

# UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER
AD388578
NEW LIMITATION CHANGE
TO Approved for public release, distribution unlimited
FROM Distribution: Further dissemination only as directed by Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310, 15 NOV 1967, or higher DoD authority.
AUTHORITY
AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

<b>AD NUMBER</b>	
<b>AD388578</b>	
<b>CLASSIFICATION CHANGES</b>	
<b>TO:</b>	<b>unclassified</b>
<b>FROM:</b>	<b>confidential</b>
<b>LIMITATION CHANGES</b>	
<b>TO:</b> <b>Distribution: Further dissemination only as directed by Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310, 15 NOV 1967, or higher DoD authority.</b>	
<b>FROM:</b> <b>Controlling DoD Organization: Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, DC 20310.</b>	
<b>AUTHORITY</b>	
<b>30 Nov 1979, DoDD 5200.10; DoDD 5230.24, 18 Mar 1987</b>	

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED



# CONFIDENTIAL

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (4 Mar 68) FOR OT RD-T674257

7 March 1968

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

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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

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

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

DISTRIBUTION: by *This document contains information affecting the national defense of the United States within the meaning of the Espionage Laws, Title 18, U. S. C., Section 793 and 794. Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited*

Commanding General's Command  
US Continental Army Command  
US Army Combat Development Command  
Commandants  
US Army War College  
US Army Command and General Staff College  
US Army Adjutant General School  
US Army Air Defense School  
US Army Armor School  
US Army Artillery and Missile School  
US Army Aviation School  
US Army Chemical School  
US Army Civil Affairs School  
US Army Engineer School  
US Army Infantry School  
US Army Intelligence School

DDC  
MAR 29 1968  
A

REGRADED UNCLASSIFIED WHEN SEPARATED  
FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

# CONFIDENTIAL

2

DISTRIBUTION (Cont'd)

US Army Medical Field Service School  
US Army Military Police School  
US Army Missile and Munitions School  
US Army Ordnance School  
US Army Quartermaster School  
US Army Security Agency School  
US Army Signal School  
US Army Southeastern Signal School  
US Army Special Warfare School  
US Army Transportation School

Copies furnished:

Office, Chief of Staff, US Army  
Deputy Chiefs of Staff  
Chief of Engineers  
Chief of Research and Development  
Assistant Chiefs of Staff  
The Surgeon General  
The Provost Marshal General  
Research Analysis Corporation (Library)  
Dr. Martin J. Bailey, OSD (SA)  
Defense Documentation Center  
Planning Research Corporation  
Director, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group  
Commanding Generals  
    US Army Weapons Command  
    US Army Flight Training Center  
    5th Infantry Division (Mech)  
    173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)  
Commanding Officers  
    US Army Aviation Test Activity  
    4th Brigade, 6th Infantry Division  
    1st Battalion, 82d Artillery  
USAF Air Ground Operations School  
Senior Army Representative, Marine Corps Development & Education Command

3

**CONFIDENTIAL**

# **173<sup>rd</sup> AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)**

## **OPERATIONAL REPORT**

### **LESSONS LEARNED**

**1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER  
1967**



**CONFIDENTIAL**

FOR OT RD  
TG74257

CONFIDENTIAL

4

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

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned  
(1 August - 31 October 1967)

THRU: IFFORCEV  
ATTN: S-3  
APO San Francisco 96350

THRU: USARV  
ATTN: AVHGC-DST  
APO San Francisco 96375

THRU: CINCUSARPAC  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

TO: Department of the Army  
ATTN: ACSFOR  
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:

  
W. L. KVASNICKA  
1LT, AGC  
Asst AG

CONFIDENTIAL

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

I. Significant Organizational and Unit Activities

1. Introduction

This Operational Report Lessons Learned covers the period 1 August 1967 through 31 October 1967. The 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) has continued to conduct operations aimed at locating and destroying Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Armed Forces and installations. During this quarter, the Brigade relocated its base camp from BIEN HOA to AN KHE, thereby providing more immediate administrative and logistical support to units in the forward area. The Brigade Civic Action Program continued to play a key role in the Brigade's counterinsurgency effort.

To best accomplish its mission, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) conducted two (2) major operations during the reporting period. Operation GREENEY (which commenced in mid-June 1967), continued throughout the month of August and into September 1967. Brigade participation in the Operation terminated on 12 October. Prior to the termination of Operation GREENEY, the Brigade (-) deployed to the vicinity of PHU HIEP (south of TUY HOA on the South China Sea Coast) for Operation BOLLING. Operation BOLLING was still in progress at the end of this reporting period.

2. Organization

The 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) underwent several significant changes in organization during this reporting period. In August, the Brigade's signal capabilities were enhanced with the arrival and assignment of the 723d Forward Signal Platoon from Fort Riley, Kansas. The platoon's authorized strength is 1 officer and 38 enlisted men.

In late October, the Brigade received an additional Infantry Battalion, the 3/503d Infantry from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Through TO&E, the battalion is authorized 36 officers, 2 warrant officers and 771 enlisted men. The 3/503d Infantry underwent jungle training at An Khe base camp prior to deployment on Operation BOLLING.

On 7 October, OPLAN 7-67 was published directing rear elements at BIEN HOA to commence relocation to AN KHE, the home of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The Brigade now employs an entirely new rear detachment policy. Each battalion and separate company has personnel assigned to Company "E" (Provisional). The duty of these personnel is to insure that the personnel effects of all soldiers in the forward area is kept secure. Transient personnel from the forward area, replacements, leave and R & R returnees are now required to process through the 173d Replacement Detachment. This new policy maintains a minimal rear detachment thereby augmenting the combat effectiveness of the forward elements. Company "E" (Provisional) is assigned to the 173d Support Battalion with its own morning report and TO&E drawn from Brigade resources.

The 173d Engineer Company, the 172d Military Intelligence Detachment and the 51st Chemical Detachment were all augmented in personnel strength during this reporting period. The Engineer augmentation was due to the assignment of an Equipment Maintenance Section.

The 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog), the 46th PI Detachment and the 628th MI Detachment all received a change of status from attached to assigned.

CONFIDENTIAL

6

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

3. Intelligence

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

(1) Operation GREELEY

(a) Operation GREELEY commenced on 17 June 1967. Prior to the commencement of the operation the following enemy units were believed to be in the area of operations: 24th NVA Regt, 304th VMC Bn, 200th VC Arty Bn, and H-15 LF Bn. However, on 10 July 1967, evidence of a new unit appeared after the 4/503 engaged a unit and captured documents and a POW. This unit was the Doc Lop Regt (NVA). On 19 July 1967 another unit newly infiltrated into SVN appeared when two (2) NVA soldiers rallied at DAK PEK SF Camp. These Chieu Hois stated they were from the 174th Regt, 316th NVA Div; these reports proved correct on 8 August when the 8th ARVN Task Force made heavy contact with elements of the regiment eight (8) kilometers west of DAK SEANG SF Camp.

(b) The Doc Lop Regt was believed to have withdrawn across the Tri-Border area after contact on 21 July with 2/503 Inf. The 174th NVA Regt was believed to have withdrawn across the Laotian border after contact with the ARVN on 8 August 1967.

