

HISTORY OF
DELTA COMPANY SIXTEENTH ARMOR
ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY THIRD AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
1964

PREPARED BY:

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1/Lt ARMOR

UNIT HISTORIAN

APPROVED BY:

Josef C. Jordan Jr.

JOSEF C JORDAN JR

CAPTAIN, ARMOR

COMMANDING

INDEX

Section I	Lineage and Honors	1-1
Section II	Organization	2-1
Section III	Operations and Training	3-1
Section IV	Unit Awards	4-1
Section V	Present Commander's Biography	5-1
Section VI	Unit Commander's List	6-1
Section VII	Annexes	7-1



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Lineage and Honors

COMPANY D, 16th ARMOR

Constituted 1 July 1916 as Troop D, 16th Cavalry

Organized 14 July 1916 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Inactivated 12 November 1921 at Fort Sam Houston, Texas

Activated 15 June 1942 at Camp Forrest, Tennessee, as Troop D, 16th Cavalry, Mechanized

Reorganized and redesignated 22 December 1943 as Troop B, 19th Cavalry Reconnaissance Squadron, Mechanized

Inactivated 10 November 1945 at Camp Campbell, Kentucky

Redesignated 26 March 1963 as Company D, 16th Armor, and assigned to 173d Airborne Brigade

Activated 25 June 1963 at Okinawa

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

World War II-

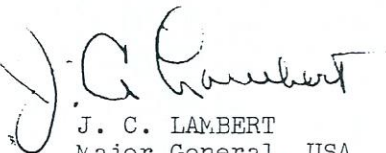
EAME

- * Rhineland
- * Central Europe

DECORATIONS

None

By Order of the Secretary of the Army:


J. C. LAMBERT
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

FEB 10 1964

ORGANIZATION

The new year of 1964 brought a renewed esprit and also new people.

On 8 January fifteen enlisted men had their MOS changed from Infantry Heavy Weapons Men 112 to Armored Crew Men 131 by Unit Order Number 1. (1) These MOS changes were necessary due to the fact that their unit was was strengthened by people of varied training. These fifteen people received on-the-job training as their training from qualified 131s to fulfill their MOS change. By the end of January, D Company 16th Armor had assigned 106 enlisted members and 5 officers. (2)

During the months of February through April no major change in organization or unit strength was made. (2) On 20 May 1964, however, General Order Number 86 was published by Headquarters, United States Army, Pacific, changing the unit TO&E. The deletion of a Warrant Officer as the Maintenance Section Leader was the only major change. (3&4) The Morning Report Strength of the unit the last day of May was 112 Enlisted Personnel and 5 Officers. (2)

- (1) Unit Order Number 1, Delta Company 16th Armor, 173d Abn Bde (Sep), dated 8 January 1964 (Annex A)
- (2) Morning Report Extracts January 1964 through December 1964, Delta Company 16th Armor, 173d Abn Bde (Sep) (Annex B)
- (3) General Order Number 86, Hqs USARPAC, dated 20 May 1964 (Annex C)
- (4) Diagram of Unit Organization, Delta Company 16th Armor, 173d Abn Bde (Sep) (Annex D)

On 26 June of 1964, Captain Josef C. Jordan assumed command of Delta Company 16th Armor from Captain John R. Sammons. (5) Captain Sammons returned to the United States to attend the Armored Officer Career Course at The Armor School, Fort Knox, Kentucky. Captain Jordan came from the Brigade S3 section and prior to that A Troop 17th Cavalry, 82d Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The end of June found this Company containing 116 enlisted men and 6 officers. (2)

During the last six months of 1964 the unit underwent very little change in its strength and organization. (2) The usual amount of changes of personnel did take place due to rotation dates and new arrivals to and from the United States.

The strength of Delta Company 16th Armor at the close of 1964 was 110 enlisted men and 5 officers. (2)

Delta Company 16th Armor received a copy of its Lineage and Honors on 26 February and also the 16th Armor Distinctive Unit Insignia. (6)

- (5) Assumption of Command, Captain Josef C. Jordan, Delta Company, 16th Armor, 173d Abn Bde (Sep), dated 26 June 1964 (Annex E)
- (6) Army Information Digest, February 1964, Distinctive Unit Insignia, Page 59 (Annex F)

SECTION VI

UNIT COMMANDERS

DELTA COMPANY 16TH ARMOR 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)

1. COOPER, CARROLL M	1/LT	INFANTRY	25 JUNE 1963
2. SAMMONS, JOHN R	CAPTAIN	ARMOR	26 JULY 1963
3. JORDAN, JOSEF C	CAPTAIN	ARMOR	26 JUNE 1964

