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Headquarters 3d Brigade, #C1st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
AFO San Francisco 96383

AVDG-CA-C

30 April 1971

SUBJECT: Operational neport - Lessons learned Headquarters 3d bde,

101st Abn Div (Ambl) for the period 1 Nov 70-30 apr 71

HCS for 65 - (n2).

Commanding General 101st Abn Div (Ambl) ATTN: AVLG_CC_H AFO San Francisco 96383

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

- operation Jaffanson Cian/London Plan 7C and Operation Tax Sin 189, Operations were conducted to locate and destroy enemy forces, been camps and cache sites; to interdict enemy movement into the populated lowlands, in order to provide maximum security for the population. Lisieon teams were maintained at PHONG DIEN and HUONG THA Districts and Civic Action Support was provided to all districts in the 3d Ede's Test Ical area of interest. Limiton teams were also maintained with the 1st Inf negt (AnVI) at FD MY CHAMH (FE NANCY), 2d Inf negt (ANVI) at FB TAN LAM (CAMP CAMBOLL) and with the 1st Inf Div (ANVI) Pwd Cf at DONG HA Combat Base. The 3d Ede's West Cf was located at FE TAN LAM (CAMP CAMBOLL) from 2 Feb 71 to 9 Apr 71 in support of Operation Lam SON 719; the Fwd Cf was Green let lide 5th Inf Div (Mech) from 21-24 Feb 71.
- pstrol, surveillance and attack operations in vic fibralitation with the In Cy located at the firebase from 1-13 Nov 70. conducted refresher training during the period 13-19 Nov 70 at CAMP SVAND. Upon completion of refresher training, assembled into AO JACK to conduct operations via CAMP LVALS and F5 JACK with the En Cy located at the firebase from 20 Nov 70 to 11 Jan 71. In provided limison between PHONO DIAN District and 3d ide. Conducted in refresher training at CAMP LVAND from 13-21 Jan 71; assumed responsibility for AO MANKADAN-BINDIATOR, conducting operations via Fb's MANKADAN, MAXICO and CLADIATOR with the En Cy at CAMP LVAND and later at Fb MANKADAN, MAXICO and CLADIATOR with the En Cy at CAMP LVAND and later at Fb MANKADAN, MAXICO and CLADIATOR with the En Cy at CAMP LVAND and later at Fb MANKADAN, MAXICO assumed responsibility for Fb VANDANGAET AO an support of Operation DAN SON 719 with the En Cy located at the firebase, conducted search and attack operations and secured part of Q19 in assigned AD assumed responsibility

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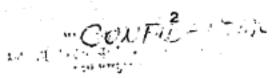
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for DONG FURN (For SanGe) at from the 2-506 Inf on 7 Apr 71 and returned to the rexICC-cladiffor AC on 9 Apr 71; conducted search and attach op in that AC with the on Ci at for Gradiffor until the on returned to Carl in that AC with the on Ci at for Gradiffor until the on returned to Carl in that AC with the on Ci at an affresher Training from 15-22 Apr 71. Upon comp et ion of training the unit moved into the FL translation AC and conducted intensive search and attack, ambush and surveillance operations with the on Ci located at FB Gradiffor.

- 2d Bm (Ambl) 506 Inf: The 2d bm (Ambl) 506 mf c nducted patrol, surveillance and ambush operations in the NO. G. with the on CF at Cant avais. On 13 Nov 70 assumed responsibility for FE analysis. and AU vic of the firebase with the on CI at the firebase, on 19 ov 70 the in returned to Cara a VarS and conducted on refresher Training thru 25 nov 70. Upon completion of standdown training, returned to the Fo man. wath ... with ... the CP at the firebase. En .. efresher Training was again conducted at Ca. F EVANS 0-12 Jan 74 after which responsibility was assumed for Fb and the lowlands AO with the En CF at the firebase, laison was sintained with FRUM DIEN District and assistance provided to the GVN forces there, 35% of Co was gained OFCON 1-8 ar 71 and 471 of Go OFCON 8-16 par 71 and combined GVN-US operations were conducted during this period. On 21 ar 71 the En assumed responsibility for the .. Ho GIU-U-NG TUAL (Fo SARLE) AU and conducted patrol, surveillance and ambush operations and provided security for JL9 in the assigned At in support of operation in JN 719, with the an CF located viv . He GIO oridge; Operations continued in that AG until 7 apr 71, when an DOM TOAH (Fa. Sames), and isurrounding ores were passed to the 1-506 Inf. on 9 Apr 71 the on the to FB MAN AND and AU vic of the firebase where it conducted patrol and search operations until 21 Apr 71 when it returned to Cant states for re-med resher Training. On 28 Apr 71 the nn relieved the 2-327 Inf of responsibility and returned to Fo Akhasak and Ac, conducting patrol, surveillance, amoush and security operations.
 - d. 3d bn (ambl) 187 Inf: The 3d on (ambl) 187 inf conducted petrol, surveillance and mbush operations in the FB day AO from 1 Nov to 4 Nov 70 with an CF at the firebase. On 7 Fow bn returned to CA. : WANS for bn mefresher Training, then conducted patrol, surveillance and ambush operations in ...XICO-GLaDiaTon AO with bn CF at CAcl ...V. 13, and a Fwd CF at To make Sah. Conducted combined operations with 1st ARVE Div, Loc Bao Co in falls area vic 10355226 with on OF (Fwd) vic 10436185. Un 19 an returned to Call LVant to conduct on hefresher Training. Upon conclusion of an aefresher Training, continued refitting and training for participation in Operation LAN 3.N 719. Fassed C Go OFCON to 1-506 Inf on 28-29 can 71. En passed Grown to 1st ade 5th Inf Div (Nech) on 30 can 71 thru 07 apr 71. En returned to Cand avail to conduct reflitting and c nducted in nefresher Training 15 Apr 71. Upon completion of bn nefresher Training, assumed responsibility for FB Jack AO with ban CF at CAF Lines. Cained CTUCN 956 MF Co and 360 mF Co on 16 and 17 apr respectively and gained A Trp 1-1 Cav on 25 Apr 71. Conducted combined operations with GVN forces and provided lisison and assistance to PHONG with District.