(c) During August and September there were few contacts with the enemy. The significant contacts involved Brigade LRRP teams as listed below:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FRIENDLY UNIT</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCE</u>
12/8	LB 933300	LRRP TM #4	Est 30 VC
18/8	ZB 105347	LRRP TM #1	Est 30-50 VC
29/8	ZB 116325	LRRP OP	Unknown
05/9	ZB 105327	LRRP TM #7	11 VC

(d) Terrain and Weather Analysis:

1 Terrain: The area of operation fell within KONTUM Province. The western boundary was marked by the Cambodian/Laotian borders, the southern border by the YB 00 E-W grid line, the northern sector included the DAK PEK Special Forces Camp and the eastern portion was generally bounded by the AS 9259 to ZB 1200 grid line. The DAK PO and DAK PSI Rivers form the major drainage system in the area. The contour of the terrain is characterized by high mountain ranges interlaced with river valleys and streams. Major routes into the area are National Highway 14 and Communal Route 512.

2 Weather: The weather during Operation GREELEY was characterized by the marked influence of the Southwest Monsoon with frequent and heavy precipitation. Cloud ceilings during early morning hours below 1,000 feet were common with ceilings rising to 2,000 - 4,000 feet in the afternoon.

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

<u>UNIT &amp; STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUBORDINATE UNITS</u>	<u>WEAPONS &amp; EQUIP</u>
24th NVA Regt 1000	ZB 140340	4 Inf Bn 5 Inf Bn 6 Inf Bn	4 x 120mm Mtrs 21 x 82mm Mtrs 13 x 12.7 AA MG's 27 x RR's (57's & 75's) 12 x Goryunov MG's 9 x RP-46 LMG's Assorted SA



# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

4 Bn/24 Regt	ZB092180	Unknown	Unknown
5 Bn/24 Regt	Unlocated	Unknown	Unknown
6 Bn/24 Regt	ZB000171	Unknown	Unknown
304 VCMF 350	ZB215385	D-11 Inf Co (C-1) D-12 Inf Co (C-2) D-13 Inf Co (C-3) D-14 Arty Co (C-4)	21 x SMG's 36 AR's 9 x 60mm Mtrs Assorted SA
200 VC Arty Bn 300	YA993830	1 Co 2 Co 3 Co	18 x 12.7mm AA MG's 38 x AK-47's 57 x SKS's Possible 75mm and 105mm Artillery pieces Assorted CA
H-15 LF Bn 400	Unlocated	C-1 Inf Co C-2 Inf Co C-3 Inf Co C-4 Inf Co C-5 Inf Co	Unknown

## (2) Operation BOLLING

(a) Prior to commencement of the operation the following enemy units were believed to be operating in the area of operations: 5th NVA Divisions, consisting of three Infantry Battalions, an Artillery Battalion and the 30th MF Bn (NVA); 85th LF Bn, K-65 Sapper Co, K-76 Sapper Co; and two elements were believed to possibly be operating in the area, the 91st NVA Regt and the 313th NVA Bn.

(b) The enemy's logistical problems indicate the enemy is extremely vulnerable due to lengthy overland supply lines. The enemy is vulnerable to air and artillery airstrikes when concentrated; therefore, large troop movements must be made during periods of low visibility. Logistics problems indicate the enemy cannot support sustained attacks against friendly forces. Attacks appear limited to infiltration raids.

(c) Most all contacts during Operation BOLLING have been with squad size or smaller elements. The following is a list of significant contacts for Operation BOLLING during the reporting period:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>FRIENDLY UNIT</u>	<u>ENEMY FORCE</u>
Sep 191150	CQ078405	E/17 Cav	Unknown
271600	BQ984374	A/4/503	6 VC
271945	BQ914590	A/1/503	Unknown

# CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

Oct 041100	BQ 843381	C/1/503d Infantry	16 - 20 NVA
061805	CQ 044471	D/2/8th Cav	4 NVA
091145	BQ 942589	A/1/503d Infantry	Est NVA Sqd
092005	BQ 949588	A/1/503d Infantry	Est NVA Sqd
111045	BQ 998695	ARA, 2/8th Cav	8 VC
200555	BQ 974367	LRRP Tm A	5 VC
310945	BQ 989298	E/17th Cav	Est VC Sqd

(d) Terrain and Weather Analysis:

1. Terrain: The area of interest is located within southern PHU YEN Province and a northern portion of KANH HOA Province. The contour of the terrain is characterized by two principle land formations - the coastal plain and mountainous areas. The coastal plain is generally flat with little variation. The inland mountain ridges are divided by both wide and narrow valleys running generally north to south. The most prominent terrain feature is the east to west SONG DA RANG. The river empties into the South China Sea. Vegetation in the plains area is predominantly rice fields. Further inland, dense broadleaf evergreen forest covers the mountain ridges with canopy rising in excess of 80 feet. Interprovincial route 7B and Route 1 are the main lines of communication in the area.

2. Weather: The weather during Operation BOLLING has been clear and warm with only a few days of thunder showers. The autumn transition from the dry season to the northeast monsoon has not as yet come into full swing. Humidity ranged from 65 - 85 per cent. Temperature ranged from 76 to 83 degrees.

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

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SUB UNITS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>AKA</u>	<u>WEAPONS</u>
95th NVA Regt Str - 1200	1 Bn 2 Bn 3 Bn	BQ 8853	801 Infil Gp Ngo Quyen Unit 335 Song Lo Work Site 10 Hanoi - 93 Song Thad Song Da Cong Truong 10 Thon 18	60 and 82mm mtrs 12.7 AA 75 RR's E-40 RL's K-51 rifles AK-47 rifles K-56 rifles SKS rifles .50 cal HMG's Assorted LMG's
4th Bn, 95th Str - 300	1 Co 2 Co 3 Co 4 Co	CQ 0258	11th Bn Unit 337 11 Village Hung Dao Bn 1st Bn CO-Chau XA-11 Khue-1	1-82mm Mortar 2-75mm RR's
5th Bn, 95th Str - 300		CQ 0244	12th Bn Unit 339 H-3 Bn 2d Bn CO-Bich Khue-2 12 Village	2-82mm mtrs 1-75mm RP AA MG's AK-47's SKS 56's

CONFIDENTIAL

9

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

UNIT	SUB-UNITS	LOCATION	AKA	WEAPONS
6th Bn, 95th Str - 300		BQ 9082	13th Bn Unit 341 H-5 3d Bn CO Dong Khue-3	2-82mm Mtrs 2-75mm RR's
85th LF Bn Str - 285	DK-1 DK-3 DK-5 DK-7 DK-9	CQ 0464 BQ 9328 CQ 095485 BQ 9256 CQ 035680 CQ 0083	not available	not available
30th MF Bn Str - 350	B-1 B-3 B-5 B-17 B-19	CQ 1328	Infil Gp D-3 U-3 K-71 X-14 Quan 30 T-29 331 Bn, Duong 250 Thon Viet 180	3-60mm mtrs 3-81mm mtrs 4-12.7 MG's 3-57mm RR's 2-XH 40's 2-XM 79's
K-65 Sapper Co	not available	CQ 0528	not available	not available
K-76 Sapper Co	"	BQ 8273	"	"
5th Div Fwd	"	BQ 8852	"	"
5th Div Main	"	BQ 8652	"	"
2d Bn, 91st NVA Regt	"	CQ 0737	"	"
313th NVA Bn	1, 2, 3 Co's	BQ 165605	"	"

b. Viet Cong/NVA losses for the period 1 August - 31 October 1967:

