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NHAN DAN ACCLAIMS PLAF VICTORIES IN TRI-THIEN-HUE AREA

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[Text] Hanoi VNA July 17--The People's Liberation Armed Forces in Tri-Thien-Hue area in the first 13 days of this month wiped out more than 1,000 men of the U.S. 101st Airborne Division in Hill 935 area, Phong Dien district, Thua Thien Province, according to GPA. They brought down 45 war planes.

This brought over 1,000 U.S. airborne troops wiped out in the area from July 1st to July 13, and 45 the number of U.S. aircraft shot down. Since the beginning of this year, 500 enemy aircraft have been shot down or destroyed on the ground in this region.

In an article today, the Hanoi daily NHAN DAN acclaimed these brilliant feats of the P.L.A.F. as one more hard blow at Gen Creighton Abrams' attempt to improve the U.S.-puppet military posture in the Tri-Thien-Hue area. The paper recalled that since its arrival, this division has launched many raids in the mountainous region of Thua Thien Province in execution of the U.S. "forward defence" strategy and with a view to pushing the liberation forces away from the U.S.-puppet bases and defending their positions in the towns. But the paratroopers, far from effecting any noticeable change in the situation, have taken heavy losses for themselves.

In June and July, last year, it was battered in A Bia area. In the first half of the year it was hit hard by Chi Voi, Dong Tranh, Li Hi, Tan Ba on Hill 550 and in the Kien Kien Grotto area.

Fighting in the Tri-Thien area over the recent past on the other hand showed the great capabilities of the liberation forces, their splendid coordination and their great endurance and much improved combat tactics, the paper said.