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- e. 1st bn (amb1) 502 Inf: 1st bn (amb1) 502 Inf gained Ord & 3d rde 7 Nov 70 from 1st Ede, conducted petrol, surveillance and ambush operations in Fb JaCk AO with bn C; at the firebase, on 19 Nov moved to MALKASAN AC and conducted ratrol, surveillance, ambush operations in that AO with Bn Cr at the firebase, Released to lat Ede 25 Fow 70.
- f. 1st bn 77 Armor: The 1st bn 77 Armor, 1st bde 5th inf Div (sech) was gained UTUON 3d Ede 12 Dec 70 and cond cted search and clear tatrol, surveillance and ambush op west of Camp LVAIS vic FB SWOLD with U/1-506 Inf UPCON 12-15 Dec 70. If UP was located vic 10490339. EN(...) was released to 1st Ede 5th Inf Div (Lech) on 15 wec 70. B/1-77 Armor continued operations UNUN 1-506 Inf 15-16 Dec 70, then released to parent unit. on was regained OFCON 3d Bde on 3-21 uar affil 7-8riff .715 medianing. responsibility for the FB VannikGalFT AO with the BN CF at the firebase and conducted patrol, surveillance op in that AO provided security for assigned portion of Q19; passed; while the latendy. It has no vive (meet) on 8 Apr 71.
- g. 1st Bn (Ambl) 501 Inf: 1st on (Ambl) 501 inf gained OFCOD 6 Jan 71 Of at the firebase, weleased to lat ade 27 an 71, negatined often 3d ade 25 reh. conducted search and attack patrol, surveillance and ambush orerations vic Fb A-2 with Ci at the firebase, On 5/44, bn assumed responsibility for AU LEGIAND vic FB SCOTCH and c nducted patrol, surveillance and ambush operations in that AU with by Ul at The Valuation Pr. On 21 lar moved CF to FS THUND_ADIA 3. Fassed CLUON to let ide 07 Apr 71 and relieved of AO responsibility by 1-77 Armor (OIC A 3d bde)...
- h. 2d n (ambl) 502 Inf: 2d bn (ambl) 502 Inf gained U.C. 3d Ade 25 Feb, conducted ratrol, surveillance and ambush operations in Table HUNG District with Bn CP at Al AC. Conducted combined operations with GVN forces and TF 1-61 vic 100962. Fasted OFCON 1-5 sech on 06 apr 71.
- i. 2d bn (Amb)) 327 Inf: 2d bn (Amb)) 327 inflogatingd@uf@80: 28 Feb by 3d ade and conducted patrol, surveillance and ambush operations in The GIO-SadGo AD with En CI at his GIO Bridge. Secured portion of Q19 in assigned AO. Fessed CHCON 1st Ede on 21 ar, relieved in place by 2-506 Inf. .. egained Orden 9 Apr 71 and assumed responsibility for AD JaCK with En Cy at the firebase. Deployed to make Ginulatin Admitments at the Constant on 15 Apr 71 and conducted ratrol, surveillance and ambush operations in that AC until 27 Apr 71, when again deployed to FB Main with CI at the firebase. Conducted petrol, surveillance and ambush operations until 28 Apr 71 when released CiCCH to 1st Ede.
- j. Task Force 1-61 inf: Task Force 1-61 inf gained of U. 3d ade on 25 Feb and conducted search and attack patrol in AO manGo with Tr UF at . C-2. Fassed OFCON 1-5 week 5 ar 71. negained of the 3d are 28 ar 71 and continued search and attack and ratrol operations in assigned AD with Cl at Fo C-2. Conducted joint operations with 2-502 Inf and CVN forces. I assed CICUN 1-5 Mec on 6 Mar 71.

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2. (0) Section II, lessons rearned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and recommendations:

a, Fersonnel:

iersonnel herlacements:

- (a) <u>Observation:</u> At the beginning of the reporting period there existed an administrative conflict between an unrealistic Table for personnel and the actual needs of a brigade headquarters in a combat environment.
- (b) <u>Evaluation:</u> A detailed justification of all personnel needed in excess of TOEs authorization was submitted to the division G-1, in conjunction with a request that all the excess duty positions be authorized, neguest disapproved.
 - (c) <u>decommendation</u>: wivision increase our strength percentage, and authorize the required positions.

(2) Casualty memor ing of Crope in Units:

- (a) <u>Charaction:</u> There is no clear division policy as with regards to remarkly reporting for CUCN units. This proved to create a potential threat to the success of the overall mission, because casualties were reported in a haphatord manner to whosever was most readily available. In some cases this caused delays of 2 days or more.
- (b) Evaluation: It is absolutely necessary for Option bettelions to report their casualties immediately and in completeness to their immediate command, the brigade. Casualty reports are extremely important for the Limsly notification of next of kin, providing timely replacements, and maintaining an adquate unit strength.
- (c) <u>incommendation</u>: The brigade S-1 makes liaison with MCON units for the urpose of discussing and clarifying the 3d trigade and 10 st amount Division (Ammobile) Casualty Reporting 80; 5. To make certain that all casualties are reported, it is remired that all Option units, divisional as well as non-divisional, process casualty reports through the brigade S-1. It is suggested that division define the responsibilities and procedures for casualty reporting as pertains to Option units. Also recommended that the division handowarters as a provisions for casualty reporting when the brigade and division Option are forward.

(3) Strength deporting of OFUCH units:

(a) Observation: Full units by and large; when in a forward CF, do not provide for administrative reporting of daily personnel strength. In addition, rear 5-1's (there were no forward 5-1's at the battalion CF's forward) were not kept informed as to the addition of

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substration of O1CON units subordinate to the battalions. Consequently, rear S-1's could not provide complete strength reports. The brigade provided a forward S-1, but he had no one forward with which to make administrative limitson. This problem was augmented by non-divisional OFCON units due to the varied procedures and format's used, and the requirement for reporting to two major units.