Enemy Personnel:

KIA (BC) ..... 137  
KIA (POSS) ..... 39  
POW ..... 37  
Civil Defendents ..... 149  
Returnees ..... 2

Equipment/Supplies

Weapons:

AK-47 Rifles ..... 22

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

SKS Rifles .....	6
Mauzer .....	7
BAR .....	1
Carbine .....	17 <sup>1</sup>
M-1 Rifle .....	7
Springfield O3 .....	2
MAS 36 .....	3
Remington O3 .....	1
RPD Machine Gun .....	1
.45 Cal Pistol .....	1
Chicom 54 Pistol .....	2

Ammunition, Mines and Explosives:

Assorted Small Arms Rounds .....	6456
Heavy Ammo (50 & Up) .....	56
B-40 Rocket Launcher Rounds .....	2
Shotgun Rounds .....	7
M-79 Rounds .....	234
60mm Mortar Rounds .....	123
57mm Recoiless Rifle Rounds .....	150
CBU Bomblets .....	102
750 # Bomb .....	2
250 # Bomb .....	1
100 # Napalm Bomb .....	1
105mm Artillery Rounds .....	10
Hand Grenades .....	71
Rifle Grenades .....	13
Smoke Grenades .....	2
Blasting Caps .....	19
AT Mines .....	4
Chicom Claymore .....	1
US Claymore .....	1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

Land Mine Fuses ..... 3  
Surface Charges ..... 3  
82mm Fuses w/shipping Plugs ..... 50  
Hand Flare ..... 2  
Trip Flare ..... 2  
White Star Cluster ..... 1  
82mm Mortar Round ..... 18

Installations:

Huts ..... 230  
Bunkers ..... 213  
Foxholes ..... 7  
Trench Systems ..... 140 Meters

Food:

Rice ..... 9 Tons  
Salt ..... 2320 lbs  
Corn ..... 265 lbs  
Potatoes ..... 205 lbs  
Barley ..... 100 lbs  
Bananas ..... 80 lbs  
Fish ..... 10 lbs  
Meat ..... 10 lbs  
Grapefruit ..... 12 lbs  
Breadfruit ..... 10 lbs  
Sugar ..... 5 lbs  
Pepper ..... 1/2 lb  
Tobacco ..... 220 lbs

Miscellaneous:

AK-47 Magazines ..... 32  
RPD MG Magazines ..... 2  
Carbine Magazines ..... 8

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVHE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

M-1 Clips .....	84
M-16 Magazines .....	2
Bayonets .....	2
Grenade Launcher .....	1
Compass, US .....	1
Flashlights .....	5
Flashlight Batteries .....	21
PRC-10 Batteries .....	2
Transistor Radios .....	4
Boats .....	4
Flags .....	2
Shovels .....	2
Rucksacks .....	61
Pith Helmets .....	6
Packboards .....	3
Hammocks .....	7
Ponchos .....	16
Stoves .....	5
Rice Machine .....	1
Canteens .....	16
Briefcase .....	1
Suitcases .....	3
Plows .....	5
Bubble Level for Mortar Sight .....	1
Printing Press .....	1
Tooth Brushes .....	4
Tooth Paste .....	3 Tubes
Chopsticks .....	17 Sets
Machette .....	1

CONFIDENTIAL

13

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

57mm RR Cannister .....	1
BAR Magazines .....	2
SMG Magazines .....	1
Gas Masks .....	12
Gas Mask Nosepiece .....	1
Brush Hat .....	1
Surgical Shears .....	1
US Helmet .....	1
AN/PRC-25 Battery .....	1
Sandals .....	32 Pr
Shaving Brush .....	1
Soap Bar .....	2
Assorted Clothing .....	550 lbs
Mosquito Net .....	1
Straw Hat .....	1
Straw Mat .....	9
Oil Bottles .....	2
Water Cans.....	2
Pistol Belts .....	8
Medical Kits .....	5
Medical Supplies .....	50 lbs
Barbed Wire Rolls .....	2
Dog Muzzle .....	1
Headlamps .....	2
Blanket, Wool .....	1
Sewing Bag .....	1
Cigarette Lighter .....	1
Writing Tables .....	18
Baskets .....	19

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

VN Plasters ..... \$3510.00  
MPC ..... \$1.20  
Rifle Cleaning Equipment ..... Assorted  
Farm Implements ..... Assorted  
Cooking Utensils ..... Assorted  
Dishes ..... Assorted

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.

August

During the month of August 1967, the 173d Airborne Brigade continued Operation GREELEY. Security in the Brigade Rear Area was provided by rear detachment personnel of the Brigade. Operations continue into the month of September 1967.

During the reporting period, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) continued its security/search and destroy operations (Operation GREELEY), in the tri-border area, vicinity of DAK TO. On 6 August, the ARVN 8th Airborne Battalion contacted an estimated NVA Company which was later reinforced to Battalion size. Contact began at 1412 hours at vicinity of DAK SEANG (YB 847405). Friendly elements were engaged with recoilless rifle fire, 60mm and 82mm mortar fire. Enemy forces were reported as having taken heavy losses. Enemy contacts with elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade continued to be sporadic and consisted primarily of harassing and sniper fire. The largest enemy contacts were made by two LRRP teams and one LRRP OP on 12, 18 and 29 August. The contact of 18 August resulted in 1 US WIA and 1 US KIA. When the team engaged the NVA, the team leader sent his patrol to the point of extraction while he remained to divert the enemy soldiers in pursuit. His body was recovered the next day. A rifle company was deployed to the area of contact shortly after the team's extraction. Throughout the reporting period, infantry elements of the Brigade discovered numerous installations, huts, bunkers, mortar and small arms rounds. On 23 August, Brigadier General Leo H. Schweiter took command of the 173d Airborne Brigade from Brigadier John R. Deane Jr. Operations during the month of August were supported by 132 TAC sorties, 29 FAC sorties and 146 visual reconnaissance missions. A total of 177.5 tons of ordnance was dropped. Supporting artillery (3/319th Arty) fired a total of 3359 missions expending a total of 19,417 rounds. The Brigade's Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon) supported all operations. A statistical report of their activities follows:

UH-1D Missions

<u>Type Mission</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Missions</u>	<u>Tons</u>
Resupply	1018	60	20
Command and Control	864	274	0
Medevac	50	20	0

**CONFIDENTIAL**



CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

Maintenance	35	10	0
Other	60	50	0
Total Hours	<u>543</u>		
Total Passengers	<u>634</u>		

OH-13 Missions

Command and Control	750	193	0
Reconnaissance	45	30	0
Maintenance	20	15	0
Training	10	10	0
Other	16	35	0

Total Hours 245

Total Passengers 228

Grand Total (Sorties) UH-1D 2037

OH-13 841

Grand Total (Missions) UH-1D 414

OH-13 228

Operations during the month of August resulted in the following VC/NVA and friendly casualties:

VC/NVA Losses

KIA (BC)	<u>4</u>
KIA (POSS)	<u>4</u>
VCC	<u>0</u>
Detainees	<u>0</u>
Ralliers	<u>0</u>

US Losses

KIA	<u>14</u>
WIA	<u>12</u>
MIA	<u>0</u>
Non-Battle Injured	<u>9</u>
Non-Battle Dead	<u>1</u>

September

During the month of September, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) continued Operation GREELEY in the II CORPS TACTICAL ZONE under the operational control of the 4th Infantry Division. From 1 - 18 September 1967 the Brigade conducted operations in the DAK TO/DAK SEANG area of KONTUM Province in the CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. On 18 September, the Brigade Headquarters (-), 1/503d Infantry, 4/503d Infantry, 2/8th Cavalry (OPCON), C/3/319th Artillery, elements of the 173d Support Battalion, 173d Signal Company and the 335th Air Mobile Company Light moved to TUY HOA in TINH PHU YEN Province in preparation for a new operation, code named BOLLING. Operation

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

BOLLING commenced on 19 September and continued through the end of the month. From 7 September through 28 September 1967, the Brigade supported a CIDG operation northwest of DAK SEANG and west of DAK PEK code named Operation DARBY. The BIEN HOA Tactical Area of Responsibility was secured by elements of the 1st and 9th Infantry Divisions on a rotational basis as directed by II FFORCEV. Brigade personnel provided security for the BIEN HOA Base Camp perimeter.

From 1 - 14 September 1967, the Brigade continued participation in Operation GREELEY with operation moving northwest of DAK SEANG and west of DAK PEK in KONTUM Province. The Brigade deployed the 1/503d Infantry and the 2/503d Infantry with the 4/503d Infantry as Brigade Reaction Force at DAK SEANG. From 7 - 28 September, the Brigade supported Operation DARBY, a CIDG operation northwest of DAK SEANG. The Brigade had no significant contact during this period. On 13 September, the 2/503d Infantry became the Brigade Reaction Force and the 1/503d and 4/503d Infantry began preparation for movement to DAK TO. On 14 September, the Advance Party departed DAK TO for TUY HOA on the SOUTH CHINA SEA in preparation for a new operation code named BOLLING. By the 19th of September, the movement was completed with the 1/503d Infantry, 4/503d Infantry, elements of the 173d Signal Support Battalion, C/3/319th Artillery, 335th Assault Helicopter Co., 173d Signal Company and Headquarters and Headquarters Company (-) being located in TUY HOA commencing Operation BOLLING on 19 September. A/3/319th Artillery and the 2/503d Infantry remained at DAK TO as a part of TASK FORCE 77 (2/503d Infantry, A/3/319th Artillery, 27th MIKE Force Company, 3d ARVN Airborne Battalion and the 1/42d ARVN Regiment). Operation GREELEY continued into the month of October with no significant contacts. Operation BOLLING continued at TUY HOA with operations spreading east and frequent contact with the enemy reported. Operation BOLLING also continued into October. Operations during the month of September were supported by 444 TAC Air sorties expending a total of 506.66 tons of ordnance. Supporting artillery (3/319th) fired a total of 1,844 missions expending a total of 11,185 rounds. The Brigade Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon) supported all operations. A statistical breakdown of their activities follows:

<u>MISSION</u>	<u>UH-1D</u>	<u>OH-13</u>
Resupply	1,476	0
Command and Control	823	472
Maintenance	<u>259</u>	<u>123</u>
TOTAL SORTIES	2,558	699
Total Passengers Transported . . . . .		895
Total Cargo Transported . . . . .		6,000 pounds
Total Hours Flown . . . . .		984

Operations during the month of September resulted in the following VC/NVA and friendly casualties:

<u>VC/NVA Losses</u>	<u>US Losses</u>
KIA (BC) <u>22</u>	KIA <u>2</u>
KIA (POSS) <u>16</u>	WIA <u>23</u>
VOC <u>14</u>	MIA <u>0</u>
Detainees <u>1180</u>	Non-Battle Injured <u>14</u>
Ralliers <u>0</u>	Non-Battle Dead <u>0</u>

CONFIDENTIAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

## October

During the month of October 1967, the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) continued Operation BOLLING in the vicinity of TUY HOA on the coast of the SOUTH CHINA SEA. In addition, the Brigade relocated its rear base area from BIEN HOA to AN KHE by road convoy, sea and Air Force transport.

During the reporting period (1 - 31 October), the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) continued search and destroy operations in the TUY HOA/PHU HIEP vicinity. These operations were designed to provide security for the local rice harvest. Brigade elements maintained daily contact with VC/NVA forces operating in this coastal region, however, the enemy was almost always found in small groups, seldom larger than squad size. The largest enemy force contact during the month was estimated to be between 16 and 20 NVA. The contact took place at 1100 hours on 4 October at BQ 843381 while C/1/503d Infantry was searching a base camp. Contact was broken at 1200 hours. One (1) NVA was KIA (BC) and four weapons were captured. On 9 October, A/1/503d Infantry made contact with an estimated squad of NVA at BQ 942589 (1145 hours). Final results of this brief contact were 6 NVA KIA (BC) and 3 weapons captured. There were 4 US WIA. Throughout the month, Brigade elements accounted for numerous VC/NVA kills resulting from such small skirmishes. During the month of October 1967, the Brigade relocated its rear base camp facility from BIEN HOA to AN KHE. The move required a massive effort on the part of Support Battalion and rear detachment personnel. All TO&E and personal items belonging to troops in the forward area were loaded into conex containers which were then convoyed to SAIGON (NEWPORT). From NEWPORT, men, vehicles and equipment were moved by sea to QUIN NHON. From QUIN NHON, convoys moved overland to AN KHE, the home of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The Brigade rear detachment became operational immediately upon arrival in AN KHE. Shortly after the arrival in AN KHE, the 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry arrived in-country. The 3/503d Infantry was formed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The Battalion underwent Jungle Training in AN KHE prior to deployment to the Operation BOLLING AO. Operations during the month of October 1967 were supported by 269 TAC sorties, 145 FAC sorties and no per se visual reconnaissance missions. A total of 329.55 tons of ordnance was dropped by Air Force fighters. Supporting artillery (3/319th Arty), fired a total of 1,222 missions expending 16,163 rounds. The Brigade Aviation Platoon (Casper Platoon), supported all operations. A statistical report of their activities follows:

### UH-1D Missions

<u>Type Mission</u>	<u>Sorties</u>	<u>Missions</u>
Resupply	671	225
Command and Control	1060	275
Maintenance	178	77
Total Hours - 580		
Total Passengers - 666		

### OH-13 Missions

Command and Control	957	270
Maintenance	158	64

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

Total Hours - 394

Total Passengers - 130

Total 7.62mm Ammunition Expended - 9,700 rounds

Operations during the month of October 1967 resulted in the following VC/NVA and friendly casualties:

VC/NVA KIA (BC)	<u>100</u>	US KIA	<u>9</u>
VC/NVA KIA (Poss)	<u>19</u>	US WIA	<u>36</u>
Civil Defendants	<u>99</u>	US MIA	<u>0</u>
Returnees	<u>2</u>	Non-Battle Dead	<u>3</u>
VC/NVA PW's	<u>23</u>	Non-Battle Injured	<u>9</u>

## 5. Training

a. During the reporting period the Brigade continued to conduct extensive jungle warfare training of newly arrived replacements. During the latter part of October, the 173d Airborne Brigade Jungle School, with the remainder of the Brigade's Rear Detachment at BIEN HOA, deployed to AN KHE. Along with the tremendous task of rebuilding the school under adverse conditions, the cadre also had to train the newly arrived 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry. Training of the 3/503d Infantry commenced on 27 October and continued until 2 November, resulting in complete training and orientation of 820 officer and enlisted men in an unprecedented time period. A breakdown of the number of personnel trained by month follows:

(1) August: 356 personnel.

