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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (15 Dec 67) FOR OT RD-670819

20 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 173d
Airborne Brigade (Sep), Period Ending 31 July 1967

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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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:

Kenneth G. Wickham
KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)
11th Infantry Brigade (Sep)

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173rd AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

OPERATIONAL REPORT

LESSONS LEARNED

1 May - 31 July 1967



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FOR OT RO FILE
670819

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO San Francisco 96250

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned
(1 May 1967 - 31 July 1967)


THRU: Commanding General
I. FFORCEV
ATTN: Unit Historian (MAJ Stewart)
APO 96350

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

The inclosed Operational Report Lessons Learned is forwarded in compliance with USARV Regulation 1-19 and AR 1-19.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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as


W. L. KVASNICKA
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

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15 August 1967

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

I. Significant Organizational and Unit Activities

1. Introduction:

This Operational Report Lessons Learned covers the period 1 May to 31 July 1967. The 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) has continued to conduct operations to locate and destroy the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Armed Forces, supply lines and communications of the enemy and installations. Operations were continued within the Brigade base TAOR (Tactical Area of Responsibility). The Brigade has also continued Civic Action/Civil Affairs activities in both operational areas and in the immediate area of Bien Hoa.

In accomplishing its mission, the Brigade has conducted seven (7) battalion size or larger operations: Operation FORT WAYNE (1 - 4 May 1967), Operation DAYTON (5 - 17 May 1967), Operation CINCINNATI (17 - 23 May 1967), Operation WINCHESTER (23 - 31 May 1967), Operation FRANCIS MARION (1 - 14 June 1967), the 4/503d Infantry's Operation SYCAMORE (18 - 22 June 1967) and Operation GREELEY (18 June to the present). Highlights of the Brigade's activities during this quarter was the deployment to the 11 Corps Tactical Zone and the initiation of aggressive search and destroy operations in that area.

2. Organization:

The internal structure of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) had remained essentially the same during the reporting period. No new units were assigned, attached or detached. For a breakdown of the Brigade strength, see paragraph 8, Personnel and Administration. In addition, see Organization Chart (Incl 2).

3. Intelligence:

a. The enemy's order of battle in the TAOR remains the same. The following units continue to conduct sporadic harassing small unit tactics in and around the Brigade's TAOR against ARVN and US forces:

- (1) C-270 LF VC platoon
- (2) C-33 LF VC Platoon
- (3) C-303 LF VC Company

b. Probable reinforcements continue to include elements from the D-800 MF Battalion and the 273d Viet Cong Regiment.

c. The enemy situation before and during each operation conducted by the Brigade during this reporting period is as follows:

(1) Operation FORT WAYNE (1 - 4 May 1967)

(a) Enemy Situation Before the Operation: Prior to the commencement of the operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the area of operation: C-300 LF Platoon, C-301 LF Company, C-302 LF Platoon and the C-303 LF Company. The enemy had the capability to:

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1. Attack with force up to company size and to harass friendly forces with local and guerrilla units.

2. To defend with the above mentioned forces.

3. To reinforce his attacks with the above mentioned forces and possibly elements of the D-800 MF Battalion and the 273d Viet Cong Regiment.

4. To withdraw from contact or avoid contact at the time and place of his choosing.

(b) Enemy Situation During the Operation: From 1 - 4 May 1967 the Brigade maintained sporadic contact with the enemy. These contacts/incidents were usually meeting engagements with small groups of Viet Cong harassing friendly troops. Approximately 70% of these engagements were friendly initiated. No large engagements occurred and Brigade findings were limited to scattered bunkers. The enemy used grenades and claymore devices to harass Brigade elements. Due to the brevity of the operation the enemy did not have time to initiate a detailed harassing program.

(c) Terrain and Weather: The AO was within Long Khanh Province and bounded on the west and north by the Song Dong Nai River. The eastern and southern edge of the area was generally within the YT31 N-S grid line and Y116 E-W grid line. The Song Dong Nai River is the major drainage system within the area of operation. The primary forms of vegetation consist of bamboo thickets, cultivated fields, grasslands and rubber plantations. Small intermittent streams are found within the AO. Interprovincial Highway's 24 and 34 provide routes of ground access into the area. The weather during the operation was generally clear and humid with heavy rainfall on the night of 3 May. The average high temperature was 84 degrees with an average low of approximately 77 degrees.

(d) Following is a list representing the enemy's order of battle:

<u>UNIT & STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE UNITS</u>	<u>WEAPONS & EQUIP</u>
MR-1	YT2040	Corps Type Headquarters and administration of the III Corps Provinces	Unknown
141 NVA Regt 1800	Unlocated	1 NVA Bn 2 NVA Bn 3 NVA Bn	Unknown
84A NVA Arty Regt 1800	Unlocated	Unknown	Unknown
800 DN Bn 400	YT486193	C1 Inf Co C2 Inf Co C3 Inf Co	2-81mm Mortars 3-60mm Mortars 4-30cal MG 3-57mm RR 2-HMG Assorted SA

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C-300 LF Plt 35	YT20340	Unknown	Unknown
C-302 LF Plt 35	XT9224	Unknown	Unknown
C-303 LF Co 100	YT090310	Unknown	Unknown

(2) Operation DAYTON (5 - 17 May 1967)

(a) Enemy Situation Before the Operation: Prior to the commencement of this operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the area of operation: 5th Viet Cong Division, 274th Main Force Regiment, 275th Main Force Regiment, 89th Artillery Regiment, 84th Rear Service Group, D-800 Main Force Battalion, D-445 LF Battalion, H3 LF Platoon and the H4 LF Platoon. The enemy had the capability of:

1. Attacking in platoon, company, battalion and regiment strength.
2. Defending with the above mentioned forces.
3. Withdrawing at the time and place of his choosing.

(b) Enemy Situation During the Operation: From 5 - 17 May 1967, the Brigade maintained sporadic contact with the enemy. These contacts were usually meeting engagements with small groups of Viet Cong harassing friendly forces. There were twenty-nine (29) friendly initiated contacts. No large engagements occurred with the exception of an enemy mortar attack on the last day of the operation during the withdrawal of troops from the landing zone by helicopter. The Brigade's findings were limited to scattered base camps and bunkers throughout the area of operation. There were a number of incidents where the Viet Cong threw grenades and used claymore devices and booby traps against friendly forces. A number of small enemy units were observed by LRRP (Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol) teams during the operation. There were a total of fifty-one (51) incidents of which twenty-two (22) were enemy initiated.

(c) Terrain and Weather: The area of operation is defined by the following coordinates: YT5016, YT9016, YS5080 and YS9080. The land was characterized by flat to rolling plains with isolated mountains. The NUI RE Mountain complex has an elevation of 874 meters. CHAU CHAN Mountain was used as a communication relay point. The vegetation with the area of operation is predominantly thick jungle with multiple canopy. This 2 - 4 layer canopy is generally continuous with the uppermost layers extending from 85 to 100 meters. Small rubber plantations and rice paddies border the area, but there are no extensive cultivated areas with the center of the AO. National Highway 1 is the major east - west road in the AO and it was effectively utilized for ground resupply. The weather during the operation was marked by the beginning of the southwest monsoon. Precipitation occurred periodically but in no way interfered with ground operations. Cloud ceilings generally reached higher altitudes and as the month progressed the afternoon cloud ceilings increased markedly. Temperatures ranged from 75 to 98 degrees.

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(d) The following is a list representing the enemy's order of battle:

<u>UNIT & STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE UNITS</u>	<u>WEAPONS & EQUIP</u>
5th VC Division 4250	YS592928	274 MF Regt 275 MF Regt 89 Arty Regt	See subordinate units
274th MF Regt 1650	YS674930	800 VC Bn 265 VC Bn 308 VC Bn	13-81/82mm Mortar 12-60mm Mortar 6-57mm RR, 6-75mm RR, 9-AAMG, 9-B40 AT Grenade L, 3-12.7mm MG, 15-30 cal MG, Assorted SA & AW
275th MF Regt 1650	YT755081	1 VC Bn 2 VC Bn 3 VC Bn	14-81/82mm Mortar 16-60mm Mortar 9-75mm RR, 5-57mm RR, 2-M20 RL, 30-B40 AT GL, 10-12.7 MG, 2-50 cal MG, 11-30 cal MG, assorted SA & AW
89th Arty Regt 550	YS749870	Z-39 Arty Bn 4 NVA AA Bn	2-120mm Mortar, 6-81/82mm Mortar 6-75mm RR, 3-57mm RR, 21-12.7 MG Assorted SA
84th Rear Service Group - 900	YS470840	Unknown	Unknown
D-800 MF Bn 400	YT518002	C1 Inf Co C2 Inf Co C3 Inf Co	2-81mm Mortar 3-60mm Mortar 4-30 cal MG, 3-57mm RR, 2-HMG, Assorted SA
D-445 LF Bn 400	YS641760	C443 Co C444 Co C445 Co	5-81mm Mortar 3-60mm Mortar 2-57mm RR, 2-75mm RR, 4-30 cal MG, 2-50cal MG, B40 RKT L, Assorted SA
H3 LF Plt 20	YS810940	Unknown	Unknown
H4 LF Plt 50	YS560939	Unknown	Unknown

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(3) Operation CINCINNATI (18 - 25 May 1967)

(a) Enemy Situation Before the Operation: Prior to the commencement of this operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the area of operation: 273d MF Regiment, D-800 MF Battalion, 84A NVA Artillery Regiment, 58th VC Artillery Battalion, C-303 LF VC Company, C-33 LF VC Platoon, C-270 LF VC Platoon, and the Cho Thanh LF VC Platoon. The enemy had the capability to:

1. Attack with size forces up to regimental strength.
2. Defend with the forces mentioned above.
3. Withdraw at the time and place of his choosing.

(b) Enemy Situation During the Operation: From 18 - 25 May, the Brigade maintained sporadic contact with the enemy. These contacts were meeting engagements with small VC groups. Approximately 7 of the contacts were friendly initiated. No large engagements occurred and the Brigade findings were limited to abandoned base camps and bunkers scattered throughout the area of operation (AO). There were a number of incidents where the VC used claymore mines and booby traps against the Brigade units. The most significant incident of the entire operation was the capture of a 122.4mm spin stabilized rocket of the type that was used to bombard the BIEN HOA Airbase on 12 May 1967.

(c) Terrain and Weather: The weather during Operation Cincinnati was influenced by the Southwest Monsoon. Cloudiness increased during the month but nocturnal low ceilings were infrequent. Rainfall increased throughout the AO as the month progressed. Thunderstorm activity increased during the latter days of the operation. The temperature ranged from 76 to 92 degrees. The contour of the land is characterized by relatively flat land with gentle sloping hills. The hills become more numerous and prominent in the central portions of the area of operation. Few of these hills are above 75 meters and the vegetation within the area is predominantly dense forest. A large rubber plantation, CAY GAO, is located at XT 2824. Extensive rice fields border the banks of the main rivers and streams near populated areas. The SONG DONG NAI and SONG BE Rivers form the major drainage pattern in the area. There were no bridges spanning these waters north of BIEN HOA. The area is surrounded by usable road networks to the south, east and west.

(d) The following is a list representing the enemy's order of battle:

UNIT & STRENGTH	LOCATION	SUBORDINATE UNITS	WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT
273d VC Regt 1500	YT0825	1 Bn (AKA 700-707-7 T80) 2 Bn (AKA 800-709- T70) 3 Bn (AKA 900-711- 263)	12x81/82Mtr: 13x60Mtr 12x50MG: 12x30MG 6x75RR: 9x57RR:33x840 AT GL: 9x12.7MG Assorted Small Arms
84th A NVA Arty 1200	YT1028	Unknown	Unknown
D 800 MF Bn	YT1232	C1 Co C2 Co C3 Co	2x81Mtr: 2HMG: 3x60 Mtr: Asort SA: 4x30 MG: 3x57RR: Unk 75mm RR: 3x82Mtr: 2x81Mtr: 3x60Mtr: 3x50MG: 2x12.7MG

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UNIT & STRENGTH	LOCATION	SUBORDINATE UNITS	WEAPONS & EQUIPMENT
58th VC Arty Bn 300	YT008267	Unknown	Unknown
C 303 Co 100	YT009310	Unknown	Unknown
C 33 Plt 30	YT150140	Unknown	Unknown
C 270 Plat 30	YT120170	Unknown	Unknown
Chau Thau Plt Unknown	YT070160	Unknown	Unknown

(4) Operation WINCHESTER: Operation WINCHESTER was the code name for the movement of Brigade elements to the II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE (vicinity of PLEIKU). The movement began on the 24th of May and terminated on 31 May 1967.

(5) Operation FRANCIS MARION (31 May - 18 June 1967)

(a) Enemy Situation Before the Operation: Prior to the commencement of this operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the AO: 6th Battalion, 88th NVA Regiment, 66th Regiment Headquarters with 7th, 8th and 9th Battalions and the 95B Regiment. The enemy had the capability to:

1. Attack in multi-regimental force using elements of the 88th NVA Regiment, 66th Regiment and the 95B Regiment.

2. Defend in fortified base areas for a limited period.

3. Withdraw at the time and place of his choosing.

(b) Enemy Situation During the Operation: No significant contact was made while operating in the vicinity of the IA DRANG Valley. Many base camps, fortifications, and some supply caches were located. Enemy activity consisted of boobytraps and harassment.

(c) Terrain and Weather: The area of interest was defined by the following coordinates: YA750480, YV750750, ZA220480 and ZV220750. The area included the western portion of Pleiku and a portion of eastern Cambodia. The contour of the land is characterized by rolling hills with wide valleys.

(d) The following is a list representing the enemy's order of battle:

UNIT	ESTIMATED STRENGTH	LAST CONFIRMED LOCATION	DATE
B-3 Front	500	YA741339	25 May 67
NONG TROUNG 1	6157	YA670300	NA
15th Engr Bn	230	YV8792	11 Apr 67
16th Sig Bn	200	YV8792	11 Apr 67
88th NVA Regt	1600	YA700175	NA
6th Bn	425	YA911170	NA

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UNIT	ESTIMATED STRENGTH	LAST CONFIRMED LOCATION	DATE
66th NVA Regt	1600	YA 868135	29 Apr 67
7th Bn	400	YA 820330	24 May 67
8th Bn	300	YA 823370	2 May 67
9th Bn	450	Unlocated, possible vic 66th Regt Hq's	2 May 67
95B Regt	1490	YA 763120	2 May 67

(6) Operation GREELEY (18 June - present)

(a) Enemy Situation Before the Operation: Prior to the commencement of the operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the area of operation: 24th NVA Regiment, 304th VMC Battalion, 200th VC Artillery Battalion and the H-15 LF Battalion. The enemy had the capability to:

1. To attack in up to regimental strength.
2. To defend and reinforce with the above mentioned elements.
3. To withdraw at the time and the place of his choosing.