- (b) <u>evaluation</u>: Due to the above inconsistencies, and in spite of constant liaison, all OFCON units did not report personnel strength consistently, nor did they consider such reporting of any tactical consequence. One unit did not make meaningful communication until their personnel situation became critical, and 100 personnel with 115 h(S and 6 officers were needed immediately.
- (c) <u>Mecommendstion</u>: All Option units should be required to have an \$-1 representative at all forward open. Chook units must respond to the brigade on a daily basis as pertains to casualty and strength reporting, and it should be done in accordance with the procedures and policies of the 3d Brigade and the 1 1st Airborne Division (Airmobile).

b. Intelligence:

Frozer debriefing of meconnaisance elements:

- (a) Observation: Debriefing of Accommeisance elements should be conducted immediately after the elements field extraction. Focoften, units will rely totally on information received from radio communications which may be incomplete or erroneous. The utilization of established debriefings proves to be the best means to receive accurate intelligence.
 - (b) <u>tysination</u>: To date units are not taking time to properly debrief recommensance elements. An established debriefing procedure needs to be approved in order to alleviate this problem.
 - (c) recommendation: The 3d de les established a debriefing format that can be utilized by subordinate units to obtain accurate and recorded intelligence from extracted field units.

c. Operations:

(1) Simultaneous amployment of Tube artillery, Tac air and ana:

- (a) Observation: Experience has demonstrated difficulty in employing simultaneous fire support assets. In most cases aircraft are wary of operating in the same area that tube artiller, is being fired,
 - (b) Evaluation: Indirect fire assets are most of ective when

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employed simultaneously. By is the responsibility of the ground unit commander to make maximum use of all available weapons systems.

(c) Recommendations: Ground unit commanders should coordinate the simultaneous employment of indirect fire assets. They should inform each aircraft of grid coordinates of artillery fire and the aircraft, should obtain the posted aim date. A Common frequency, other than that of the tactical element on the ground, should be used by all aircraft to coordinate run-in heading, orbit area and impact grid,

(2) simplement of Mechanical Ambushes:

- (a) Observations: During operation LA. SON 719 the 2-506 Inf employed numerous mechanical ambushes both offensively and defensively. They proved to be extremely effective against a conventional force.
- b) avaluation: Combacts atle by the 2-506 Inf were generally initiated by or against a small enemy force, i.e. F. O. party, ambush or recommaissance element. They habitually used the same trails consequently mechanical ambushes were employed on all existing trails encountered and room the initial line of defense around Nors. They were also employed as a stay-behind ambush on previously used Tors and trails cut by the individual elements
- (c) necommendations: That the ground unit commender continues maximum utilization of methanical ambushes and to request adultional or up-dated training on employment techniques and new trig ering devices whenever tactically feasible.

(3) <u>Marking of Friendly Unit Locations:</u>

(a) Observation: nits have consistently utilized stoke to mark friendly locations. This has been an old established habit which has more tactical disadventages than advantages.

1 The advantages are:

- a lark location during contact.
- b internal unit signals for immediate action.
- Inform pilots of wind direction.
- d Frovide concealment during contacts for maneuvering 1. 1. 1. 1. A. . 1

elements.

2 The disadvantages are:

a a habit that the enemy uses to his own advantage.

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b neveals friendly units locations, thus enemy mortar and indirect fire can be extremely accurate with initial rounds.

Smoke has been used by the enemy to entice aircrafts toward his position.

d The enemy is smart enough to know that the aircraft will come into the wind thus he knows his avenue of approach ...alling it an extremely vulnerable target.

- (b) <u>byaluation</u>: A better technique must be established in order to alleviate this problem of providing the enemy with knowledge of field locations. Our basic infartry tactics reminds us to never establish a mattern that the enemy can use against us:
- (c) necommendations: That field units utilize mirrors or panel markers to facilitate medical evacuation, resupply or to direct air strikes and gunships. The use of smoke should not be discortinued but should be integrated with the above mentioned method.

(4) Looby Trans in NUts and Trails:

- (a) Observation: The units operating in the field are core likely to encounter enemy emplaced booby traps on or near old night defensive positions, landing zones, pick-up zones and trail areas in the line of advance or reconnaisance.
- (b) Evaluation: Ter ain selected for operations is frequently used by succesive units so after a period of time, nearly all locations for an acceptable NJy or IZ have been used. This often causes a hard ship on the ground commander when attempting to locate a good Mily site or mave over a ridgeline heavily covered with old NUFs, Ms or trails. Often it is impossible to locate a defendable Nur in terrain that has been heavily worked by other units. The question is should the unit check the area at the risk of detons. ting booky trans or should a less secure Not site be selected?
- (c) mecommendation: hen selecting areas for operations, the higher level commander should utilize the smallest size force possible in areas known to be heavily booky transed. The smaller the unit, the more suitable Muy sites will be evailable. The ground commander, on the other hend, will often have to fregment his unit into plateen, squad or even first eam NDFs (if communications are available) in a heavily booby trapped area. Unless obsolutely imperative, old 12s, Nors and trails should be avoided, except for reconnaisance of trained units. Trails should not be urilized for travel, rather they should be followed on a paramed szimuth to one or both sides of the trail. Not only will this prevent detonating booby traps on the trail, but will avoid energy ambushes in areas where the energy might be active.

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d. Organization: None.

e. Training:

(1) Utilization of Training wanges:

- (a) <u>Observations</u> During standsom training, due to the location of the ranges C-2 and C-3 at CAR EVALS, tactical operations by other units in the area prevent the unit on standsown from utilizing these ranges for zeroing weapons.
- (b) Avaluation: Personnel in the maneuvering units with weapons that have not been zeroed greatly affect the compat effectiveness of units in compat.
- at Unit LVais to accommendate stand own training without interfering with combat operations by other units.

f. logistics:

(1) Consistency of Daily Logistical Leports from Firebases:

- (a) Observation: Daily firebase status reports from units. occupying a firebase are not consistent with established levels.
- (b) <u>Evaluation</u>: It has been noted that the levels of supplies on the firebases are not kept up to existing stockage levels. This occurs mostly in the reporting of water, mogas, and diesel.
- (c) __eco mendation: It is recommended that the use of supplies be kept on a consistent level as much as possible. This will prevent the shortage of supplies on the firebase in instances where resupply problems are encountered. That any major discrepancies be reported to the origade S_4.

