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10 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
(HCS-C-15) (U)

TO: See Distribution

SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

1. (C) GENERAL: During the reporting period, 1 February - 30 April 1967, the 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division, terminated Operation THAYER II, participated in Operation PERSHING and Operation LE JEUNE, and commenced Operation BAKER for a total of 99 consecutive days in combat. These operations were conducted in the following time phases:

<u>OPERATION</u>	<u>COMMENCED</u>	<u>TERMINATED</u>
THAYER II	3 January 1967	120700H February 1967
PERSHING	120700H February 1967	191200H April 1967
LE JEUNE	191200H April 1967	221200H April 1967
BAKER	221200H April 1967	Operation Continuing

The 3d Brigade TF, has participated in 356 days of consecutive combat duty as of 30 April 1967.

a. Mission:

(1) The mission in Operation THAYER II was to conduct offensive operations in the THAYER II AO (center of mass BR005) designed to locate and destroy elements of the 16th NVA Regiment.

(2) The mission in Operation PERSHING was to provide close security protection in general support of AR operations in the PHU MI Area by conducting reconnaissance and surveillance patrols and search and destroy operations in the QUOI CA Valley and its western approaches, the 506 Valley and in the PHU MI District in coordination and cooperation with elements of the 22d ABVN Division.

(3) The mission in Operation LE JEUNE was:

(a) Deploy to LE JEUNE AO by sea 17-19 April 1967

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sent by air on 19 April 1967.

(b) Assume control of the 2/35 Infantry and relieve 2d Bde, 1st Cavalry Division (AM) of the LE JEUNE AO responsibilities and missions on 19 April 1967.

(c) Upon relief of 2d Brigade:

1 Conduct search and destroy operations in the DUC PHO Area to provide security for base development and clear the DUC PHO Area of enemy forces.

2 Provide security for construction of CIDG camps, sea LOC Terminal and road leading thereto.

3 Provide security for non-divisional engineer battalion to construct C-130 airfield and improve roads in the DUC PHO Area.

4 Be prepared to provide reserve/reaction forces for relief/reinforcement of RF, PF, CIDG Camps, and District Headquarters in BA TO and DUC PHO Districts.

5 Be prepared to come under operational control of TF OREGON on order.

(4) The mission in Operation BAKER was to assume responsibility within the DUC PHO TAOR for:

(a) Offensive and defensive operations designed to locate and destroy NVA units, main force units, local force units, and guerrilla and Viet Cong infrastructure.

(b) Support of Revolutionary Development.

(c) Counter infiltration operations in the coastal areas within the TAOR.

(d) Conduct of psychological operations in support of tactical operations and Revolutionary Development.

(e) Conduct of offensive and reconnaissance operations within the TAOR, coordinating as appropriate with CG, 2d ARVN Division.

(f) Conduct of offensive operations outside of DUC PHO TAOR as directed or approved by CG, TF OREGON.

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(g) Defend and/or participate in the defense of other US and GVN critical installations as directed by CG, TF OREGON.

(h) As directed by CG, TF OREGON, and in coordination with appropriate GVN provincial and district authorities, assist in the training of and render support to GVN regional and popular forces.

(i) Be prepared, on a quick reaction basis when directed by CG, TF OREGON, to relieve and/or reinforce CIDG Camps at BA TO (BS558327) GIA VUC (BS379270), TRA BONG (BS345882), HA THANH (BS386704), MINH LONG (BS521525), and KHAM DUC (ZC005080). 3d Brigade TF had primary responsibility for BA TO and GIA VUC; secondary responsibility for the latter four camps.

(j) Be prepared on 12 hour notice, to provide one reinforced infantry battalion for employment anywhere in South Vietnam. Be prepared on an additional 12 hours notice, to deploy the remainder of the 3d Brigade TF anywhere in South Vietnam.

b. Operational area (See Inclosure 4)

(1) The area designated for Operation THAYER II included the SUOI-CA Valley (center of mass BR8065) and adjoining hillmasses to the east, west, and north. The area encompassed approximately 220 square miles.

(2) The area designated for Operation PERSHING included the THAYER II AO plus the 506 Valley (center of mass BR8490), the NUI MIEU Area (center of mass CRO175), the CRESCENT Area (center of mass BR9582), the CAY GIEP Area (center of mass BR9593) and the PHU MY Valley (center of mass BR9065). The area encompassed approximately 520 square miles.

(3) The area designated for Operation LE JEUNE and Operation BAKER encompassed the majority of DUC PHO District, Quang Ngai Province, covering an area of approximately 155 square miles.

c. Control:

(1) The 3d Brigade Task Force was under operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) for Operations THAYER II, PERSHING and LE JEUNE during the period 1 February 1967 - 221200 April 1967. On 221200 April 1967 upon the initiation of operation BAKER the 3d Brigade TF was under the operational control of TF OREGON and continued in that status throughout the remainder of the reporting period.

d. Task Organization: Throughout the reporting period many units were placed under temporary operational control of the 3d Brigade

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TF for varying periods of time. The principal units of the 3d Brigade TF with commanders' names and dates of command and the major supporting and operational control units are as follows:

Headquarters, 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division
Colonel James G. Shanahan

Lieutenant Colonel Rodney B. Gilbertson - Deputy Commander,
1 March - 30 April 1967

1st Battalion, 14th Infantry
Lieutenant Colonel William H. Miller

1st Battalion, 35th Infantry
Lieutenant Colonel Robert C. Kingston, 1 Feb - 8 Feb 67
Major James E. Moore, 8 Feb - 30 April 1967

2d Battalion, 35th Infantry
Lieutenant Colonel Clinton E. Granger, Jr.

2d Battalion, 9th Artillery
Lieutenant Colonel Bruce Holbrook

C Troop, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry
Captain John P. Irving, III

3d Support Battalion (Provisional)
Major Andrew H. Housand 1 - 18 February 1967
Major Robert R. Rutledge 18 February - 30 April 1967

Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion
Captain Arthur J. Pansze Jr.

40th Infantry Platoon (Scout Dog)
First Lieutenant Robert W. Thackeray

52d Aviation Battalion (GS), 1 Feb - 28 March 1967

14th Aviation Battalion (GS), 28 March - 30 April 1967

2/5 Cavalry (OPCON), 1 - 9 Feb 1967

2/5 Cavalry (OPCON), 6 - 9 Mar 1967

D 1/12 Cavalry (OPCON), 6 - 9 Mar 1967

D 1/5 Cavalry (OPCON), 4 - 7 April 1967

B 1/9 Cavalry (OPCON), 19 - 30 April 1967

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Principal staff:

S1

Major John D. Weil

S2

Major Edgar Egeland

S3

Major James E. Moore, Jr., 1 - 8 Feb 67
Major E. P. Houben, 8 Feb - 30 April 1967

S4

Major John A. Joyce

S5

Captain John Schmidt, III, 1 - 19 Feb 1967
Major John W. Schneider, Jr., 19 Feb - 30 April 1967

e. Artillery Support:

(1) See inclosures 1, 2, and 3 for artillery support of the 3d Brigade Task Force during Operations THAYER II, PERSHING and LE JEUNE.

(2) During Operation BAKER the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (-) was in direct support of the 3d Brigade TF.

(a) Battery A, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery, was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry.

(b) Battery B, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery, remained attached to the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry, with the mission of direct support of the 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry, which was under the OPCON of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

(c) Battery C, 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery, was in direct support of the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry.

(d) During Operation BAKER Battery C, 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (155mm-towed) was attached to the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery. Battery C had the mission of general support of the 3d Brigade TF.

