

## OPERATION FILLMORE

Operation HARRISON was followed by a similar series of actions, Operation FILLMORE, in which the 1st Brigade continued to operate from its base at Tuy Hoa. Operation FILLMORE lasted from 25 March to 7 April for the 1-327th and the 2-502d and from 25 March to 21 July for the 2-327th. The first two battalions were airlifted, in mid-April, from Tuy Hoa to Phan Thiet, the capital of Bien Thuan Province. Phan Thiet was located 150 miles to the south of Tuy Hoa. The 2-327th remained at Tuy Hoa to provide a stabilizing force in that important rice-producing area. The most significant tactical innovation used in Operation FILLMORE was the clandestine entry into enemy areas of company sized units as immediate reaction forces capable of capitalizing on information gained by small reconnaissance elements. In one battle alone, the 1-327th killed over fifty enemy using this technique. In addition, the constant pressure exerted by the brigade against the enemy in Phu Yen Province resulted in significant increases in the number of VC defectors to the government of South Vietnam.

When determined resistance was encountered by elements of the 1-327th Infantry, one company was committed to hold the enemy down while another maneuvered around the attacking forces. The "Above and Below" Tiger Force was inserted into a blocking position late in the evening, and by the following morning, 118 enemy dead lay on the battlefield.

Later during Operation HARRISON, the 2-502d Infantry conducted the first enemy night ambush operation. The 2-327th attacked a Viet Cong tunnel and seized a small weapons cache. By the time the operation terminated, the Viet Cong was crushed with heavy losses and North Vietnamese battalions and company sized units of rice from being used by the Communists.

1-327th Infantry, "The Commercial", 15-51, and George McArthur. 1-327th Infantry, "The Commercial", 15-51, and George McArthur. 1-327th Infantry, "The Commercial", 15-51, and George McArthur.