(2) September: 578 personnel, 40 US Air Force Air Policemen.

(3) October: 820 enlisted men and officers of the 3/503d Infantry and 121 normal Brigade replacements.

b. Even though the Brigade Jungle School was operating at a handicap, first rate training continued throughout the period without interruption.

## 6. Psychological Operations and Civic Action

a. August: During the month of August, the Brigade continued its construction program in the BIEN HOA area. This month a market place was refurbished, 1 flagpole erected and 6 see-saws constructed. JUSPAO Newsletters were distributed in conjunction with the MEDCAP/DENTCAP program.

(1) Civic Action: MEDCAP teams treated 9,383 patients while DENTCAP teams treated 514 patients. Distribution for the month of August was as follows:

Tooth Brushes . . . . .	.51
Tooth Paste (tubes) . . . . .	.41
Cooking Oil (cases) . . . . .	.17
Canned Goods . . . . .	5,314 lbs
Ice	
Medicine (overhead)	
Medicine (candy)	

19  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

Rice . . . . .	675 lbs
Milk (powered) . . . . .	.17 cases
Milk (dehydrated) . . . . .	7 cases
Soup (dehydrated) . . . . .	2 cases
Clothes . . . . .	750 lbs
Keen Drink . . . . .	.12 cases
Corn Meal . . . . .	2,450 lbs
Bulgar Wheat . . . . .	1,618 lbs
Oatmeal . . . . .	1,092 lbs
Sand . . . . .	.15 yds
Lumber . . . . .	2,700 bd ft
Paint . . . . .	5 gal
Nails . . . . .	.50 lbs
Soap (bars) . . . . .	5,246
Candy . . . . .	.93 lbs
Multiple Vitamins . . . . .	105 bottles
Steel Culvert (sections) . . . . .	215

b. September. In September, the Brigade completed construction of a sewage system for the city of BIEN HOA. A total of twelve (12) English classes were taught weekly with an attendance of seventeen (17) pupils per each class. JUSPAO Newsletters were distributed by MEDCAP/DENTCAP teams.

(1) Civic Action: MEDCAP teams treated a total of 1,095 patients during this month while DENTCAP teams treated 15 patients. The following is a breakdown of distribution for the month:

Cooking Oil . . . . .	.12 cans
Bulgar Wheat . . . . .	350 pounds
Cornmeal . . . . .	8,300 pounds
Rolled Oats . . . . .	3,346 pounds
Powered Milk . . . . .	3,700 pounds
Baby Milk . . . . .	.4 cases
Asbestos Roofing . . . . .	300 sheets
Nails . . . . .	200 pounds
Fiber Board . . . . .	115 sheets

c. October: A total of 4,182,000 leaflets were dropped during this month. One hundred twenty five (125) posters were dropped in support of the PHU SEN Operation and approximately fifteen (15) hours of psychological warfare tapes played during this period.

(1) Civic Action: MEDCAP teams treated a total of 772 patients in October. A breakdown of this month's distribution follows:

Rice . . . . .	8,070 lbs
Salt . . . . .	2,229 lbs
Corn . . . . .	200 lbs
Barley . . . . .	100 lbs
Potatoes . . . . .	110 lbs
*Lumber . . . . .	200,000 bft
*Wooden Tables . . . . .	6
*Nails . . . . .	300 lbs
*Pipe (galvanized) . . . . .	90 ft

\* were distributed in BIEN HOA.

CONFIDENTIAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-3C

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

d. Solatium Payments:

(1) Villagers of DAK PEK for damage done to rice fields:

Rice . . . . . 400 lbs  
Bulgar Wheat . . . . . 120 lbs

(2) Victims of accidental shelling of a village south of DAK TO:

33,000 \$VN

7. Logistics: During the reporting period, the logistical posture continued to remain excellent. Tactical operations were supported by land, air and ship lines of supply. In the latter part of October, the Brigade relocated its Rear Base Camp from BIEN HOA to AN KHE. The move required a massive effort on the part of the 173d Support Battalion and resulted in approximately 308 tons of cargo and passengers and 1,060 conexes being moved by ship, air and vehicle convey from SAIGON (NEWPORT) to AN KHE. A logistical summary by classes 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>	
	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>INJURED</u>
August	3	18	0	1	9
September	2	23	0	0	14
October	2	36	0	3	9
TOTAL	14	77	0	4	32

(2) Brigade Strength:

AUTHORIZED AND ASSIGNED STRENGTH

	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>				<u>ASG 1 Aug 67</u>				<u>ASG 31 Oct 67</u>			
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>AGG</u>
1/Assigned Units	282	40	4828	5150	267	36	4218	4521	300	44	4816	5150
2/Attached Units	12	2	34	48	14	1	86	101	15	1	35	51
Aggregate	294	42	4862	5198	281	37	4304	4622	315	45	4851	5211

71

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

GAINS AND LOSSES BY MONTH

	August 1967				September 1967				October 1967			
	OFF	WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG	OFF	WO	EM	AGG
3/Gains	20	2	586	608	26	4	192	222	60	8	911	979
4/Losses	14	2	364	380	21	1	277	299	17	1	419	437
NET	+6	0	+222	+228	+5	+3	-85	-77	+43	+7	+492	+542

1/ During the reporting period the assigned units authorized strength increased. The increase was due to the status of the 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog), with an authorized strength of 1 officer and 20 enlisted men being changed from attached to assigned in late October; the 723d Forward Signal Platoon, with an authorized strength of 1 officer and 38 enlisted men being assigned in August and the 173d Engineer Company authorized strength being increased from 147 enlisted men to 188 enlisted men, in late October. Also, the assigned strength of the Brigade was reduced in early October when "F" Company (LRRP), 51st Infantry was activated with an assigned strength of 1 officer and 228 enlisted men and transferred from the Brigade.

2/ During the reporting period the attached units authorized strength decreased. The decrease was a result of the 67th Infantry, with an authorized strength of 19 enlisted men, being relieved from attached and reassigned in late October and the 39th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog), with an authorized strength of 1 officer and 20 enlisted men being changed from attached to assigned.

3/ Represents all assigned gains to include both in-country and out-country. Included also is the 3d Battalion, 503d Infantry.