(e) Brigade base camp security: Throughout the period, the 3d Brigade TF maintained an adequate defensive posture to provide continuous security for its brigade base camp vicinity of PLELAU.

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The forces and organization established in OPLAN WINDJAMMER continued to be implemented throughout the reporting period.

f. (U) Operation THAYER II, conducted during the reporting period 1 - 12 February 1967, is covered in the After Action Report, THAYER II, attached as inclosure 1.

g. (U) Operation PERSHING, conducted during the period 12 February - 19 April 1967, is covered in the After Action Report, PERSHING, attached as inclosure 2.

h. (U) Operation LE JEUNE conducted during the period 19 - 22 April 1967 is covered in the After Action Report, LE JEUNE, attached as inclosure 3.

2. INTELLIGENCE:

a. The 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division deployed to the DUC PHO Area of Operations by air and sea on 19 April 1967 and became part of Task Force Oregon on 22 April. Current intelligence indicated a strong enemy force which had remained unchallenged in DUC PHO and MO DUC Districts. A total of two well equipped NVA Regiments, one Sapper battalion, one well equipped local force battalion and three local force companies were known to be operating in DUC PHO, MO DUC, or the eastern mountains of BA TO District. The infrastructure was known to be strong in the villages and hamlets. Prior to the arrival of the 3d Brigade TF there was a record of only one local VC who had rallied to the government of South Vietnam. In the first few days of contact the enemy was observed crossing open fields with weapons during daylight hours. He soon learned that this tactic ended in disaster. Ground to air fire, sniping and mining incidents were commonplace. Strong evidence indicated that the enemy was resupplied with arms and ammunition by sea and with food from the rice, meat and fish of DUC PHO.

b. One major contact in a fortified village on 16 April by elements of the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry in which over 43 enemy were killed gave some indication of the extent that the enemy forces had concentrated their efforts, recruited local forces, and prepared the battlefield in an attempt to keep DUC PHO District under communist control.

c. 22 - 30 April: During this initial period all available evidence indicated that the enemy had not expected friendly forces to deploy to Quang Ngai. In addition, the enemy was taken by surprise by the aggressive search and destroy operations of the 3d Brigade Task Force. On 22 April elements of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry established contact with enemy forces fighting from a fortified village at BS790430. The enemy utilized the tactics of fire discipline, maximum

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use of prepared battle positions (to include communication trenches, air raid tunnels, and fighting bunkers), and maneuver of small tactical elements, indicating a high level of training. Documents captured from the 33 enemy bodies (one enemy killed was assigned as a platoon leader) identified members of the 3d Company, 93d Battalion, 2d VC Regiment. Further documentary evidence, agent reports and the nature of the weapons captured, indicated that cadre from this company were actively engaged in training the local force guerrillas in political and military subjects. Confirmation of this cadre work was made as a result of a similar contact by elements of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry on 23 April at BS763407. Apparently a platoon of the 3d Company, 97th Battalion, 2d VC Regiment had been training a local force company in their village. Twenty-one enemy were killed. On 25 April, 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry again engaged a similar type force at BS742427. The contact lasted well into the night, and accounted for another 22 enemy killed. Documents captured indicated that 2d Company, 97th Battalion, 2d VC Regiment, 200th Recon Company, 3d NVA Division, and 2d VC Regimental Headquarters personnel had been killed. Most probably these were training and reconnaissance cadres who had been sent to Pho Nghia Village to prepare the battlefield, train the local guerrillas, recon the US Forces operating in the vicinity, establish resupply caches of ammunition, and procure the rice then being harvested. Despite active and continuous surveillance coupled with immediate return fire, the enemy frequently engaged friendly forces with an average of five ground to air firings daily, four sniping incidents and four attempted mining incidents per day.

d. Including these initial reactions as part of their counter-attack plan, the enemy developed the strategy of drawing friendly forces to the north to spread our fighting strength and lure vulnerable elements into a kill zone. An NVA Returnee who surrendered on 23 April reported that his company, the 31st Company (75mm RR) of the 300th Heavy Weapons Battalion, 3d NVA Division, together with the 32d Company (82mm Mortar) and the 33d Company (Signal) were to ambush US Forces in the vicinity of BS7042. Local Forces, probably the 38th Local Force Battalion, were to be pursued into the kill zone by US Forces and there the US Forces would be annihilated by the 300th Heavy Weapons Battalion attacking with the 2d VC Regiment. Friendly forces found fortified hamlets, several with concrete bunkers, south along Highway 1 from BS769465 to the northern bank of the Song Tra Cau River (BS789418) and west along the river to the mountains. The defeat of the enemy forces in early contacts together with the thorough use of artillery and tactical air strikes and one B-52 strike confused and dispersed the enemy and drove him from the battlefield deeper into the jungle covered mountains. During this period arms bearing Viet Cong began surrendering to friendly forces in increasing numbers. Most of them were village guerrillas. All of them were afraid. A typical comment of one of the Returnees was that he was afraid and tired of living like and being hunted down like an animal. As this initial period ended it became apparent that the enemy had established a firm plan to maintain control of DUC PHO, but for his plan to have a chance for success, larger forces would have to be committed.

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SUMMARY OF ENEMY PERSONNEL & EQUIPMENT LOSSES AS OF 30 Apr 67

(LAST 12 DAYS)

	<u>THAYER II</u>	<u>PERSHING</u>	<u>LE JESUS</u>	<u>BAKER</u>
1. PERSONNEL:				
a. KIA (BC)	39	251	29	160
b. CIA	34	334	34	59
d. RETURNEES	14	29	1	10
e. SUSPECTS				
2. WEAPONS				
a. SMALL ARMS	14	78	13	22
b. CREW SERVED	0	7	2	2
3. OTHER EQUIPMENT				
a. AMMO				
(1) Small Arms	1545	20144	10	582
(2) 81/82mm Mort	1	2		
(3) 60mm Mort		8	1	
(4) Grenades	13	27	3	42
(5) 12.7 Ammo				
(6) Rocket Launcher				2
(7) TNT		16		
(8) 250 lb bomb			1	1
b. PERSONAL EQUIPMENT				
(1) Packs	17	98		19
(2) Clothing Sets	2	67		19
(3) Canteens	4	2		10
(4) Web gear	2	22		16
(5) Ponchos	29	23		13
c. MISC				
(1) Magazines		72	1	25
(2) Flashlights	1	4		1
(3) Medical Equip	1000 lbs	43 lbs		1 lb
(4) Binoculars				
(5) Radios		1		
d. MATERIAL DESTROYED				
(1) Huts	35	135	15	19
(2) Rice	.8 tons	9.7 tons		80 lbs
(3) Bridges				
(4) Bunkers	184	1605	12	52
(5) Caves/Tunnels	0/2	0/22	1/0	1/2
(6) Foxholes	7	88		
(7) Boats/Rafts		7/0		
(8) Salt	2 tons	6.1 tons		2 tons
(9) Grain				
e. MATERIAL CAPTURED				
(1) Rice	8.8 tons	17.3 tons	500 lbs	67.3 tons
(2) Salt	.2 tons	11.8 tons		2 tons

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3. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES:

a. Plans:

(1) 3d Brigade TF prepared contingency plans for the relief and reinforcement of critical US/ARVN installations in THAYER II and PERSHING AO.

