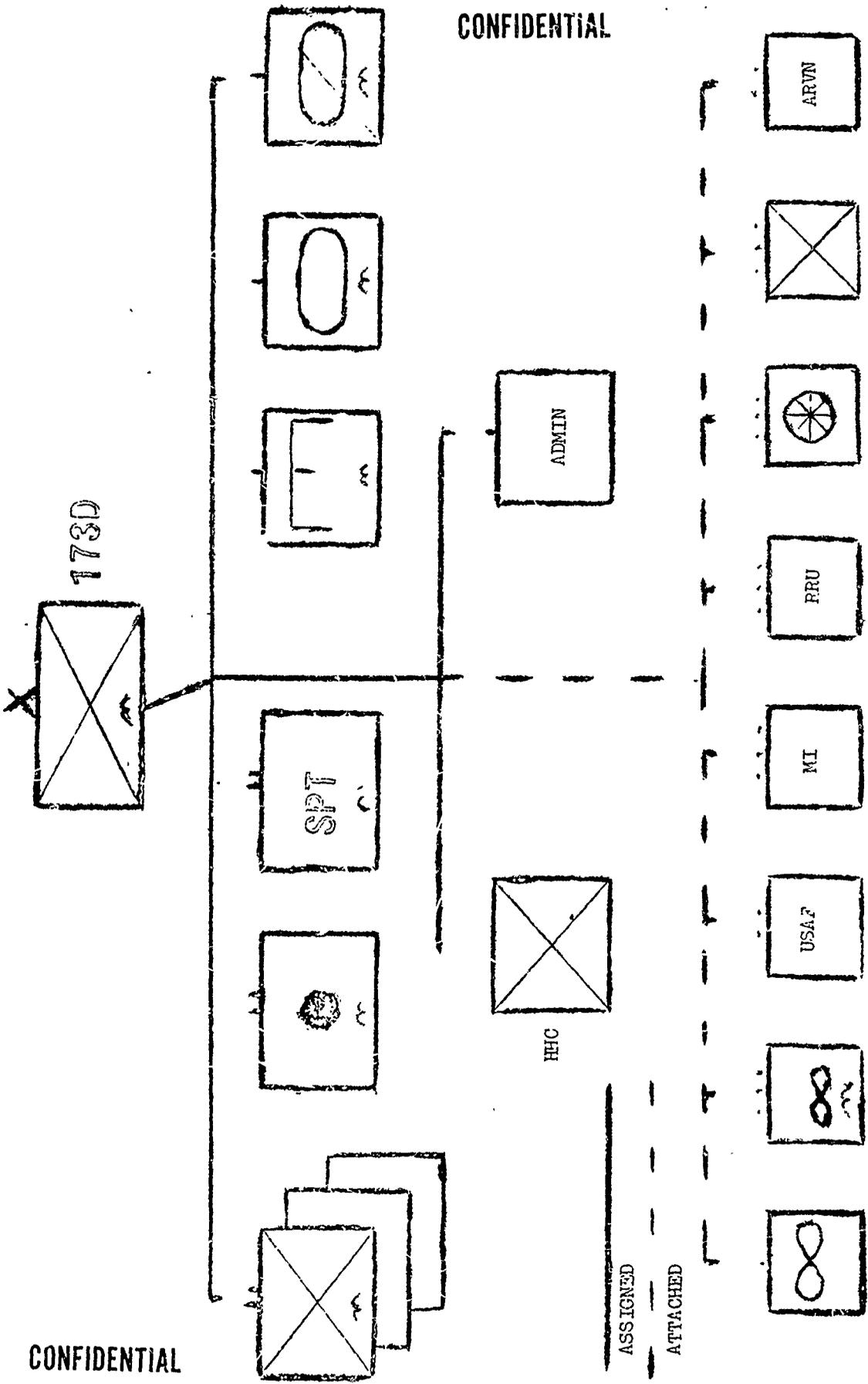
15 October 1966

UNIT/DUTY	NAME/BRANCH/SERVICE NUMBER	AUTH/ACT
16. 2/503d Inf/Bn Comdr . . .	WALSH, JOHN J JR . . . . . Inf 070 549	LTC/LTC
17. 4/503d Inf/Bn Comdr . . .	HEALY, MICHAEL D. . . . . Inf 070 368	LTC/LTC
18. 3/319th Arty/Bn Comdr . . .	NORDIN, WILLIAM H . . . . . Arty 059 137	LTC/LTC
19. 173d Spt Bn/Bn Comdr . . .	SISKA, JOHN R . . . . . QMC 038 289	LTC/LTC
20. Troop E, 17th Cav/Comdr . .	SUTTON, BRYAN J . . . . . Inf OF 106 389	CPT/MAJ
21. Co D/16th Arm/Comdr . . .	NEHAMMER, KARL F . . . . . Arm 090 339	CPT/CPT
22. 173d Engr Co/Comdr . . . .	NUNN, LEE R S . . . . . CE 087 294	CPT/CPT
23. Co A Admin/Bde Chap . . . .	GIGIELLO, XAVIER J . . . . . CHC 0 997 810	MAJ/MAJ
24. 172d MI Det/Det Comdr . . .	GRAFT, HARRY R . . . . . AIS 05 307 180	MAJ/CPT
25. Co A, 82d Avn Bn/Comdr . . .	JOHNSON, ERNEST H . . . . . Inf 01 881 918	MAJ/MAJ
26. 51st Chem Det/Det Comdr . .	CARR, MILTON B . . . . . CmLC 089 804	CPT/CPT
27. 25th Med Det/Det Comdr . . .	HAMMARGREN, LONNIE L . . . . . MC 05 232 693	CPT/CPT
28. 166th Trans Det/Det Comdr	PRITCHARD, DONALD H . . . . . Inf 088 884	MAJ/MAJ
29. 234th Sig Det/Det Comdr . .	WIEMERSLOGE, FRANK R . . . . . SigC 05 536 097	LT/LT

Inclosure 1 to Inclosure 1

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ORGANIZATION 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE - SEPARATE



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Inclosure 2 to Inclosure 1

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AVFBC-H (15 Oct 66) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ II Field Force Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96266 5 Dec 66

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Dept of the Army,  
Washington, D. C. 20310

1. This headquarters concurs with the observations (Lessons Learned) as stated in Section II of subject report.

2. There are no observations or recommendations that require comment by this headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

2 Incl  
as

  
WAYNE D. BLANTON  
WO-1, USA  
Acting Asst AG