4/ Represents all assigned losses to include DEROS, ETS, in-country reassignments, deceased members, out-country medical evacuation and the reassignment of "F" Company (LRRP), 51st Infantry.

b. Discipline, Law and Order:

(1) The discipline within the Brigade remained excellent during the reporting period. No stragglers were reported.

(2) During this quarter there were 9 General Court Martials, 34 Special Court Martials, 5 Summary Court Martials and 320 Article 15's.

(3) Assistance from the Brigade IG was readily available throughout the reporting period.

c. Development and Maintenance of Morale:

(1) Morale within the Brigade remained excellent due to increased and improved services and facilities.

(2) Finance: The Brigade Finance Section (Company "A", Administration) continued to provide financial support throughout the reporting period. Newly arrived replacements were made aware of the Soldiers Savings Program and the various allotments available to them through orientation and various newsletters.

CONFIDENTIAL

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

(3) Chaplain: During the reporting period there were 556 religious services conducted (all faiths with a total attendance of 14,267).

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

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Hawaii	58	60	79
Bangkok	85	89	63
Hong Kong	44	43	40
Tokyo	60	51	30
Taipei	65	43	29
Singapore	19	14	15
Kuala Lumpur	10	9	5
Manila	9	12	11
Penang	21	18	13
Australia	<u>N/A</u>	<u>N/A</u>	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	371	339	310

(5) There were a total of 1,389 awards for valor and meritorious service during the reporting period. A breakdown follows:

## APPROVED AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Distinguished Service Cross	0	4	1
Silver Star	1	5	1
Legion of Merit	1	4	4
Distinguished Flying Cross	1	1	2
Bronze Star Medal (Valor)	60	37	6
Bronze Star Medal (Merit/Achievement)	139	68	43
Air Medal (Valor)	3	0	0
Air Medal (Service)	437	31	34
Soldiers Medal	0	1	0
Army Commendation Medal (Valor)	78	20	16
Army Commendation Medal (Merit/Achievement)	137	75	99



CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

	<u>August</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>
Joint Services Commendation Medal	0	0	0
Purple Heart	<u>18</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	875	294	220

9. The 51st Chemical Detachment of the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) provided chemical support on a standby basis whenever requested by elements of the Brigade. The following units were supported by smoke:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>IZ</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>
3 Aug 67	4/503d Infantry	JO	ZB 614164
14 Aug 67	4/503d Infantry	Vicinity DAK PEK	YB 903700
20 Aug 67	C/2/503d Infantry	PETE	YB 865250

The following Riot Control Agent CS-1 missions were flown:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Coordinates</u>
10 Sep 67	YB 820472 - YB 805463
11 Sep 67	YB 803466 - YB 810440
28 Oct 67	BQ 875205

In addition, the 51st Chemical Detachment coordinated eight (8) defoliation and crop destruction missions with the US Air Force which were flown in support of Brigade operations. The detachment also assisted units in preparation of Fou-gasse mines and flew Airborne Personnel Detector missions utilizing the modified Manpack personnel detectors in conjunction with other intelligence gathering sources under the direction of the Brigade S-2.

## II. Commander's Observations and Recommendations:

### 1. Item: Artillery Observation

Discussion: During Operation GREELEY, the total effectiveness of the artillery available to support the Brigade was heavily dependent upon the availability of observation aircraft. Visual adjustment by ground observers was extremely difficult, often impossible, because of the dense jungle foliage.

Observation: Aerial observers should be utilized continuously or be prepared to become airborne on notice. For operations in thick jungle additional air observers should be made available. The Artillery School at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma should include practical training in aerial observation for new Forward Observer's.

### 2. Item: Check Fires for Use of TAC Air

Discussion: On contact missions the artillery did great damage to the enemy, but maximum efficiency and effect was not obtained due to the periods of time in which the artillery was silenced in order to introduce airstrikes.

CONFIDENTIAL

34

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

Observation: In case of close contact with the enemy on several sides, artillery will permit closer support, a higher volume of fire and 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 a concentrated enemy position on a "point" target. In close contact, TAC Air should be used primarily on enemy withdrawal routes.

3. Item: Artillery Fire Safety Clearance Procedures

Discussion: Current safety requirements, even though time consuming, are necessary to preclude errors which might result in unnecessary casualties being sustained by friendly forces or by civilian non-combatants.

Observation: Inaccurate artillery fire greatly lowers troop morale and confidence in close artillery fires.

4. Item: Locations of Infantry and Supporting Elements

Discussion: Artillery elements must be kept aware at all times of the locations of the infantry elements they support and of all elements adjacent to the supported infantry elements position.

Observation: Artillery liaison officers must be kept informed of all troop locations to provide timely effective fires and prevent unnecessary casualties which might result from misplaced fires.

5. Item: Keeping the Main Supply Route Open

Discussion: The main problem facing the 173d Engineer Company during this period was that of keeping the MSR open during the monsoon rains. This problem could have been avoided only if a major road construction effort, utilizing equipment and personnel resources external to the company, had been undertaken.

Observation: An all weather MSR would greatly relieve the strain on aerial resupply and also provide more timely resupply by land and reduce vehicle maintenance problems.

6. Item: LZ Clearing Teams

Discussion: In the DAK TO operational area, it was found advantageous to have a quick reaction LZ clearing team available for deployment with 30 minutes of notification. All personal equipment and operational items for this team were prepacked. This greatly facilitated their timely deployment.

Observation: Engineer LZ clearing teams greatly facilitated the preparation of LZ's in dense jungle. They proved invaluable. Prepacked LZ clearing kits can also be dropped to units to help them prepare LZ's in thick jungle.

7. Item: Bangalore Torpedoes

Discussion: For LZ clearing in dense bamboo growths, it was found that bangalore torpedoes can be efficiently used. Ten bangalore torpedoes in 100 foot lengths five meters apart will clear an area approximately 40 by 40 meters.

Observation: Bangalore torpedoes are the most rapid means of clearing dense bamboo growths.

CONFIDENTIAL

23-  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned

15 November 1967

8. Item: Formation of Engineer Demolition Liaison Teams

Discussion: A requirement exists for a one or two man team for each infantry battalion to provide technical assistance and advice on demolition and other engineer problems as well as training assistance.

Observation: Engineer Demolition Liaison Teams provide good on the job training to the infantryman in the use of demolitions. These liaison teams are also helpful in giving guidance on blowing up enemy fortifications and clearing LZ's.

CONFIDENTIAL

PRECEDING PAGE BLANK-NOT FILMED

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-GC-OT (15 Nov 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 October 1967 RCS CSFOR-65 UIC WARJFF 173d Abn Bde (Sep) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350 26 DEC 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,  
APO 96375  
Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

(C) This headquarters has reviewed the 173d Airborne Brigade  
Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31  
October 1967 and concurs with the observations and makes the following  
corrections and comments:

a. Refernece paragraph 3a(1)(a) (page 2), Intelligence.

<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Line 3	304th VMC Bn	304th LF Bn
Line 3	H-15 LF Bn	delete
Line 6	19 July 1967	25 July 1967
Line 7	Chieu Hois	Hoi Chanhs

b. Reference paragraph 3a(1)(b) (page 2), Intelligence.

<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Line 1	Doc Lop Regt	Doc Lap Regt

c. Reference paragraph 3a(1)(d)1 (page 2), Terrain.

