

## FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

FROM: Captain Verna

31 August 1967

SUBJECT: EAGLE PLATOONS

TO: All Military Fighting Men of the 3rd Security Police Squadron

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide Bien Hoa Air Base a reaction force to be deployed behind the enemy for harassment and interdiction following a mortar attack.
2. **Concept of Operation:** The 57th & 58th Regional Forces will share alert standby duty on a rotating basis with the 3rd Security Police Squadron. A flight of 45 men will be stationed at the 145th Aviation Battalion each night from 2200 hours until 0400 hours. In the event a mortar attack occurs and firing positions are identified, this force will be deployed to preselected landing zones behind the enemy position to engage or harass them during their retreat.
3. **Training:** The 173rd Airborne Brigade Jungle School will provide training on tactics and maneuvers. The start date is tentatively scheduled for 11 Sept 67. It will be conducted on your off duty time. It will take three to four hours a day for five days. Attachment 1 is the full training schedule for the jungle school. We will receive selected subjects for our "Eagle Platoons".
4. **Manpower Requirements and Selection:** To perform this duty and to minimize the commitment, I am requesting 45 men from "A" Flt and 45 men from "B" Flt to join this program. With two groups of 45, each group will stand alert one night out of every six nights.
  - a. Because of the training provided, personnel with retainability are desired. This should not prevent "Short Timers" from signing up. With the number of personnel required, "Short Timers" will be required to get us over the large loss this squadron will sustain between 1 Oct and 31 Dec 67.
5. **Program Start Date:** We are hopeful that this program will be operational before 1 Oct 67. A great amount of training, procurment, coordination and planning is still ahead of us.
6. **Deadline:** All volunteers should have their names affixed to the roster NLT 1600 hours, 1 Sept 67.
7. **General:** I have been extremely proud and honored to be associated with this squadron to date. Your daily performance has been outstanding and your support of squadron policy and mission has been the finest I have

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witnessed in my career. Your cooperation and backing are necessary to make this program an effective and practical weapon against the Viet Cong. It will require personal sacrifice from each man in the form of reduced free time and comfort and exposure to a hostile environment. I am convinced, however, after three months in this squadron, you are prepared to make this sacrifice.

  
JOSEPH B. VERNA JR, Captain, USAF  
Security Operations Officer

1 Atch  
173rd Ltr; Subj; Training for  
Brigade Replacements.

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

AVBE-SCJS

24 August 1967

SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction: Training for Brigade Replacements 23  
August thru 2 September 1967.

TO: See Distribution

1. GENERAL. Brigade replacement training for the week of 28 August thru 2 September 1967 to prepare 173d Airborne Brigade replacements for combat operations in Vietnam. All personnel in grades E1 - E7, and O1 - O2 who have arrived in country since 1 March 1967 and have not completed Jungle School will attend. Personnel with a previous tour in Vietnam, who have a six month or more break between tours are required to attend. All NCO's and Officers who have not attend since this date will attend this weeks training.

2. TRAINING PROGRAM. The training program consists of six days of combat subjects taught by instructors with combat experience in Vietnam. Training includes four days of instruction conducted in the 2d Battalion, 503d Infantry and 17th Cavalry areas, a one and one half-day field operation in the Brigade TAOR, and one half day of jump training at the Brigade Training Area.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. S-3 - Overall planning and staff coordination.
- b. S-4 - Provide logistical support, transportation and equipment as required.
- c. CO. L/503d - Provide evening meal for students Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Provide ice tea, Kool Aid or Juice for noon meal Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

d. Unit Commanders:

(1) Issue prescribed organizational clothing, equipment, weapons and basic load of ammunition. Insure individual's equipment is serviceable and adjusted properly before reporting for training in prescribed uniform (See Incl 2) and carry pencil or pen and notebook. Weapons should be inspected, cleaned and properly lubricated before student reports for training.

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SUBJECT: Letter of Instruction: Training for the Brigade Replacements 28 August thru 2 September 1967.

(2) Provide Commandant, Jungle School, with a roster of student personnel, rank, MOS, and ASN MLT 1200 hours, Saturday 26 August 1967. The roster will include date of rank of E5's thru E7's and all Officers.

(3) Provide transportation for members of your unit and insure that they report to the prescribed place at the prescribed time. Insure transportation is at the prescribed pick-up place (Incl 2) and the person responsible for picking up the students has a roster and does not depart until all students he is responsible for have transportation to their units.

(4) Issue one (1) "C" ration meal to each student Monday, five (5) on Tuesday, and one (1) meal Wednesday and Saturday. Issue sufficient heat tablets to heat the "C" ration meals.

(5) Insure the replacement is not put on guard or extra duty and receives maximum rest during the training period. Medical appointments and in-processing should not be scheduled during the training period.

(6) Insure student's assigned weapons have a piece of tape on the stock showing name and unit. All weapons will have slings or ropes.

(7) Assign Senior NCO from each unit as NCOIC. He should have two (2) rosters of the students for duration of course.

(8) Rifle Battalions will issue three (3) M-79's or XM148A1's and one (1) PRC-25 radio to students for duration of course.

(9) Insure chow is saved for personnel attending Jungle School on Wednesday evening.

#### 4. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

a. A student may attend the course even if he has not been included in the roster submitted Saturday 26 August 1967. His name should be given to the school First Sergeant Monday. Personnel reporting to the Brigade on Monday may report for training Tuesday morning. They must attend training the next Monday to receive credit for the course.

b. Disciplinary violations will be reported in writing to unit Commander concerned. Units desiring to know the final score of their men should contact the School First Sergeant. Diplomas for personnel who have satisfactorily completed the course will be forwarded to the unit approximately twelve (12) days after graduation.

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c. Students will mess with their units for breakfast Monday through Thursday, and for evening meal Wednesday. All students will be returned to their units prior to evening meal Friday and Saturday.

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d. Units will give PT to new replacements prior to reporting to the Jungle School.

e. Units are requested to observe class times and equipment requirements contained in the attached training schedules. (Incl 2)

f. Units are requested to inspect students daily for personnel appearance and correct uniform and equipment prior to students reporting to the school.

g. School Cadre will inspect students daily for personnel appearance and correct uniform and equipment. Deficiencies will be subtracted from the student's total course grade.

h. Students going on sick call or appointments from their units should notify the NCOIC first. When reporting back to the school from sick call or appointments, students will report to the School First Sergeant.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



W. L. KVASNICKA  
1LT, AGC  
Asst AG

2 Incl

1. Training Schedule
2. Reporting Time & Equipment