(2) Usage and sackhaul of blivets on firebases:

- (a) Observation: Due to the lack of empty blivets difficulty was experienced in resup; lying firebases with water, mogas, and diesel.
- (b) <u>avaluation</u>: nits were tapping an excessive a ount of the number of blivets that were partially filled.
- (c) mecommendation: That the importance of bac hauling empty blivets be emphasized to the responsible individuals, ampty blivets should be backhauled as soon as possible so the resupply of class III items can be accomplished withour delay. The number of blivets tapped at one time should be kept to a minimum. Ampty blivets and air items should be placed

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on priority for backhaul.

(3) Construction on Firebases:

- (a) <u>observation</u>: It has been noted that whenever a unit occupies a firebase for the first time class IV materials have to be ordered for the construction of latrines, blivet racks, showers, etc.
- (b) Evaluation: It was n ted that blivets rac s, showers and latrines were in some instances not available on the firebase even though it was recently occupied by another unit. This resulted in the spending of additional money for the building of these items.
- (c) <u>hecommendation</u>: That the unit coming off the firebase leave what constructions that are on the firebase intact, for the other unit to use. This will result in a great a ount of savings in money and time.

g. Communications:

(1) Protection of electronics Louisment:

- (a) Observation: Equipment and personnel are sometimes endangered by water in burkers.
- power supply units have been placed on the floors in bunkers. The floor is the best location for temperature and stability however during rainy season water sometimes seems into the bunkers and becomes several inches deep. This condition presents an except rocution hazard and enlangers both men and equipment.
- (c) <u>hecomendation:</u> Louisment should be placed on stands 8 to 12 inches above the floor and adequate drainage for normal rain conditions, should be provided.

(2) ScI and code materials:

- (a) Observation: nits experienced difficulty distributing SUL, and code material during inclement weather.
- material to no more than seven days duration below battalian heads arters level imposed a hardship in keeping field units and firebases supplied with current naterial. A relaxation of this policy to allow it days of interial to see reares such as firebases greatly reduced whis problem by allowing for several days in which to find good distribution weather.

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(c) <u>necommendation</u>: Juring rainy season all field units should be allowed to have up to 14 days material in their immediate possession. This would increase the probability of compromise, however that could be partially offset by requiring that no one individual be allowed to retain no one than seven days.

(3) interna ni-292:

- (a) <u>observation</u>: The atemma gain for the Fr. anten a no 292 drops considerably due to corrosive effects of rainy weather.
- (b) <u>valuation</u>: The radio reception and transmission strength of the antenna hc-292 tend to drop drastically during the rainy season due to water collecting in the insulator bulbs and corrosion occurring at the element junctions.
- (c) <u>necommendatin</u>: antenna should be cleaned and well oiled before the beginning of rainy season. All junction points where elements and/or insulators meet should be cleaned and taped. Spare antennas should be erected and a routine service/maintenance schedule should be established.

(4) Loss or damage during transports:

- (a) Observation: Signal equipment has occasionally been lost or damaged during transport.
- (b) evaluation: Signal items are relatively fragile and highly desireable items of equipment which have unfortunately on eccasions have disappeared or been damaged during shipment. Sometimes items are placed loosely in their containers and often containers are not properly secured. CONEX doors have broken during flight and caused the pilot to release the load. Items placed aboard unit courier flights with an escort occasional disappear enroate.
- (c) mecommendation: All signal items for transport should be carefully packed, properly secured, and accompanied by a qualified courier.
 - h. Materials: none.
 - i. Others: Civic/FSYOFS Operations:
 - (1) Item: Timely production of Quick reaction () leaflets:
- (a) Observation: Presently, the develorment of a quick meathing leaflet is too time consuming. By the time the leaflet is returned to the requesting unit as much as 90 hours have passed.
- (b) _valuation: The distance between the requesting unit, 3d ide 101st Abn Div (ambl), and the producing unit, 7th PSLOPS on in war walk

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results in precious time being consumed during the transport of the Qu remest (form 25) and picking up the finished product.

- c) <u>mecommendation</u>: That all leaflets be hand carried from ide headquarters to the 7th pSYUS in immediately after the development of the leaflet request. Aerial transportation should be employed to deliver the Qui request and pick-up the finished product.
- (2) Item: wire raft radio transmission "override" in the Unit seriel loudspeaker system.
- (a) Observation: An time the id. sircraft for radio net is employed during a prerecorded (taped) serial broadcast the radio transmissions are broadcasted through the Uhili serial loudspeaker system mounted on the exterior of the sircraft.
- (b) <u>evaluation</u>: This "override" is a result of the magnetic head on the tape recorder employed in conjunction with the U. II. speaker system. The head picks-up the Fk transmission and projects it into the externally mounted speaker system thus broadcasting the pilots transmissions outside the helicopter.
- (c) That the UHli radio source be separated from the tape recorder by placing the recorder in an enclosed metal container (such as an an o box) a hole could be drilled into the side of the box to allow for the wiring connecting the recorder to the amplifier of the speaker system.

(3) Item: FSYUTS Campaign Control Sheets:

- (a) Observation: at pesent there is a lac of planned campaigns targeted against specific enemy units within the rigades TAOK.
- (b) <u>Evaluation</u>: although data concerning enemy units is available from a variety of intelligence sources it can be time consuming to collect. In the event there is a la requirement the rigade 15, 15's office may not have sufficient time to develop an adequate themes from the limited information they have at their immediate disposal.
- (c) Mecommendation: As each enemy unit within the rigade TAOM is identified a ISYO campaign control sheet should be developed immediately based on all aw ilable intelligence, each calendar quarter, or as intelligence information is available, the campaign control sheets should be reviewed and up-dated.
 - (4) Item: leaflet drops in the populated lowlands:
- (a) Observation: Excessive aerial leaflet drops into populated lowlands areas have had a detrimental effect on US Vietnamese relations at times.

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- (b) walustion: Vietnamese formers and land owners object to numerous leaflet drops because they must remove or contend with the leaflets particularly during harvest time.
- (c) mecommendation: Carefully regulate the number and amount of leaflet drops in the populated lowland areas, mestrict leaflet drops to the following: Quick meaction Special Productions, and mice menial Themes.

(5) Civil Affairs:

- (a) Observation: Dietnamese Special interest groups often times request material assistance from U.S. units without receiving prior approval from district or province officials or determining if the assista ce required is available through Vietnamese channels.
- (b) __veluation: Vietnamese self development funds (WD) are available through hamlet and village adminstrations. U.S. may duplicate materials for projects thus encouraging black market or other illegal transactions with the excess materials,
- (c) <u>Recommendation</u>: That the CA officer insure that those Vietnamese interest groups requesting assistance have exhausted ever available Vietnamese source of assistance prior to requesting US /FWAF materials. The CA officer must also insure that all projects initiated by Victnamese and requiring US/FWAF supports have been approved by the appropriate district and province officials.
 - k. Chemical: The use of flame against enemy in caves or tunnels:
- (1) Observation: Juring was SON 719 the tenacious enemy was encountered holding u in caves which were not vulnerable to direct or indirect fire. From these positions the enemy could keep the allies pirmed down or at least engaged without suffering significant casualties.
- (2) _valuation: The terrain was such that a frontal assault would have been murderous; commanders requested flame support in the form off portable flame throwers or Ah202 flame mocket launchers to clear the enemy from the caves. The battalion chemical NCO should be called in immediately to evaluate the situation, to advice on the emplo ment of these wearons, which are organic to the battalion. Safety is of prime consideration in using the An 202 flame rocket launcher as heavy brush and trees will detonate the rocket while in flight, thus a 20 meter minimum safe dista co is required,
- (3) Recommendation: recommend that the X.202 be kent on standby so that they may be delivered to the field immediately upon request of ground commenders in the field, Also recommend a minimum of three rocket

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clips per launcher be collocated with the launchers to facilitate rapid deployment to field locations.

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1. Task Organization

2. Moster of Mey Personnel

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Colonel, Infantry

Commanding

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H) 3d ide, 101st Abn Div (Ambl)

3-167 Inf (UrCON let bde 5th inf Div (Lech), 30 Jan 71 - 7 Apr 71) Mecon/3-187 Inf (C) U.M 2-327 Inf, 17-20, 22-28 apr 71) (UCON 2-506 lnf, 28-30 apr 71) 2/s/3-187 Inf (OFUON DISCOM, 23-29 Apr 71) 3/E/3-187 Inf (OHUGN 2-506 Inf, 25-26 Ja 71) 6/3-187 Inf (UPC N 1-506 Inf, 28-29 Jan 71) D(-)/3-187 Inf (01-00x 2-500 inf, 20-22 Apr 71) (UCON 2-327 Inf, 22-25 Apr 71) 1/0/3-187 Inf (OFCC: DISCO: 15-23 Apr 71) 1-506 Inf (OpcoN 1st ude, 26 reb 71 - 21 .ar 71) 4/1-506 Inf (Jul): 2-506 Inf, 26-27 Feb 71) 1/4/1-506 Inf (UNCO: 2-506 Inf, 1-3 Apr 71) b(-)/1-506 Inf (OFCON 2-506 Inf, 31 par 71 -7 Apr 71.) C/D/mecon/1-506 Inf (OFC to TF HA INTON, 21 Mar 71 - 9 Apr 71 J/1-506 Inf (OFUCH 2-327 Inf, 9-10 kpr 71) C/1-506 Inf (OICUN 2-327 Inf, 8-9 apr 71) #/2-500 Inf (OFCON 2-327 Inf, 19-20 ar 71) B/2-506 Inf (OFCCE TF 1-77 Armor, 10-20 har 71) □(-)/2-506 Inf (OHCCN 1-506 Inf, 29 Jan 71 1 reb 71) D(-)/2-506 Inf (Updok 2-327 Inf, 19-20 lar 71) 1/u/2-506 Inf (U) i lst ide 5th Inf Div (mech), 19 Mar 71 - 5 Apr 71) 1-502 Inf (OFCUN 3d Date, 7-25 Nov 70) TF 1-77 Armor (GIUON 3d ade, 12-15 Dec 70, 3-21 er 71, 7-8 apr 71) b/1-77 rmor (CFUN 1-506 lnf, 15-16 uec 70) C/1-77 Armor (OFUCH 2-327 Inf, 12-19 ar 71) 2/1-61 Inf (Uplum 1-506 inf, 21-26 ar 71) 1-501 Inf (ULCON 3d ade, 6-27 Jan 71, 25 Feb 71 - 6 apr 71)

Recon Co/lst negt (AnVR) (CHOON 2-506 Inf.

24-25 Jan 71)

CONT.DEXTME

I₁⊋ 3d .de 3d ide rwd Cr (JeO)N 1st ide 5th inf uiv (ech)21-24 deb 71) ∵C 3d ≾de 3d ade non and Sety 1 lt (Or CON 3 177 inf, 1-3, 5-8 ov (1) (UFC:: 1.502 nf. 12-14 OV 7) (0100: 1.576 inf, 27 ov 70 - 4 Dec 71, 17 Jec 70 -12 an 71, 1 -26 Feb 71) (O₂∪.N 2-5 ≎ InF.) 7-11 yec 70, 13 (an 71 - 9 reb 71, 21 ar 71 -9 apr 71, 12-25, 28-30 Apr 71) (OFUCH 2-502 Inf, 2-8 ar 71) (Oguda 2-327 Int., 9-36 Mar 71, 26-28 apr 71) 2-319 arty (18) B/326 angr (10) 3d 7835, DUSCO... (15) C 326 ed Jn (US) שלא ביות (£6) מב 108 ע Tm 101 mink Ln (45) FWD SFT 1-1 A 426 SES رض) مد Tm 101st I Go (viv)(is) 3/265t b 380 3/101st 1 Co 58th Inf 19t (Scout Dog) (LS) Ditth war (10) C/27th cast (wo) THE PART THE 25th II Det (Field Service (15)

Incl #1

AVLG-CA-C

30 april 1971 SUDJECT: Operational meport - Lessons Learned Headquarters 3d ade, 1-1st Abn Div ambl) for the period 1 Nov 70-30 Apr 71 MCS for 65 - (1.2).

352 MF Co (OFCLN 2-506 Inf, 5 Feb 71 - 8 ar 71)

471 AF Co (OPCON 2-506 Inf, 8-18 Lar 71)

213 IF Co (OFCUN 2-327 Inf, 2-12 lar 71)

1-2 Inf negt (maVN) (OFCON 3d Ede, 2-3 mar 71)

256 aF Co (OFCON 2-327 Inf, 12-20 ar 71) (OFCON 1 506 Inf, 7-8 Apr 71)

1st HB Co (UFCON 2-502 Inf, 1 Apr 71)

2d MF Co (CFCON 2-502 Inf, 1 Apr 71)

360 af Co (Opcul 3-187 Inf, 16-30 Apr 71)

956 AF Co (UFCUN 3-187 Ind., 17-30 apr 71)

2-502 Inf (01C.N 3d Ede, 25 Feb 71 - 7 Apr 71) 4/2-502 Inf (OFUGN 1-501 Inf, 29 ar 71 -4 Apr 71) B/2-502 inf (Groom 1-501 inf, 26-27 Jan 71) (OFUCN 1-506 Inf, 28-31 an 71) 3/0/2-502 Inf (CHCON 1-506 Inf, 29 Jan 71 -4 Feb 71)

TF Hat LITON (OFCON 3d Ede, 21 Mar 71 - 9 Apr 71)

A/1-1 Cav (OLCON 3-187 Inf, 25-29 Apr 71)

2-327 Inf (O.CON 3d Bde, 28 Feb 71 - 20 .ar 71, 9 - 28 Apr 71) A(-)/2-327 Inf (01-0N 2-506 Inf; 19-20 ar 71) B/2-327 Inf (upon 2-506 Inf, 21-22 Apr 71) C/2-327 Inf (Upun 1-506 Inf, 13-15 Apr 71) 1/2-327 inf (UNUN 2-506 inf, 19-20 ar 71) (UHCON 3-187 lnf, 15-17 Apr 71) mecon/2-327 inf (OFCON 3-187 Inf, 15-20 Apr 71) (GIUON 2-5.6 Inf., 21-22 Apr 71)

TF 1-61 Inf (OFFICE 3d Ede, 25 Feb 71 - 4 .ar 71, 28 ar 71 - 7 apr 71) 3/E/1-1 Cav (OFCON 1-506 Inf, 28 pr 71 - 7 Apr 71)

C/1-1 Gav (Upuch 1-506 Inf, 26 Lar 71 - 7 apr 71) 2/C/1-1 Cav (UNION 2-506 Inf, 1-7 Apr 71)

Incl #1

Cbt westher Tm5Tn westher Tm 2 Tm's 4th PSYOF Set (13) A/2-11 Arty (CSR Div Arty) 4 **1-3**9 Art - (15 m 42 IV Corps, Div Arty) C/1-83 Art ((Sr Div (Sr XXIV Corps) B/2-320 Arty (DS) C(-)'2-11 Art, (JS) (قلل) n ع ياد (501 S_FT Tm/501 C/1-39 Arty (Oh ALIV Corps) 1835/A/501 Sig in (US) C 4-77 ALLA (C. 2-319 arty, GS, 115, Jiv Art.) A 158 ABB (JUS) 1 -

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SUbject: (perational Report - lessons learned Readquarters 3d ade, 101st Abn Div (Ambl) for the period 1 Nov 70-30 Apr 71 MCS for 65 - (A2).

A/4-12 Cav (UFUCN 1-506 Inf, 21-27 Mar 71) 3/A/4-12 Cav (OFUCN 2-506 Inf, 7-8 Apr 71)

Incl #1

COOFFICENTIAL

CONTRACTOR

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30 april 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned Headquarters 3d Lde, 101st abn Div (ambl) for the period 1 Nov 70-30 Apr 71 itCS for 65 - (ii2)

LUMNU Since Yan 40 marcon

Co, 3d Brigade Col Benjamin I. Harriso Col David E. Grange, Ju	
DCO, 3d Brigade	

XO, 3d srigade ifC Joseph F. Bellochi ITC Roy S. Dunaway, Jr. ITC Gerald C. Whitmire

CO, 3d in (Ambl) 187th Inf LTC Bryon J. Sutton TC James R. Steverson

CO, 1st in (amb1) 506th Inf TC boby b. Forter ATC meith A. Barlow

CCh 2d Bn (Ambl) 506th Inf HTC John C. Bard LTC Joseph F. Bellochi

CO, TF HARLLTON ITC John D. Hamilton

CC, 1st on 2d Inf negt (ANVN) AJ Truong Thanh Hung

Co, 2d Un (mbl) 327 Inf ITC John h. Hamilton, Jr.

CO, 1st in (ambl) 502d inf ITC michard N. lang

00, 1st In (Ambl) 501st Inf ITo Arthur C. Dister, Ir. ITC Wade Hampton

CC, 2d on (Ambl) 502d Inf I'd Iloyd N. Cosby

CO, TF 1-77 Armor ITC aichard M. Myer 1 Nov 70 - 22 uec 70 22 Dec 70 - 30 April 71

1 Nov 70 - 30 apr 71

1 Nov 70 - 20 Lov 70 28 Nov 70 - 12 ar 71 23 ar 71 - 30 Apr 71

14 Oct 70 - 17 ar 71 17 ar 71 - 30 Apr 71

1 Nov 70 - 17 Jan 71 17 Jan 71 - 30 Apr 71

1 NOV 70 - 19 NOV 7 19 Nov 70 № 37 Apr 71

21 lar 71 - 9 Apr 71

2 Mar 71 - 3 Mar 71

28 Peb 71 - 20 Mar 71 9 Apr 71 - 28 Apr 71

7 10v 70 - 25 10v 70

25 Feb 71 - 14 Mar 71 14 ar 71 - 8 apr 71

25 Feb 71 ~ 7 Apr 71

12 Dec 70 - 15 Dec 70 3 ar 71 - 21 ar 71 7 Apr 71 - 8 Apr 71

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile)
APO San Francisco 96383

AVDG-CA-C

4 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (Feeder Report), 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Period ending 31 October 1971, RCS: CSFOR-65 (R3) (U).

Commanding General 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) ATTN: AVDG-GC-H APO San Francisco 96383

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.

a. During the reporting period, the 3d Brigade continued Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70 until 1200 hours, 8 October, at which time that operation concluded and the brigade initiated execution of OPORD 11-71 (MONSOON DYNAMIC DEFENSE). Operations were conducted in northern Thua Thien and southern Quang Tri Provinces to locate and destroy enemy forces, staging areas and forward cache sites, to protect vital lines of communication, and to interdict enemy movement into the populated lowlands in order to provide maximum security for the population. Working in close cooperation with the 1st Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division (ARVN), the brigade sought to maintain a protective shield beyond the periphery of the populated lowlands of Fhong Dien and Hai Lang Districts to prevent incursion of enemy forces into the populated areas, and to insure a secure environment for the pacification and development programs. The brigade conducted extensive patrolling surveillance and screening operations to deny use of the lowland areas to the enemy. During the first six weeks of the reporting period, the brigade participated in airmobile raids east of Base Area 129 in the vicinity of FB Ripcord in support of Operation Lam Son 720. The objective of the raids was to locate and destroy enemy supplies and cache sites. In late June, the brigade assumed responsibility for the 1st Infantry Regiment's traditional area of operations in southern Quang Tri Province as the latter unit redeployed farther to the north. The brigade returned to its area of operations in Thua Thien Province when the 1st Regiment resumed its normal mission, but repeated the same relief in place in early September when the 1st Regiment combat assualted into the Da Krong Valley area north of the Laction salient. The Vietnamese drive was an integral part of Operation Lam Son 810, aimed at disrupting suspected enemy build-ups in western Quang Tri Province prior to the onset of the northeast monsoon. In late September the operation concluded, and the brigade again returned to its normal area of operations, where it continued to operate through the end of the reporting period.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (Feeder Report), 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Period ending 31 October 1971, RCS: CSFOR-65 (R3) (U).

Operation JEFFERSON GLEN/MONSOON PLAN 70 included two significant operational highlights. The first became evident in the execution of the airmobile raids in conjunction with Operation Lam Son 720. The 1st En (Ambl), 506th Infantry and the 2d Bn (Ambl), 506th Inf received missions requiring them to commit a major portion of their troops into objective areas between FB Ripcord and FB Berchtesgaden. Concurrently, they were also responsible for maintaining a presence in their normal areas of operations around FB Gladiator and FB Rakkasan, in addition to actively defending those fire bases. Realizing the need for responsive fire support for those elements conducting the airmobile raids into areas beyond the range of supporting artillery at Fire Bases Gladiator and Rakkasan, both battalions utilized their organic 81mm mortar platoons to organize forward command posts/fire support bases in the immediate vicinity of the troops conducting the raids. Such bases, lightly defended but containing the command and control necessary to accomplish the mission, were nowed frequently, both to be in position to constantly provide the most effective fire support for the steadily advancing ground forces, and to reduce the possibility of the bases themselves coming under attack. The concept proved to be efficient, and played a significant role in the overall success of the operation.

- c. The second operational highlight occurred while the brigade operated in northern Quang Tri Province in conjunction with Operation Lam Son 810. It was found that due to a scarcity of aircraft, which were heavily committed in support of the Vietnamese drive into the western portion of the province, it was necessary to resupply FB Barbara and FB Anne almost entirely by road. Such resupply by road also was advantageous in that it served to generate the experience and standing operating procedures that would be needed when serial resupply would become the exception rather than the rule during the upcoming mensoon season. The 1st En (Ambl), 506th Infantry, with the assistance of B Company, 326th Engineer, and 3d Platoon, 101st Military Police Company, opened the road and conducted convoys on an almost daily basis to one fire base or the other, and frequently to both fire bases simultaneously. With the passage of time, confidence and efficiency increased, and when Operation Lam Son 810 concluded in late September and the brigade redeployed to Thua Thien Province, the process of road resupply had become routine.
- d. Throughout the final phase of the reporting period, the brigade was engaged in the MONSCON DYNAMIC DEFENSE, conducting screening and mobile defense operations designed to protect Camp Evans and occupied fire bases from ground and indirect fire attacks. Notable during this period was the attachment to the brigade of Company L, 75th Infantry (Ranger), and D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry. The attachment of the cavalry troop added significantly to the brigade's tactical area of interest and tactical area of responsibility, since the troop retained its area of operations in the extreme northwestern portion of Quang Tri Province, and also its responsibility to conduct daily reconnaissance of the eastern Demilitarized Zone and northeastern Quang Tri Province.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (Feeder Report), 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Period ending 31 October 1971, RCS: CSFOR-65 (R3) (U).

- 2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.
 - a. Personnel: Critical Aviation Maintenance Personnel.
- (1) OBSERVATION: Key maintenance personnel in the Brigade Aviation Platoon should be as experienced and as qualified as personnel resources within the division permit.
- (2) EVALUATION: Brigade Aviation Platoons within the division are authorized only one each of certain critical maintenance personnel such as maintenance supervisors, technical inspectors, and avionics repairmen. Therefore, individuals with these particular MOS's for skills do no receive the benefit of supervision from a senior and more experienced man in the same field. Although in each case the individual has received formal MOS training, he usually does not possess the skill and knowledge necessary to insure that maintenance operations are performed smoothly and efficiently in his area of interest.
- (3) RECOMENDATIONS: That only well qualified key maintenance personnel be assigned to fill vacancies in Brigade Aviation Platoons, and that personnel within the division who have had prior experience with a direct support maintenance unit be reassigned to the Brigade Aviation Platoons as necessary.
 - b. Intelligence: None.
 - c. Operations:
 - (1) Employment of the Integrated Observation System.
- (a) OBSERVATION: The Integrated Observation System (ICS) has been found to be effective in remote field locations where accurage survey is not available.
- (b) EVALUATION: In the early part of the reporting period, there were no fire bases in the brigade area of operations which offered good IOS employment opportunities. Rather than misuse the equipment, it was employed in field locations in conjunction with ground surveillance radar and a squad of infantry for security. The locations were those which allowed the IOS to sight on known landmarks, and thus determine its location by resection within tolerable limits. This method of field employment allowed maximum use of the instrument at times when surveyed locations were not suitable.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That the employment of the Integrated Observation System not be confined to areas accessible to accurate survey.

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- (2) Resiliency of Enemy Booby Traps.
- (a) OBSERVATION: Booby traps are most likely to be found on old landing sones within the brigade's area of operations, and despite thorough preparation with tactical flame drops and tube and aerial rocket artillery, buried pressure-type booby traps are very likely to remain active.
- (b) EVALUATION: There have been numerous instances of buried pressure-type booby traps remaining active on landing somes which have been thoroughly prepared with tactical flame drops and tube and aerial rocket artillery.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: When tactical requirements make the use of old landing zones imperative, consideration should be given to the employment of tactical air strikes and heavy artillery with fuze delay.
 - (3) Security of Small Reconnaissance Elements.
- (a) OBSERVATION: A reconnaissance team which had been resupplied earlier in the day and which had failed to move an appreciable distance following resupply was engaged in its night defensive position and suffered three casualties,
- (b) EVALUATION: Lack of enemy contact over an extended period of time caused the reconnaissance element to adopt a sense of complacency which eventually proved fatal.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That explicit instructions regarding security measures to be followed in various circumstances be disseminated to all small units prior to each mission, and that only the strongest of individuals be chosen as reconnaissance team leaders.
 - (4) Enemy Use of Confiscated US Material.
- (a) OBSERVATION: Confiscated US material continues to be uncovered in enemy caches and base camps.
- (b) EVALUATION: Little progress has been made in alerting individual soldiers to the hazards of leaving equipment in night defensive positions or on fire bases, and the enemy takes maximum advantage of this shortcoming. In many cases, explosive devices are discarded and these are eventually employed by the enemy as booby traps.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That commanders at all levels stress more emphatically the perils of abandoning equipment which may be of use to the enemy, and that disciplinary action be taken in cases involving abandoned ordnance.
 - d. Organisation: None.
 - e. Training: None.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (Feeder Report), 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Period ending 31 October 1971, RCS: CSFOR-65 (R3) (U).

- f. Logistics: Usage and Backhaul of Elivets on Fire Bases.
- (1) OBSERVATION: Due to the lack of empty blivets, difficulty was experienced in resupplying fire bases with water, mogas and diesel.
- (2) EVALUATION: Units were found to be tapping an excessive amount of blivets at one time, resulting in blivets not being backhauled because of the number of blivets which were partially filled.
- (3) RECOMMENDATION: That the number of blivets being tapped at one time be held to a minimum, and that the importance of backhauling empty blivets promptly be emphasized by all commanders.

g. Communications:

- (1) Corrosion of the RC-292 Antenna.
- (a) ORSERVATION: It has been found that elements of the RC-292 antenna corrode after exposure to damp air, and that the components of the antenna head become water-logged.
- (b) EVALUATION: Either of these conditions will greatly reduce the effectiveness of the antenna, and necessitates frequent inspection and repair.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That the RC-292 antenna be constructed of a material less susceptible to corrosion, and that the head be made less susceptible to water-logging.
 - (2) Leakage of BA-30 Battery.
- (a) OBSERVATION: With continuous use during periods when the temperature is high, leakage occurs in the BA-30 battery.
- (b) EVALUATION: It has been found that due to leaking batteries, malfunctions have occured although the batteries were still serviceable. The leading acid coats the battery terminals and prevents proper contact.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That a more suitable seal be provided for the BA-30 battery in order to prevent leakage.
 - (3) Push-to-talk Switch on TA-312 Telephone.
- (a) OBSERVATION: Depression of the push-to-talk switch on the TA-312 telephone often becomes difficult or impossible.

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- (b) EVALUATION: The rubber push-to-talk switch tends to dry out and harden with use, often rendering the telephone inoperative unless removed. If replacements are not available and the telephone must continue to be used, dirt and water can enter the handset causing further damage to the switch and handset components.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: That the rubber push-to-talk cover be constructed of a pliable material which is not prone to hardening with heat and age.
 - h. Materiel: None.
 - i. Chemical: Rigging of Tactical Flame Sorties.
- (1) OBSERVATION: Using a three-foot sling with an attached clevis as the stationary hook has proven to be considerably faster when rigging the flame cargo.
- (2) EVALUATION: It has been determined that using the doughnut system to hook up the flame cargo from inside the CH-47 helicopter was too slow and often quite difficult, creating a safety hazard especially if the helicopter had to hover in a crosswind. The new system incorporates a medium size clevis, a modified type-four connector link, and a three-foot sling which is attached to the crossbar, adjacent to the helicopter's main cargo hook. One metal sleeve on the connector link is machined down to fit flush inside one eye of the clevis. The three-foot sling is attached to the other end of the connector link, then tied to the crossbar with a choker hitch. A stationary, open hook is formed whereby the ground crew simply loops the doughnut from the cargo net over the hook. This system is faster, therefore safer for both the air and ground crew since less time is spent hovering over the flame cargo.
- (3) RECOMMENDATION: That this system be adopted for use for all tectical flame missions.

RICHARD J. TALLMAN

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Inclosure 1 (Task Organization as of 31 October 1971) to Operational Report -Lessons Learned (Feeder Report), 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile), Period ending 31 October 1971, RCS: CSFOR-65 (R3) (U).

TASK ORGANIZATION AS OF 31 OCTOBER 1971

3d Bda

3-187 Inf:

<u>1-506 Inf</u>:

2-506 Inf:

D/3-5 Cav (Attached):

L/75 Inf (Ranger) (Attached):

176 RF Co (OPCON):

742 RF Co (OPCON):

2-319 Arty (DS) B/2-320 Arty (DS) A/B/2-11 Arty (GS) C/4-77 ARA (GSR) A/B/C/2-94 Arty (GSR) A/1-39 Arty (GSR) B/326 Engr (DS) 3d FSSE, DISCOM (DS) Tm/101 MI Co (DS) 3/265 RR Co (DS) TACP, 20th TASS (DS) FSE/A/501 Sig (DS) 3/101 MP Co (DS) D/801 Maint (DS) 3/A/426 S&S (DS) C/326 Med (GS) Tm/5 Cbt Wes Sqdn (GS) Tm/4 PSYOP Det (GS) 101st Avn Gp (GS)

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