(2) During Operations LE JEUNE and BAKER, the 3d Brigade TF had contingency plans for the relief and reinforcement of CIDG Camps at the following locations:

- a. BA TO BS556327
- b. GIA VUC BS377271
- c. MINH DONGG BS535510
- d. TRA BONG BS345878
- e. HA THANH BS391704

b. Operations:

(1) Operation THAYER II, 1 - 12 February (See Inclosure 1, After Action Report, THAYER II).

(2) Operation PERSHING, 12 February - 19 April (See Inclosure 2, After Action Report, PERSHING).

(3) Operation LE JEUNE, 19 - 22 April (See Inclosure 3, After Action Report, LE JEUNE).

(4). Period 22 - 30 April 1967.

(a) General: Upon being placed under the operational control of Task Force Oregon effective 221200H April, Operation BAKER commenced with the 3d Brigade TF continuing offensive and defensive operations in the DUC PHO Area designed to locate and destroy NVA and VC main forces, VC local forces, guerrillas, and VC infrastructure in the DUC PHO Area with two Infantry Battalions (1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry), one Armored Cav Troop (C, 3/4 Cav), one Air Cav Troop (B, 1/9 Cav), and supporting elements. Three major contacts were made during the period, all by elements of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, while smaller contacts were made by other combat elements of the 3d Brigade TF. Operations in the DUC PHO Area were typified by frequent engagements not only against well entrenched enemy company size forces, but also by encounters with various types of booby traps and land mines, and numerous incidents of sniper fire and ground-to-air fire. By the end of the reporting period the 3d Brigade TF had taken a heavy toll on the enemy and forced him to take the defensive while suffering very few US casualties.

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(b) 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the period the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in the western portion of the DUC PHO Area, engaging in three major contacts in village areas along the Song Tra Cau River. (See Inclosure 5).

(c) 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry: During the period the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry conducted search and destroy operations in the eastern portion of the DUC PHO area and provided security for the Sea LOC Terminal at LZ GUADALCANAL, the Brigade CP area at LZ MONTEZUMA, the road leading from GUADALCANAL to MONTEZUMA, "Golden Fleece" operations in the DUC PHO Area, and the ARVN artillery base at LZ SEMPER. The battalion had no major contacts during this period.

(d) Troop C, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry: During the period C, 3/4 Cav was under the operational control of the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry. One platoon assisted in providing security for LZ GUADALCANAL and conducted daily search and destroy operations in the vicinity to the north and south with elements of B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry. C Troop (-) assisted in providing security for LZ MONTEZUMA and the road between MONTEZUMA and GUADALCANAL, and conducted periodic search and destroy operations in the vicinity of LZ MONTEZUMA in coordination with elements of the 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry.

(e) Troop B, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry: B, 1/9 Cav was under the operational control of the 3d Brigade TF during the period. B Troop provided vital support to 3d Brigade TF operations by conducting daily air and ground reconnaissance throughout the TAOR.

c. Training Activities: During the reporting period the 3d Brigade TF personnel graduated from the following schools:

<u>SCHOOL</u>	<u># GRADUATED</u>
3d Brigade NCO Preparatory School	279
4th Div NCO School	89
4th Div Pre Recondo School	25
MACV Recondo School	11

d. Chemical:

(1) Riot control agent (CS) and white phosphorous grenades were employed to the maximum extent through out the reporting pe period to clear tunnels/and bunkers.

(2) Riot control agent was extensively utilized during

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the reporting period in clearing fortified areas on search and destroy operations.

(3) During Operation PERSHING and Operation BAKER, explosive fused drums of CS-1 were dropped from CH-47 aircraft to deny and channelize the enemy's use of specific terrain.

(4) On 4 March 1967 (Operation PERSHING) the following areas were sprayed with defoliant: BR726666 - BR740668, BR740664 - BR727662, BR722652 - BR735658, BR744649 - BR725649, BR732673, BR734677, BR744673 - BR746676.

e. PSYWAR:

(1) Psyops appeals were directed at specific hamlets, villages, groups, and individuals. The PSYOPS program supported the daily tactical situation by utilizing current intelligence information.

(2) Ground teams and aircraft were coordinated during the tactical operation. Tapes and ground presentations were synonymous. Leaflets were dropped to support the loudspeaker broadcasts.

(3) Personal contact with the population was utilized in distributing JUSPAO newspapers, GVN flags and PSYWAR posters.

(4) Leaflet drops and loudspeaker tape appeals were accomplished utilizing U-10, UH-1D and H-23 aircraft.

(5) Tape appeals were made by village chiefs urging the people of their villages not to support the Viet Cong and to evacuate areas which were under Viet Cong control.

(6) Summary of PSYWAR activities:

a. Leaflets dropped	11,323,970
b. Speaker time	104 hours
c. U-10 missions	58
d. Returnees	96
e. Weapons	4
f. Leaflets fabricated	9
g. Tapes made	21

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f. Tactical air support statistics for the reporting period were as follows:

		FAC Missions/Combat Proofs			
		Req	Flown	Req	Flown
(1)	1 - 28 Feb 67	50	32	56	16
(2)	1 - 31 March 67	102	68	59	14
(3)	1 - 30 April 67	115	100	65	26
(4)	TOTAL	267	200	180	56
(5)	% Run	75%		31%	

g. Aviation: The aviation element continued to function with the responsibility of broadcasting artillery advisories over FM radio and operating a traffic control center. During the quarterly period, the section flew 891 hours, 2442 sorties, and carried 2101 passengers in organic helicopters. Airmobile support was provided to the 3d Brigade TF by the 52d Aviation Bn, from 1 February to 28 March 67, and by the 14th Aviation Battalion, 28 March - 30 April 1967. Troop lifts, landing zone preparations, command and control capability and resupply missions were provided.

4. LOGISTICS:

a. Supply: No major supply problem existed during the period. During THAYER II (1-12 Feb) and PERSHING (12 Feb - 19 April) 3d Brigade TF was supported with all classes of supplies by the Forward Support Area TF HARTSELL. During LE JEUNE (19-22 Apr) and BAKER (22-30 Apr) 3d Brigade TF was supported with all classes of supplies by the Forward Support Area TF GALLAGHER.

b. Transportation:

(1) The truck squads continued to be utilized for line haul between the base of operation and the Forward Support Area.

(2) An Air Force C7A was utilized daily to transport replacements, R&R, ETS, emergency leave, mail and critical supply items from base camp to the Area of Operation.

C7A Statistics were:

- (a) Sorties: 592
- (b) Passengers: 7,283
- (c) Cargo: 386,512

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(3) On 15 Feb 3d Brigade TF moved from Bronco Beach, BS890522, by organic vehicles 30 km to IZ UPLIFT to begin Operation PERSHING.

(4) On 15 Apr 1967 3d Brigade TF began their move to the LE JEUNE Area of Operations, vicinity DUC PHO.

(a) The 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry moved by C130 from Qui Nhon to Chu Lai. Statistics are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
C130	22	677	15

(b) The 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry moved from IZ UPLIFT to IZ MONTEZUMA on 15 and 16 Apr 67. Statistics are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
C7A	19	407	8,000	1
CH47	28	250	56,000	10
CH54	3			3

(c) The Brigade TF (-) moved from IZ UPLIFT to IZ MONTEZUMA on 17, 18, 19 and 20 Apr 1967. Statistics are as follows:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PASSENGERS</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>VEHICLES</u>
C7A	59	769	73,800	17
CH47	104	179	629,000	14
LST	4	258		128

c. Equipment:

(1) 3d Brigade TF received M16E1 Rifles to replace the M14 Rifle and 90 percent turn-in of the M-14's was completed by the end of the reporting period.

