



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HQ. 1ST INFANTRY BRIGADE, 5TH INFANTRY DIVISION (MECH)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96477

ABEL-CG

25 December 1969

Officers and Men
First Infantry Brigade
Fifth Infantry Division (Mechanized)
APO San Francisco 96477

I am gratified to see that the spirit of the Christmas Season is reaching into every unit within the Red Devil Brigade. During my visits I have found the traditional symbols of Christmas in the most unlikely places. They are displayed in TOC's and in bunkers or carefully wrapped and stored in APC's and tanks awaiting the time when they can be set up. It is heartening indeed to see these signs of the spirit of the Season.

The true meaning of Christmas should be more evident to us than ever before. Christ was born to insure "peace on earth and good will to all men." Ours is the important task of deterring a force who would impose its own will on a peace-loving people. Our prayer is for the people of this embattled land to soon be able to carry on their livelihood with their families in a lasting peace.

For this Yuletide Season let us observe the birth of Christ not only with traditional symbols; let us do our part in bringing peace to this small nation; let our prayers be with our families, that they may be comforted in our absence and that we may all be reunited soon.

W. A. Sunke
W. A. SUNKE
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

COMMANDER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As the Birth of Christ is observed throughout the world, I wish to extend warmest season's greetings to the men and women serving our country here in Vietnam. Even though we are separated from our families and loved ones, we may take solace in knowing that they are celebrating Christmas, 1969, in peace and security, and that our efforts will insure that peace and freedom become a reality for the people of the Republic of Vietnam as well. We have learned that peace, freedom and good will must be purchased through the selfless sacrifices of men and women like yourselves and it is my fervent hope that our struggle in the Republic of Vietnam will bring these priceless blessings to men everywhere. With a great deal of personal pride in your accomplishments, I wish each of you a Merry Christmas and a successful and satisfying New Year.

Creighton W. Abrams
CREIGHTON W. ABRAMS
General, United States Army
Commanding