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<td><strong>TO:</strong> Approved for public release, distribution unlimited</td>
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<td><strong>FROM:</strong> Controlling DoD Organization. Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development [Army], Washington, DC 20310.</td>
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<td><strong>AUTHORITY</strong></td>
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<td>AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980; AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980</td>
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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided 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:

[Signature]

C. A. STANFIEL
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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CO, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

Regraded unclassified when separated from classified inclosure.

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. During the reporting period, the 3D Brigade conducted counter-insurgency operations in Bien Hoa and Binh Duong Provinces. Two organic and one attached battalion were responsible for security of the rocket belt north and east of Long Binh/Bien Hoa complex and interdiction of movement along primary avenues of approach into the area. The remaining organic battalion provided local security for Phuoc Vinh Base Camp and conducted Bushmaster-Type operations in Binh Duong Province.

b. The significant activities portion of this report will include only that period 2D 31 Brigade was OCON to II FORCEn V, 5 March thru 30 April. The two major operations occurring during this period were:

1) Operation BOX SPRINGS

2) Operation TOAN THIEN (AO LOS DANOS, initially Operation HARRISBURG)

(a) Operations

On 16 March the 3d Battalion (Airborne), 187th Infantry conducted Operation BOX SPRINGS in southern section of Binh Duong Province from 16 March to 22 March 1968. The area of operation included long time enemy sanctuaries in the western section of War Zone D. Numerous small unit actions to include airmobile assaults, reconnaissance in force, and Bushmaster-type operations were conducted throughout the area of operation. Participating units experienced light but steady contact with major action beginning in the afternoon and early evening hours and continuing into the night. The employment of night operations in conjunction with the use of scout dogs kept the enemy off balance, often catching him by surprise and forcing him to fight a brief but tense battle in an effort to break contact. The presence of friendly forces forced the enemy to move his positions constantly which apparently resulted in the permanent relocation of some enemy units. Base camps, which had been considered sanctuaries by the enemy, were cleared and destroyed. At 1650 hrs 22 March the last Company was moved by air to Phuoc Vinh Base. Operation BOX SPRINGS terminated. 16 US personnel were killed, 62 wounded of which 51 were evacuated from the battlefield. Enemy losses were 57 killed.

On 21 March 1968 the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry was released from operation control of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in AO FRIEDRICH and moved to a Fire Support Base in AO HARRISBURG, later changed to AO LOS DANOS. The 2d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry moved by air to Fire Support Base Paris in AO HARRISBURG on the same day. The mission of the two battalions in the area of operation was to secure the Rocket Belt to the north, east and south of Bien Hoa in Bien Hoa Province and to protect the Bien Hoa/Long Binh military complex against ground and rocket attacks. The battalions conducted reconnaissance in force, airmobile assaults and ambush patrols in the operational area.
The name of the area of operations was changed from A HAPSISSUIG to AO LOS BW.10S on 2h YParch 196'. 01. 8 April. On 9 April the 1st Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry returned to Phuoc Vinh Base and the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry assumed responsibility for the entire AO LOS BW. 187th Infantry went under the operational control of the 1st Infantry Division on 16 April and conducted operations in the southern portion of Binh Dinh Province and northern portion of Dien Bien Province. On 17 April, the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry moved to the southern portion of Binh Dinh Province and northern portion of Dien Bien Province. On 23 April the 3d Battalion (Airborne) 187th Infantry was released from operational control of the 1st Infantry Division and moved to the southern and of AO LOS BW. With the increasing threat of rocket/ground attack on Long Binh/Dien Bien area, the 5th Battalion 17th Infantry (197th INF), a Troop 3D Squadron 17th Air Cavalry and F Company 1st Long Range Patrol were placed under the operational control of the 3d Brigade on 21 April. The 5th Battalion 17th Infantry was given tactical responsibility for Fire Support Base PARIS and AO LOS 4ONOS southeast of Long Binh. The 3d Battalion (Airborne) 187th Infantry moved all units into AO LOS 4ONOS CENTER, east of Dien Bien and the 2d Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry assumed responsibility of AO LOS BW.10S NORTH, north of the Dong Hoi River. F Company 127th INF, Range Patrol conducted operations north of AO LOS BW.10S in AO UGNNH II. A Troop 3-27 AIR CAV conducted air reconnaissance, provided fire support, and maintained the Brigade Ready Reaction Force. Combat during the period was operated to moderate with increasing activity and rocket/mortar attacks toward the end of the reporting period. The operation is continuing at present. 13 US personnel were killed, 81 wounded of which 57 were evacuated from the battlefield. Enemy losses were 57 killed. Cumulative results of the reporting period's operations are recorded in Inclosure 1.

c. The organizational structure to include attached units and units under the operational control of the 3d Brigade is attached as Inclosure 2.

d. Units of the Brigade, not participating in tactical operations, conducted training on a daily basis. Each battalion is required to maintain a combat training chart as prescribed in 101st Airborne Regulation 350-1, dated 25 March 1965. Training included Code of Conduct, Safety, Mines and Espionage Warfare, Small Arms Individual and Platoon Firing Program, Lessons Learned to include Victrix Primer, Division and Brigade Combat Notes, and First Aid to include personal hygiene. Fifty-six days of tactical operations and training have been conducted since 5 March.

e. There were no major troop movements during the reporting period.

f. One major innovation was the consolidation of all 12.6cm mortars into one plot attached to the combat support company. The 12.6cm mortar squad are returned to their parent unit and attached to other units, according to the tactical requirements. When there are no requirements by units operating outside the base camp, the 12.6cm mortars are incorporated into the base camp's fire support unit and provide ready close-in support as well as immediate illumination.

2. An additional asset that became available to the 3d Brigade in March was the Scout Dog Platoon of the 56th Infantry. Immediately several dogs were incorporated into as many operations as possible. Primary emphasis was placed on using the scout dogs as a member of the point element. It was necessary to train troops and leaders at all levels in the employment of the scout dogs. Once the units had grown accustomed to the use of the scout dog and their idiosyncrasies, increased use was emphasized. Dogs were made available for ambushes, patrols, road clearing operations, cordon and search operations, and any other use the ground commander might desire which met with the scout platoon leaders approval.
The scout dogs proved valuable in all phases of a tactical system to exchange and handle the efficiency of their effectiveness and efficiency had decreased. This system assured the ground commander of a relatively fresh scout dog team at all times. Whenever possible, each platoon was assigned its own dog to utilize on cleared operations and platoon sweeps. Every effort was made to assign dogs to the same unit each time. This resulted in greater familiarity between the soldiers and dogs which proved conducive to greater effectiveness.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

   a. Personnel. NONE

   b. Operations

      Limited Resupply

      (1) OBSERVATION. The ability of a unit to keep the enemy from pinpointing its location having knowledge of its presence has tactical significance toward the success of the operation.

      (2) EVALUATION. On 17 April, A Company 1st Battalion (Airborne) 506th Infantry began a 5 day reconnaissance in force operation. The company carried only rations, water, medical supplies, ammunition, and minimal field equipment. No resupply, except for emergency was planned. On the evening of 20 April the company occupied a large enemy force, whose location indicated complete surprise at the presence of an Allied Force. 1 US personnel was killed, 6 wounded (evacuated) and 24 enemy killed by body count.

      (3) RECOMMENDATION. That Allied Forces conduct more small unit night operations with limited resupply or other activities that tend to pinpoint the location or reveal the presence of the unit in a specific area.

   c. Training.

      Replacement Personnel

      (1) OBSERVATION. The 2d Battalion (Airborne) 187th Infantry conducted a series of classes for replacements newly assigned to the battalion. By means of analyzing student responses and personal interviews of students, it was apparent that the majority of replacements arriving in Vietnam for their first tour were under the misconception the Viet Cong is a ragged, poorly trained and ill-equipped guerrilla.

      (2) EVALUATION. To under estimate the ability of the enemy as a mistake that has lost numerous battles throughout the history of war. Knowing to well until opponent will, the Viet Cong to discover he is a well trained, highly motivated soldier can be costly to the individual.

      (3) RECOMMENDATION. That advance Individual Training for trainers and Vietnamese Orientation Courses for other replacements stress the capabilities and motivation of the enemy.

   d. Intelligence.

      Chieu Hoi

      (1) OBSERVATION. Chieu Hoi are of tremendous value when employed on a regular scout basis with company and platoon size elements.

      (2) EVALUATION. The employment of ralliers as guides and scouts against their former comrades is hardly a new technique. However, building a Kit Carson Scout Program is a slow process. Chieu Hoi must be screened and selected from those who have completed the prescribed indoctrination course prior to their full time employment as scouts.

3. CONFIDENTIAL
This Brigade has attempted to obtainrollback who are familiar with the brigade area of operation. However, more important is obtaining rollers who are familiar with enemy techniques in the field, have served in the field and are willing to accompany US forces on sustained operations. Close liaison must be maintained with province Chau Noi centers to obtain personnel of this caliber. Once obtained the individual must be screened and a rapport established with the unit to which the roller is assigned.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That the value of using Chau Noi as guides for combat operations be stressed to all units newly arrived or preparing for deployment to the Republic of Vietnam.

c. Location. NONE

d. Organization. NONE

e. Other. NONE

Incl as

SIGNED

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AVFBC-RE-H (16 May 68) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3D Brigade 101st Airborne Division
for period ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ II FFORCZV, APO San Francisco 96266 29 MAY 1968

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVBCC(DST), APO 96375

Commander, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

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

1. Subject report is forwarded.

2. This command has reviewed the attached Operational Report - Lessons
Learned of the 3D Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and concurs with it.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

C/O MC
ASS CG
AG

5
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GFCP-DT,
AFO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 3d Brigade
101st Airborne Division as indorsed.

2. Reference item concerning replacement personnel, page 3, paragraph 2c.
Concur. DA Pam 360-518, Know Your Enemy: The Viet Cong, should be used as
a basis for orientation training.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AG
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:
HQ, II FORCES
HQ, 3d Bde 101st Abn Div
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 3d Bde, 101st Abn Div, for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HiQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

K. F. Osbourn
Maj. AGC
Asst AG

14 JUN 1968
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<td>175</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>175</td>
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<p>| AO LOS RAVOS       | 23 MAR|       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 2,130 BKG Rice, 2 AT mines, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 2 LP mines, 6 Bodytraps, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 67 Bunkers, 26 Structures, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 26 RTO DE, 60 LBS explosive, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 6 RTO drums, 2 Orgs, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 7 Sampans, 6 Trucks, |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | 7 Claymores, 53 Grenades |
| TLG THANG          | 6 APR |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | CONTINUING |
|                    |       |       |       |    |    |     |     |       |    |      |      | |
|                    |       | 13    | 51    | 57 | 7  | 20  | 0   |       | 0  | 137  | 137  | 130 ODS |</p>
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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hqs, 3d Bde, 101st Airborne Division (U)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb - 30 April 1968

CO, 3d Bde, 101st Abn Div

16 May 1968

N/A

N/A

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