(2) 100 CAR15 SMG's were received and issued to units in the 3d Brigade TF for test and evaluation.

(3) The Alarm Set, Anti Intrusion, AN/GSS-9, was received during the quarter and issued on a limited basis as a test and evaluation item.

(4) The 3 gallon capacity rubber water containers (air droppable) have proven to be outstanding for water resupply.

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d. Medical:

(1) Number of patients treated by 3d Brigade TF Clearing Station - 3,312.

(2) Number of disease cases - 2,869.

(3) Number of battle casualties - 161.

(4) Number of non-battle casualties - 282.

e. Statistics:

(1) Class I:

(a) A Rations - 798,870.

(b) C Rations - 205,000.

(2) Class III:

(a) Mogas - 275,480 gallons.

(b) Diesel - 207,900 gallons.

(c) JP4 - 940,900

(3) Class V:

(a) 40 MM - 17,894 rds.

(b) 81 HE - 24,300 rds.

(c) 4.2 HE - 13,500 rds.

(d) 105 HE - 53,100 rds.

5. CIVIL AFFAIRS:

a. General:

(1) Major emphasis was placed on short range, high impact civic action projects in the Area of 3d Brigade TF Operations. The 3d Brigade TF S5 Section worked with military intelligence personnel, PSYOPS teams, MACV subsector personnel, National Police, GVN officials, and infantry units in support of tactical operations.

(2) GVN representatives accompanied the Civil Affairs

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and PSYOPS teams whenever possible, in order to insure a more favorable reception by indigenous personnel. In many areas, this was the first exposure to the GVN for the people of the rural areas.

(3) Civil Affairs Areas of Operations were:

(a) THAYER II and PERSHING: Binh Dinh Province (Phu Cat and Phu My Districts).

(b) Summary:

1 Total MEDCAP Operations:

a Sickcall 5,472

b Dental Hygiene 84

c Baths for Children 992

d A doctor accompanied the CA/PSYOPS team on 19 operations and a dentist on 12.

2 Public work:

a Playground set at Diem Tieu refugee hamlet.

b Well at Diem Tieu refugee hamlet.

c Market place (3 buildings) at MY Tho.

d Highway 506 from Hoai An to Jct Highway #1 was reconstructed by D/65th Engineers and opened to traffic.

3 Commerce: During the reporting period 413 laborers were hired to fill sandbags. Wages paid were at the rate of 50 piasters per day per laborer. A total of 35,000 sandbags were filled during 25 days of employment.

4 Public Welfare:

a 9 1/2 tons of captured rice was returned to district officials for redistribution.

b 120 lbs of captured salt was distributed.

c The new market place at My Tho hamlet in Phu My district was officially opened on 8 April 1967, giving the people of Eastern Phu My district a place to trade and improve their economy.

d Operation GOLDEN FLEECE: On 20 April, 3d

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Brigade TF took over Operation GOLDEN FLEECE. This was a joint operation with PF and RF cadre to protect rice harvesters while they harvested rice from public lands in DUC PHO district. In all there were 9 Operations with a total of 115 tons of rice returned to GVN control. Of the 115 tons, 40 tons are stored at district headquarters.

5 Government and Education:

a Two village bulletin boards were erected at My Tho and Diem Tieu.

b GVN flags were presented to the village chiefs of My Tho and Diem Tieu.

6 Refugee Assistance:

a A total of 1177 refugees were relocated from areas controlled by VC and NVA to refugee centers in Phu My District.

b The following supplies and assistance were given to the refugees:

	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
(1)	Rice	18,780 lbs
(2)	Salt	120 lbs
(3)	Clothing	330 lbs
(4)	Tobacco	24 ctns
(5)	Candy	725 bags
(6)	Canned Goods	144 cases
(7)	Bread	1,069 loaves

c During Operation LE JEUNE and Operation BAKER, (19 thru 30 April) the following refugee assistance was provided:

(1)	Roofing sheets	140
(2)	Bags of cement	28

d At the end of the reporting period there were 69 family refugee units under construction in DUC PHO. This was an increase of 14 units since 19 April.

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e Remarks:

(1) Refugees in the Phu My District suffered from various diseases, principally pneumonia, tuberculosis, and glaucoma. Many children suffered from Eczema. MEDCAP missions were specifically arranged to help the newly located refugees.

(2) There was a considerable refugee problem in Phu My district, with approximately 29,000 refugees in the centers by 19 April. Only 52% of the heads of families are gainfully employed. The camps themselves were generally overcrowded and lacked sanitary facilities. Efforts were made by the US, ARVN, and GVN agencies to alleviate the condition.

(3) There were approximately 11,500 refugees in Duc Pho district as of 30 April. Of these, 1,266 were registered in the refugee centers of the district. There were no overwhelming problems in controlling these people and adequate facilities were fully utilized with more, under construction or planned. The refugees had sufficient food and clothing and were supported by a continuous MEDCAP program for health and sanitation.

6. (C) PERSONNEL:

a. (U) General:

(1) The 3d Brigade Task Force, 25th Infantry Division was attached to the 4th Infantry Division for administration and logistics effective 13 February 1967. All administrative functions previously performed by the Personnel Services Division of the Brigade were transferred to the Division.

(2) Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division Engineer Battalion effective 12 March 1967.

(3) Company D, 725th Maintenance Battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division 704th Maintenance Battalion effective 17 April 1967.

(4) Company B, 25th Medical Battalion was attached to the 4th Infantry Division Medical Battalion effective 17 April 1967.

(5) Troop C, 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry was attached to the 4th Infantry Division 1st Squadron, 20th Cavalry effective 17 April 1967.

(6) ~~404th~~ Scout Dog Platoon was attached to the 4th Infantry Division 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery effective 17 April 1967.

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b. (C) Unit Strengths

(1) As of 30 April 1967, the strength of the units of the 3d Brigade Task Force were as follows:

UNIT	AUTH			OFF AUTH			AUTH			AUTH		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
HHC, 3d Bde	24	6	95	1	0	1	58	6	450	49	7	435
Co D, 65th Engr	5	0	145	0	0	3	6	02	232	6	0	226
Co D, 725th Maint	4	2	71	1	0	7	10	2	253	9	2	246
Co B, 25th Med Bn	8	0	80	0	0	4	8	0	83	7	0	80
C Trp, 3/4 Cav	5	0	159	0	0	9	5	0	172	5	0	168
1/35 Inf	37	2	790	2	0	49	32	1	709	32	1	670
2/35 Inf	37	2	790	0	0	78	33	2	746	33	1	697
1/14 Inf	37	23	790	1	0	24	34	2	737	32	2	701
2/9 Arty	37	3	450	0	0	4	35	4	473	35	4	449
14th PIO Det	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	3
40th Sct Dog Plat	1	0	26	0	0	0	1	0	26	1	0	23
TOTAL:	197	17	3399	5	0	179	215	19	3884	210	17	3599

(2) The 3d Brigade TF strength fluctuated daily during this period. The following are periodic strength figures:

DATE	ASSIGNED			PRESENT FOR DUTY		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
5 Feb	222	24	3891	221	23	3810
11 Feb	221	23	3853	221	21	3777
17 Feb	226	22	3807	216	21	3750
23 Feb	223	22	3838	217	21	3868
28 Feb	226	22	3841	222	21	3861

DATE	MARCH			PRESENT FOR DUTY		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
5 Mar	230	20	3838	230	21	3879
12 Mar	226	20	3899	227	20	3960
19 Mar	225	20	3892	225	20	3920
26 Mar	217	20	3859	212	18	3880
31 Mar	219	20	3885	217	19	3925

