

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY

(RCS CS HIS-6 (R1))

DELTA COMPANY 16th ARMOR (AIRBORNE)

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THIRD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

25 June 1963 - 31 December 1963

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Prepared by

1st Lt Gary B Gilmore

Approved by



JOHN R SAMMONS
Captain, Armor

HEADQUARTERS IX CORPS
UNITED STATES ARMY, RYUKYU ISLANDS
UNITED STATES ARMY PACIFIC

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DELTA COMPANY 16th ARMOR

173d AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEP)

SECTION I

ACTIVATION AND ORGANIZATION

1. According to the TO&E, 17-157 (Draft), Of an Airborne Brigade Separate, an Armor Company is authorized as a separate unit within the Brigade. This company does not come under the control of any Battalion but does come under the control of the Brigade Headquarters. Its mission within the Brigade, is to provide an extensive anti-tank capability and since this is an Armored Unit, it has the overall mission; To Close With And Destroy The Enemy, Using Fire Power, Mobility and Shock Effect.

2. Company D, 16th Armor was the designation given to this Armored Company by Letter, AGAO-O (M) (26 April 63) DCSPER, Hq DA, 2 May 1963, Subject: Activation of 173d Airborne Brigade. It was activated under General Order 207 dated 17 May 1963 from Headquarters United States Army Pacific.¹ Under the TO&E mentioned above, the personnel strength was to be 5 Officers and 112 Enlisted Personnel. As equipment, it was to have 15 Self-Propelled Anti-Tank M-56 Spats; 5 Spats for each of 3 line platoons. Since this unit is a separate company, it is necessary for it to be as self sustaining as possible, therefore the Headquarters Platoon is composed of various sections adding to the companies ability to operate by itself. Such sections are the Supply and Transportation Section, Medical Section, Communications Sections, Maintenance Section, Ground Surveillance Section, and the Mess Section.²

3. This unit was activated on 25 June 1963 and at the time of activation contained one Officer, 1/Lt. Carroll M. Coomer as its Commander, and 8 Enlisted men. Company D 16th Armor went

through the usual reorganization duties, drawing most of its equipment and some of its personnel from the Assault Gun Platoon, 2d Airborne Battle Group, 503d. Infantry. By the 26th of July 1963, the company had gained in personnel to 2 Officers and 28 Enlisted men. At this time, Captain John R. Sammons assumed command.

1. See Appendix 1
2. See Appendix 2

SECTION II

TRAINING AND OPERATIONS

1. In August of 1963 this company took part in OPERATION LITTLE BLAST, which was designed to test the allert capabilities of the 2d Battalion 503d Infantry. For this exercise, one platoon was attached to Bravo Company of the 2d Battalion. The personnel involved were parachuted onto Yomitan Drop Zone and their SPATS were airlanded. From this point an attack was arranged and carried out in a northwesterly direction to Bolo Point to form an Airhead. this operation lasted three days.

2. The next exercise D Company partook in was each of the Rifle Battallions Operational Readiness Tests. One platoon was attached to each of the Battalions as an anti-tank unit. These tests involved a Parachute Assault On Yomitan Drop Zone, Okinawa. After the drop, an attack and a delay tactical problem was run. This operation lasted from the 16th of September to the 3rd of October, After these tests this unit prepared for OPERATION SKY SOLDIER IV/TIEN BING IV.

3. SKY SOLDIER IV took place in Taiwan from 8 October, when the first elements moved, to 4 November 1963 when all units returned to Okinawa. This was a combined Sino/US exercise and for it one platoon was attached to each Rifle Battalion and the remaining personnel formed the Aggressor Unit with other eliments of the Brigade.

4. Returning from Taiwan, D Company 16th Armor consolidated to form one platoon of 5 SPATS and took the Platoon ATT. This Army Training Test took place on Okinawa and proved this unit to be Combat Ready. At this time, the Company had increased to

2 Officers and 82 Enlisted men, but equipment-wise it was only about 25% of its authorized TO&E.

5. D Company had its annual Command Inspection on 2 December 1963 by Lieutenant General Paul W. Caraway and had its Command Maintenance Material Inspection on 15 December 1963 also by General Caraway. Both of these inspections received Excellent as a rating.

6. On 18 August 1963, D Company received the honor of providing the Honor Guard for the promotion of Ellis W. Williamson, The Brigade Commander, to Brigadier General. This company also took part in The Awards Parade on 28 December 1963, when the 3rd Battalion 319th Artillery received its colors, CWO John H. Kerr received the Legion of Merit Medical and the Brigade received the Minuteman Flag for Savings Bond Participation.

5 OFF / WD 106 EM

TK. CO.

2 OFF / WD 49 EM

CO. HQ.

HQ. SEC.

MED.
TEAM.

MAINT.
SEC.

MESS.
TEAM.

SUP. AND
TRANS. SEC.

3 OFF 57 EM

TK. PLAT.
1

2

3

PLAT. HQ.
NO 1 TK

NO 2 TK
NO 3 TK
NO 4 TK
NO 5 TK

UNIT COMMANDERS

25 June 1963 - 31 December 1963

NAME	RANK	INCLUSIVE DATES
COOMER, Carrol M.	1/Lt	25 June 1963 - 25 July 1963
SAMMONS, John R.	Captain	26 July 1963 - Present