

SECTION VI
JEB STUART

On 8 March 1968 the 1st Brigade of the 101st was placed under operational control of the 1st Air Cavalry Division and began Operation JEB STUART in THUA THIEN Province. The 1st Brigade's mission was to conduct search and destroy operations in their assigned area of operations, to locate and destroy enemy forces and installations and to locate and interdict enemy routes of infiltration with major emphasis on highway 547, to establish and secure fire support base BASTOGNE, and to assume security of fire support base BOYD (YG725 135).

Weather did not effect the conduct of operation JEB STUART.

At the start of Operation JEB STUART, the two detached battalions and batteries "A" and "C" returned to brigade control. Each battalion was assaulted into positions along highway 547. In order to gain a foothold along highway 547 and deny its use to the enemy the infantry oriented on the terrain and moved rapidly west. The 506th Infantry and Battery "D" remained under operational control of II FFORCE V in the PHAN THLET area.

The battalion headquarters continued to operate out of GIA LE base camp which had become a part of the CAMP EAGLE complex. The 8" howitzers of the 18th Artillery continued to provide heavy support for the brigade.

During the operation, the fire bases came under 7 mortar attacks. Six of these were on fire support base BIR MINGHAM. Countermortar fire is believed to have destroyed the mortars on two occasions.

On 16 March at 1157 hours a Marine aircraft dropped three 500 pound bombs on Battery A's position. This unfortunate accident resulted in six killed and 15 wounded. Five of the men killed were members of the countermortar radar section who were preparing a position for a new radar. One man from "A" died of wounds a few days later. One bomb scored a direct hit on the fire direction center destroying all the equipment. Quick action on the part of the battalion and the leadership of CPT MEANS, the battery commander, resulted in restoration of operations by 2005 hours the same day.