DATE	APRIL			PRESENT FOR DUTY		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
2 Apr	212	21	3859	212	19	3891
9 Apr	213	20	3843	214	18	3852
16 Apr	210	19	3768	212	16	3754
23 Apr	215	19	3764	217	17	3735
30 Apr	211	19	3709	210	17	3679

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(3) Replacements received:

FEBRUARY

	<u>E-9</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	0	0	2	0	2	8	22	34
1/14 Inf	0	0	2	1	2	3	19	27
1/35 Inf	0	0	2	4	6	6	23	41
2/35 Inf	0	0	2	6	5	5	31	49
2/9 Arty	0	2	1	5	4	6	25	43
3/4 Cav	0	0	0	1	2	2	16	21
Co B, 25th Med	0	0	0	1	0	0	16	17
3d Spt Bn	0	0	0	1	0	0	11	12
Co D, 65th Engr	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	4
	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>165</u>	<u>248</u>

MARCH

	<u>E-9</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	0	0	0	1	0	2	5	8
1/14 Inf	0	0	1	1	0	2	28	32
1/35 Inf	0	0	2	0	1	7	67	77
2/35 Inf	0	0	0	6	4	17	114	131
2/9 Arty	0	0	0	2	0	0	13	15
3/4 Cav	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Co B, 25th Med	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
3d Spt Bn	0	0	1	0	0	1	9	11
Co D, 65th Engr	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	3
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>241</u>	<u>282</u>

APRIL

	<u>E-9</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-3</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1/14 Inf	0	0	0	1	1	0	55	57
1/35 Inf	0	0	2	0	0	0	72	74
2/35 Inf	0	0	0	0	0	2	73	75
2/9 Arty	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
3/4 Cav	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Co B, 25th Med	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3d Spt Bn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Co D, 65th Engr	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>220</u>

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(4) The number of friendly casualties for February, March, and April are as follows:

Organic units:	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>WIA DIED OF WOUNDS</u>
	66	375	0	6

(5) Number of emergency leaves:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	2	1	4
1/14 Inf	1	0	3
1/35 Inf	3	0	1
2/35 Inf	2	4	2
2/9 Arty	1	0	0
3/4 Cav	0	0	0
Co D, 65th Engr	2	2	1
Co B, 25th Med	0	0	0
40th Set Dog Plat	0	0	0
14th PI Det	1	0	0
Co D, 725th Maint	1	2	1
	<u>13</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>

(6) Personnel who departed for separation:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
1/14 Inf	6	5	5
1/35 Inf	3	6	2
2/35 Inf	4	3	5
2/9 Arty	2	2	2
3d Spt Bn	4	2	2
HHC, 3d Bde	5	7	16
65th Engr	2	0	0
C 3/4 Cav	4	0	0
TOTAL	<u>30</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>32</u>

(7) The problem of strength accounting, although difficult due to the separation of units from the base camp, was assisted immeasurably by the use of periodic musters held simultaneously in all Brigade areas. Musters are correlated to the morning reports promoting accurate strength accounting.

c. (C) Morale: Morale continues to be excellent within the command.

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(1) Mail:

- (a) Number of bags received: 4,751
- (b) Number of bags dispatched: 3,156
- (c) Total Money Orders sold: \$995,449.44
- (d) Total stamp value sold: \$21,247.00
- (e) Dates mail was not received:
 - 1 February: 1, 22, 24, and 25th
 - 2 March: 12th
 - 3 April: 10th and 13th

(2) R&R:

(a) Allocations were sufficient to satisfy the needs of the command. R&R continues to be an important morale factor.

(b) Monthly allocations were as follows:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	30	33	43
1/14 Inf	50	47	54
1/35 Inf	46	45	54
2/35 Inf	50	47	50
2/9 Arty	28	33	37
3d Spt Bn	32	26	30
65th Engr	14	16	18
3/4 Cav	8	12	12
	<u>258</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>298</u>

d. Promotion allocations:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>					
	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-9</u>
HHC, 3d Bde	28	18	4	0	0	0
2/9 Arty	42	10	2	0	0	0
1/14 Inf	67	31	8	2	0	0
1/35 Inf	60	10	3	0	0	0
2/35 Inf	83	23	7	3	0	1
Co D, 725 Maint	16	4	1	0	0	0
Trp C, 3/4 Cav	15	10	8	1	0	0
Co D, 65th Engr	22	7	1	0	0	0
TOTAL	<u>330</u>	<u>111</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>

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MARCH

	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-9</u>	
HHC, 3d Bde	10	10	2	2	1	0	
1/14 Inf	117	6	5	0	0	0	
1/35 Inf	176	9	2	0	0	0	
2/35 Inf	89	11	5	0	0	0	
2/9 Arty	2	3	2	1	0	0	
Co D, 65th Engr	12	6	0	0	0	0	
Co D, 725th Maint	8	3	3	0	0	0	
Trp C, 3/4 Cav	5	4	1	0	0	0	
TOTAL	<u>416</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	(492)

APRIL

	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-8</u>	<u>E-9</u>	
HHC, 3d Bde	0	15	2	0	1	0	
1/14 Inf	19	8	3	3	0	0	
1/35 Inf	18	12	5	2	1	0	
2/35 Inf	71	16	11	3	0	0	
2/9 Arty	0	7	3	2	0	0	
Co D, 725th Maint	8	2	0	1	0	0	
Co D, 65th Engr	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Trp C, 3/4 Cav	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL	<u>117</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	(213)

e. Awards and decorations:

(1) After attachment to the 4th Infantry Division the awards section of the 3d Brigade TF was incorporated in the 4th Infantry Division Personnel Services Division.

(2) Awards presented:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
Air Medal	5	10	4
Army Commendation Medal	6	8	13
Bronze Star Medal	15	32	29
Soldiers Medal	0	0	0
Distinguished Flying Cross	0	0	0
Legion Of Merit	1	2	2
Silver Star Medal	8	3	2
Distinguished Service Medal	0	0	0
Distinguished Service Cross	0	0	0

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f. Religion:

(1) Chaplains conducted religious services in the field under combat conditions with no apparent problems.

(2) Chaplains made numerous trips to visit hospitals where 3d Brigade TF personnel were located. Chaplains delivered mail and other personal belongings during these visits.

(3) Jewish personnel were given the opportunity to attend passover services in Nha Trang.

g. Reenlistment:

(1) The high reenlistment rate in the brigade is a positive indication of the high morale present in this unit.

(2) The 3d Brigade TF achieved 100% of RA Career and 1st term reenlistments during this period.

(3) Reenlistments:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>PERCENTAGE</u>
Last Prior Service RA (career)	7	3	6	100%
Last Prior Service (1st term)	5	4	4	100%
Last Prior Service AES	3	3	4	18%
TOTAL	<u>15</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>14</u>	

7. Artillery:

a. During the reporting period the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery, participated in five major operations: SAM HOUSTON, THAYER II, PERSHING, LE JEUNE, and BAKER. The fires of the 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery, accounted for the following losses: 84 VC KIA; 4 VC WIA, 13 bunkers destroyed, 22 huts destroyed, 1 house destroyed, and 4 secondary explosions.

b. Attachments for reporting period see para 1e.

8. Other:

a. Engineer:

(1) General: During the quarter 1 February - 30 April 1967, Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion continued to support the 3d Brigade TF by providing both combat engineer support in the area of operations and construction support for the Brigade base camp.