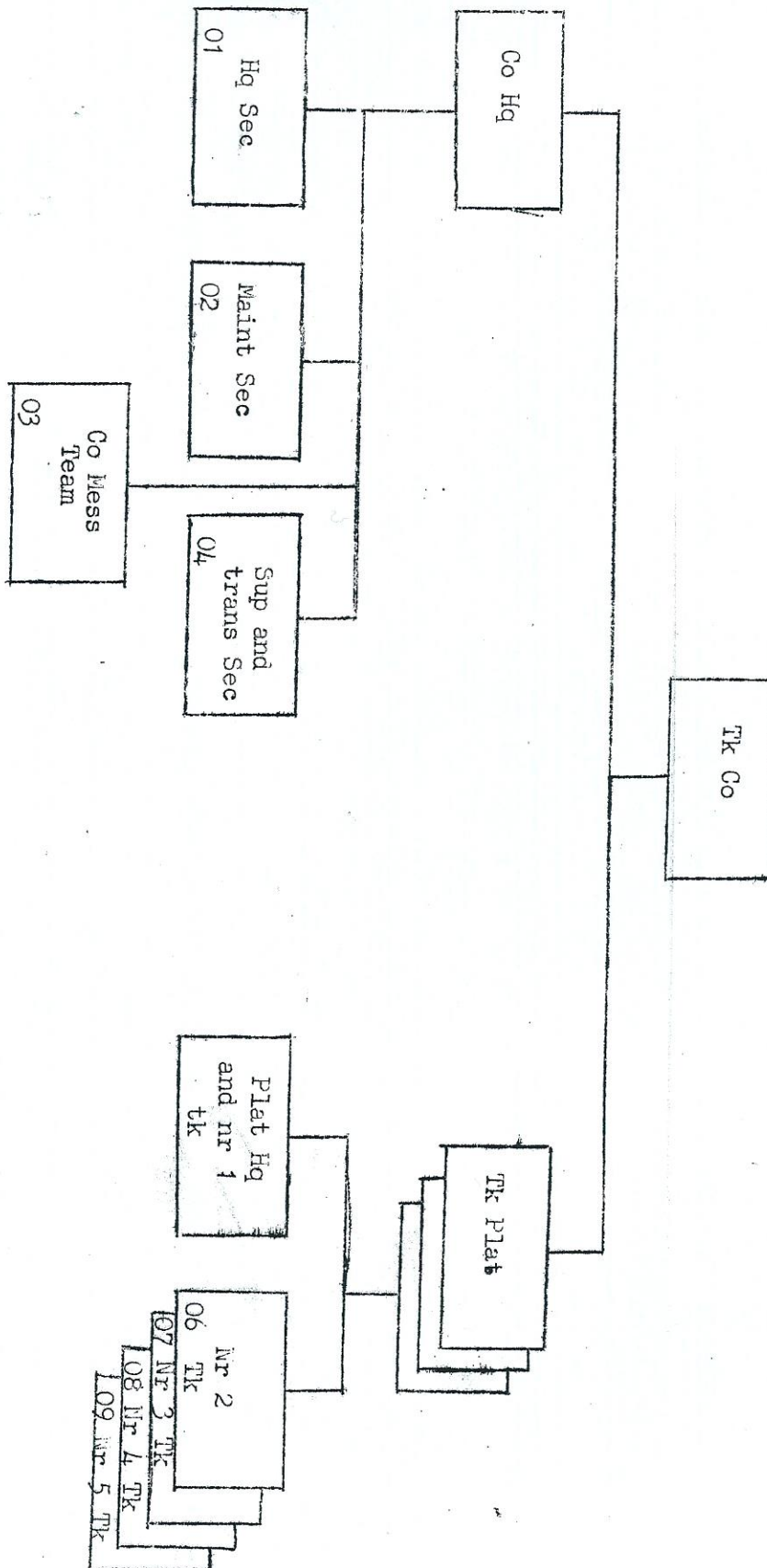
SECTION VII

ANNEXES

A	Unit Order Number 1	7-2
B	Morning Report Extracts	7-3
C	General Order # 86	7-4
D	Diagram Unit Organization	7-5
E	Assumption of Command	7-6
F	Distinctive Unit Insignia	7-7
G	After Action Report - Tank Platoon ATT	7-8
H	After Action Report - Tank Company ATT	7-9
I	After Action Report - Sky Soldier VI	7-10

ANNEX d

TANK COMPANY, SEPARATE AIRBORNE BRIGADE



D COMPANY 16TH ARMOR
173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
APO 50 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

10 November 1964

SUBJECT: Exercise Sky Soldier VI After Action Report

TO: Commanding General
173d Abn Bde (Sep)
APO 50, U. S. Forces
ATTN: 83

1. Summary of Operations:

a. Prior to D-Day, this unit was cross-manifested with other units of the Brigade. Because of the no-go wind condition for the second and third passes on D-Day, elements of the assault platoon landed with no tactical integrity, while key personnel, who were placed in the last of the stick by other manifesting units, were not dropped at all. This necessitated complete modification of the air movement tables.

b. On D-Day, six personnel from the assault platoon, plus a sixteen man reconnaissance party were dropped by parachute assault. No heavy vehicles or equipment were dropped, because of the high winds.