(b) Enemy Situation During the Operation: During the operation many base camps, fortified bunkers and trenches and enemy supply points have been located. All indications point to an enemy build-up within the area of operation. Significant contacts that occurred during the reporting period are listed below:

1. On 22 June at ZB 000171, Company A/2/503d Infantry made contact with an NVA unit that was determined to be the K6 Battalion, B-3 Front which was the 6th Battalion of the 24th NVA Regiment. The enemy unit suffered 106 KIA (BC) and 369 KIA (POSS) and was no longer believed to be combat effective. Friendly losses were 76 KIA and 28 WIA.

2. On 28 June at YB 916143, Troop B/2/12th Cavalry, 1st Air Cavalry Division made contact with an estimated reinforced NVA platoon. The enemy unit was later determined to be an element of the K-101D Battalion.

3. On 10 July at YB 860140, Company A/4/503d Infantry made contact with elements of the K-101D Battalion. This contact resulted in the capture of a North Vietnamese soldier. Interrogation revealed that the POW was a member of the K-101D Battalion of the Doc Lop Regiment. This is a new NVA unit. Based on comments given by the POW, the Doc Lop Regiment is fully combat effective with three (3) rifle battalions and support from one organic artillery battalion. POW also revealed that his unit had been in contact with CIDG elements on 14 June, MIKE Force elements on 15 June and B/2/12th Cavalry on 28 June.

(c) Terrain and Weather: The area of operation lies within KONTUM Province. It is bounded on the west by the Cambodian/Laotian border, to the east by grid lines AS 9259 to ZB 1200, to the north by the Dak Pek Special Forces Camp and to the south by the YB00 east - west grid line. The terrain is characterized by high mountain ranges interlaced by river valleys and streams. Vegetation is marked by heavy

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jungle. Weather during the operation has been characterized by the influence of the Southwest Monsoon. Frequent and heavy precipitation has been the norm with temperatures ranging between 66 and 85 degrees.

(d) The following is a list representing the enemy's order of battle:

<u>UNIT & STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE UNITS</u>	<u>WEAPONS</u>
24th NVA Regt 1000	ZBL40340	4th Inf Bn 5th Inf Bn 6th Inf Bn	4-120mm Mortars 21-82mm Mortars 13-12.7mm AA MG's 27-RR's (75mm & 57mm), 12-Goryun- ov MG's, 9-RPD46 LMG's, Assorted SA
4th Bn, 24th Regt	ZB092180	Unknown	Unknown
5th Bn, 24th Regt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
6th Bn, 24th Regt	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
304th VCMF Bn 350	ZB215385	D11 Inf Co (C1) D12 Inf Co (C2) D13 Inf Co (C3) D14 Arty Co (C4)	21-SMG's, 36-AR's, 9-60mm Mortars, assorted SA
200th VC Arty Bn 300	YA993830	1st Co 2d Co 3d Co	18-12.7mm AA MG's, 38-AK47's, 57-SKS rifles, possibly 75mm and 105mm Arty pieces, as- sorted SA
H-15 LF Bn 400	Unknown	C1 Inf Co C2 Inf Co C3 Inf Co C4 Inf Co C5 Inf Co	Unknown

d. Throughout this quarter, operations have substantiated the fact that the Viet Cong/NVA still maintain the capability of engaging ARVN and US forces when he believes the odds are favorable and that he will continue to harass in any event.

e. Viet Cong/NVA losses for the period 1 May through 31 July 1967 are as follows:

Enemy Personnel:

KIA (BC) 206
KIA (POSS) 469

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KBA (Killed by Air)	0
VCC	6
Detainees	0
Ralliers	0
<u>Equipment/Supplies</u>	
<u>Weapons:</u>	
SKS Rifles	36
AK-47 Rifles	27
B-40 Rocket Launchers	9
RPD Machine Guns	9
BAR	6
Crossbows	5
M-1 Carbines	4
M-1 Rifles	2
M-16 Rifles	2
.45 Cal Thompson Sub-Machine Gun	2
M-79 Grenade Launcher	2
Chicom MAS Rifles	2
M-26 Rifle	1
Russian Carbine	1
75mm Recoilless Rifle	1
Chicom K-50 Sub-Machine Gun	1
Mauser Pistol	1
Winchester Rifle (1917)	1
122.4mm Rocket Launcher	1
<u>Ammunition:</u>	
7.62mm Rounds	5,888

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.30 Caliber Rounds	1,449
12.7mm Rounds	313
.50 Caliber Rounds	300
Small Arms Rounds	289
.45 Caliber Rounds	100
75mm Recoilless Rifle Rounds	89
5.56mm Rounds	60
B-40 Rocket Launcher Rounds	41
82mm Mortar Rounds	41
AK-47 Rounds	35
M-79 Rounds	17
60mm Mortar Rounds	15
57mm Recoilless Rifle Rounds	1
<u>Mines, Grenades and Demolitions:</u>	
DH-5 Claymore Mines	22
DH-10 Claymore Mines	28
AP Mines	19
Grenades	119
Chicom Stick Grenades	242
VC Stick Grenades	21
Chicom Frag Grenades	58
Smoke Grenades	2
WP Grenades	1
AT Grenades	1
Shape Charge	13 kilos
Satchel Charge	1 (20 lbs)
US Blasting Caps	106

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Chicom Dynamite	20 lbs
Chicom TNT	452 lbs
Chicom Blasting Caps	32
Chicom Nitrate Capsules	215
Grenade Fuses	180
Fuse Lighters	300
RPG-2 Rocket Propellant Charges	7
82mm Charge Cans	10
1000 lb Bomb	1
Butterfly Bombs	20
Hand Flares	4
Trip Flares	9
<u>Installations:</u>	
Bunkers	486
Huts	731
Foxholes	83
Trench Systems	1,395 meters
Cache	1
Tunnel Systems	8
Classrooms	1
Lean-to	22
Gun Positions	7
<u>Food:</u>	
Cooking Oil	10 gals
Pet Milk	7 cans
Rice	15,595 lbs
"C" Rations	4 cases

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Corn	15 lbs
Salt	11 1/2 lbs
Chickens	10
<u>Miscellaneous:</u>	
US Ponchos	3
Khaki Uniforms	1
Mount & Sight .50 Caliber AA Weapon	1
Clothing	271 lbs
Black Shirts	250
Blue Shirts	100
Blue Trousers	100
Nylon Material	100 Rls (25 yds ea)
Chicken Wire	1 Rl (100 ft)
Magazines, short	3
Web Gear10 lbs
Grenade Launcher Attachment	1
Medical Supplies	Assorted
Thompson Sub-Machine Gun Magazines	54
35mm Film	300 ft
First Aid Kit.	2
Wallet	2
US Gas Mask	1
Commo Wire410 ft
Cigarette Lighters	3
AK-47 Magazines	15
.45 Caliber M-2 Magazines	7
BAR Magazines	18

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Claymore Stands	23
60mm Mortar Base Plates	6
VC Entrenching Tools	36
VC Canteens	22
VC Gas Masks	4
Rucksacks	87
GMC WWII 2 1/2 Ton Truck	1
3/4 Ton Truck	1
VC Ponchos	3
Ammo Boxes	2
Bicycle	1
4.5 Volt Batteries	20
Steel Helmets	1
Pistol Belts	4
Cooking Utensils	Assorted
VC Kerosine Lamp	1
Blue Scarf	1
Beds	3
Chairs and Tables	5
55 gal Drums	2
Bottles	40
Charcoal	25 lbs
VC Flashlights	6
Axle Grease	11 lbs
Documents	60 lbs
Ginned Cotton	60 lbs
Pith Helmets	12

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Boots	2 pr
Shovel	1
M-1 Carbine Magazine	1
Fishing Line	2
Fish Net	1
Briefcase	1
Bayonets	2
Suspenders	1
French Tooth Paste	11
Soap Bar	1
Shoes	2 pr
Flashlight Batteries	8
Weapons Cleaning Equipment	Assorted
Mortar Shipping Plugs	11
Sniper Scope	1
Binoculars	2
LBE Sets	11
Wool Blankets	75
RPD Magazines	13
Chicom B-71 AM Trancievers	2
PRC-25 Radios	2
US HT-1 Radios	3
Penicillin	3 bottles

4. Combat Operations:

General: The Brigade continued to conduct combat and Revolutionary Development (Civil Affairs and Civic Action) operations designed to locate and destroy Viet Cong/NVA Forces, logistical installations and to further reduce his hold on the Vietnamese people.

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May

During the month of May the Brigade conducted normal security operations in and around Bien Hoa, initiating and finishing four operations and beginning a fifth operation.

The Brigade initiated Operation FORT WAYNE on 1 May 1967 in LONG KHANH Province, bounded on the west and the north by the SONG DONG NAI RIVER. During the operation enemy contact was light, providing valuable training for new arrivals for forthcoming operations with a minimum number of casualties sustained. The operation was terminated at 1745 hours on 4 May with all elements closing back to BIEN HOA. Prior to the termination of Operation FORT WAYNE, the Brigade received instructions from II FFORCEV to prepare for immediate deployment to PHUOC TUY Province in an area known as the MAO TAO SECRET ZONE. The Brigade's mission was to conduct offensive operations in the southern portion of the area of operation and to destroy forces and installations within the area. Operation DAYTON was aimed at the 274th and 275th Main Force Viet Cong Regiments which had been identified through documents captured by the 18th ARVN Division as the forces in the area. At approximately 1800 hours on 4 May, the Brigade began deployment of the 1st and 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry, 3/319th Artillery (-), D/16th Armor and a Brigade quartering party to Position BLACKHORSE by a combination of helicopter, fixed wing and motor movement. From the 5th of May to the 17th of May, the Brigade maintained sporadic contact with the enemy. The engagements were mostly meeting engagements involving small groups of Viet Cong harassing friendly troops. Approximately 29 of the contacts were friendly initiated. No large engagements occurred and the Brigade's findings were limited to abandoned base camps and scattered bunkers throughout the area of operation. On 17 May at 1730 hours the Brigade terminated Operation DAYTON suffering a mortar attack during the withdrawal of units resulting in 1 US KIA and 19 US WIA. This was the second time that the Brigade had operated in this undisputed enemy stronghold.

On the following day, the Brigade initiated Operation CINCINNATI in the BIEN HOA and LONG BINH Areas in order to secure the area against possible Viet Cong ground, mortar and rocket attacks, such as occurred on the night of 12 May 1967. On the afternoon of 23 May, the Commanding General was briefed at II FFORCEV to prepare the Brigade for immediate deployment to the II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE in the vicinity of PLEIKU. The Brigade's mission would be to establish a base camp and to act as a reserve force for at least three months. All Brigade units were briefed as to requirements of the movement operation at 1800 hours by the Commanding General. At 0520 hours on 24 May an advance party departed BIEN HOA AIR BASE and arrived at the NEW PLEIKU AIRFIELD at 0620 hours. At 1219 hours the first C-130 aircraft departed BIEN HOA carrying the Brigade's main element, thus initiating the movement operation that was code named Operation WINCHESTER. Air movement of the Brigade continued through 27 May with a total of 2,239 personnel and 2,700.7 tons of equipment being transported utilizing a total of 208 sorties. From 27 May through 30 May the Brigade continued improvement of its base camp at CATECKA and general improvement of the roads in the area. The Brigade was further placed under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division and began participation in Operation FRANCIS MARION, commencing patrols and search and destroy missions to the south and east in the IA DRANG VALLEY. Operations during the month of May were supported by a total of 52 TAC sorties, during which a total of 139.50 tons of ordnance was dropped. Supporting artillery (3/319th) fired 598 missions expending a total of 10,460 rounds. The Brigade organic Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon) supported all operations. A statistical report of their activities follows:

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<u>Mission</u>	<u>Sorties</u>
Resupply	600
Command and Control	4,400
TOTAL . .	5,000
Total Passengers Transported	7,000
Total Cargo Transported	40 tons
Total Hours Flown	1,080

Operations during the month of May resulted in the following VC and friendly casualties:

<u>Viet Cong Losses</u>	<u>US Losses</u>
KIA (BC) <u>41</u>	KIA <u>20</u>
KIA (POSS) <u>33</u>	WIA <u>79</u>
VCC <u>0</u>	MIA <u>1</u>
Detainees <u>0</u>	Non-Battle Injured <u>16</u>
Ralliers <u>0</u>	Non-Battle Dead <u>0</u>

June

From 1 - 18 June 1967, the Brigade continued participation in Operation FRANCIS MARION searching further south and east in the IA DRANG VALLEY. The Brigade deployed the 1st and 2d Battalions (503d Infantry) into the operational area, holding the 4/503d Infantry in reserve as a reaction force at CATECKA. During the Brigade's participation in Operation FRANCIS MARION, several OPLANS were published. OPLAN DECATUR directed the relief/reinforcement of US/RVNAF/GVN installations in KONTUM and OPLAN AVENGHR was directed in support of US/RVNAF/GVN installations in the FRANCIS MARION AO. The Brigade made no significant contact during its participation. On 17 June, prior to the termination of the Brigade's participation in Operation FRANCIS MARION, the Brigade deployed a Task Force to NEW DAKTO (TF MC QUARRIE) named for the Brigade's Deputy Commanding Officer, COL Claude M. McQuarrie. The Task Force consisted of the 2/503d Infantry, E/17th Cavalry, Alpha Battery, 3/319th Artillery, one platoon from D/16th Armor, one platoon from the 173d Engineer Company, Alpha Battery, 1/92d Artillery, elements of the 173d Military Police Platoon, the 335th Assault Helicopter Company and the 39th Infantry Scout Dog Platoon. The decision was further made to deploy the 1/503d Infantry into the operational area. On the 18th of June, the Battalion was deployed into the area by helicopter. The Brigade's (-) mission at NEW DAKTO was to assume the operational control of the Special Forces/CIDG Camp and to further assist in its defense. The operation was code named GREELEY. Upon the Task Force's arrival, the area was being threatened by the 24th North Vietnamese Regiment from the northeast and southwest. The Brigade Headquarters (-) and the 4th Battalion 503d Infantry remained at CATECKA under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division. The Operation STILLWELL area had a relatively high rate of enemy activity. Nineteen sightings had occurred since 8 April 1967. However, no significant contact had been made. Consequently, the 4/503d Infantry terminated participation on 22 June.