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(2) Operations:

(a) Engineer support in the area of operations consisted mainly of:

- 1 Clearing Landing Zones.
- 2 Destruction of enemy tunnels, caves, bunkers, and defensive positions.
- 3 Preparation and maintenance of two new Brigade forward CP areas.
- 4 Construction, maintenance, and improvement of defensive perimeters.
- 5 Mine clearing.
- 6 Airfield improvement.
- 7 Helipad construction and maintenance.
- 8 Construction of a one-lane, class 32, dry-weather road (Route 506) from BR917720 to BR802836.
- 9 Establishment and maintenance of a water point.
- 10 Assisting S5 in civil affairs construction projects such as well-digging.

(b) Engineer support at the base camp included:

- 1 Assisting in movement of 3d Brigade TF base camp to Dragon Mountain.
- 2 Hauling construction materials for development of the base camp.

(c) Personnel and Administration:

1 Paragraph 1 GO 384 Department of the Army, Headquarters, 4th Infantry Division, APO 96262, attached Company D, 65th Engineers Battalion to the 4th Engineer Battalion, 4th Infantry Division, effective March 12, 1967. Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion remained in support of the 3d Brigade TF as an OPCON unit from 12 March 1967 through out the duration of the reporting period.

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2 An infusion program was carried out between Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion and the 4th Engineer Battalion in order to level off the 4th Engineer Battalion's July rotational hump. A total of 37 personnel in grades SP5 and below were exchanged by Company D, 65th Engineer Battalion for 37 persons from the 4th Engineer Battalion.

SECTION 2 (C) COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. (C) ADMINISTRATION:

a. Item: Critical Shortage of Non-Commissioned Officers, MOS 11B40.

Discussion: There is a critical shortage of infantry non-commissioned officers, MOS 11B40, existing in this command. The following is a consolidation by infantry battalion of the shortages:

(1) Staff Sergeant E-6:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
1/14	38	17	21
1/35	38	19	19
2/35	38	21	17

(2) Sergeant E-5:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
1/14	56	21	35
1/35	56	18	38
2/35	56	17	39

Observation: Although a liberal promotion policy is a possible solution, it is not a desirable substitute for experienced and mature non-commissioned officers.

b. Item: Third In Country Promotion:

Discussion: Current regulations allow no more than two in country promotions for enlisted personnel.

Observation: It is recommended that a third in country promotion policy be initiated and continued indefinitely. Such a program

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would be an effective management tool for the commander, in that he would be able to select individuals who have demonstrated exceptional ability and promote them accordingly. It would be a good incentive for reenlistment and extension in country, and would help in correcting the imbalances in grade existing in most units due to the lack of non-commissioned officer replacements.

c. Item: Under the provisions of USARV Reg 190-2, USARV Forms 364 and 365 are the only authorized forms for reporting captured data, status, and disposition of detainees.

Discussion: Since the publication of USARV Reg 190-2 outlining the use of Forms 364 and 365, these forms have been unobtainable. Subordinate units to USARV cannot comply due to the shortage in the supply system.

Observation: Recommend that USARV publish guidance to subordinate units permitting local duplication of the format of the forms 364 and 365 until the supply channels can handle the present load that is required.

2. (C) OPERATIONS:

a. Item: Occupation of Artillery Position:

Discussion: Major problems were encountered by an artillery battery (105 T) upon occupation of a position on the beach. The major difficulty was preventing the trails from creeping back when charge 3 or above was fired.

Observation: These problems can be eliminated by building a platform under the wheels to prevent them from sinking in the sand. The howitzer can be further stabilized by use of the 105mm jungle pack cannisters filled with sand and braced by engineer stakes to minimize creeping.

b. Item: Air-transportable artillery battery fire direction center (FDC).

Discussion: In order to begin firing upon occupation of an LZ, the FDC must become operational immediately upon arrival. By cutting out one long side from each of two CONEX containers, and then welding the two containers together, an excellent, lightweight, water-proof, air-transportable FDC can be constructed.

Observation: With the FDC CONEX, an immediate FDC capability can be made available to any firing battery.

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c. Item: Stay behind ambushes:

Discussion: The enemy in the PERSHING AO established a pattern of trailing US units on search and destroy operations. When this pattern was discovered, rifle companies began employing squad-sized stay behind ambushes. This tactic proved extremely successful. The ground commander must carefully select the area, paying close attention to available cover and concealment.

Observation: Unit commanders should encourage the use of stay behind ambushes, and on occasion consider reversing the direction of march and move back into an area already searched.

d. Item: The problem of booby-trapped Landing Zones:

Discussion: During the reporting period 3d Brigade TF encountered several booby-trapped landing zones resulting in friendly casualties during combat assaults. To minimize this hazard this unit has adopted several techniques:

(1) If possible avoid using the same LZ's more than once.

(2) If possible select the least obvious looking LZ's.

(3) In areas where numerous booby-traps have been encountered all LZ's should have an artillery prep, even though they look innocent and are lacking in vegetation. It is recommended that an additional 5 minutes of artillery be fired, most of the prep with VT fuse.

Observation: Units should avoid using the same LZ's more than once. In addition an artillery preparation should be fired on all LZ's regardless of how safe they seem to appear. Commanders should consider adding several minutes of VT fuze fire to their preparation, which should impact directly on the intended LZ.

e. Item: OH-23 Recovery

Discussion: The damage sustained by an OH-23 during recovery far exceeded the initial damage. The excessive downwash of the CH-47 causes the OH-23 blades to be very vulnerable during recovery.

Observation: Damage to the rotor blades during recovery can cause extensive secondary damage. When the situation permits, removal of the main rotor blades of the OH-23 prior to recovery will reduce the risk of further damage in transit.

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f. Item: There is a need for an M-79 marking round.

Discussion: In recent operations, gunships have been employed more frequently in support of ground troops than ever before by this unit. The standard procedure is to have the ground troops mark their position with smoke and then point out the target by using distance and direction or referring to terrain features. A marking round for the M-79 could be used to rapidly indicate the target; it would also take away the human error in referring to terrain features.

Observation: A standard M-79 marking round should be developed for issue to combat units.

g. Item: Need for a 40mm CS grenade which can be fired from the M-79 or XM148 grenade launchers.

Discussion: Many tactical situations are such that ground troops would be greatly assisted if they could accurately launch CS grenades to a range greater than 25 to 30 meters to force the enemy out of a cave, tunnel, bunker, or trench.

Observation: A standard 40mm CS grenade should be developed, adaptable for launching from the M-79 and XM148 launchers.

h. Item: Clearing of defoliated area.

Discussion: During Operation PERSHING numerous attempts were made to burn a large dry-wooded defoliated area by utilizing air strikes (napalm), WP grenades, artillery (WP), and dropping 55 gallon drums of napalm from a CH47 then trying to ignite it upon impact on the ground with tracer rounds and thermite grenades from gunships. All attempts occurred during 1400-1800 hrs, the hottest and driest period of the day; all attempts were unsuccessful.

Observation: A system/SOP should be developed so that guidance can be given to the successful accomplishment of clearing defoliated areas for tactical aerial and ground observation.

i. Item: There is a need for a standard survival mirror in each squad. 2

Discussion: Several personnel in the 3d Brigade TF have survival signal mirrors. These mirrors greatly conserve the use of smoke and they do not compromise the unit position as readily as smoke does when signalling aircraft. When used properly and on a sunny day they are actually easier to spot from an aircraft than smoke.

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Observation: The standard survival signal mirror should be made available for issue to the rifle companies.

j. Item: Lightening the soldier's load.

