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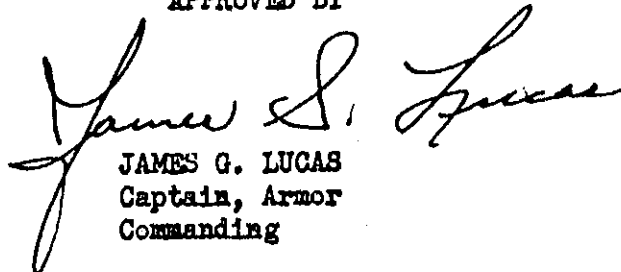
ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT
D TROOP
7TH SQUADRON 1ST AIR CAVALRY
1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969 +1970

PREPARED BY

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1LT, Armor
Unit Historian Officer

APPROVED BY


JAMES G. LUCAS
Captain, Armor
Commanding

228-03

Vinh Long, Republic of Vietnam
APO 96357

* VHPA 208
Source MIKE O'Reilly

1970

COMMAND AND CONTROL:

8 January 1969 - 17 January 1969: MAJ Robert E. Stengle Jr.

18 January 1969 - 17 July 1969: CPT Ronald D. Grandel

18 July - 10 February 1970: CPT Charles R. Steiner

UNIT OPERATIONS:

1. During the period February through April Troop D provided perimeter security in the vicinity of Vinh Long, Chi Lang, Tri Ton and Moc Hoa. Convoy escort was provided between Vinh Long and Can Tho, Chi Lang and Tri Ton, Tri Ton and Vinh Long.
2. During this period all elements of Troop D were called upon to perform a variety of missions in the delta. Powder Valley elements were dispersed to such places as Tri Ton (WS005520) to provide perimeter security for C Battery 6/77th Artillery, Moc Hoa (XS030910) to provide internal security of the Moc Hoa project which was under construction, Chi Lang (WS020650) to provide airfield defense as well as provide illumination for the 69th Engineer element. On 15 March 1969 they provided illumination for a downed gunship at coordinates (WS015690). On 12 April 1970 the platoon mortar sections fired in support of the 7th Squadron when the Viet Cong launched a mortar and ground attack against the city of Vinh Long.
3. During the period May through July Troop D provided continuous perimeter security for Vinh Long Army Airfield in the vicinity of Vinh Long (XS039330) as well as convoy escort missions between Vinh Long and Can Tho, Vinh Long and Saigon. They were also OPCON to the 44th STZ providing fire support bases in the vicinity of Nha Tram, Ba Xoai, Chau Doc and Nui Giai (VS975-55). All throughout this period elements of Troop D were called upon in support of other units by means of perimeter security and fire support bases, such as Ba Xoai, Chau Doc and Nui Coto. On 22 July 1969 elements from the first platoon secured a downed aircraft at coordinates (XS034348) until it could be lifted back to its home base in the vicinity of Dong Tam (XS415430).
4. During the period August through October Powder Valley elements operated out of their base camp at Vinh Long. Much of their time was spent in convoy escort between Vinh Long and Can Tho as well as Dong Tam, Cai Lay, Cai To.

LINEAGE AND HONORS

7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry (1st Regiment of Dragoons)

Constituted on 2 March 1833 in the Regular Army as Company G, United States Regiment of Dragoons

Organized 16 January 1834 at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri

Redesignated 15 May 1836 as Company G, 1st Regiment of Dragoons

Redesignated 3 August 1861 as Company G, 1st Cavalry

(Cavalry companies officially designated as troops in 1883)

(1st Cavalry assigned to 15th Cavalry Division December 1917 - May 1918; assigned to 1st Cavalry Division 20 August 1921 - 3 January 1933)

Reorganized and redesignated 16 January 1933 as company G, 1st Cavalry Mechanized.

Reorganized and redesignated 15 July 1940 as company G, 1st Armored Regiment, an element of the 1st Armored Division

Disbanded 20 July 1944 in Italy

Reconstituted 28 March 1967 and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 7th Squadron, 1st Cavalry (organic elements concurrently constituted)

Activated 25 April 1967 at Fort Knox, Kentucky



The Shield: Tanne (Dragoon yellow) a dragoon passant. For informal use the escutcheon encircled with a sword belt sable buckled at the base with the belt plate of the Dragoons of 1836 bearing the regimental motto in base and First Cavalry in chief between two eight-pointed mullets of ray one on dexter side, the other on sinister. The crest is depicted on a wreath of the colors or tanne, a hawk rising with wings addorsed and elevated sable, langued and membered gules. The motto "Animo et fide" means Courageous and Faithful.

The regiment was organized in 1833 as the Regiment of United States Dragoons. Many of its officers and men came from the Battalion of Mounted Rangers that had taken part in the Black Hawk War, shown by the crest. The color of the Dragoons was orange, shown by the color of the shield, and the dragon is an allusion to the name Dragoon. The gold eight-pointed star on the encircling belt was the insignia of the Dragoons until 1851.

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The following is the annual unit history for Troop D, 7th Armored Squadron 1st Air Cavalry, Vinh Long Army Airfield, Republic of Vietnam, for the period 1 January 1969 thru 31 December 1969. The missions of Troop D are many and they are varied. They range from perimeter defense, convoy escort to airmobile assaults. Although the ground war in the Mekong Delta is largely being handled by the Vietnamese, Troop D continues to carry out its missions and takes great pride in being the only American ground unit in the Mekong Delta.

JAMES G. LUCAS
Captain, Armor
Commanding

5. During the period November through December, Troop D made 33 round trips between Vinh Long and Can Tho. On 16 November, two platoons were scrambled for an insertion at coordinates XR701631, where there was a suspected POW camp. On 22 November through 25 November two platoons were sent to Kien Giang Province (Cement Plant) for three days of fire support. Once again, on 7 December, Powder Valley troops were inserted at coordinates XR535586. They conducted a search of an enemy village resulting in the capture of documents and the destruction of numerous huts and bunkers.

EQUIPMENT:

Troop D is composed of one (1) headquarters platoon and three (3) line platoons. Each line platoon consists of: Scout Section (four 1/4 ton trucks with M-60 machine guns), Anti-Tank Section (two 1/4 ton trucks with 106 Recoilless Rifles), Infantry Section (one 3/4 ton truck with M-60 machine gun), Mortar Section (one 3/4 ton truck with 81MM mortar). The headquarters section is composed of one 1/4 ton truck. Headquarters Platoon consists of all personnel who work in the orderly room, unit supply, motor pool and the tactical operations center.

AWARDS AND DECORATIONS:

Bronze Star

1LT Cordell Burch
1LT Paul Shiffman
1LT Eliseo Baeza

Combat Infantryman's Badge

SP4 Thomas Daniel
SP4 Robert Stevenson
SP4 Francis Leverone
PFC Elmer Lee
PFC Joseph Hawn
SP4 Lonny Dilley
PFC Jose Colon
PFC Martin Gagliano
1SG Jimmie Fitts
PFC Robert Brooks
SP4 Jack Hoffman
SP4 Emmitt Kennerson

SP4 Rodger Haden
SP4 James Hamilton
SP4 Louis Dufresne
PFC Dockery Cecil
SP4 Leonard Goethie
SP4 Manuel Ramirez
SP4 George Cantrell
SP4 William Pixton
SP4 Esau Brown
SSG Willie Chrisholm
PFC Mark Chapman
SP4 Ronald Dixon