<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Line 5	DAK PO	DAK POKO

d. Reference paragraph 3a(2) (page 3), Operation BOLLING

<u>CHANGE</u>	<u>FROM</u>	<u>TO</u>
Line 2	5th NVA Divisions	5th Division's
		95th NVA Regt

22

CONFIDENTIAL

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS.  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5700.10

24

**CONFIDENTIAL**

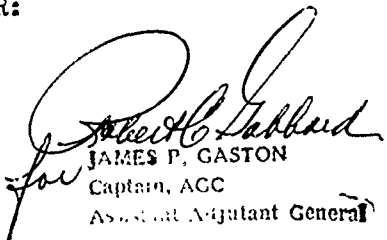
AVFA-GC-OT (15 Nov 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 October 1967 RCS CSFOR-65 UIC WARJFF 173d Abn Bde (Sep) (U)

e. Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 1 (page 19),  
Commander's Observations and Recommendations: Forward observers and  
other personnel within the artillery unit should be trained as aerial  
observers by the unit to meet these contingencies.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*for*  1LT, AGC  
JAMES P. GASTON  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

23

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

24  
AVHGC-DST (15 Nov 67) 2d Ind (C)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (1 August - 31 October 1967)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 26 JAN 1968

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

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

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning artillery observation training, page 19, paragraph 1: Concur. The limited availability of aircraft often precludes this type training from being conducted for all students; however, those destined for forward observer duty in RVN should be given practical experience training on a priority basis prior to deploying for assignment in RVN.

b. Reference item concerning keeping the MSR open, page 20, paragraph 5: Nonconcur. A LOC construction program has been established for Vietnam to upgrade the existing road net. This program is in its early stages with initial effort concentrated on MSR's. Assistance by non-organic units may be requested through the tactical chain of command, based on the priority established for engineer support by the senior tactical headquarters.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*C. S. Nakatsukasa*  
C. S. NAKATSUKASA  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

cy furn:  
HQ, 173d Abn Bde (SEP)  
HQ, I FFORCEV

24

CONFIDENTIAL

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals  
Declassified after 12 years  
DOD DIR 5200.10 Applies

1-20

30

GPOP-DT(15 Nov 67)

(U) 3d Ind


SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October  
1967 from HQ, 173d Abn Bde (SEP) (UIC: WARJAA)(RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

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

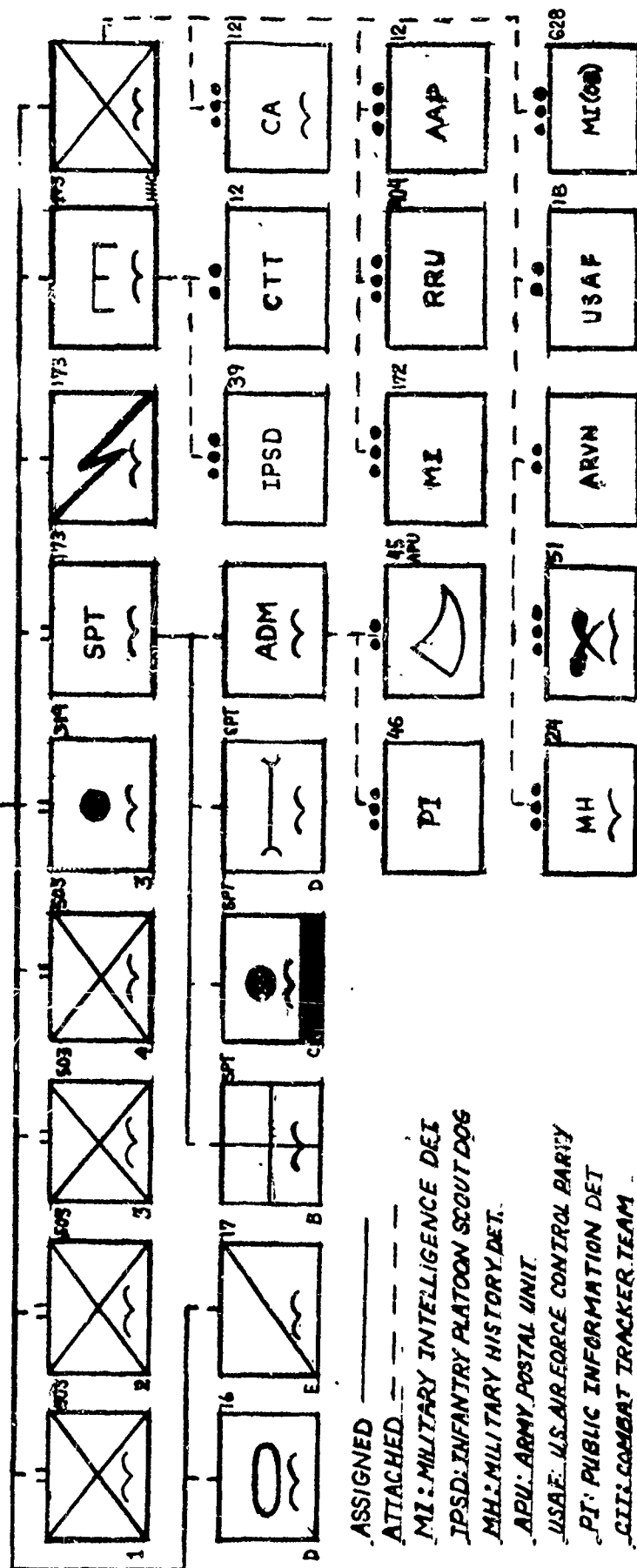
This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding  
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

25

# Organization 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)





32

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Supply and Combat Service Activities

15 November 1967

1. August:

a. Supply:

(1) Class I: Class I operations remained the same. LRRP rations continued to be utilized by the Brigade at an increased rate. Class I supply in the forward areas has settled down to a routine.

(2) Class II & IV: The percentage fill on expendable items increased significantly during August. The log jam in the logistical channels has been broken and the time frame on filling requisitions is decreasing significantly. The useage rate of clothing and equipment continues to be abnormally high due to the conditions of weather and terrain.

(3) Class III & IIIA: Class III activities have remained constant. Class III and IIIA continued to be supplied by the FSB in the forward area with the exception of certain packaged products that are supplied from Base Camp.

(4) Class V: Class V articles remain constant with no items of particular concern. The unit's 15 day stockage level of ammunition was relocated from the Air Force ASR to the old 173d storage facility.

(5) The rate of attrition and useage of equipment is very high in the Brigade. Command emphasis is required on care and maintenance of individual clothing and equipment as well as on major items.

b. Maintenance:

(1) Considerable difficulty was experienced during the rainy season with brake failures, especially on  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton trucks. This failure was due to lack of performance of organizational maintenance. Wheels were not removed and properly cleaned. Brakes were not properly serviced and equipment was not lubricated. Forty-one (41) sets of brake shoes were direct exchange during the month of August. Approximately 25% of these shoes were cleaned and returned to stock. Fifty (50%) percent of these shoes were worn unevenly, indicating that proper adjustment had not been made. Twenty-five (25%) percent of the shoe linings were worn beyond the wear limits, the drum indicating that these vehicles had not been properly serviced. These brake shoes should have been replaced prior to failure.