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In the DAKTO area, on the 23d of June 1967, Company A/2/503d Infantry made contact 6,800 meters south of the NEW DAKTO (Bde (-) CP) which was to become one of the important battles of the war. See Inclosure 6, A/2/503d Infantry After Action Report. The Brigade Headquarters (-) and D/16th Armor (-) which had remained at GATECKA, departed for NEW DAKTO by road. Operations continue into the month of July. Operations during the month of June were supported by 120 TAG sorties and 20 FAG sorties dropping a total of 90.33 tons of ordnance. Supporting artillery (3/319th Arty) fired a total of 1,042 missions expending a total of 20,874 rounds. The Brigade's Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon) supported all operations. A statistical report of their activities follows:

UH-1D Sorties

Resupply	140
Command and Control	2,346
Maintenance	395
Other	455
Total Hours Flown	974
Total Passengers	3,429

OH-13 Sorties

Command and Control	705
Reconnaissance	30
Maintenance	41
Training	14
Other	10
Total Hours Flown	321
Total Passengers	354

Operations during the month of June resulted in the following Viet Cong and friendly casualties:

VC/NVA Losses

KIA (BC)	<u>131</u>
KIA (POSS)	<u>427</u>
VCC	<u>5</u>

US Losses

KIA	<u>84</u>
WIA	<u>63</u>
MIA	<u>0</u>
Non-Battle Dead	<u>2</u>
Non-Battle Injured	<u>17</u>

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July

The 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) and supporting units under Brigade control continued Operation GREELEY throughout the month of July. Brigade elements met with light contact in July while searching for infiltrating/exfiltrating NVA units near the tri-border area. The largest enemy contact was made on 10 July 1967 when Alpha Company, 4/503d Infantry engaged an estimated NVA Battalion (-) at grid coordinates YB 860140 while conducting search and destroy operations in that area. The lead element of the company initially received heavy small arms and automatic weapons fire from two bunkers. The enemy (NVA) force was estimated to be of company size and were well entrenched in fortified positions approximately 35 meters to A/4/503d Infantry's northwest (front). The company (-) reinforced the lead element as artillery and airstrikes were directed on the NVA. B/4/503d Infantry deployed to the vicinity of YB 862141 (northeast of A/4/503d Inf). As they maneuvered to attack the enemy positions, they came under heavy fire from two additional light machineguns, small arms, automatic weapons, 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. This enemy force was also estimated to be at company strength and was mutually supporting the NVA unit engaged with A/4/503d Infantry. D/4/503d Infantry maneuvered elements to reinforce the two friendly companies in contact. All units continued to receive fire until 1800 hours. Artillery support was rendered both in direct firing upon enemy positions and in blocking fires, deterring the enemy's access to routes of withdrawal. Results of this engagement were: 25 US KIA, 50 US WJA, 0 MIA, and 1 CIDG KIA. Enemy losses: 9 NVA KIA (BC), 1 IMG RPD, 1 AK-47 rifle, 1 pistol and one (1) 7.62mm Chicom rifle. Security in the Brigade Rear Area (BIEN HOA) was provided by elements of the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions on a rotation basis as directed by II FFORCEV. The Base Camp perimeter security was provided by 173d rear detachment personnel. Operations during the month were supported by 260 TAC sorties and 44 FAC sorties, dropping a total of 183.85 tons of ordnance. Supporting artillery (3/319th Arty) fired 2,576 missions expending a total of 21,318 rounds. The Brigade Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon) supported all operations. A statistical account of their activities follows:

UH-1D Sorties

Resupply	57
Command and Control	1,469
Maintenance	27
Total Hours Flown	732
Total Tons of Cargo	28
Total Passengers	1,277

OH-13 Sorties

Command and Control	390
Reconnaissance	0
Maintenance	14
Training	2

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Total Passengers 317

Total Hours Flown 223

5. Training

a. Brigade Jungle School: On 3 June 1967, 1LT Alfred J. Paul was appointed commandant of the 173d Airborne Brigade's Jungle School. During this reporting period, the school has trained over 1600 personnel in the replacement training phase. During the months of July and August, specialized weapons training was given to units comprising the rear detachment on the 90mm recoilless rifle and the 4.2 inch mortar. In addition, during this same period, the entire 34th Engineer Battalion of the 20th Engineer Brigade was trained in the use of the M-18A1 claymore mine, the M-26 Fragmentation Grenade and the M-60 Light Machinegun. On the 16th of July, the 3d Civil Engineering Squadron was put through a complete course on the M-16 rifle, including characteristics, mechanical training, zero and quick kill.

(1) In keeping with the school's policy of giving training to anyone who might ask of it, innumerable units have been given instruction upon request in such subjects as weapons training, survival, setting up an operational base and medical evacuation hoist operations.

(2) Depending upon the availability of aircraft since July, the weekly field operation has included an airmobile assault.

(3) At present, a VC Base Camp is being completed which will be used in conjunction with a course which includes: VC/NVA mines and boobytraps, boobytrap detection, searching techniques employed in VC/NVA Base Camps, a period of practical application during which the students will be required to negotiate a boobytrapped trail and clear a VC Base Camp and tunnel system of boobytraps. This course will be fully operational by 13 September 1967, after which date as per USARV requirement, it will be mandatory for all members of the 173d Airborne Brigade and supporting units to attend.

(4) At this time, instructors are being trained in the use and employment of Ground Surveillance Radar Sets (AN/PFS-4 and AN/TPS-33) for purposes of training radar teams to man the BIEH HOA defense perimeter.

b. Operation REVENGE: The following is a press release submitted by the 173d Airborne Brigade's Information Office concerning a contact made by students and cadre of the Brigade Jungle School on 11 May 1967.

As far as the cadre and students of the 173d Airborne Brigade Jungle School were concerned, the operation could have no other name. It had to be called "Operation REVENGE."

The paratroopers were confident and ready that morning, knowing that this was to be no ordinary mission. Just prior to moving out, each man received an equipment check, and was asked questions about the terrain, compass azimuths, tactics to be employed, and his individual mission.

Quickly and skillfully, the final touches of camouflage make-up were applied to faces, hands and arms. Foliage was added to the paratroopers' helmets. Moving out at nine-thirty, they knew the weather would be unbearably hot, and the jungle as thick as any in VIETNAM. No one doubted that the VC would be there.

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Sergeant Santos Rodriguez, Benito, Texas, lying on a bed in the 93d Evacuation Hospital at LONG BINH, had a particular stake in the outcome of "Operation REVENGE". One week earlier, he was seriously wounded while leading an element of the Brigade Jungle School on a routine field training exercise in WAR ZONE "D".

While moving across a road to set up claymores, Sergeant Rodriguez, accompanied by Sergeant Donny R. Jones, Ocala, Florida, was spotted by four VC. The enemy fired burst from automatic weapons, and tossed a grenade that landed between the two sergeants. Though critically wounded, Sergeant Rodriguez continued to command his men, ordering them to take cover. Sergeant Jones fired at the VC, seeing one go down, and advanced to aid his wounded buddy, who was evacuated on a Dustoff helicopter.

The cadre and students at the Jungle School reacted to the news of Sergeant Rodriguez with mingled sadness and anger. Plans were immediately set in motion to avenge the wounded NCO, who had been voted "outstanding instructor" by the students for four successive weeks.

The new arrivals to the Brigade who comprised the Jungle School class had been waiting four days, preparing for the revenge patrol. Though they had not met Sergeant Rodriguez, each man felt as if he owed a personal debt to the wounded NCO.

As the students moved out, weapons at the ready, they passed the scenes of earlier encounters with the enemy. This heightened their resolve to carry out their own particular mission.

As darkness set in, delta element, a twelve-man ambush squad, moved into position along a road. Working in a monsoon rain, Sergeant Robert Parham, Fayetteville, North Carolina, carefully positioned his men and set out six claymore mines in front of the ambush position. As they set in for the night, he cautioned each man to stay awake and alert.

Just before midnight, four VC approached, moving silently east to west along the road. The night was dark and moonless, and the enemy troops were able to slip through the killing zone before being detected.

Further down the road, the guerrillas were fired upon by another Jungle School ambush patrol, and turned around, heading back toward delta element. Sergeant Parham detonated his claymore, instantly killing one of them. Two other VC, wounded and downed by the blast, could be heard attempting to escape.

Sergeant Parham quickly threw out a trip flare, lighting up the entire area. Sergeant Edward J. Smith, 19, from Philadelphia, finished off the two wounded VC with fire from his M-16.

The next morning, a search of the area yielded a Chicom submachinegun and twenty-one (21) 82mm mortar rounds. The captured weapon, along with a plaque for "outstanding cadre", were presented to Sergeant Rodriguez. "Operation REVENGE" was completed.

6. Psychological Operations and Civic Action

a. May 1967: During this reporting period, 12 speaker missions were flown while a total of 350,000 leaflets were dropped. The following is a Psy Ops breakdown by date, theme and time/amount:

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DATE	THEME	MISSION	TIME/AMOUNT
2 May 67	Rally Instructions	Speaker	1/2 hour
6 May 67	Rally Instructions	Speaker	1 hour
7 May 67	Rally Instructions	Speaker	1 hour
11 May 67	Special 246-240	Leaflet	100,000
7 May 67	Special 246-240	Leaflet	100,000
12 May 67	Special 246-240	Leaflet	100,000
13 May 67	Rally Instructions	Speaker	1/2 hour
13 May 67	Why You Should Rally/ Curfew Tape	Speaker	1 hour
13 May 67	Return to Family	Speaker	1/2 hour
13 May 67	Rally Instructions	Speaker	1/2 hour
14 May 67	JUSPAO 1A+B	Speaker	1 1/2 hours
15 May 67	Special 246-240	Leaflet	25,000
15 May 67	Special 246-240	Leaflet	25,000
15 May 67	JUSPAO 4A	Speaker	1 1/2 hours
15 May 67	JUSPAO 11A+B	Speaker	1 hour
16 May 67	Special 246 Tape	Speaker	1 hour
16 May 67	Special 246 Tape	Speaker	1 hour

(1) Civic Action: MEDCAP teams treated 7,173 patients along with 740 DENTCAP patients during the month of May 1967. Distribution for the month of May are as follows:

Milk	16 cases	Tooth Brushes	40 each
Rice	1,970 lbs	Tooth Paste	40 tubes
Keen Drink	15 cases	Soap	600 bars
Oil (cooking)	18 cases	Sand	6 mtrs
Powdered Eggs	1 case	Rock	3 mtrs
Steaks	73 pieces	Sewage pipe	11 each
Candy & Gum	25 lbs	Lumber	4000 bd ft
Cereal	8 cases	Nails	50 lbs
Pencils	2250	Hangers	125
School Paper	12 packs	Clothes	200 lbs
Magazines	25	Cigarettes	10 cases
Chalk	20 pieces	Cigars	10 boxes

b. June 1967: The Brigade S5 continued its construction program. During the month of June, 43 see-saws were constructed. MEDCAP treated a total of 6,896 patients while DENTCAP treated a total of 1010 patients.

(1) Distribution for the month of June was as follows:

Milk	1300 lbs	Rice	2200 lbs
Keen Drink	23 cases	Cooking Oil	37 cases
Powdered Eggs	3 cases	Candy and Gum	60 lbs
Bulgar Wheat	720 lbs	Corn Meal	1600 lbs
Rolled Oats	360 lbs	Cigarettes	7 cases
Tooth Brushes	32 ea	Tooth Paste	32 tubes
Soap	1762 bars	Sand	3 mtrs
Rock	3 mtrs	Sewage Pipe	80 ea
Lumber	3280 bd ft	Nails	50 lbs
Clothing	600 lbs	Cigars	10 boxes

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c. July 1967: During the month of July, the 173d Airborne Brigade S5 Section participated in Operation GREELEY. MEDCAP, DENTCAP, distribution, English classes and construction continued in the BIEN HOA Area. MEDCAP and DENTCAP treated a total of 5,087 and 502 patients respectively.

(1) Distribution for the month of July was as follows:

Tooth Brushes	179 ea	Tooth Paste	146 ea
Cooking Oil	32 cases	Misc Canned Goods	2,275 lbs
Rice	1,240 lbs	Milk	1,873 lbs
Scrap Lumber	3,815 bd ft	Scrap Tin	195 sheets
Soap	7,983 bars	Clothing	1,460 lbs
Cornmeal	2,000 lbs	Candy and Gum	160 lbs
Cereal	9 large boxes	Coat Hangers	20 ea
Bulgar Wheat	1,400 lbs	Keen Drink	45 cases
Nails	295 lbs	Rollod Oats	950 lbs
Paint	50 gals		

(2) In addition, the following construction projects were completed:

4 Classroom Schools - 1
 Principals Office - 1
 Waiting Room - 1
 Library - 1
 Boys/Girls Divided Latrine - 1
 Playground, w/swings, see-saws and slide - 1

(3) JUSPAO Newsletters were distributed with MEDCAP/DENTCAP.

7. Logistics: During the reporting period, the logistical posture has continued to remain excellent. Tactical operations were supported by air, and land lines of supply. A logistical summary by classes of supply is furnished by month in Inclosure 3.

8. Personnel and Administration

a. Personnel

(1) Brigade Casualties:

	<u>Battle Casualties</u>			<u>Non-Battle Casualties</u>	
	KIA	WIA	MIA	DIED	INJURED
May	20	79	1	1	16
June	84	63	0	2	17
July	<u>28</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>11</u>
TOTAL:	132	211	1	5	44

(2) Brigade Strength:

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AUTHORIZED AND ASSIGNED STRENGTH

	OFF	AUTHORIZED			ASG 1 MAY 67				ASG 31 JUL 67			
		WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
1/ Asg Units	244	38	3958	4240	246	36	4266	4548	269	36	4218	4523
2/ Atchd Units	13	2	73	88	17	0	89	106	15	1	71	87
Aggregate	257	40	4031	4328	263	36	4355	4654	284	37	4289	4610

GAINS AND LOSSES BY MONTH

	MAY 1967				JUNE 1967				JULY 1967			
	OFF	WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
3/ Gains	44	5	582	631	67	10	955	1032	11	1	170	482
4/ Losses	39	7	827	873	43	6	401	450	22	2	341	365
Net	+5	-2	-242	-242	+24	+4	+554	+582	-11	-1	+129	117

1/ During the reporting period, the assigned units authorized strength for officers increased and the assigned units authorized strength for EM decreased.

2/ During the reported period, the attached units strength of the Brigade decreased. The decrease was the result of the change of status of the 46th PI Det being changed from attached to assigned.

3/ Represents all assigned gains to include both in-country and out-country.

4/ Represents all assigned losses to include DEROS, ETS, in-country reassignment and deceased members

b. Discipline, Law and Order:

(1) The discipline in the Brigade has been excellent during the reporting period. There were no stragglers.

(2) During the reporting period, there were 9 General Court Martials, 39 Special Court Martials, 1 Summary Court Martials and 268 Article 15's.