Discussion: The average soldier carries a rucksack, two-days rations, a double basic load of ammunition, two canteens, and his weapon. This heavy load greatly reduces his foot mobility and in the dry season increases the possibility of heat exhaustion. One method that has been used by this unit is to pick up the individual packs in the morning with the empty merrite containers and return them with the re-supply in the late afternoon. Several problems have been encountered in this system:

1 Some packs were lost because they were improperly marked.

2 Additional personnel were required for loading and unloading the equipment at the resupply pad.

3 On one occasion a unit was unable to get its packs because of the weather and tactical situation.

4 Because of the scheduling and pick-up time involved, the units usually were not able to commence their days operation as early as desired.

Observation: If the aircraft are available, this procedure greatly enhances the foot mobility of the individual. There are times when due to the tactical situation, or weather, this is not a feasible practice.

k. Item: The use of Starlight Scopes.

Discussion: 3d Brigade TF has had excellent results with the starlight scope mounted on the M-14 rifle. On one occasion, one of the platoons was set up in a night ambush when they sighted 15 to 20 individuals walking toward their location. The platoon leader was about to give the command to open fire when one of the men with a starlight scope saw that they were women. As it turned out it was a group of women returning from the fish-market. During the battle of Binh My (2), 23-24 April, several VC were shot by use of the starlight scope when they tried to escape across a river. Maintenance appears to be a problem. They damage easily and once turned in for repair it takes a considerable length of time to get them back.

Observation: Emphasis should be placed on procuring additional starlight scopes for the units. In addition maintenance procedures should be improved.

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l. Item: The use of railroad flares for marking friendly positions.

Discussion: This unit has experienced many problems in the past in trying to mark friendly positions at night so that close air support could be used. One battalion has begun the practice of carrying railroad flares for this purpose. They are ideal in that they burn for an extended period of time; 5 to 10 minutes, and are easy to use. The only place these flares are available at this time is in the Highway Warning Kits.

Observation: An effort should be made to procure a sufficient amount of railroad flares so that they are readily available through normal supply channels.

m. Item: Operations in loose sand.

Discussion: Operating in sandy areas increases the rate of wear on aircraft parts and bearings. The frequency of unscheduled maintenance rises due to the reduced time life on parts, and the overall maintenance requirement is greater.

Observation: The amount of time aircraft are down for unscheduled maintenance can be reduced in some cases by early analysis of increased wear rates on critical components and advance ordering of the necessary parts. Dust and sand cannot be eliminated but can be controlled by peneprime or other soil stabilizers. Such stabilization is temporary and must be accomplished on a regular basis to be effective.

n. Item: Priority of new R & D Chemical Items in RVN Supply Channels.

Discussion: During Operation BAKER this unit encountered enemy well fortified positions with very limited means of extricating them from their position. Air strikes and artillery were not completely successful in penetrating the bunkers.

Observation: A CS round has been developed for mortars and artillery that would help commanders in the field to overcome enemy in fortified positions. A priority system should be established in RVN to get new R & D items to units who have an immediate need for them.

o. Item: The problem of leaving usable material in areas for the enemy to pickup.

Discussion: The enemy supply system is at best, poor, and he has many shortages. Therefore, he is a scavenger and is prone to police-up anything left behind by the US soldier. Just the opposite

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is true of the US soldier who seldom wants for supplies. This unit has moved into areas vacated by other units and found claymores, 105 rounds, M-79 rounds and thousands of rounds of small arms ammo plus assorted types of other equipment.

This practice should not be tolerated. Only training, supervision and discipline will stop it. Anything that the enemy could use should be picked up or destroyed and this includes used batteries, C-rations cans, and ammo bags. The VC are short of metal and can use the ration tins for many purposes including the construction of booby traps.

Observation: Command emphasis should be placed on units leaving an area free from equipment that the VC can utilize. Harsh measures should be taken against commanders who violate this rule of the battlefield.

p. Item: The problem of locating booby-traps and punji pits.

Discussion: This unit has had numerous encounters with booby-traps and punji pits. Of course the best method of combating these devices is by having well trained, thoroughly oriented soldiers. Two things which have on occasion proved useful are:

(1) A grappling hook with a light rope attached, used for throwing ahead of the advancing troops in suspected booby-trapped locations.

(2) A long pole carried by the lead man to probe for punji pits along trails etc. This means that the second man in formation has to be responsible for forward security.

Observation: The individual soldier should be thoroughly trained and indoctrinated in booby trap warfare. In addition, in certain areas of heavy booby-traps and punji pit density it might be advisable to use expedients such as grappling hooks and probes to assist in locating these devices.

3. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. Item: Shortage of interpreters within the units.

Discussion: The rifle companies habitually operate independently. There have been numerous times when an interpreter was needed immediately, i.e. to exploit tactical information or to persuade NVA/VC to surrender. There is a critical shortage of interpreters in this unit. In fact, infantry battalions in this unit operate without any interpreters approximately 40% of the time.

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Observation: A determined effort should be made to make available enough qualified interpreters so that one could be assigned to each rifle company, one to each reconnaissance platoon and two to each battalion headquarters.

b. Item: Classification of detainees:

Discussion: The classification of detainees is a responsibility of the interrogation officer based upon result of the interrogation. However, classification should also consider the circumstances of capture and when possible the forward IPW Team interrogation results.

Observation: The classification system of detainees should be scrutinized and improved. More consideration should be given to the circumstances of capture.

c. Item: Military Intelligence (MI) Personnel.

Discussion: The MI Detachment which is attached to the 3d Brigade TF is presently authorized four interrogation prisoner of war (IPW) enlisted personnel, which is the TO&E authorization for a divisional brigade under TO&E 19-27E. In view of operational requirements caused as a result of operating as a separate brigade, this authorization has been totally inadequate for this unit.

Observation: The MI Detachment attached to this unit should be authorized the following personnel:

- (1) OIC - 1 officer
- (2) IPW - 1 officer, 7 EM
- (3) CI - 1 WO, 2 EM
- (4) II - 1 EM
- (5) OB - 2 EM

4. (C) CIVIL AFFAIRS:

a. Item: Responsive Refugee relief

Discussion: During the course of tactical operations in heavily populated areas there is a great influx of refugees into district camps. Standby refugee control teams area necessity as certain steps must be accomplished in refugee processing:

- (1) Movement of refugees to forward screening points.
- (2) Screening by GVN officials, National Police, MI personnel.
- (3) Movement to refugee centers.
- (4) Relief activities to include:

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- (b) MEDCAP.
- (c) Registration.
- (d) Continuing relief.
- (e) Continued screening.

Observation: Where the influx of refugees is great as a result of combat operations, refugee relief teams should be formed and composed of the following individuals:

- (1) Village officials.
- (2) District OCO (USAID) Representative.
- (3) MEDCAP team of 1 doctor, 3 medics, 3 assistants.
- (4) Security force.
- (5) Screening team of MI, National Police and village Police Chief. This team should be on standby, ready for deployment within 2 hours of notification.

c. Item: County Fair Operations:

Discussion: County fair operations are a successful population control measure as well as a means of obtaining intelligence. County Fair Operations teams can be constituted at battalion level to accompany combat units in search and destroy operations.

Observations: Each combat battalion should form a county fair team of the following personnel:

- (1) Village Chief.
- (2) Village Police Chief.
- (3) Medical team.
- (4) National Police.

This team should be on call at battalion level in coordination with local officials. It may be augmented from brigade or higher headquarters with personnel or materiel.

d. Item: Control of hand-outs and gifts:

Discussion: In many cases the spontaneous giving of small

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amounts of food, candy, clothing, and tobacco to the indigenous people in an area, has an adverse effect on the economy and morale of the people. In many cases the people become beggars for handouts.

Observation: Gifts should be given as a reward for a self-help project whenever possible.

e. Item: Civil Affairs Projects:

Discussion: Projects should be chosen to meet the following criteria:

- (1) Time limitations.
- (2) Availability of materiel.
- (3) Availability of personnel.
- (4) Local desires.
- (5) Need for item of usefulness after completion.

The principal problem is to motivate the people to perform self-help projects. In many cases US forces furnish not only advice and material assistance but labor as well. This devaluates the project fails to give the Vietnamese a chance to participate.

Observation: All projects selected should be self-help in nature and carefully chosen to meet the desires and needs of the people.

f. Item: Coordination of speaker and leaflet missions:

Discussion: Psychological Operations which provide speaker and leaflet missions are most effective in areas of contact or imminent contact.

Observation: Planned speaker and leaflet missions should be coordinated closely with S2/S3 in order to achieve maximum effect.

g. Item: Exploitation of Hoi Chanh:

Discussion: Hoi Chanh can be used most effectively as intelligence sources and can be exploited in Psychological Operations if used immediately after returning to GVN control.

Observation: The Hoi Chanh should be processed in the following sequence:

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- (1) Tactical exploitation using aerial or ground loudspeaker.
- (2) Tactical intelligence exploitation by MI personnel.
- (3) Exploitation by PSYOPS personnel.
- (4) Follow up loudspeaker exploitation.

PART II: Recommendations

1. Personnel: That a third in country promotion through the grade of E-6 be authorized for rifle squad leaders and IRRP team leaders. It is recognized that there is authorization for 3d in country promotions for the months of May and June, however, it is recommended that authorization be continued indefinitely as stated in the preceding sentence.

2. Intelligence:

a. That qualified interpreters be provided to brigade sized units on the following basis:

- (1) Brigade headquarters: 10
 - (a) MI section: 5
 - (b) S-5: 3
 - (c) S-2: 1
 - (d) Military Police: 1
- (2) Infantry battalions: 5
 - (a) Battalion headquarters: 2
 - (b) Rifle companies: 1 each
- (3) Artillery battalion: 1

b. That MI Detachments at infantry brigade level be authorized the following personnel, and that qualified personnel be assigned accordingly to fill this authorization:

- (1) OIC - 1 officer
- (2) IPW - 1 officer, 7 EM
- (3) CI - 1 WO, 2 EM
- (4) II - 1 EM
- (5) OB - 2 EM

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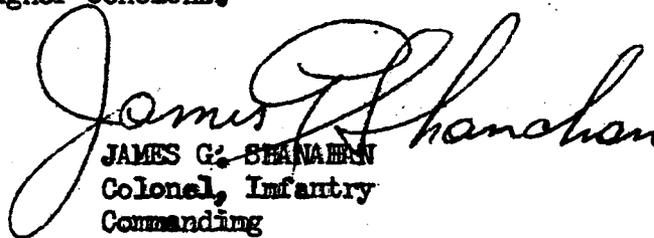
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3. Operations:

a. That a standard 40mm marking round be developed for standard issue to combat units.

b. That a standard 40mm CS round be developed for standard issue to combat units.

c. That an in country maintenance facility for starlight scopes be established in order to reduce time lost to units when scopes are turned in for maintenance at higher echelons.


JAMES G. STEINHEILBER
Colonel, Infantry
Commanding

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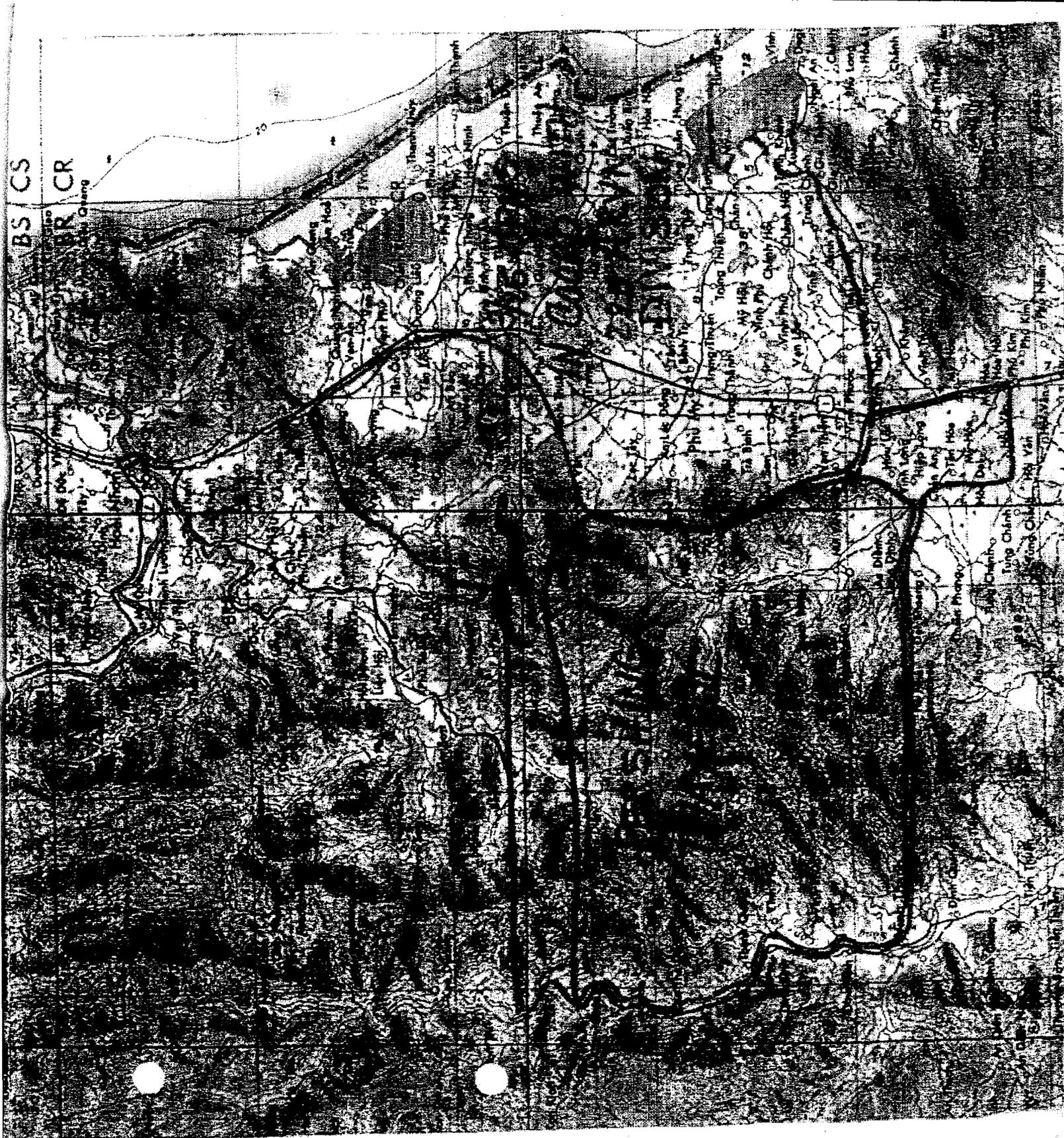
5 Incl:

- 1. After Action Report THAYER II.
- 2. After Action Report PERSHING.
- 3. After Action Report LE JEUNE.
- 4. 3d Brigade TF Areas of Operations.
- 5. 1st Bn, 35th Inf Operations 22-30 April 1967.

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