c. On D+1, the reconnaissance party moved out by foot and secured blocking position D. Six SPAT's with the remainder of the crews arrived air land and linked up with the reconnaissance party at position D. The company (-) was held in reserve through D+5. The company followed up, minus nine SPAT's and certain support vehicles, phased into the air head from D+3 on.

d. On D+6, one platoon was attached to Troop E, 17th Cavalry while one recon platoon was attached to this unit. The company was then given the mission of screening the left flank of the Brigade. This cross attachment proved highly successful. The recon platoon was used in their normal role to include route reconnaissance, breaching of mine fields, and as the dismounted maneuver element against road blocks. The tank platoons were used to provide a base of fire and were moved by alternate bounds. This cross attachment more than proved its effectiveness, and should be considered for inclusion in the Brigade SOP for screening missions. It should also be noted that the recon platoons of the rifle battalions could be attached to this unit. This would leave the Cavalry Troop intact to perform their mission, and still provide the Tank Company with a recon capability. The terrain of the Sky Soldier

10 November 1964

SUBJECT: Exercise Sky Soldier VI After Action Report

VI maneuver area is ideal for employment of the Tank Company and Cavalry Troop in this posture.

e. On D+7, the company reverted to Brigade reserve and remained there throughout the problem.

2. Accomplishment of Exercise Objectives:

a. The objectives of the exercise were achieved by this company with the following exceptions:

(1) No opportunity was provided to exercise the heavy drop of our main piece of combat equipment, the M-56 SPAT.

(2) Not all the crews were able to participate in offensive and defensive operations, since only six SPAT's were transported to the exercise area.

3. Problems Encountered:

a. Because vehicles were not introduced into the exercise area as planned, it was impossible to play the dummy ammunition resupply portion of the exercise.

b. Rations of attachments had to be obtained from the parent unit, transported to this company's mess and then prepared with the rest of this unit's rations.

c. Moves of the water point were not always announced, making efficient water supply difficult.

d. This unit was required to send a liaison officer to Brigade Headquarters at least twice a day. Since there is no liaison officer authorized by the TOE, either the Company Commander or the Executive Officer was required to attend the meetings. This placed an extraordinary burden on key personnel of the company that would have been impossible to perform, had the company not been in a reserve status.

e. The late arrival of the 5 Ton Wrecker into the area left this unit without recovery capability for the SPAT's.

4. Actions Taken to Overcome Problems Encountered:

a. The problems cited in paragraphs a, b, c, and d above had no workable solution, and this unit just had to do the best it could with the resources at hand.

10 November 1964

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b. A Chinese 5 Ton Wrecker was obtained to recover a SPAT that was stuck in a ditch, because no organic wreckers were in the airhead at the time.

5. Conclusions:

Exercise Sky Soldier VI provided realistic field training under combat conditions to this unit. Maximum training value was not realized from the exercise, because of the limited amount of men and equipment from this unit participating, and the fact that this unit was employed only one day during the entire problem.

6. Recommendations:

a. That this company be deployed with sufficient organic support elements to efficiently complete its mission i.e. ammunition trucks, wreckers, and gasoline tanker. These support elements must be introduced into the air head in the early phases of an operation, and not two to three days after the breakout has been completed.

b. That adjustment of rations for attachments be conducted at Brigade ration breakdowns, and not at company level, especially at the separate company level where great distances may be involved.

c. That timely announcements of water point locations be made by the SA, especially when a move is contemplated.

d. That the TO&E of this unit be changed to include a liaison officer, with driver and 1/2 ton truck with radio. This officer could perform the duties of motor officer, when the company is in a garrison posture.

e. That, in future operations, more advantage be taken of this unit's firepower, mobility, and shock action by increased employment in typical armor roles and the close support of dismounted elements. We should not allow ourselves to become fixed on only the limitations of the M-56 SPAT. The success of this unit on D+6 would seem to be indicative of the overwhelming offensive advantage that can be gained by the massing of the Tank Company's superior firepower and then the following up of initial gains with such speed as to change a screening mission into an exploitation. The ability to provide heavy, direct, and accurate fire coupled with its excellent cross country mobility, make the SPAT one of the most effective direct fire support weapons in the Brigade. Mechanical breakdowns and logistics difficulties will occur, but with the organic support presently available in the company, these problems can be held to an acceptable level and the majority of the company's combat power can be

10 November 1964

SUBJECT: Exercise Sky Soldier VI After Action Report

directed at many more targets and objectives than was the case on Exercise Sky Soldier VI. It should be noted that during the entire exercise only two mechanical failures were experienced. One was corrected on the spot, and the other, although uncorrectable at 2nd echelon level, was not serious enough to warrant removing the track from action.

f. That a back up Command Net be established with the AM radios. This equipment is not subject to the range limitations of the FM radios and will greatly reduce the need for relay stations.

/s/ Josef C Jordan Jr
/s/ JOSEF C JORDAN JR
Captain, Armor
Commanding

"A TRUE COPY"

Gay B Gilmore
GARY B. GILMORE
1st Lt, Armor

7-6-4