(3) Assistance from the Brigade IG was readily available throughout the months of May, June and July 1967.

c. Development and Maintenance of Morale:

(1) The state of morale within the Brigade remains excellent resulting from improved services and facilities.

(2) Finance: The Brigade Finance Section (Company "A" Admin) continued to provide outstanding financial support throughout the reporting period. The Soldier's Savings Program, various allotments etc. were brought to the attention of newly arriving troops through an orientation and various newsletters.

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(3) Chaplain: During the reporting period, there were 524 religious services conducted (all faiths with a total attendance of 11,727).

(4) Rest and Recuperation: Brigade R & R allocations during the reporting period are as follows:

<u>MAY</u>		<u>JUNE</u>		<u>JULY</u>	
Vung Tau (In-Country)	35	Vung Tau (In-Country)	20	Vung Tau (In-Country)	32
Bangkok	70	Bangkok	60	Bangkok	98
Hawaii	50	Hawaii	65	Hawaii	62
Hong Kong	30	Hong Kong	26	Hong Kong	27
Kuala Lumpur	10	Kuala Lumpur	5	Kuala Lumpur	13
Manilla	15	Manilla	16	Manilla	13
Penang	10	Penang	4	Penang	20
Singapore	20	Singapore	5	Singapore	12
Taipei	20	Taipei	52	Taipei	50
Tokyo	<u>25</u>	Tokyo	<u>36</u>	Tokyo	<u>37</u>
TOTAL:	285		289		364

(5) There were a total of 1,400 awards given for valor and meritorious service during May, June and July 1967, a breakdown of which follows:

APPROVED AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>
Distinguished Service Cross	2	0	0
Silver Star	3	3	0
Legion of Merit	2	0	1
Distinguished Flying Cross	2	1	2
Bronze Star Medal (Valor)	50	20	36
Bronze Star Medal (Merit/Achieve)	158	77	168
Air Medal (Valor)	1	2	0
Air Medal (Service)	15	1	304
Army Commendation Medal (Valor)	69	23	17

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	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>
Army Commendation Medal (Merit/Achieve)	<u>149</u>	<u>36</u>	<u>116</u>
Soldier's Medal	0	1	0
Purple Heart Medal	<u>79</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>
TOTAL:	530	193	677

9. The 51st Chemical Detachment of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) provided readily available Chemical Support on a standby basis whenever requested by elements of the Brigade.

II. Commander's Observations and Recommendations:

1. During the operational period, various lessons were learned. These lessons learned were drawn from all the operations which occurred during the period extending from 1 May 1967 through 31 July 1967.

2. Item: Use of Communication Security Equipment - KSEC/KY-8

Discussion: Extensive use of the KY-8 was made during Operation NEWARK. This equipment enabled the battalions to communicate confidential data to the Brigade CP without using codes. No difficulties were encountered in coordinating heliborne operations and in receiving operational instructions.

Observation: Whenever directed, Brigade units can make use of this effective means of transmitting classified information.

3. Item: LZ Clearing Teams

Discussion: The Engineer Company delivered instant LZ clearing teams by Chinook helicopter during Operation FT WAYNE. This was accomplished in spite of the dense vegetation.

Observation: The delivery of demolition packets and clearing teams by Chinook helicopter was tested extensively. The system was found to be sound. Teams can be delivered by ladder from the helicopter through the jungle canopy from a height of up to 90 feet.

4. Item: Smoke

Discussion: Smoke was a critical item for Company A/2/503d Infantry during its encounter in the month of June with an NVA battalion in the central highlands. Lack of sufficient smoke greatly reduced the effectiveness of airstrikes.

Observation: Inasmuch as sufficient smoke was unavailable, the use of artillery exclusively would have provided more effective firepower.

5. Item: Reinforcement of Units in Contact

Discussion: The unit sent to reinforce "A" Company experienced an administrative problem in carrying their dead during an urgent movement.

Observation: Units moving to reinforce must anticipate the probability of receiving casualties and plan for their rallying and evacuation of casualties so as not to interfere with the movement. Unnecessary gear may have to be stockpiled for later pick-up. Movement to reinforce must be aggressive and accomplished rapidly.

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AVDDH-GC (15 Aug 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report -- Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31
July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, APO San Francisco 96262, 7 October 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force, Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operation Report -- Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 1967 from the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Section 1, para 3c(4) pg 6: The addition of the following to the referenced paragraph would provide the rationale behind the movement of the 173d Airborne Brigade to the vicinity of Pleiku. -- As a result of several heavy contacts by 4th Infantry Division units during May with elements of four NVA regiments (32d, 66th, 88th and 95B), COMUSMACV directed that the 173d Airborne Brigade move to the vicinity of Pleiku, and that it be placed under OPCON of the 4th Infantry Division with the proviso that the Brigade not be employed in the operation without the expressed approval of COMUSMACV. Elements of the Brigade remained under the OPCON of the 4th Infantry Division during operations FRANCIS MARION, STILLWELL, and GREELEY.

b. Reference Section I, para 3c(5)(d), pg 6: The enemy order of battle list omits the 32d NVA Regiment. Although this enemy unit was not contacted during the period of the brigade's participation in Operation FRANCIS MARION, it was in Cambodia, adjacent to the area of operations, and represented a significant part of the enemy's capability.

c. Reference Section I, para 3c(6)(b)3, pg 7: The NVA Doc Lop Regiment (K101 D Battalion) should not be positively identified as a new regiment. It is very probable that this unit is the remainder of the 101C Regiment, as indicated by a similarity of unit history.

d. Reference Section I, para 4, pg 16: The 4th Battalion, 503d Airborne Infantry terminated participation in Operation STILLWELL on 22 June and was airlifted to Dak To as a result of the heavy contact by the 2d Battalion, 503d Airborne Infantry south of Dak To on 22 June.

e. Reference Section II, para 4, pg 25: The supply of smoke became a critical item for Company A, 2d Battalion, 503d Airborne Infantry because the platoons' basic loads were used up calling in the numerous airstrikes received early during the contact. The tactical situation prohibited resupply. Moreover, it is noted that the calling off of artillery to bring air strikes required the use of additional smoke. Such action further reduced the overall effectiveness of the artillery support.

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~~Declassified after 12 years~~

DOD DIR 5200.10

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AVDDH-CC

7 October 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - - Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31
July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

f. Reference Inclosure 6, para 12a, pg 5: It is not considered prudent for units to be prepared to take casualties from friendly artillery fires. In the dense jungles of the Central Highlands, artillery can be walked in as close as 50 meters in front of friendly forces without inflicting more than an occasional injury to friendly troops. It is essential that this be well understood in order to obviate any inclination to call in fires on friendly formations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


MARTIN J. LAFFERTY, JR.
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVFA-GC-OT (17 Sep 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

26 OCT 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96375

(C) This headquarters has reviewed the 173d Airborne Brigade Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1967 and concurs with the basic document as modified by the 1st Indorsement and the following pertinent comments:

a. Reference Section I paragraph 3e (pages 8-14) - Viet Cong/NVA losses. The quantities of US weapons, ammunition, mines, grenades and demolitions captured from the VC/NVA reinforces our knowledge that the enemy can and does use US material against FMMF, not solely in its design mode, but also in expedient mines and booby-traps. He is known to reuse extracted bulk explosive from captured duds or found ordnance. The most difficult mines for FMMF to locate are those using electrical firing systems due to the minute amounts of metal used therein. Such devices are usually powered by batteries and it is known that the enemy frequently uses US batteries. Virtually every military battery discarded by US forces, including the common flashlight battery, is capable of being employed in electrical firing systems even after it is no longer usable for its original purpose. These facts emphasize the continuing necessity for all units to exercise every precaution to prevent friendly ordnance and batteries from falling into enemy hands. Batteries should be crushed or otherwise totally destroyed before discarding to prevent their use against FMMF.

b. Reference inclosure 3 paragraph 3b (page 2) class II and IV: These items were in short supply during July, however, adequate supplies have been received since that time.

c. Reference inclosure 3, paragraph 3, maintenance b: The 106 Service Radio has been a maintenance problem throughout USARV. An emergency requisition for a 180 day repair parts package was submitted to NICP with follow-up action in August. MACV reports that parts requested are now beginning to arrive in theater. Red ball requisitioning is required until parts are distributed.

d. Reference inclosure 3, paragraph 3, maintenance c: Since the submission of this report, storage batteries have been received and are on hand in sufficient quantities at DS level. There is no apparent shortage of spare parts at this time. Conversion of PRC-74 power requirements to the dry cell BA 386 battery is scheduled for November. This should eliminate the battery problem.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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B.L. Chenaault
B.L. CHENAULT

2LT, AGC

Asst Adjutant General

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DOD DIR 5200.10*

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AVHGC-DST (15 Aug 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 3 NOV 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 1967 from Headquarters, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) (ARJA) as indorsed.

2. (U) Concur with report as indorsed. Report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc

C. S. Nakatsukasa
C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AMG
Assistant Adjutant General

c.c.: HQ, 173d Abn Bde
HQ, I FFV

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15
GPOP-DT(15 Aug 67) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period
Ending 31 Jul 67 from HQ, 173d Abn Bde (Sep)
(UIC: WARJAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

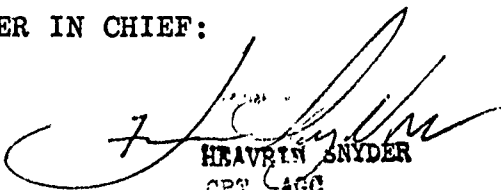
HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 6 DEC 1967

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

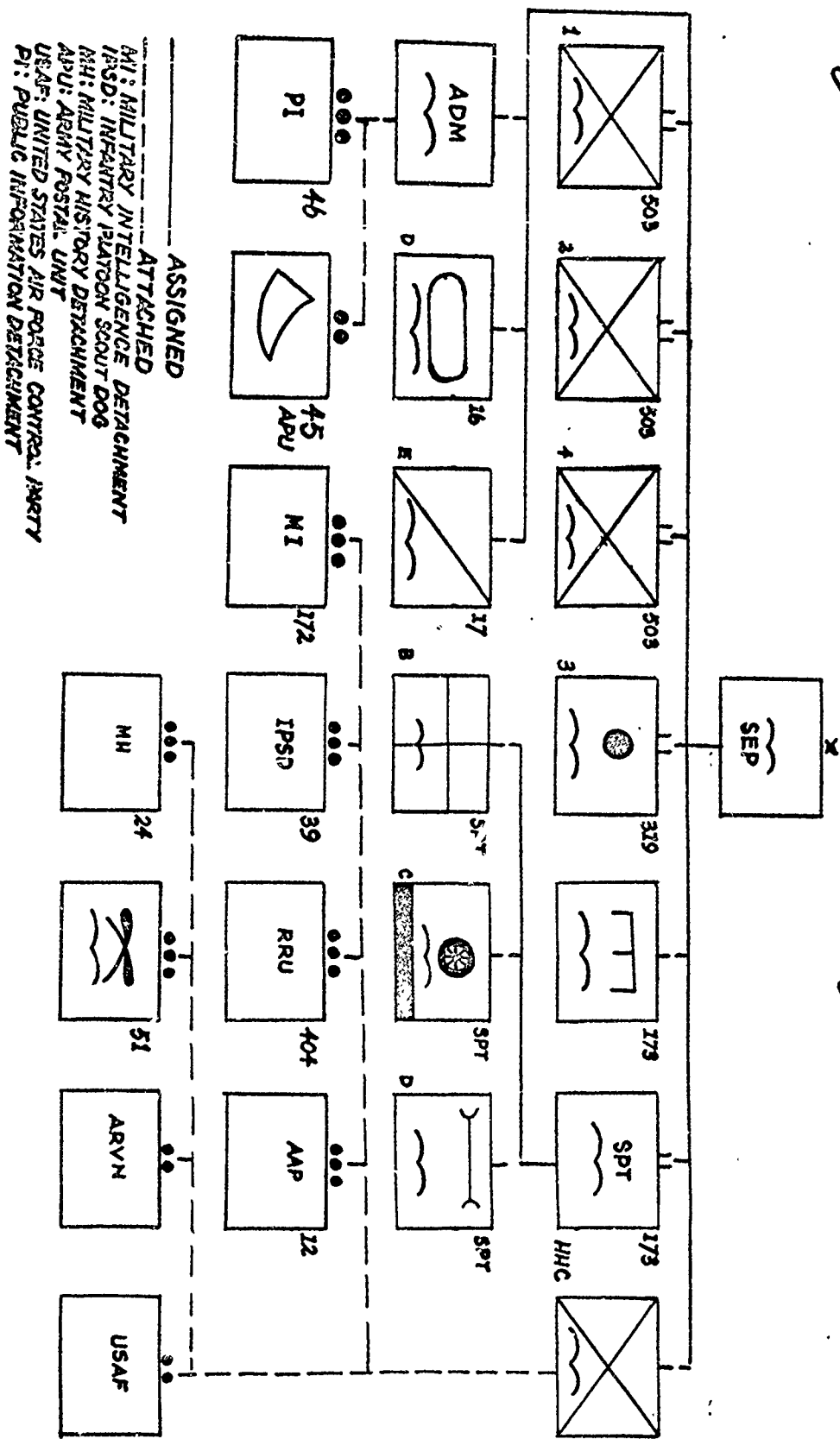
This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

1 Incl
nc


HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Organization 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)



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AVBE-SC
SUBJECT: Supply and Combat Service Activities

15 August 1967

1. May:

a. Supply:

- (1) Class I: No critical shortages.
- (2) Class II & IV: The fill of II and IV requisitions remains good, however, shortages as listed in bi-weekly periodic logistics reports do not exist.
- (3) Class III: The Brigade POL Level was maintained at above stockage objectives, however, OE 30 was in critical supply in the early part of the month.
- (4) Class V: 105mm - C444 was in short supply in the early part of the month.

b. Maintenance:

- (1) A class in repair parts support and PLL's was given to all units in the Brigade on 17 and 18 May 1967. The objective was to assist the units in establishing and maintaining their PLL's. In addition, emphasis was placed on proper requisitioning procedures, follow up and reading of status cards.
- (2) 207 handsets for the AN/PRC-25 radios have been in direct exchange with Company "D" Maintenance within the past 60 days. These sets show an extensive amount of abuse and careless handling by personnel. Currently this item is in critical supply within this command. Communication at the unit level will be reduced for these handsets unless all commanders take a positive attitude toward the maintenance of this item. The common failures are:
 - (a) Broken or cracked sets due to dropping or allowing something to fall on it.
 - (b) Missing ear or mouth pieces.
 - (c) Missing switches.
 - (d) Cut cords.
 - (e) Cut or missing plugs.
 - (f) Internal wires or components removed.
- (3) Units continue to move to the field and leave their PLL in base camp. In addition, units are not turning their equipment in for repair immediately.

