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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BRIGADE
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO 96490

AVDABB-C

22 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 2d Brigade, 1st Cav Div (AM) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RGS CSFOR-65(RI) (U)

AGofS, G-3
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
ATTN: AVDAGT
APO 96490

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OF THE SEC ARMY BY JAG
PER # D-7
24/22/81

1. (C) Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. During the reporting period 1 August 1968 - 31 October 1968 the 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (AM) participated in operation Jeb Stuart III and from the period 11/0700 September 1968 - 02/1200 October 1968 conducted operation Comanche Falls (Lam Son 261) with units from the 1st and 3d Brigades and the 1st Regiment, 1st Division (ARVN). From the period 02/1200 October 1968 - continuing through the reporting period the 2d Brigade conducted operation Comanche Falls Phase II in conjunction with the 1st ARVN Regiment's continuing operation Lam Son 261.

(1) Operation Jeb Stuart III began 17 May 1968 and continued through the reporting period. The alignment of the 2d Brigade AO at the beginning of the reporting period had 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry responsible for security of Wunder Beach, LZ Hardcore, Skyking Blvd and that portion of Highway 555 in the Brigade AO, with their CP located at Wunder Beach. 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry continued to have OPCON to them one company from the 1st Brigade alternating with one company of the 3d Brigade for the security of Wunder Beach. They also had one company(-) from 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry OPCON for the security of LZ Hardcore and one troop, D 1-9 Cavalry OPCON as a maneuver troop, giving them 3 armored troops to operate with. D 1-9 Cavalry remained OPCON until 04/1020 October 1968, when they returned OPCON to 1-9 Cavalry.

(2) 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry had their CP located at LZ Nancy and was responsible for the security of LZ Nancy and the Brigade portion of QL-1 along with the north and south bridges. They supplied one company(-) to 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry for security of LZ Hardcore and used the one platoon of this OPCON company to secure the two bridges. Their area of operations covered the northeast central portion of the Brigade AO and they operated with 3 maneuver companies.

(3) 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry had their CP located at LZ Barbara and was responsible for its security, while providing one company OPCON to 2d Brigade for security of LZ Jane, the Brigade CP. They operated in the southwest central portion of the Brigade AO with 3 maneuver companies.

(4) 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry was responsible for operations in the southwest portion of the Brigade AO and had their CP located at LZ Carol. They operated with four maneuver companies.

(5) Enemy activity in the month of August increased, with the employment of mortars against LZ's and company FOB's throughout the AO. This aggressive enemy activity culminated at 0054 hours on the 16th of August. An estimated reinforced Sapper Company launched a coordinated mortar and ground attack on the southern portion of the perimeter of LZ

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Nancy. This contact resulted in 15 sappers penetrating the perimeter wires and throwing satchel charges at its defenders. ARA, artillery, the Air Force gunship "Spooky" and 11th Aviation Group flareships were employed by the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry in the defense of LZ Nancy. The result of this attack was 18 U.S. KIA and 55 U.S. WIA, while the enemy had 17 KIA and 2 POW WIA. The enemy equipment losses were 7 small arms, 6 crew served weapons, 2 large caliber rounds, 360 rounds small arms ammo and 11 satchel charges. The evening of the 16th found lights and individuals sighted to the south and west of LZ Nancy. Artillery and ARA engaged with a negative assessment.

(3) On 26 August, 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry was released OPCON to the 1st Brigade leaving LZ Carol to the control of 3d Brigade and 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry. The Brigade AO was altered at this time with 2d Battalion, 8th Cavalry's former AO being divided east and west between the 2d Brigade and the 3d Brigade.

(7) The evening of 8 September and early morning of 9 September brought renewed enemy activity in the vicinity of LZ Nancy. Approximately 200 individuals, rice carriers/NVA, were sighted and engaged by units of the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry throughout the evening. Despite extensive use of artillery, ARA and flareships, a first light recon revealed negative enemy casualties. A questioning of villagers in the area gave evidence that at least 20 enemy were carried off the battlefield by comrades. As a result of this activity, night combat patrols were established in the vicinity of LZ Nancy.

b. Operation Comanche Falls, designated Lam Son 261 by the 1st Regiment, 1st Division (ARVN), was conceived as a result of activity and intelligence noted in Base Area 101 which indicated that all three battalions of 812th NVA Regiment and the 814th Battalion (K-14) were located within the boundaries of Base Area 101. The mission was to destroy enemy forces, caches and bunker complexes in this area prior to the arrival of the northeast monsoon. To accomplish this task, the Blackhorse Brigade used a combined force of elements of the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobiles), the 1st Regiment, 1st Division (ARVN) and the 1-11th RF Battalion from Quang Tri. The plan was to use four maneuver battalions with two battalions forming a ground screening force while C Troop 1-9th Cavalry and the 2d Brigade Scouts provided air screen on all sides of the operation. Artillery, ARA and Air Force support were available on call.

(1) 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry and 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry continued operation Jeb Stuart III in their AO's with 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry providing security for Wunder Beach, LZ Hardcore, Skyking Highway and Highway 555. They continued to have one company (-) OPCON from 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry for security of LZ Hardcore, a company OPCON from either 1st or 3d Brigades for security of Wunder Beach, and D Troop, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry OPCON as a maneuver troop. 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry continued security of LZ Nancy while providing one company on standby as a RRF for 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry in their blocking mission. 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry continued to operate with two companies in their AO with CP at LZ Barbara. They continued to supply one company OPCON to 2d Brigade for security of LZ Jane.

(2) The operation began 11/0700 September 1968 with the air assault of the four maneuver battalions along the southwest boundary of Base Area 101. 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry composed of A, B and D Companies and D Company, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry OPCON, assaulted into the southwest end of the line. They were followed by 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, composed of A and D Companies with C and D Companies 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry OPCON, who assaulted to the southeast of 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry. These two battalions were followed by the 3d Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment and the 1st Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment.

(3) Once this was accomplished, the 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, composed of A, B and C Companies were air assaulted into positions on the northeast (B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry) and the southeast (A and C Companies, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry) portions of Base Area 101. B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry then secured LZ's for the three

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companies of 1-11 RF Battalion from Quang Tri. These two battalions established screening and trail interdiction operations in coordination with the maneuver battalions. C Troop, 1st Battalion, 9th Cavalry established their air screening operations on the flanks and rear areas of the maneuver battalions while the 2d Brigade Scouts established screening operations to the northeast and forward of the maneuver battalions.

(4) The four maneuver battalions attacked on order to the northeast into Base Area 101. Contact with the enemy was light the first day of the operation but picked up as the four battalions proceeded northeast. By 16 September the operation had accounted for 75 NVA KIA, capturing 37 small arms, 2 crew served weapons, 1,179 large caliber rounds, 11,102 rounds small arms ammo, 109 hand grenade/mines and destroying 271 bunkers and 82 hootches.

(5) 16 September 1968, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry completed their line of march through Base Area 101. It was then decided to swing this element and attack to the southeast. This move was intended to drive the enemy back toward the advancing ARVN units, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry also having completed their march through Base Area 101. On 17 September, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry started their move to the southeast while 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry conducted a search and clear operation with A and C Companies, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry air assaulting to LZ's north of LZ Barbara and moving northwest. D Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry and D Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry (OPCON) air assaulted to the northwest of these two companies and moved southeast. E Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry operated in blocking positions north of LZ Barbara. Usually reliable intelligence indicated to Division Headquarters that this area contained either an enemy headquarters or troop concentration. It was decided to exploit this information using 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry. Meanwhile, C Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry was released OPCON from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, and went OPCON to 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry for security.

(6) While these operations were being conducted, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry used A and B Companies on air assaults to the southeast of LZ Barbara outside of Base Area 101 on 18 September. This again was the result of usually reliable intelligence of enemy activity along a ridge line in that area, so the decision was made by Division Headquarters to check this area out. C Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry and C Company, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry continued their blocking mission along with the three companies of the RF Battalion.

(7) 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry continued to move to the southeast until 18/1200 September 1968, when they were released OPCON to 1st Brigade by direction of Division Headquarters. On that day the maneuvering ARVN Battalions accounted for 22 NVA KIA along with 6 small arms, 3 crew served weapons and 11,040 large caliber rounds captured.

(8) 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry in their ten day operation accounted for 23 NVA KIA as well as capturing 20 small arms, 1 crew served weapon, 1,089 rounds small arms ammo, 74 large caliber rounds and 15 hand grenade/mines.

(9) Operations in and around Base Area 101 by 1st Cavalry Division units continued as Comanche Falls/Lam Son 261 until 02/1200 October 1968. The totals for this operation were: 269 NVA KIA, 135 S/A CIA, 12 C/S Wpsn CL, 3,115 lg Cal Rds CL, 36,797 Rds S/A Ammo CIA. The last OPCON unit, D Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry returned OPCON to 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry on 3 October 1968. The 1st Regiment (ARVN) continued operations in Base Area 101 under operation Lam Son 261, while the 2d Brigade commenced operation Comanche Falls Phase II.

(10) The Brigade CP moved to LZ Nancy on 26 September, keeping one company of 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry at LZ Jane for security.

(11) At 1120 hours 2 October 1968, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry became OPCON to 2d Brigade with three companies air lifting to LZ Nancy, one company air lifting to LZ Hardcore becoming OPCON to 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry for security and the relief of E Company, 2d Battalion,

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12th Cavalry, and one company remaining OPCON to 3d Brigade until 3 October when it air lifted to LZ Nancy. 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry began their deployment to their new AO in the mountainous southwest portion of the Brigade AO with 3 companies air assaulting on 2 October. Two companies of 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry with C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry and B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry OPCON, continued security of LZ Nancy, bridges on QL-1 and operations in their AO around LZ Nancy. On 3 October, C Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry and B Company, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry returned OPCON to their respective battalions and 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry began construction of a new firebase, LZ Davis, in their new AO. C Company, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry continued security of LZ Nancy and gained OPCON B Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry for that mission as well as 1 platoon of C Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry for security of the bridges on QL-1.

(12) At 1200 hours 5 October, the one company of 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry at LZ Jane became OPCON to 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry. At 1800 hours 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry assumed the responsibility for the security and operations in the northeast central AO from 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry as their responsibility shifted entirely to their new AO to the southwest.

c. With the disruption of the NVA/VC base area in Base Area 101, Operation Comanche Falls Phase II began 02/1200 October 1968. This operation was intended to pursue the enemy into his remote base areas to the southwest and at the same time interdict rice routes to the lowlands. Comanche Falls I succeeded in denying the enemy his forward support base area and disrupted his communications. Comanche Falls II made extensive use of Division IRRP's and battalion recon teams to fix the enemy and make quick reaction to intelligence gathered.

(1) On 5 October, A Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry cordoned a village, vicinity of YD 515492, while 3 companies of RF's searched and cleared the village. B Troop picked up 1 RF Company at YD 505500, blocked to the southwest, vicinity of YD 488489 to YD 505500. 2 RF Companies (Hai Lang) air assaulted at 0630 to LZ's at YD 482445 and YD 482485, searched and cleared northeast into B Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry blocking positions.

(2) A and C Companies, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry conducted a simultaneous night air assault into LZ's Alpha, Bravo, Charlie and 1, 2 and 3 respectively. A Company cordoned objective and secured an LZ for one platoon of National Police who searched the village. C Company provided a screening force on the west side of the river and searched the village within its zone. One platoon was designated as a reaction force on 15 minute standby. Results: 2 enemy KIA, 9 PW's, 14 detainees, 7 individual weapons CIA, 2,500 pounds of rice CIA.

(3) The 4th Battalion, 1st Regiment, 1st ARVN Division, while on a search and clear mission on 8 October, vicinity of LZ Idaho, ran into an unknown size enemy force. Results: 8 NVA KIA, 1 crew served weapon CIA, 16 individual weapons CIA, 10 hand grenade/mines CIA and 435 large caliber rounds CIA. E Company, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry air assaulted at 0705 hours on the same day to YD 491423 resulting in 4,000 pounds of rice CIA.

(4) E Company, 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry while on a search and clear operations on 13 October had the following results: 1 NVA KIA and 2,760 rounds small arms ammo CIA. At the same time E Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, patrolling north of LZ Barbara in the vicinity of YD 326347 made contact with the enemy resulting in 2 NVA KIA, 1 individual weapon CIA, 25 rounds small arms ammo CIA.

(5) The 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry operating to the north of the K-6 Battalion base area on 27 October killed one enemy, captured 2 individual weapons and picked up a Gien Hoi from the K-6 Battalion, who confirmed

that the K-6 Battalion was back in the area. Operations on the 28th in the K-6 and K-5 Battalion base areas by 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry, with elements of the 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry OPGON, resulted in 3 enemy KIA, 2 individual weapons CIA, 94 bunkers and 8 hootches destroyed. Brigade Scouts picked up a Chieu Hoi in the middle of the old K-6 Battalion base area, from the Hoi Lang security force. He further confirmed the presence of the K-6 Battalion in the area. 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry elements found a large number of bloody bandages and clothing while moving through the area, when artillery supported them. In the piedmont area the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry captured 4 NVA rice carriers, from the 32 Aid Station, K-8 Battalion, C-2 Transportation Company, 7th Front and the 88th Hospital. East of Davis Hill, 2d Battalion, 1st ARVN Regiment killed 2 NVA and captured 9 individual weapons, 3 crew served weapons and 102 rounds of 82mm mortar, 60mm mortar and B-40 rockets, also 40 uniforms.

(6) The 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry continued to make contact on the 29th of October, killing 2 NVA and capturing 2 AK-47's, 1 radio with power pack, and 807 documents. A belt was captured on which C-1 K-6 was scratched. At 1900 hours 29 October, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor became OPGON to the 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry.

(7) On 30 October, C Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Infantry air lifted to LZ Nancy, closed at 1230 hours, and became OPGON to 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry at 1700 hours. A Company, 4th Battalion, 12th Cavalry became OPGON to 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry. B Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry (Mechanized) closed LZ Nancy at 2120 hours. Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 77th Armor closed LZ Nancy at 2120 hours, OPGON to 2d Brigade.

(8) Contact continued against a small size enemy element on the 31st of October. 10 bunkers were destroyed, 25 82mm mortar rounds were found and destroyed. On two occasions 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry engaged enemy mortar crews with artillery as they were attempting to set up. An ambush resulted in 2 enemy possibly WIA. In the piedmont, 2d Battalion, 5th Cavalry captured a seriously wounded enemy who was shot during the previous night.

(9) Headquarters Company, 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry departed Wunder Beach 31/1615 and closed LZ Evans 1710 hours, becoming OPGON to the 1st Cavalry Division.

(10) Total enemy losses for Comanche Falls Phase II/Iam Son 261 from 2 October to 31 October:

KIA	53
POW	6
Chieu Hoi (Rtn)	5
S/A	124
C/S	10
S/A Rds	22,654
Ig Cal Rds	2,041
Hg/Mines	136
Bunkers	192
Hootches	95

(11) Total enemy losses for Jeb Stuart III and Comanche Falls/Iam Son 261 from 1 August to 31 October:

KIA	480
POW	21
Chieu Hoi (Rtn)	2
Civ Def	85
S/A	328
C/S	37
S/A Rds	65,411
Ig Cal Rds	5,820
Hg/Mines	263
Rice	39.25 Tons
Samrans	10

d. Intelligence:

(1) Terrain: No Change.

(2) Weather:

(a) During the reporting period the 2d Brigade AO was under the influence of the southwest and northeast monsoons. Cloudiness remained at 80% average coverage through the end of the reporting period.

(b) Data for period:

Precipitation
70.67

Days w/ Thunder Storms
18

Days w/ Ceilings below 30,000'
63

Maximum Temperature
104°

Minimum Temperature
68°

Average Temperature
86°

(c) Enemy Situation: The Blackhorse Brigade continued to be opposed by elements of the Quang Tri Liberation Front. In addition, Hamlet and Village VC local force guerrillas were active during the reporting period. Enemy units contacted during the reporting period by the 2d Brigade, included the Quang Tri Liberation Front Headquarters; Headquarters, 812th Regiment; 4th Battalion, 812th Regiment; 5th Battalion, 812th Regiment; 6th Battalion, 812th Regiment; 808th Battalion; 814th Battalion; Hai Lang Local Force Company; Trien Phong Local Force Company and Phong Dien Local Force Company. These units were confirmed by FCW interrogation and document readouts.

e. Personnel:

(1) Strength:

(a) Beginning of Period:	1/5	2/5	2/12	HHC
Officer	33	34	37	34
EM	823	828	776	192
(b) End of Period:	1/5	2/5	2/12	HHC
Officer	33	37	39	41
EM	819	816	791	192

(2) Replacements:

	Received for Period
Officer	106
EM	883
	Losses of Period
Officer	80
EM	884

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(3) Casualties:	1/5	2/5	2/12	HHC
KIA	23	4	13	1
WIA	85	49	103	5
(4) R&R:	1/5	2/5	2/12	HHC
In Country	20	82	92	24
Out of Country	179	172	176	45

(5) Chaplains Activities: 501 services were held in the Brigade area and 15,733 people attended these services.

(6) Red Cross: The total number of new cases handled was 304.

(7) PIO: 754 home town news releases were submitted during this period.

(8) Awards:	MH	ISG	SS	DFC	SM	DSV	DSM	AMV	ACMV
1/5	0	0	9	0	7	39	86	1	16
2/5	0	0	5	1	4	29	55	1	20
2/12	0	0	17	2	0	52	89	6	11
HHC	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	27	27

f. The following is the Task Organization of the 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) as 31 October 1968.

HHC, 2d Bde	Tm, 5 Wtr Sqdn
1st Bn, 5th Cav	Tm, 191st MI Det
2nd Bn, 5th Cav	Tm, 7th Psyops Bn
3rd Sqdn, 5th Cav	PIO Tm, 15th Admin Co
1st Bn, 77th Arty (DS) (-C Btry)	Tm, ALC
C Btry, 2nd Bn, 9th Arty (GS)	
A, 1st Bn, 30th Arty (GSR)	
Section A Btry, 1st Bn, 44th Arty (OPCON 1-77 Arty)	
B Btry, 2nd Bn, 20th Arty (GSR)	
A Btry, 1st Bn, 40th Arty	
B Co, 8th Engr Bn	
2nd FSE	
B Co, 15th Med Bn	
A Co, 27th Maint Bn	
2nd Plt, A Co, 15th S&S Bn	
Tm, 13th Sig Bn	
APU Tm, 15th Admin Co	
2nd Plt, 545th MP Co	
3rd Sqd, 25th Inf Plt (Secut Dog)	

g. Combined operations for reporting period 1 August to 31 October 68.

	RF	PF	NPPF	ARVN	TOTAL
Plat	5	32	32	0	69
Co	69	23	0	0	92
Bn	9	1	0	0	10
Regt	0	0	0	1	1

h. Air assaults for reporting period 1 August to 31 October 68.

UNIT	w/ Prep	w/o Prep	Hot LZ	Sum of 1&2
Plat	19	25	0	44
Co	66	18	0	84
Bn	1	0	0	1
Total	86	43	0	129

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i. Logistics: General: The 2d Forward Support Element supported the 2d Brigade combat operations in an excellent manner with the following problems during the reporting period.

(1) Class I Support during the reporting period has been satisfactory with the exception of ice received. The quantity has averaged approximately 3.5 tons per day for the period.

August 68	Received	Issued
"A" Rations	99.2	99.2 tons
"B" "	38.5	96.9 "
"C" "	121.5	107.9 "
LRRPS	5.5	8.3 "
Ice	149.8	149.8 "
September 68	Received	Issued
"A" Rations	69.4	69.4 tons
"B" "	73.4	57.9 "
"C" "	85.4	55.1 "
LRRPS	4.0	10.6 "
Ice	87.3	87.3 "
October 68	Received	Issued
"A" Rations	67.4	67.4 tons
"B" "	122.5	94.6 "
"C" "	196.6	93.4 "
LRRPS	6.6	6.6 "
Ice	75.8	75.8 "

(2) Class II and IV: The supply of class II and IV was satisfactory during the reporting period.

Tonnage for Aug	Received	Issued
Class II	36.6	29.8 tons
Class IV	261.9	220.2 "
Tonnage for Sep	Received	Issued
Class II	619.0	47.9 tons
Class IV	338.2	221.9 "
Tonnage for Oct	Received	Issued
Class II	37.1	22.2 tons
Class IV	378.4	297.6 "

(3) Class III: Difficulties in obtaining fuel from the 26th Group were experienced several times because of the condition of QL-1 between Quang Tri and our location: LZ Jane and LZ Nancy.

August 1968	Received	Issued
JP/4	170,000	171,000
MCGAS	60,000	60,000
AVGAS	5,000	5,300
DF/2	55,000	50,500
September 1968	Received	Issued
JP/4	133,000	146,000
MCGAS	76,000	75,000
AVGAS	6,000	7,600
DF/2	70,000	76,000

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October 1968	Received	Issued
JF/4	87,000	67,000
MCGAS	79,000	53,000
AVGAS	0	0
DF/2	50,000	42,500

(4) Class V: The class V operations of 15th S&S was terminated on 1 August according to instructions of the Commanding General, and all units now handle their own Class V procurement. One problem all units within 2d Brigade complain about is they would prefer getting 81mm HE "heavy" instead of 81mm HE "light" which has replaced the former in the supply system. 1737.1 S/Tons were received.

(5) Water Point: The water point operated at 100% capacity on an average of 26 days out of the month and 50% the 4 to 5 days left. The engineers biggest problem in maintaining 100% capacity is because the equipment is 14 years old and readily breaks down.

(6) Laundry and Bath: This area is the responsibility of the 1st Log Command with points at LZ Sharon and Camp Evans. Several units of the 2d Brigade have utilized the Black Horse Laundry (Vietnamese operated through Brigade S-5) because the service time-wise of above facilities was unsatisfactory.

(7) Transportation:

(a) Land Transportation: Unsatisfactory. Trucks are ordered by the 2d FSE, through Division transportation office, from 26th Group. Subject trucks will not show at all or not at the prescribed time.

(b) Air (CH-47) transportation: During reporting period a total of 1514 sorties were flown in support of the 2d Brigade. The CH-47 support, furnished by 11th Aviation Group was excellent.

(8) Maintenance: B Det, 27th Maintenance Battalion supports the Brigade in an excellent manner. Job orders completed from 1 August to 31 October were:

Auto	182
Armament	577
Electronics	1011
Service	177
Eng	179

(a) Construction and facilities: Vertical and horizontal construction in support of the 2d Brigade was provided by the 14th Engineer Battalion and B Company, 8th Engineer Battalion in an excellent manner.

2. (C) Section 2. Lessons Learned.

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations:

(1) Illumination for night movement:

(a) Observation: Ground movement of units in company and multiple company night operations is difficult during periods when natural illumination is less than 20%.

(b) Evaluation: Indirect artillery or airborne illumination can successfully be used to assist in terrain navigation and control of elements without compromising location and intentions. Artificial illumination will provide sufficient light to negotiate difficult terrain and obstacles, and control subordinate elements. The illumination may be employed two or three kilometers from the ground forces and still provide the subdued illumination required.

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(c) Recommendation: When natural illumination is 20% or less, that artificial illumination be used to provide the ground forces sufficient illumination to negotiate difficult terrain.

(2) Maximizing ambush activities on rice routes:

(a) Observation: The multitude of rice routes traversing the Fiedmont area requires that combat power be properly organized and positioned to impede enemy movement.

(b) Evaluation: A rifle company can establish up to eight night ambushes, each of sufficient strength to successfully engage the enemy rice carrying parties usually encountered. The ambush sites should cover a 1500-2000 meter front, and be reconnoitered during daylight. Reducing the number of ambushes to four allows the company to have a combat patrol between positions. Small, multiple ambushes require that the soldiers are constantly alert during the night and therefore day operations should be planned to provide time for rest.

(c) Recommendation: To successfully interdict rice carrying routes, it is necessary to cover up to a 2000 meter front with one company by using small multiple ambushes and combat patrols.

(3) Stay Behind Forces in Village:

(a) Observation: Continued surveillance of village immediately after operations has proven to be successful in interdicting enemy activity within the objective area.

(b) Evaluation: In recent operations involving a cordon and search it has been found that a stay behind force of 1 platoon is usually successful in interdicting enemy activity within the objective area. The search by U.S. forces is not completely effective and some enemy items are usually left undiscovered. The NVA/VC habitually return to a village after the operation to recover weapons, food and equipment.

(c) Recommendation: That one platoon be used as a stay behind force upon completion of cordon and search operations of villages.

(4) Training: None.

(5) Intelligence:

(a) Interrogation:

1 Observation: By using photographs and relief maps, IPW was able to get more detailed information out of detainees.

2 Evaluation: During the period of Comanche Falls I, it was noted that with a more detailed interrogation by Brigade IPW, and with the use of relief maps and photographs of the area it was in many instances very easy to back track Chien Hoi's and POW's, to their battalion and company locations. During Comanche Falls III a file of photographs of the hamlets in the AO proved very effective in interrogations of IG's CD's and POW's. They could see their hamlet and point out the houses and bunkers in which VC and infrastructure personnel used as hiding places.

3 Recommendation: That relief maps and aerial photos be made available to IPW teams for use in interrogation of detainees.

(6) Logistics: None.

(7) Organization: None

(8) Others: None

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3. (C) Section 3. Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

Escape, evasion and survival information: Negative report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

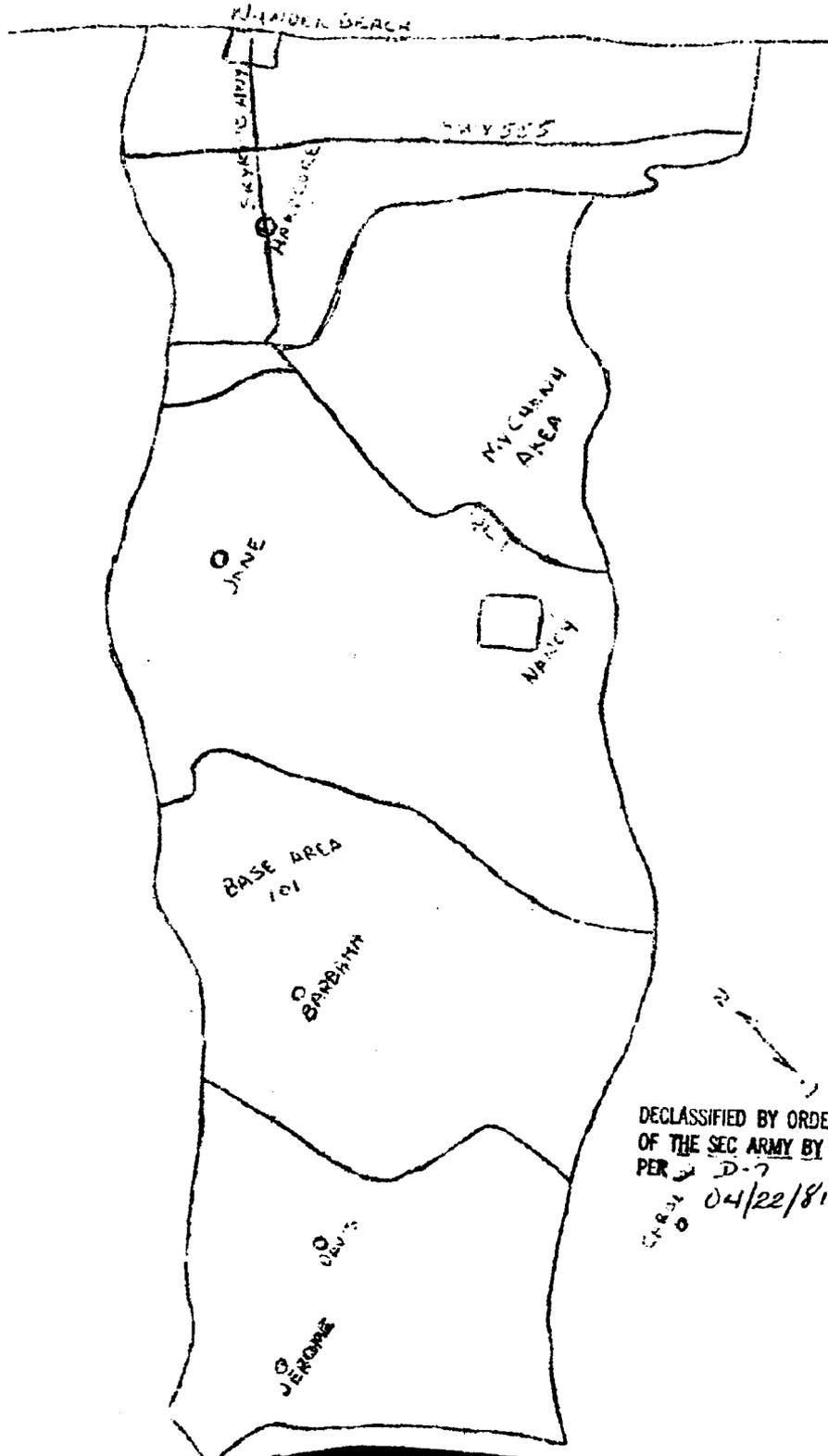
Alva B. Bondren, Jr.

ALVA B. BONDREN, JR.
Major, Infantry
Adjutant

Annex A - 2d Brigade AO

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Annex A (2d Brigade AO) to Operational Report of 2d Brigade, 1 ACD for period ending 31 October 1968.



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