

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
Office of the Commanding General
APO San Francisco 96250

AVBE-CG

7 December 1966

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation

TO: Officers and Men
4th Battalion, 503d Infantry
173d Airborne Brigade (Separate)
APO San Francisco 96250

1. It is a pleasure indeed to forward to the officers and men of the 4th Battalion (Airborne) 503d Infantry, the following message received from the Commanding General, III Marine Amphibious Forces:

"I wish to express my appreciation to the officers and men of the 4/503d Inf and supporting units for their outstanding performance of duty while OFCON to this command during the period 7 October 1966 to 4 December 1966. During this time the 4/503d Inf occupied a vital segment of the Da Nang TAOR and conducted aggressive patrol action against the enemy forces in that area. The area of responsibility assigned to your Bn was extensive and offered a challenge to imaginative tactical skill in troop employment. The 4/503d rose to this challenge and executed its mission in the highest standards of military professionalism and the U.S. Army. Please accept my sincere thanks and congratulations for a job well done."

2. The success that the 4th Battalion 503d Infantry enjoyed during Operation Winchester can be attributed to your high standards, esprit and professional competence. Your performance reflects credit on each member of the Battalion, on the 173d Airborne Brigade, and on the United States Army.

3. On behalf of the officers and men of the Brigade I extend congratulations and appreciation for your exemplary achievements and a job well done.

/s/ PAUL F. SMITH
/t/ PAUL F. SMITH
Maj Gen, U.S. Army
Commanding