(2) Approximately twenty-five (25) of the Brigade's vehicles were checked on dispatch during August. Only two had a log book. Four vehicles had a deficiency and should not have been on dispatch. These vehicles had missing or broken air lines, no brakes, leaking oil lines on engines, leaking fuel lines and one vehicle had more than 50% of the lug nuts missing from one wheel.

(3) One (1) generator and five (5) vehicle engines were replaced in the Brigade's equipment recently as a result of derelict operators. Four (4)  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton trucks and one (1)  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton truck were driven under water without a deep-water fording kit. Water was taken in through the air cleaner into the carburetor and into the engine. All of these engines could have been saved had they been reported to orhanizational and direct support maintenance immediately.

c. Medical: New malaria cases - 13.

CONFIDENTIAL

33  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Supply and Combat Services Activities

15 November 1967

2. September:

a. Supply:

(1) Class I: The Brigade was criticized by USARV for not following the new 28 cycle menu. We were following the menu, but were two days behind schedule. We were two days behind to retain flexibility. Perishable rations were issued from LONG BINH Ration Breakdown to the Class I officer of the Brigade each day for the next day's consumption. By staying two days behind on our issue we were able to maintain a minimum of two days A-rations on hand to cover any emergency requests we received. We also were able to issue three times per week. We are presently on schedule with the 28 day cyclic menu. Rations are issued daily and we no longer have any reserves.

(2) Class II & IV: The major problem areas existing in Classes II & IV is the tendency of the units to disregard established supply procedures. For the supply system to work effectively, unit supply officers must anticipate needs and submit requisitions for expendable supplies before they deplete their stocks. Also in many instances units are complaining of critical shortages of items that have been on request for an excessive period of time. In most cases these units have either failed to submit follow-up requisitions, or they had received status cards indicating the requests had been cancelled. It is imperative that units know what they have on requisition and the status of the requisitions. The fill on requisitions to depot was good this month. Wire, WD-1, on all types of reels continued to be a shortage item.

(3) Class III & IIIA: The supply fill in Class III has remained good.

(4) Class V: The supply of all adopted items of Class V was adequate.

b.. Maintenance:

(1)  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton brakes: Considerable difficulty was experienced during the monsoon season at DAK TO with brake failures on  $\frac{1}{4}$ -ton vehicles. This failure was due to mud entering the brake drum and wearing the brake shoe lining. Units had to remove, clean and service brake shoes and brake systems approximately every three days. 432 brake shoes, FSN 2520-678-3111, were utilized during the month.

(2) Spot checks on Brigade vehicles: Approximately 45 of the Brigade's vehicles were checked on dispatch during the month of September. Only two had an equipment log book. Four vehicles had a deficiency existing in them and should not have been dispatched.

(3) Critical repair parts: Difficulty is still being experienced in the repair of Engineer equipment. The average down time of Engineer equipment continues to run in excess of 35 days. Currently, this unit has a road grader that has been deadlined for a clutch assembly for 57 days. One each D-7 dozer was deadlined for 42 days.

3. October:

a. Supply:

(1) Class J: There was little significant Class I activity. Long Range Patrol packets were used frequently during this period. Special authorization

28

2  
CONFIDENTIAL

34  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC  
SUBJECT: Supply and Combat Service Activities

15 November 1967

had to be obtained in order to draw additional rations for the adequate support of Brigade operations. 54,000 LRRP ration packets were issued to the Brigade over and above the normal 8,000 for the month of October.

(2) Class II & IV: Several items were in short supply during the first few days of this period. Items such as BA-30 and BA-386 dry cell batteries, fatigue trousers, size 10R and 10W jungle boots, poncho liners, wire WD-1 and insect repellent were often difficult to obtain. The supply of sandbags was critical during the latter half of the month.

(3) Class III & IIIA: The supply of Class III items was adequate.

(4) Class V: The supply of all adopted items of Class V supply was adequate.

b. Maintenance: Projects accomplished during the month of October were as follows:

(1) Modification of the M-16: Modification of all M-16's in the Brigade with a new buffer assembly was completed on 15 October 1967.

(2) Reconciliation and Up-dating of PLL's: This project has been completed for three units within the Brigade. The remaining units will be completed prior to 15 November 1967.

(3) Establishing the fill of all PLL's at 97%: This had been accomplished for three units within the Brigade. This project has slipped considerably due to the movement of the Brigade base camp. A completion date has been established for this project at 30 November 1967 (the original deadline was 30 October).

(4) Designing and development of a container for PLL's: A sample container has been designed for electronics and armament repair parts for organizational maintenance units. This container consists of a modified unserviceable, uneconomically repairable foot locker. A container for automotive and materiel handling equipment is being developed and is expected to be completed on or before 15 November 1967.

27

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBE-SC

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon

1. Organization and Training: The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol Platoon is under the operational control of the Brigade S-2 and is assigned to Troop "E", 17th Cavalry for administration and logistics. The platoon is organized as follows:

Commanding Officer - Captain

Executive Officer - First Lieutenant

Platoon Headquarters - Intelligence Sergeant  
Senior Communications Sergeant  
Medical Corpsman  
Two (2) Radio/Telephone Operators

Eight (8) six (6) man teams - Team Leader  
Assistant Team Leader  
Radio/Telephone Operator  
Three (3) Scouts

Training: All members of the Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol are graduates of the Recondo School and are airborne qualified. Platoon training on first aid, map reading, patrolling, intelligence reporting, individual weapons, hand-to-hand combat, artillery and air adjustment procedures and all additional Ranger-type subjects.

2. Techniques of Tactical Employment: Upon orders by the Brigade S-2, LRRP teams are inserted into AO's usually outside of an operating battalion's control for a three to seven day operation. Teams are inserted by helicopters, water, walk-in's or stay-behinds. Teams are used for surveillance, reconnaissance, prisoner snatches, limited ambush and occasional screening operations.

3. Problem Areas and Recommended Solutions: Shortage of aircraft for radio relay when teams are working far out is a constant problem. General communications are a problem. The LRRP's are not authorized any equipment and must borrow from the Brigade. It is recommended that a fixed-wing aircraft be attached to the LRRP's for radio relay purposes and that an MTOE be authorized for the platoon.

The lack of training with helicopter crews for infiltration and exfiltration due to the rapid turnover of helicopter crews is also a problem. This often leads to a LRRP team and a helicopter crew working together for the first time under actual combat conditions. It is recommended that there be more training between LRRP teams and helicopter crews on rope rappelling, insertion and exfiltration tactics.

Concealment in enemy areas is often disclosed when the point man is forced to fire his American made weapon, thereby alerting all the enemy troops in the area. It is suggested that the point man be armed with an AK-47 rifle so as not to alert surrounding enemy forces on initial contact.

30

CONFIDENTIAL

PRECEDING PAGE BLANK-NOT FILMED

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		Confidential
		2b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CG, 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep)		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
15 November 1967	31	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
	T674257	
b. PROJECT NO.		
N/A		
c.	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A	OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		
31		

DD FORM 1 NOV 65 1473

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification