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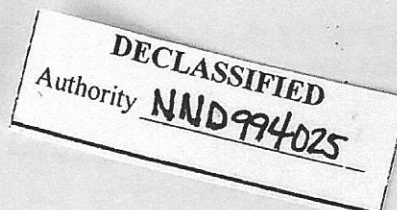
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE
APO San Francisco 96250

AVBE-SC/MHD

14 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned Headquarters, 173d Airborne Brigade,
Period ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, DC 20310



1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities

a. General: Operation WASHINGTON GREEN II continued as the 173d Airborne Brigade's primary operational effort during the reporting period. Operation WASHINGTON GREEN II, begun on 11 Oct 69, is the second phase of Operation WASHINGTON GREEN begun on 15 April 1969. The operation is designed to provide regular force support to GVN agencies and territorial elements as they carry out the pacification program in the Brigade's Area of Operations, AO LEE. AO LEE, consisting of the northeastern four districts (TAM QUAN, HOAI NHON, HOAI AN, and PHU MY) of BINH DINH Province, is shared by the 173d Airborne Brigade and the 22d ARVN Infantry Division. Under the second phase of the operation, the 173d Airborne Brigade continues to conduct operations in cooperation with ARVN and FWMF forces, and GVN authorities in order to accelerate the pacification program and to maintain the security of lines of communication. On 22 January 1970, Operation WASHINGTON GREEN II A went into effect to counter the expected 1970 Tet Offensive while still providing security for the populated pacification areas in the AO.

b. The main force element opposing the Brigade is the 3d NVA Division, consisting of the 2d, 18th, and 22d NVA Regiments. The 3d NVA Division Headquarters and the 2d NVA Regiment deployed to BINH DINH (P) in late September and late October respectively. By late December the 22d NVA Regiment was located along the northern boundary of AO LEE in the area of the BINH DINH (P) - QUANG NGAI (P) border and the upper AN LAO Valley. The 18th and 2d NVA Regiments currently occupy locations in the VINH THANH Mountains and numerous local force units operate in the mountainous areas contiguous to the populated areas. The 3d NVA Division has an estimated strength of 6000 personnel and is well armed, to include both medium and heavy indirect fire weapons. The enemy made no concerted efforts to disrupt the pacification program during the reporting period; however, enemy movement, mortar attacks, and platoon to company size contacts have increased with the approach of the expected Tet Offensive 1970 as the reporting period came to a close. The local force guerrillas continued their attempt to harass US/GVN installations, property and personnel. Their methods were mortar attacks, sapper attacks, small unit ambushes, and an active program of booby trap emplacement.

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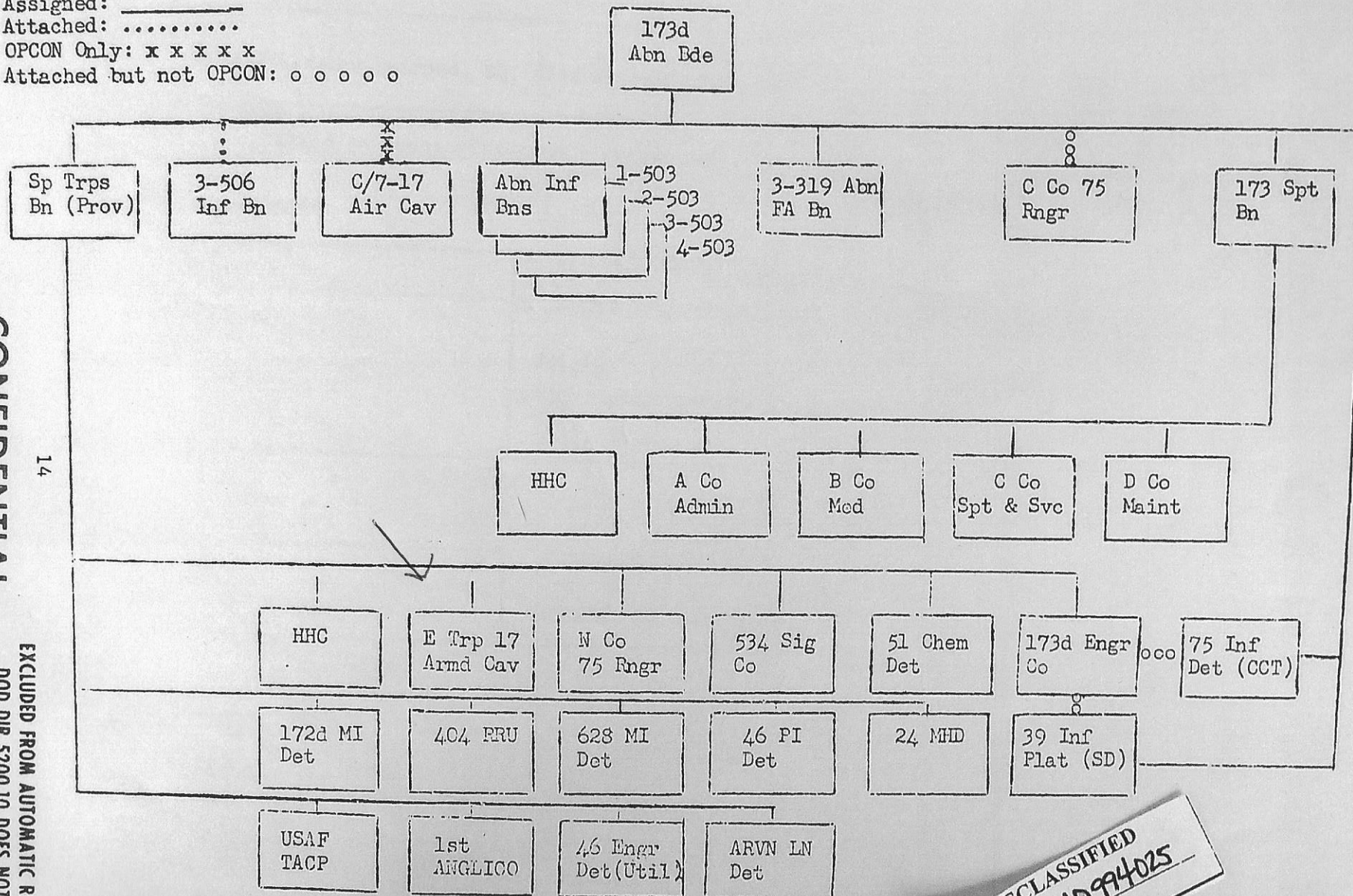
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