

# 73<sup>d</sup> NEWSLETTER

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## CURRENT OPERATIONS

During the last ten days our !A! models have been in support of the 173d Airborne Brigade and ARVN units engaged in a search and destroy operation west of Saigon. The visual reconns have provided on the spot tactical information on road blocks, river and canal traffic, enplacements, VC troop locations, and air strike target damage assessments.

The !B! and !C! models have also added to the intelligence picture within the current operational area by helping confirm or deny VC unit locations and movement during the night.

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% change  
since Oct.

## MAINTENANCE:

11,480 hrs of scheduled maint. Down 2%  
1,115 hrs of unshed. maint. no change  
29 hits (new record)  
656 hours flown Down 28%  
86% flyable rate Up 5%  
5 periodic inspections Down 45%

In 1965 the 73d received 128 hits. 40% of these were in the last two months. During the first six months of the year the average number of hours flown per A/C was 56. We averaged 71 hours for the second half of the year. Hawk 6 was the first aircraft lost since July 4, 1965. The pilot received a compression fracture but will be back with us in the spring. The observer was uninjured, except for minor burns on his arm.

## Promotions:

Sp/5 Gary Futch Sp/4 to Sp/5  
Sp/4 Joseph Czajkowski PFC to Sp/4  
Sp/4 Arthur Harberson PFC to Sp/4

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## SIGNAL PLATOON:

The photo section processed the following quantity of imagery.

28 rolls of KA 30  
17 rolls of KA 60  
63 rolls of Red Haze  
1188 contact prints  
200 9x9 blowups

## Promotions:

Sp/5 Lee Ashby Sp/4 to Sp/5  
Sp/4 Ron Boldon PFC to Sp/4  
Sp/4 Nick Zara PFC to Sp/4  
Sp/4 John Lonergan PFC to Sp/4  
Sp/4 Lyle Heasley PFC to Sp/4

The signal platoon has completed movement to the otherside of runway 12.

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## MOTOR POOL:

22,995 hrs were driven in December

## Promotions:

SSGT John Metcalf E5 to #6  
Sp/5 Carl Walker Sp/4 to Sp/5  
Sp/4 James Smith PFC to Sp/4

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## ORDANCE:

Sp/4 Fred Frederick's name was submitted from the 73d for solder of the month. In XII Group competition he came in second. Congratulations Fred.

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Captain Sprowls, heavy weight representative of the visual platoon, suffered a fracture of the right arm in recent competition at the Hawks Nest (Valentino Officers Club) gymnastics meet. Despite his injuries he managed to cop a good second behind the weight class champion of the exotic platoon, Captain Cavanaugh.

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Back Beach turned into a gold mine for local junk collectors following the epic battle fought there by members of the 73d. Approximately 1/2 mile of beach was littered with the wreckage of personal equipment such as wallets, rings, cigarettes, lighters, and wet clothes. During lulls in the battle, dry cigarettes were very tough to find but due to the excellent logistical planning of HRB Singer Inc. there was always a full can of beer on hand. The 73d sends its thanks for a job well done.

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## AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

The following awards were presented by Major Britton from 57th Avn Co. on January 8, 1966:

- Maj. Robertson-5th OLC
- Capt. Biebaum-Air Medal
- Capt. Breedlove-Air Medal, 1st, 2nd, and 4th OLC
- Capt. Cavanaugh-2nd and 3rd OLC
- Capt. Hattori-Air Medal and 1st OLC
- Capt. Moore-3rd and 5th OLC
- Capt. Teeter-Air Medal
- Capt. Warnshuis-1st OLC
- Capt. Watson-5th OLC
- Capt. Weaver-1st and 3rd OLC
- Lt. Bishop-1st and 4th OLC
- Lt. Dimarcello-Air Medal, 1st and 2nd OLC
- Lt. Prince-4th OLC
- Lt. Stringfellow-Air Medal
- Lt. Witter-2nd OLC

- Sgt. Mann-Air Medal and 1st OLC
- Sp4 Cumin-Air Medal
- Sp4 Fischer, J.-Air Medal
- Sp4 Fischer, R.-1st OLC
- Sp4 Futch-Air Medal and 2nd OLC
- Sp4 Sanchez-Air Medal
- Pfc Swiers-Air Medal and 1st OLC
- Pfc Whitehead-Air Medal
- Pfc Woodruff-Air Medal