2. June:

a. Maintenance:

- (1) Continuous effort is being made by "D" Maintenance Technical Supply to obtain the following items:

Spark Plugs, FSN 2920-835-7724	Due in: 798	Due out: 323
2920-752-4258	725	311

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SUBJECT: Supply and Combat Service Activities

15 August 1967

Direct contact has been made with the 506th Field Depot in Saigon. However, results have proven negative. Efforts will continue since this item of issue is critical to forward units at this time.

(2) "D" Maintenance had six (6) five ton trucks deadlined due to zero balance on 5 Ton Multi Fuel Engines, FSN 2815-911-3645. This is a controlled item and is critical throughout Vietnam. Although "D" Maintenance has received five (5) each of these engines through various means, it still remains a problem with "D" Maintenance Technical Supply at zero balance. 1st Logistical Command, Saigon, indicated that forty (40) such engines are entering country daily and this problem should be resolved by 10 July 1967.

(3) Due to the improper use of various types of power chain saws, a technical representative was called in from MEC. Instructions on proper use of this equipment was presented to units of this Brigade from 12 - 17 June 1967.

3. July:

a. Class I: There was little significant Class I activity. "A" rations were available to units in the field for breakfast meals and supper meals. "C" rations were utilized for the dinner meal. Long Range Reconnaissance Rations (LRRP) were utilized at a much higher rate than previously. The allocation of 8,000 packets per month was exceeded.

✓ b. Class II & IV: The fill on expendable supplies was particularly low during the month of July. Items of II and IV that have been a continuing problem are: Certain dry cell batteries, particularly BA 386; Wire WD-1; insect repellant; pulverized limestone; jungle fatigues and tropical boots. Many items of TA 50-901 (clothing and equipment) were depleted due to heavy attrition from combat operations, large numbers of replacements and lack of fill from depot.

c. Class III: Normal operation.

d. Class V: Normal operation. No significant items of concern.

Maintenance:

a. A class is being conducted on generators (Organizational and Direct Support Maintenance) and material handling equipment for all units in the Brigade. The objective is to assist all units in improving the material readiness of generators and material handling equipment. Similar classes are being planned for other equipment.

✓ b. The 106 Service Radio continued to be a maintenance problem during the month of July. An exceptionally high failure rate has been experienced with the amplifier unit 3349. The down time of the amplifier unit continues to be 30 - 45 days due to the unavailability of repair parts in USARV.

✓ c. The FRC-74 radios were issued to the Brigade during the month of July. Currently "D" Maintenance has limited stock of repair parts and no stock of storage batteries for this radio. The repair parts and storage batteries are critical items of supply.

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - 2/503d Infantry Contact of 22 - 27 June 1967

1. (U) Date of Operation: 22 June 1967 - 27 June 1967
2. (U) Location: Dak To District, Kontum Province
3. (U) Command Headquarters: 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)
4. (U) Reporting Officer: Brigadier General John R. Deane Jr.
5. (C) Task Organization:
 - a. 22 June - 23 June
A/2/503d Inf B/2/503d Inf (Squad CIDG) C/2/503d Inf (Squad CIDG)
 - b. 24 June - 27 June
B/2/503d Inf E/17th Cav OPCON to 2/503d Inf eff 241630H
C/2/503d Inf Rcn 2/503d Inf OPCON eff 241045H
6. Supporting Forces:
 - a. 3/319th Artillery (+): Employed in a direct support role.
 - b. 335th AHC and 189th AMCL (Ghostriders) provided assault lift, resupply and armed helicopter direct support.
 - c. 7th Air Force flew seventeen sorties in support of the action, expending 30,000 pounds of high explosives, 19,000 pounds of napalm, 158 2.75 inch high explosive air to ground rockets and 76,000 rounds of 20mm cannon ammunition.
7. Intel'gence: An unknown size enemy force had attacked US-GVN installations in the Dak To area with mortar and rocket fire during the period 17 - 21 June. Possible firing positions/cache sites were located within 2/503d Infantry's area of operation.
8. Mission: The 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations against possible enemy installations or forces south of the Dak To Special Forces Camp.
9. Concept of the Operation: A/2/503d Infantry and C/2/503d Infantry entered the area of operation by helicopter assault on 18 June and 20 June respectively. B/2/503d Infantry remained at Dak To as a reaction force. Companies were to be rotated from operational to reaction force roles in turn.
10. Execution: 18 - 21 June: A/2/503d Infantry had negative significant contact during the period 18 - 21 June, as did C/2/503d Infantry. On 211700H June, CO, A/2/503d Infantry received orders to return overland to Dak To, choosing a route that would allow him to close NLT 221500H. Positions of the two companies were as follows: A/2/503d Infantry vic YB 996162; C/2/503d Infantry vic YB 987153. The night of 21 - 22 June was without contact for "A" Company. "C" Company made contact at dusk with 5 - 6 enemy resulting in one CIDG KIA. In the early morning hours of 22 June, one US soldier wandered out in front of the perimeter and was killed by small arms fire.

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - 2/503d Infantry Contact of 22 - 27 June 1967

22 June: A/2/503d Infantry departed their night laager site at 220625H, with the order of march being 2d Platoon, 3d Platoon, Headquarters, Weapons Platoon and the 1st Platoon. 1st Platoon was ordered to place CS crystals around their LZ and night laager site in order to deny that hill to the enemy. The route was selected to follow the ridge line north to the Poko River. At 0658 hours, the point squad of the 2d Platoon engaged an estimated 10 - 15 NVA. The 2d Platoon (-) moved to reinforce the point squad and artillery fire was initiated. 1st Platoon was finishing the CS detail when the firing was heard and they moved to join the Company CP, vic YB 001168. The 1st Platoon sent a four man detail to carry additional ammunition to the 2d Platoon and included a machinegunner for reinforcement if necessary. The point squad fell back on the 2d Platoon with no casualties and at 0705 hours the 3d Platoon was ordered to link up with the 2d Platoon. This was accomplished by the 2d Platoon moving back approximately seventy-five meters. A common perimeter was established along the ridge line, vic YB 00007705, with the 2d Platoon on the west and the 3d Platoon on the east. The light machine gun and the personnel from the 1st Platoon were included in the perimeter. At 0810 hours the first NVA attack came from the north by an estimated reinforced platoon. The attack was repulsed, but renewed periodically for the next half hour. The CO, A/2/503d Infantry reported his two lead elements in heavy contact.

From 0820 hours to 0825 hours an airstrike was conducted along the east side of the ridge and at 0835 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry requested armed helicopter support due to the proximity of the enemy movement. The helicopter strikes were very effective at first, but immediately following the completion of the strikes the attack was renewed. At this time it was reported to the CO of "A" Company that C/2/503d Infantry had dispatched clearing patrols prior to moving out to "A" Company's assistance. Earlier they had reported heavy movement and had called artillery fire into the area. At 0850 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry declined an airstrike due to the closeness of the enemy movement. At approximately this time the enemy launched a company size attack from the northwest that lasted twenty minutes. The attack was repulsed with heavy casualties to the defenders.

By 0855 hours, armed helicopter strikes were being brought in against the NVA forces. Alternating with the gunships, A-1E's with CBU and napalm continued the attack against the enemy to the north of the perimeter until 1000 hours. Due to a lack of smoke grenades the air attacks were delayed occasionally while changes in the enemy's position were relayed by radio through the Company CP. At 0900 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry committed his 1st Platoon to relieve pressure caused by the NVA attacks. At this time the CO of "A" Company also deployed elements of his Weapons Platoon to assist in carrying wounded back up the hill. Elements of the 1st Platoon fought their way through to the 2d and 3d Platoon's perimeter but the Weapons Platoon carrying party was unable to reach the site. NVA forces had now surrounded the forward positions.

At 0957 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry reported that his forward elements were in desperate need of assistance. The CO of "C" Company was ordered to ignore the movement to his flanks and to move out immediately to the assistance of "A" Company. The decision was also made to commit B/2/503d Infantry into an LZ vic YB 999181. Both companies were moving by 1015 hours.

At approximately 1000 hours, the forward elements were again assaulted by NVA forces. The assault lasted approximately 15 minutes and was of such magnitude as to reduce the three platoons down to fifteen effectives. All platoon leaders were killed and all platoon sergeants had been wounded three or four times. The 2d Platoon

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - Contact by 2/503d Infantry of 22 - 27 June 1967

Sergeant, the ranking survivor, directed that the wounded and the effectives be moved back to the ridge toward the Company CP.

At 1034 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry reported that he had lost radio contact with his forward elements. He also requested that the Battalion CO terminate the air strikes that were pounding the western approaches to the forward position with napalm and 2.75 inch rockets and to call in artillery instead. At this time the Company CP itself was not under fire but all available personnel were helping to evacuate what wounded they could.

B/2/503d Infantry was inserted into a one ship LZ. This was the only LZ available. The process of this insertion was further complicated by a fire started in the elephant grass started by a smoke grenade used to mark the LZ. The lead platoon (2d Platoon) moved out of the LZ to recon the route toward "A" Company. Approximately 300 yards south the platoon received small arms fire but suffered no casualties. Succeeding platoons moved off the LZ behind the 2d Platoon which was now directing artillery fire against the enemy.

Between 1030 and 1100 hours, CO, A/2/503d Infantry reported movement to his northwest and requested supporting fire vic YB 993170. "A" Company also sent a guide element back up the ridge which had been their route earlier in the morning. This element was to assist C/2/503d Infantry in navigating the CS contaminated area. CO, A/2/503d Infantry reported regaining intermittent contact with two of his three forward elements but by 1100 hours had lost all contact. The group of survivors lead by the 2d Platoon sergeant reached the Company CP by 1100 hours, after which the company disposition was about thirty effectives forming a perimeter around the thirty-five wounded. At approximately 1140 hours, the remainder of "A" Company moved further up the ridge under the cover of artillery fire to the northwest and reestablished their perimeter at YB 999166. Construction of an LZ was begun for resupply and evacuation of the wounded.

The new CP position was subjected to two separate attacks from the northwest at 1220 and 1245 hours with sporadic small arms fire in between. The company withstood these assaults and continued work on the LZ as the situation permitted. Resupply of ammunition and medical supplies was made into the partially completed LZ after the second attack.

B/2/503d Infantry moved off the LZ after their insertion was completed at 1205 hours. At 1240 hours, vicinity ZB 000177, "B" Company made contact with an estimated platoon of NVA forces. Artillery was directed against the enemy positions. "B" Company formed a perimeter when they detected an NVA flanking movement to the east of their position. From 1335 until 1440 hours, airstrikes of 500 pound bombs, CBU, napalm and strafing runs were directed against the NVA. The guide element from "A" Company made contact with C/2/503d Infantry in the vicinity of the CS crystals and led them back to the new CP location of A/2/503d Infantry. C/2/503d Infantry had been burdened by 2 KIA's from the night before and this had slowed their march. Link up was effected at 1420 hours and immediate attention was directed toward LZ completion and medical care for the wounded. C/2/503d Infantry attempted police of the main battle areas at 1600 hours, to attempt retrieval of US WIA's and enemy documents but were repulsed by enemy sniper fire from the trees. Extraction of A/2/503d Infantry to the Brigade Main CP was completed at 1850 hours.

C/2/503d Infantry laagered in the hilltop position of "A" Company, vic YB 998166 with one platoon placed on ambush site at YB 997165. B/2/503d Infantry laagered vic

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - 2/503d Infantry Contact of 22 - 27 June 1967

YB 999181 with one platoon in ambush site at ZB 000178. Throughout the night artillery was directed against potential NVA routes of withdrawal to the west and into the area of the days contact. The results of the 2/503d Infantry contact on 22 June are as follows:

US LOSSES

A Co: 4 KIA, 19 WIA, 75 MIA; 10 PRC-25 radios, 6 LMG M-60, 60 Rifles M-16, 2 SMG CAR-15, 3 rifles with grenade launcher XM-148, 8 M-79 grenade launchers and 6 .45 caliber pistols.

B Co: 3 WIA.

GVN Losses: 1 ARVN interpreter advisor KIA, 2 CIDG KIA (including one CIDG KIA evening of 21 June with C/2/503d Infantry).

23 June: B/2/503d Infantry moved south commencing at 0700 hours, making scattered contact with NVA forces ranging in size up to two squads. C/2/503d Infantry swept north, securing the main battle area by 1030 hours. "B" Company linked with "C" Company in the contact area at 1512 hours and the two companies formed a common perimeter and worked to cut an extraction LZ for the KIA's and WIA's. All MIA were accounted for with 4 MIA recovered alive. Over half of the KIA (43 personnel) had suffered head wounds inflicted at close range, indicating that the NVA had executed the wounded during the night. One MIA who was recovered alive had survived this ordeal. The Coup de Grace had merely stunned him. Final personnel losses in the "A" Company contact were as follows: 76 KIA, 23 WIA, 0 MIA.

24 June - 28 June: Search operations were conducted by B Co, C Co and the Recon Platoon, 2/503d Infantry augmented by E/17th Cavalry from 25 - 28 June. Through search of the battle area and possible access/egress routes for the NVA produced substantial evidence of NVA personnel losses. A considerable amount of NVA equipment was captured and US equipment recovered. Intelligence findings produced documents and three NVA POW's, captured by E/17th Cavalry on 26 June vicinity YB 984170 and YB 983177. The enemy unit was identified as the K6 Battalion, subordinate to B3 Front (unit was formerly 6th Battalion, 24th NVA Regiment and was detached to B3 Front in August 1966).

11. Final results of the 2/503d Infantry action were as follows:

US Losses

Personnel: 76 KIA, 23 WIA, 0 MIA

Equipment: 2 AN/PRC-25 radios, 2 SMG CAR-15, 22 rifles M-16, 3 rifles with grenade launchers XM-148, 4 M-79 grenade launchers and 6 .45 caliber pistols.

GVN Losses: 1 ARVN Interpreter/Advisor, 2 CIDG KIA.

Enemy Losses:

Personnel: 106 NVA KIA (HC), 407 NVA KIA (FOSS), 3 POW.

Equipment: 5 LMG RPD, 2 B-40 Rocket Launchers, 1 RPG-2 Rocket Launcher, 21 AK-47 Assault Rifles, 14 SKS Carbines, 2 US Carbines, 1 M1 Rifle and 2 radios (B-71 Transceiver AM).

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SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - 2/503d Infantry Contact of 22 - 27 June 1967

15 August 1967

12. Commander's Analysis and Lessons Learned

a. The lack of smoke grenades in the main contact area, the platoons' basic load having been exhausted early in the contact, greatly reduced the effectiveness of the air strikes. Lacking smoke, artillery would have been more effective.

b. In cases of close contact with the enemy on several sides, artillery will permit closer support, a higher volume of fire and with multiple firing units within range, more portions of a unit's perimeter can be supported simultaneously by artillery than by TAC air. TAC Air would be more effective against concentrated enemy on a "point" target. In this battle TAC Air should have been used primarily on enemy withdrawal routes.

c. Commanders must move their units in formations which allow for effective reinforcement or exploitation of advantages, appropriate to the terrain. When attacked, units should attempt to form a single, rather than a multiple perimeter.

d. Units moving to reinforce a unit in contact should not, as a rule, carry their dead with them. They should drop packs and unnecessary equipment to permit more rapid movement. This equipment and the dead can be recovered later.

e. Movement to reinforce a unit in heavy contact must be aggressive.

f. Units must be prepared to accept casualties from friendly artillery and mortar fire in order to bring fires in close on the enemy.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Annexes:

Annex A - TAC Air

Annex B - Medical Statement

EARLE F. BURNS

CWL, USA

Asst AG

A TRUE COPY:

Samuel A. Britten
SAMUEL A. BRITTEN
MAJ, INF
Brigade Historian

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Annex A - Air Strikes in Support of A/2/503d Infantry on 22 June 1967

<u>TIME</u>	<u>CALLSIGN A/C</u>	<u>UNIT SPTD</u>	<u>STRIKE LOCATION</u>	<u>ORDNANCE</u>
1. 0820 - 0825	Silver 01 F100 x 2	A Co	ZB 002171 003168	500 x 8, 250 nap x 4
0855 - 0910	UH-1	A Co	YB 999173 ZB 001174	
2. 0915 - 0935	Hobo 01 A1E x 2	A Co	YB 999171 ZB 001172	750 CBU x 12
0935 - 0948	UH-1	A Co	YB 999171 ZB 001172	500 nap x 8
3. 0955 - 1005	Sabre 91 F11 x 2	A Co	YB 999171 ZB 001172	20mm x 1600 x 2
4. 1010 - 1043	Hobo 03 A1E x 3	A Co	YB 993172 YB 998173 YB 995168	500 nap x 8, 2.75" Rkt (19 Rkt/Pod) x 12 pods
5. 1114 - 1126	Litter of F100 x 3	A Co	ZB 016171	750 nap x 4, 20mm x 1600 x 2
6. 1129 - 1140	Blade 03 F11 x 2	A Co	ZB 018166	500 x 4, 750 nap x 4, 20mm x 1600 x 2
7. 1325 - 1345	Hobo 29 A1E x 2	B Co	ZB 003181 ZB 004184	500 x 12, 20mm x 1600 x 2
8. 1350 - 1440	Hobo 01 A1E x 2	B Co	ZB 006178 ZB 008179	750 CBU x 12, 500 nap x 8, 20mm x 1600 x 2

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Annex B - Medical Statement

STATEMENT

During the examination of 79 bodies, dead as a result of mortar and ground assault sustained 22 June 1967 the following observations were made.

There were an abundance of bullet wounds of the skull associated with other minor wounds on the same body. Some of which were too minor to be listed on the death certificate and others which were much more severe and so listed but not sufficient to allow them to be listed as cause of death.

Initially, a number of wounds which were thought to be frag wounds of the skull where on closer inspection or on reinspection found to be the exit point of bullet wounds entering from the opposite side of the skull. Since the certificate had been signed the cause of death (listed as frag to skull) was not changed. Approximately one half of what is listed retrospect actually bullet wounds of skull and other areas. Consequently there were a total of 26 bullet wounds of the skull and other areas. There were also an abundance of bullet wounds to the skull without any other area involved. A total of 17. This brings the number of deaths due to bullet wounds to the skull to 43. It was also observed that the exit point of most of the skull wounds was the face or the forehead or the temporal area and the entrance therefore being the back of the skull. The large size of the exit wound from bullet wounds to the back of the skull was the factor which led to the initial evaluation of these wounds as frag wounds. When the frequency of head wounds was detected I suspected that I had erred in my appraisal of the large gaping facial wounds as frag wounds and so returned to the bodies and on close inspection found the small entry site at the back of the head. However, I did not change the certificate since it had already been signed, and at the time I thought there was no importance to the difference. The evaluation of data here and information obtained from survivors who spent the night of 22 June 1967 near the battle area suggested to me that many of the wounded but living had been shoot through the head by the enemy after the action. Most textbooks listing causes of death from wounds sustained in combat suggest that skull wounds will account from 18 to 20 percent. The percentage here deviates from that quite noticeably. Since there were approximately 80 casualties and 47 died of head wounds the percentage is not 18 to 20 percent but over 50%.

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* As explained previously many of these were bullet wounds but listed as frag wounds on first inspection.

TOTAL NUMBER DEAD79

HEAD WOUNDS43

BULLET WOUNDS OF HEAD AND OTHER AREAS . . . 9

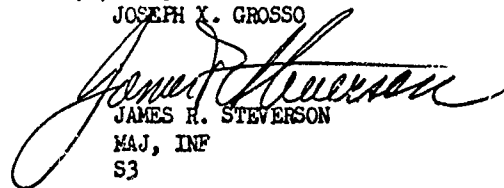
BULLET WOUND OF HEAD ONLY17

FRAG WOUND OF HEAD ONLY9*

FRAG WOUND OF HEAD AND OTHER AREAS.8*

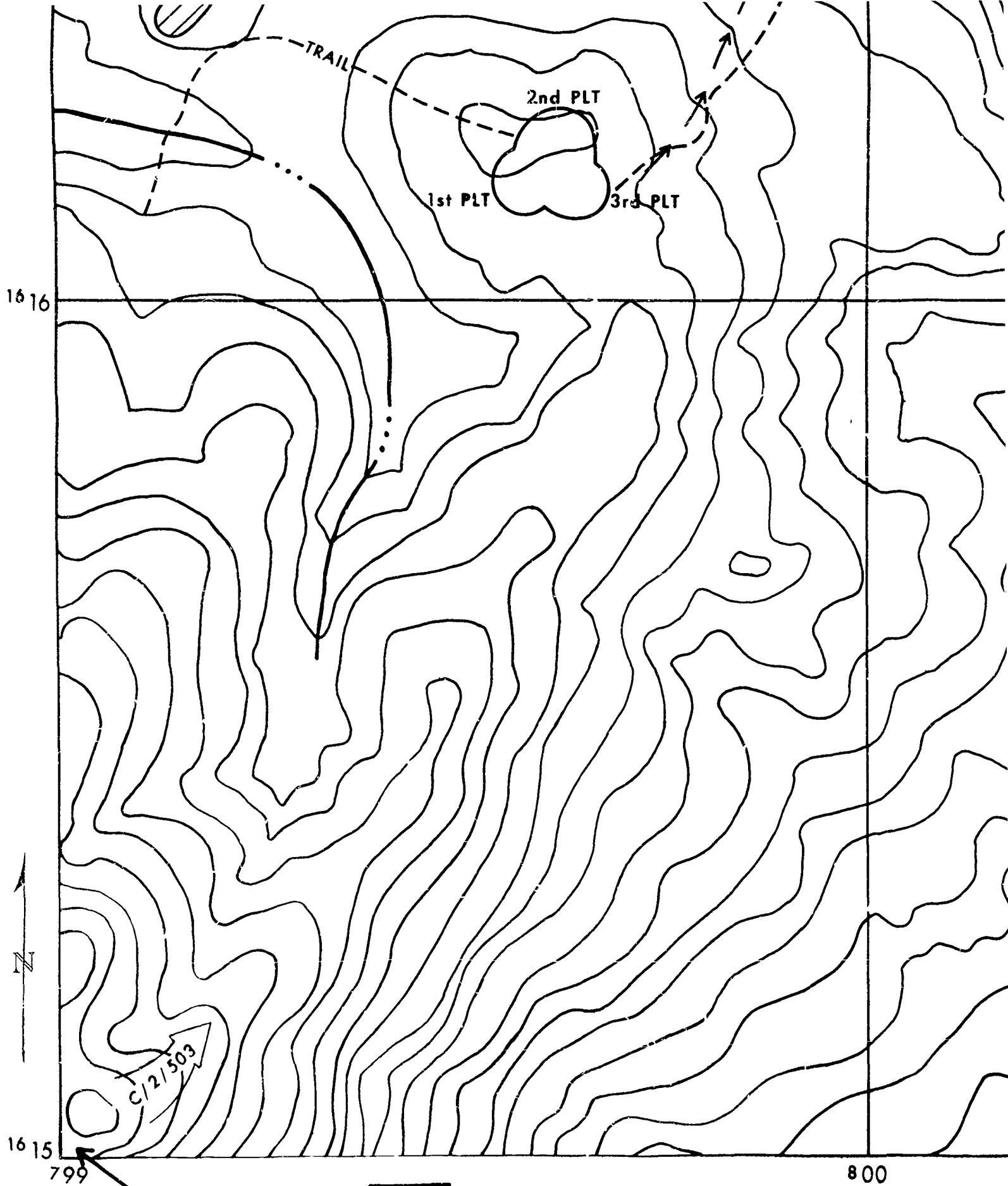
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JOSEPH X. GROSSO


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MAJ, INF
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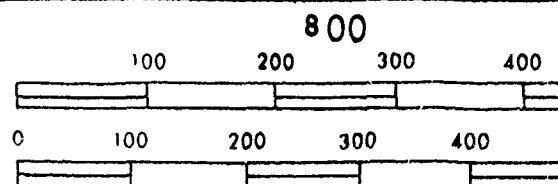


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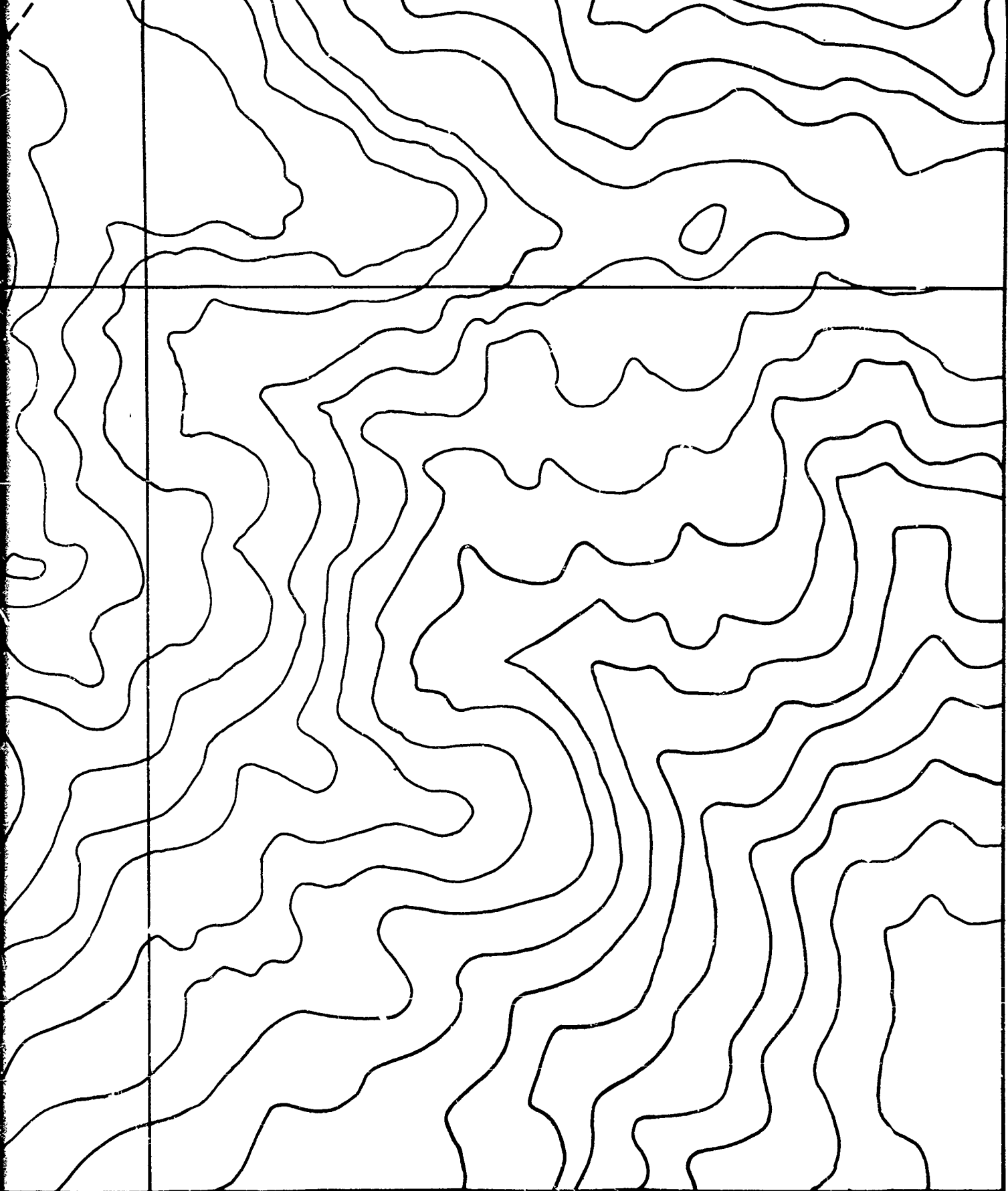
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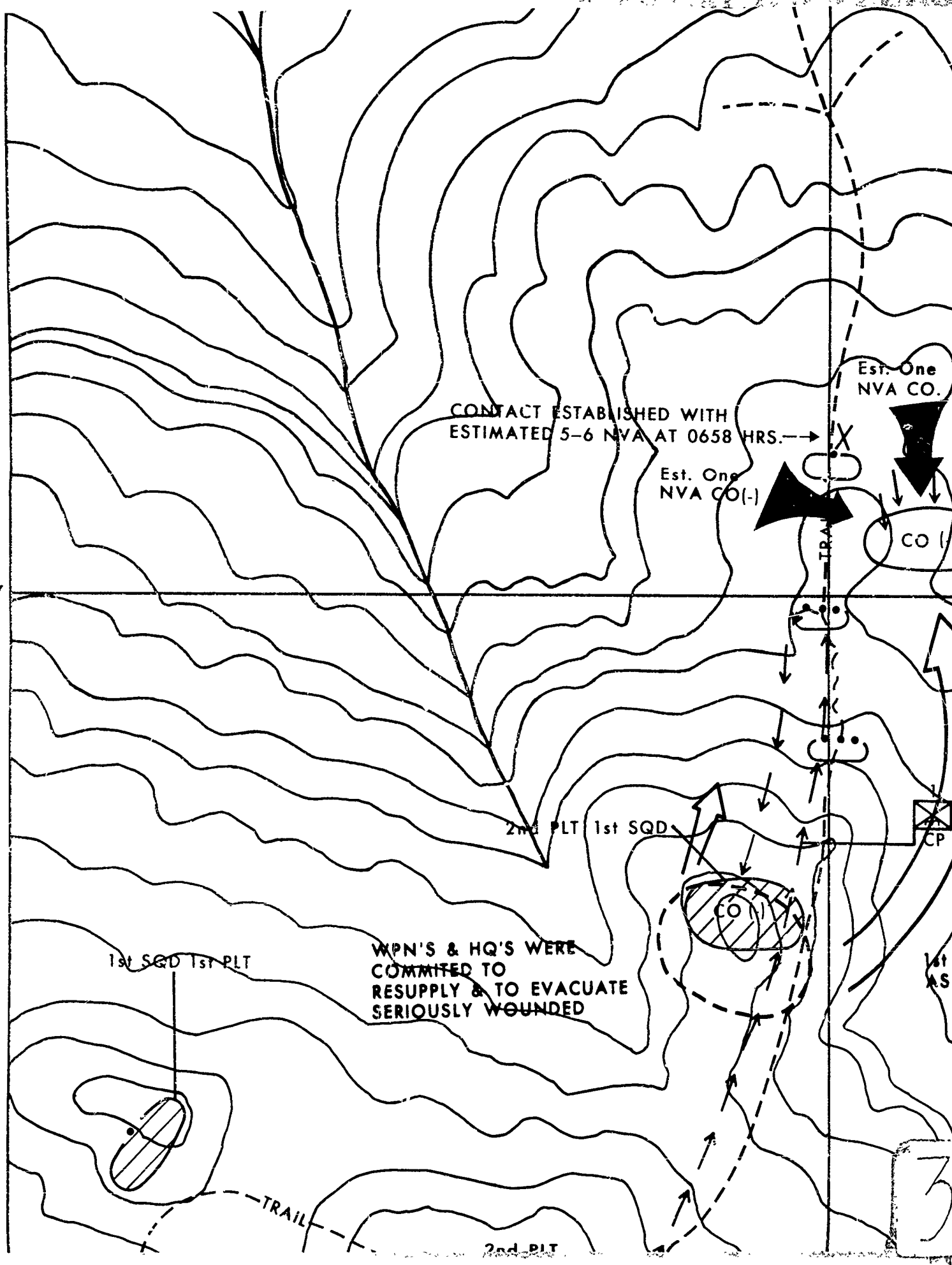
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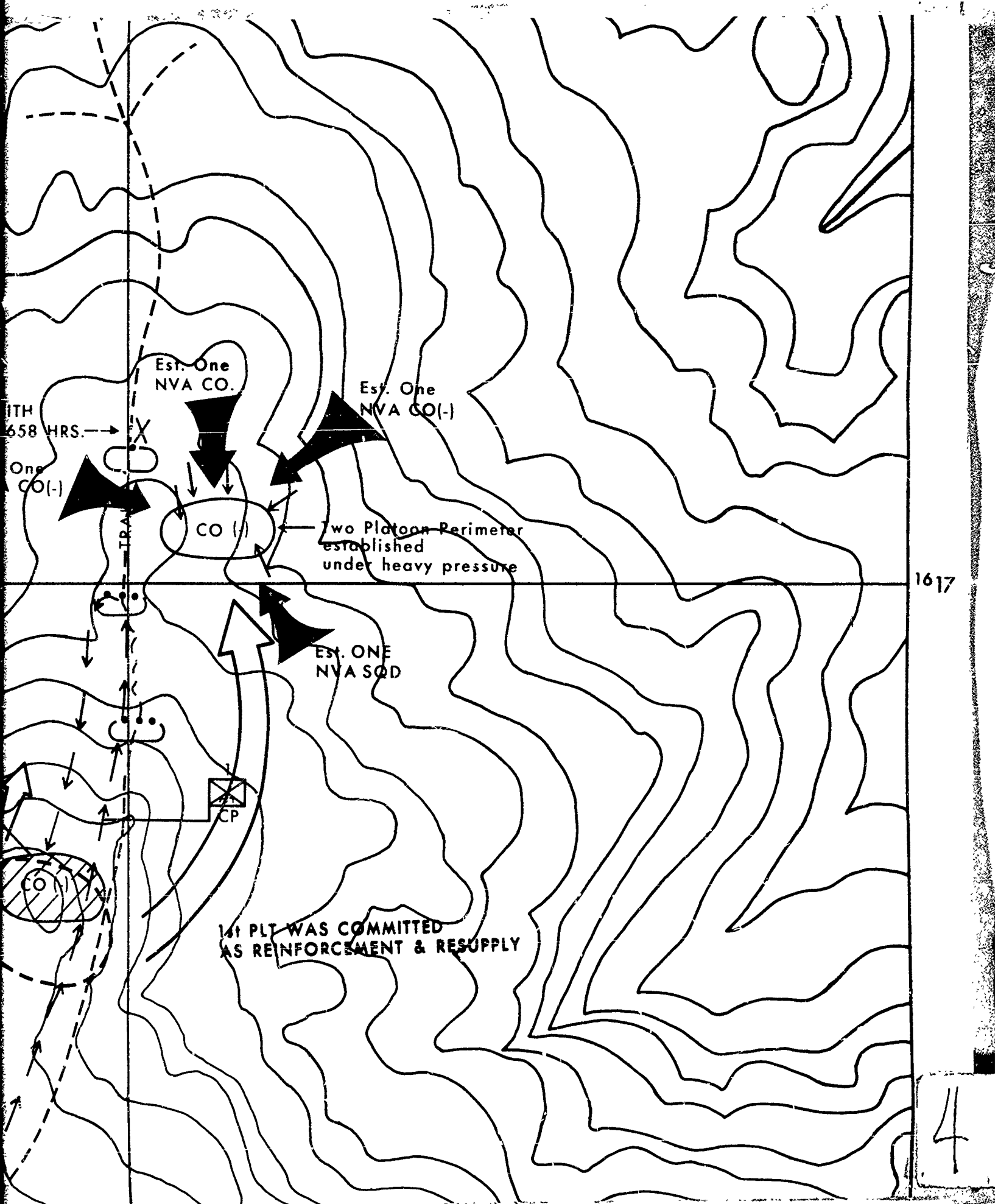
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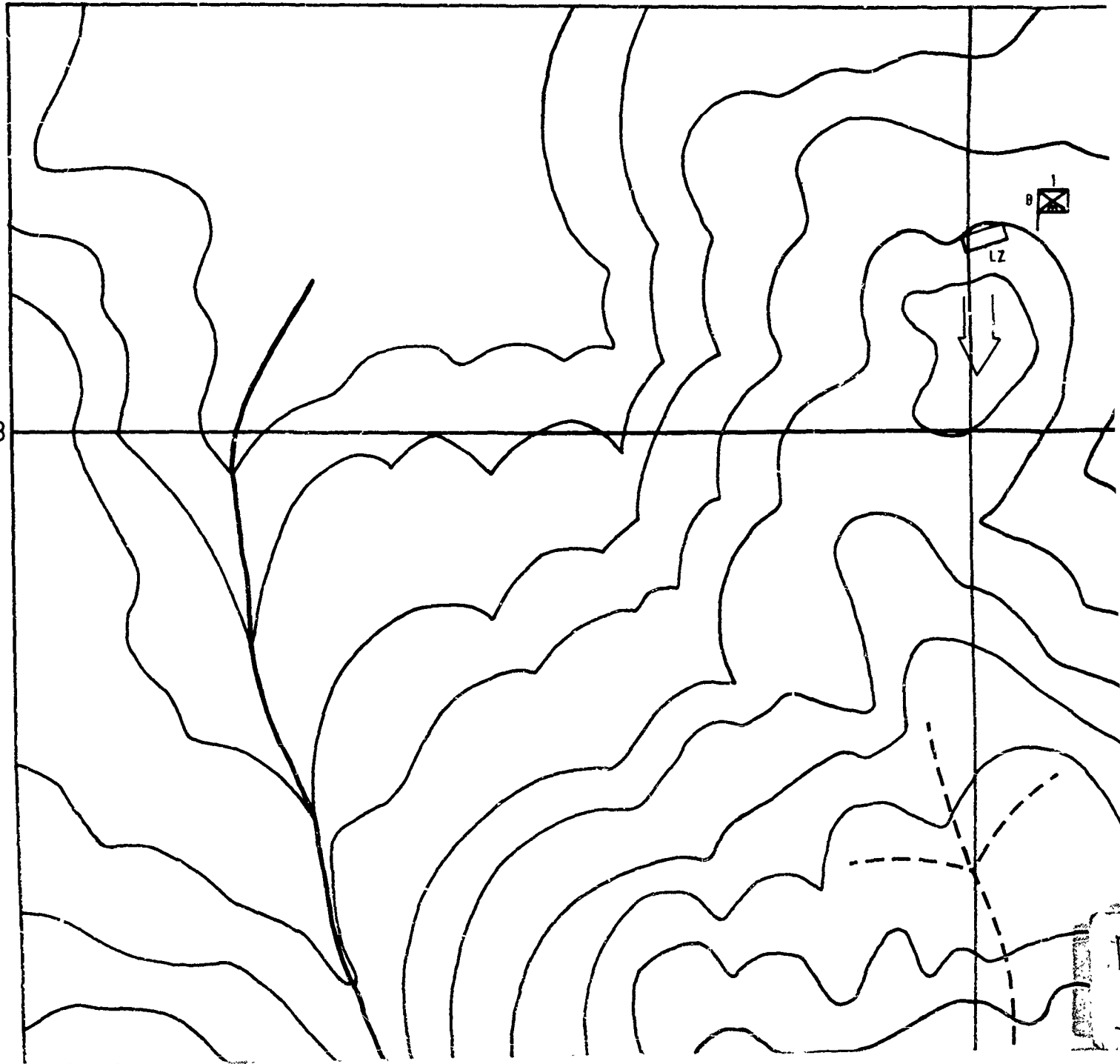
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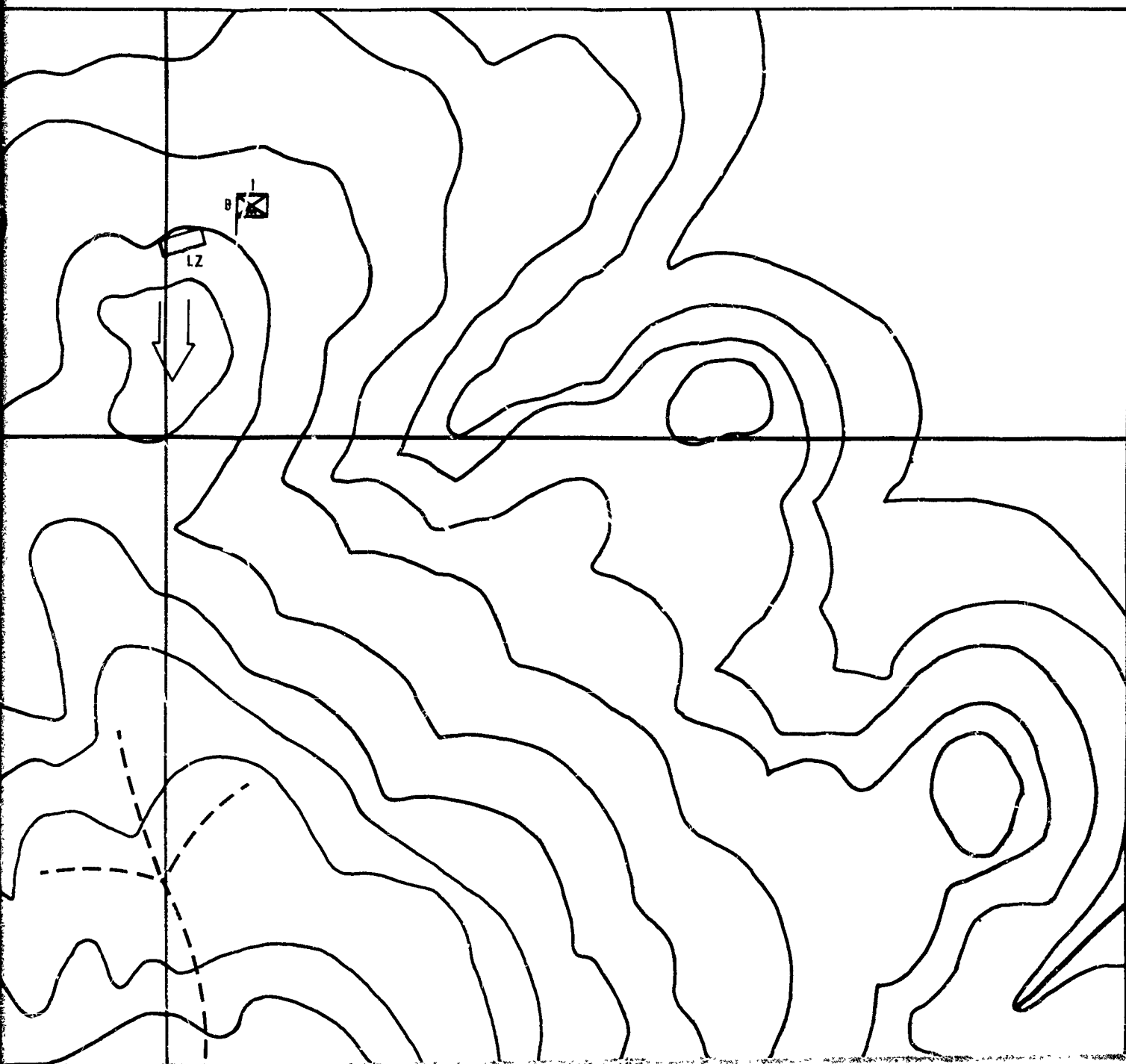
BATTLE DAK TO I

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15 August 1967

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report - 4/503d Infantry Contact of 8 - 18 July 1967

1. (U) Date of Operation: 8 July 1967 - 18 July 1967
2. (U) Location: Dak To District, Kontum Province. Reference: Map, Vietnam, 1:50,000, Series Nr L7014, Sheet Nr 6538III.
3. (U) Command Headquarters: 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry, 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate).
4. (U) Reporting Officer: Lieutenant Colonel James H. Johnson, Commanding Officer, 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry. Commander during the operation covered by this report: Lieutenant Colonel Lawrence W. Jackley.
5. (U) Task Organization:
 - a. 8 July - 12 July

TAC CP (11 CIDG)	A/4/503d Inf Engr Team	B/4/503d Inf Engr Team	D/4/503d Inf Engr Team
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 - b. 12 July - 18 July

TAC CP	A/4/503d Inf Engr Team Scout Dog Tm	C/4/503d Inf Engr Team Scout Dog Tm	D/4/503d Inf Engr Team Scout Dog Tm
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6. Supporting Fires/Forces:
 - a. 3/319th Artillery (+): Employed in a direct support role.
 - b. 335th AHC provided troop lift and resupply during the operation.
7. Intelligence: A suspected NVA Regimental size Headquarters was located in AO JANE (Area of Operations for 4th Battalion (Abn), 503d Infantry). Whether this Headquarters was operating independently or with subordinate units attached was uncertain, but the best intelligence estimates indicated at least one battalion size unit was moving with the Headquarters.
8. Mission: 4th Battalion (Abn), 503d Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in AO JANE, to locate, block and engage suspected NVA units operating vicinity YB 870147.
9. Concept of the Operation: A/4/503d Infantry, B/4/503d Infantry and D/4/503d Infantry, with attached TAC CP and CIDG elements, began search and destroy operations from PZ ABLE (YB 894166), moving generally south and west in AO JANE. C/4/503d Infantry remained at FSB "4" (YB 903185), providing security for the fire support base and preparing for deployment as the Battalion's reaction force.
10. Execution: 4 - 7 July: The 4th Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry continued operations in AO JANE with companies "A", "C" and "D" as maneuver elements. At 041530H July, all companies closed on coordinates YB 893164, where a battalion size perimeter was formed and an LZ constructed. During the period 4 - 7 July, units remained at this location, conducting extensive patrolling operations and live fire battle drill exercises. Resupply and maintenance periods were conducted as the battalion prepared for future operations (air assault and conduct of S&D).

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operations in AO MAC, commencing 061000H July 1967). Platoon size ambushes were conducted during the hours of darkness by all elements during this period. There was no enemy contact reported during this period.

At 071335H July, an exchange of companies was accomplished, with C/2/503d Infantry returning to secure FSB #4 (YB 903185) and B/4/503d Infantry entering AO JANE. At approximately 071600H July, the battalion received a change of mission. The air assault and the operation planned in AO MAC were cancelled and the battalion received the mission to locate, block or engage NVA units suspected of operating vicinity YB 870147. A forward TAC CP was organized and dispatched to join the three maneuver companies still harbored at YB 893154. The Battalion S3 Officer was made the ground commander at this time and arrived in the area of operation at 071725H July. Eleven (11) CIDG personnel, furnished by the Dak To Special Forces Camp, were attached at this time to be used during the operation as trackers and trail guides. The night of 7 July passed without incident.

8 - 9 July: The 4/503d Infantry (-) initiated operations in AO JANE, commencing movement at 080600H July. A report was received at approximately 080600H July that the NVA were now suspected in the vicinity of YB 840160. The battalion moved to locate and engage this force, moving west from coordinates YB 892164. Two DUSTOFFS delayed the movement during this period, one at 081000H July when one individual was evacuated for possible malaria from B/4/503d Infantry and another at 081200H July from A/4/503d Infantry with a possible broken ankle. At 081445H July the Battalion S3 Officer was ordered by the Battalion Commander to cease movement and conduct reconnaissance for a harbor site vicinity YB 874148. This site was selected at YB 885147 and a battalion perimeter formed. There was no enemy contact and no significant findings during this reporting period. On 9 July 1967, the Battalion (-) continued movement west into AO JANE, again with negative findings or contact. Units harbored as follows: A/4/503d Infantry at YB 871144; B/4/503d Infantry YB 868144 and D/4/503d Infantry at YB 872146.

10 July: At 100710H July, the TAC CP received orders to move to Objective # 49 at YB 863147. With B/4/503d Infantry leading, the Battalion (-) initiated movement at 100900H July. The order of march for the initial phase on 10 July was as follows: B/4/503d Infantry leading, D/4/503d, TAC CP, and A/4/503d following. At 101320H July the Battalion Commander issued instructions to the Forward CP to disregard Objective # 49 and move to Objective # 40, located at YB 859138. The Battalion S3 Officer informed A/4/503d Infantry to secure this objective at YB 855146, B/4/503d Infantry to secure at YB 855138 and D/4/503d Infantry to secure at YB 855143. The Battalion (-) began moving in column with A/4/503d Infantry leading, followed by D/4/503d, TAC CP and B/4/503d. The companies were to harbor at their respective objectives on the evening of 10 July 1967.

At 101545H July, while conducting search and destroy operations in the vicinity of YB 860140, lead elements of A/4/503d Infantry received heavy small arms fire and automatic weapons fire from two bunkered light machine guns. The enemy force, initially estimated to be one NVA rifle company, was entrenched in well prepared, fortified positions approximately thirty-five (35) meters to "A" Company's front (northwest). Artillery support was directed onto the NVA positions as the first platoon maneuvered to the right to relieve pressure on the point platoon which had been pinned down. At this time, the Battalion S3 Officer requested that a light fire team be made available to support the action. The second platoon maneuvered to the right and immediately came under fire from two light machine guns. The CO, 4/503d Infantry had lost contact by radio with his third platoon but previous instructions to the

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platoon was to maneuver to the right of the second platoon, which the third platoon did. Radio contact was not established again until later in the evening. Artillery, small arms and grenades silenced the light machine gun on the left of the first platoon. At this time all three platoons of the 4/503d Infantry were in contact and were receiving heavy fire on the right flank.

D/4/503d Infantry, who were following A/4/503d Infantry reported incoming mortar rounds. The Battalion S3 Officer instructed D/4/503d Infantry to maneuver to the left of A/4/503d Infantry to relieve the pressure directed in that direction. As the lead platoon of D/4/503d Infantry began moving it came under heavy fire from its right, at which time B/4/503d Infantry echeloned right (vic YB 862141). B/4/503d Infantry, maneuvering to attack the enemy position from the northeast with two platoons and the TAC CP, came under fire from two additional bunkered light machine guns, small arms fire, automatic weapons fire and 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. The first platoon of B/4/503d Infantry remained in a reserve position on high ground to the rear of the contact point. The enemy force in this sector of the fight was estimated to be an additional NVA rifle company with supporting mortars and was positioned so that it was mutually supporting the unit engaged by A/4/503d Infantry. The CO, 4/503d Infantry ordered D/4/503d Infantry to maneuver to the right of B/4/503d Infantry to relieve the pressure which had been placed on that unit. All elements continued to receive mortar and automatic weapons fire from the NVA force now believed to be a Battalion (-). B/4/503d Infantry reported that they had begun to receive heavy fire from both flanks and to the front. At 1620 hours, the S3 Officer, the artillery FO team and the CO, B/4/503d Infantry were killed or wounded by incoming mortar fire.

Artillery supported 4/503d Infantry elements with fires into NVA positions and with blocking fires on likely routes of NVA withdrawal/reinforcement to the west and southwest of the enemy positions.

At this time D/4/503d Infantry was maneuvering elements to reinforce B/4/503d Infantry. Two platoons had begun to move toward "B" Company's location. Another was still in contact and receiving light fire where it had maneuvered to assist A/4/503d Infantry. "A" Company had broken contact and was moving towards Company "B" when CO, D/4/503d Infantry informed the CO of "A" Company that the terrain and distance would not permit the two companies to link up prior to darkness. Contact was broken with all elements at 101800H July 1967. The CO, 4/503d Infantry ordered "A" Company with one platoon from "D" Company to move back and harbor with the one reserve platoon from "B" Company at YB 861140. "D" Company had linked up with "B" Company and prepared to spend the night at YB 858140. Perimeters were formed at this location and at YB 861140, where attempts were made to return the dead and wounded. MEDIVAC was attempted throughout the night. However, due to the adverse weather conditions in the area, only three WIA's were extracted. Companies harbored until daylight on 11 July 1967.

11 - 12 July: The 4th Battalion continued Operation GREENLEY in AO JANE. The Battalion (-) reconsolidated and harbored into Objective # 40 (Hill 830) and prepared for the extraction of the wounded and the dead from the previous days encounter. Extraction of the wounded and dead was delayed during the early morning (0601 - 0700 hours) of 11 July 1967 due to severe weather conditions in the area of operations. The first extraction was completed at 110710H July and the last at 111918 H July. The Battalion (-) continued search and destroy operations throughout the daylight hours of the 11th. Evidence of a well disciplined, trained and armed NVA force was found. Trench networks and emplacements were found to be quite

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extensive, running north-south and west along the ridge line where the contact was made. D/4/503d Infantry, on a sweep of the area on 11 July, found an oval shaped base camp at YB 859141 consisting of 60 - 80 bunkers and foxholes on the outer perimeter. Fortifications had an estimated two feet of overhead cover consisting of logs and dirt. A smaller perimeter of command bunkers was found within the camp. Cooking areas were also found within the perimeter. At 121115H July at YB 855136, Companies "A" and "D" found another base camp consisting of twenty bunkers. At 121430H July a third base camp complex was found by D/4/503d in the vicinity of YB 857138. Thirty bunkers with two foot overhead log and dirt covers and two kitchen areas were found within the area.

A thorough search of the battle field produced a considerable amount of NVA equipment and sources of intelligence value. Most US equipment was recovered. At 121430H July, D/4/503d Infantry found a wounded POW at YB 857138 who was immediately extracted to Dak To for interrogation.

US LOSSES

A/4/503d: 10 KIA, 32 WIA, 7 M-16 Rifles, 1 CAR-15 Rifle, 1 M-79 Grenade Launcher, 1 M-2 Compass.

B/4/503d: 9 KIA, 24 WIA, 1 AN/PRC-25 Radio.

D/4/503d: 1 KIA, 2 WIA.

HHC/4/503d: 2 KIA, 4 WIA, 2 M-2 Compass.

NVA LOSSES

9 KIA (BC); 1 POW; 1 RPD Chicom LMG; 1 Chicom Type 54 Pistol; 480 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition; 3 New Rucksacks; 25 Chicom Grenades; 1 B-40 Rocket Round; 11 Russian 82mm Mortar Rounds; 10 pounds of clothing; assorted cooking utensils.

13 - 18 July: At 130930H July 1967, the 4th Battalion initiated movement to the south in AO JANE with D/4/503d leading, C/4/503d following (they had replaced B/4/503d) and A/4/503d in the rear. At 0930 hours Company "D" had found freshly dug holes, a latrine and a muzzle harness for a dog harness at YB 855137. At 1400 hours, Company "C" spotted one VC and took him under fire with unknown results. The Viet Cong fled to the south at YB 855126. All companies harbored in a battalion perimeter at YB 855126.

At 140732H July, the Battalion (-) initiated movement toward an objective located at Hill 807 (YB 847122) with C/4/503d Infantry leading. At 141240H July, C/4/503d found a fresh grave containing one NVA body estimated to be about three days old at YB 867112. At this same location, Company "C" located a trail with blood stains and followed it for approximately 200 meters with negative results. All units harbored at YB 859120.

At 150718H July 1967, the Battalion (-) moved to link up with elements of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry at YB 864118. At 0824 hours, link up was effected and 4/503d Infantry began movement along an eight foot wide trail heading in a general east-west direction from YB 864118. At 151241H July, a short round from friendly artillery hit the lead squad of D/4/503d Infantry resulting in 6 WIA.

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DUSTOFF was requested and completed at 1516 hours. All units then established perimeters and prepared to harbor for the night. C/4/503d Infantry dispatched one platoon size patrol to the northeast. At 1645 hours this patrol reported finding an NVA base camp containing approximately 60 bunkers at YB 877128. This complex was estimated to be 150 meters in length and seventy-five (75) meters in width. It did not appear to have been used for at least several weeks. Units harbored vicinity YB 817126, in the area where the short artillery round had landed. Two (2) of the six (6) WIA were listed as KIA in a later report.

At 160820H July 1967, 4/503d Infantry initiated movement along a wide trail with C/4/503d Infantry leading. Units harbored at 1420 hours at YB 880130 with negative findings reported throughout the entire day. "C" Company dispatched one patrol to its front (east to southeast). This patrol located several indefinable trail markings including footprints at YB 883127 at 1450 hours, a grave containing an NVA body at YB 883126 and a well constructed bamboo bridge at YB 884126. The bridge had been recently repaired and the body had been killed within the last forty-eight (48) hours by gunshot wounds. Units harbored for the night without further incident.

At 170700H July, the Battalion (-) initiated movement again in AO JANE. The bridge found on 16 July was destroyed. At YB 884124, another base camp complex was found by C/4/503d Infantry at 0907 hours. A thorough search of the complex was made with negative findings. At 1115 hours, CO, 4/503d Infantry ordered all units to move to PZ KAREN (YB 904 123) and to prepare for extraction to FSB #1 at Dak To on 18 July 1967. Units were unable to reach the PZ on 17 July 1967, but closed PZ KAREN at 180945H July 1967. Airlift to Dak To began at 181000H July with all units closing FSB #1 (YB 005216) at 1145 hours.

11. Final results of the 4/503d Infantry action were as follows:

US LOSSES

Personnel: 24 KIA, 66 WIA, 0 MIA.

Equipment: 7 M-16 Rifles; 1 CAR-15 Rifle; 1 M-79 Grenade Launcher; 1 AN/PRC-25 Radio with related equipment; 3 M-2 Compasses.

GVN LOSSES

Personnel: 1 WIA.

Equipment: None.

NVA LOSSES: As listed in paragraph 10.

12. Commander's Analysis and Lessons Learned:

a. Unless absolutely unavoidable, units should attempt immediately to break contact from a well dug-in enemy force of sufficient size, so that supporting fires from all available sources (TAC Air, artillery, gunships) can adequately prep an area before the commitment of other elements. Where it is not possible to break contact, units must be prepared to take casualties from friendly artillery fire in order to bring fire closer in on the enemy.

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b. Units in direct contact must make an immediate and as accurate an appraisal as possible of the existing situation. Units in contact must have priority of communications with commanders, so that sound decisions by commanders can be made regarding the commitment of other elements. Nets must remain clear, as the tactical situation demands this much.

c. A chain of command must not only be established prior to any engagement but it must also be implemented when required. This is necessitated by the fact that a continuous command structure must exist throughout any encounter with the enemy.

d. Anyone must be prepared, particularly officers and senior NCOs, to adjust artillery fire quickly and with accuracy. This is of paramount importance when principle artillery attachments become battle casualties.

e. Units operating in combat areas should always have a scout dog team attached, so that early warning of proximity to enemy forces can be given.

JAMES H. JOHNSON
LTC, INF
Commanding

A TRUE COPY:

Samuel A. Britten
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