

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
62nd INFANTRY PLATOON (COMBAT TRACKER)
1st SQUADRON 9th CAVALRY
1st AIR CAVALRY DIVISION
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDAIP-CT

1 Sept 69

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL REPORT - MONTH OF AUGUST

TO: Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 9th Cavalry
ATTN: S-3
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO US Forces 96490

1. Significant organization and unit activities.

a. Principle operations: The platoon continued to support the division with three Combat Tracker Teams located at Phuoc Vinh, Quen Loi and Tay Ninh. Heaviest utilization of the teams is at present to provide intelligence information on ground probes and attacks at fire support bases.

1. Missions (total) for August	<u>13</u>
2. Missions (total) for Quarter	<u>36</u>

b. Other activities: NONE.

c. Base defense: Combat Tracker Teams have been used frequently to provide intelligence on the movement of enemy personnel from rocket sites, probes and contact sites in the Phuoc Vinh AO. (A.O. CHIEF)

d. Base improvements: N/A.

e. Training and organization: Due to the turnover of dog handlers this month, training scout, sentry and bloodhound handlers has been the principle training task of this Unit. Because of a shortage of qualified dog handlers instructors and a general lack of excess personnel to conduct training this particular phase of unit training has been hampered this month. The number of operational dog teams projected for 1 September is 1 team, with a second becoming operational by 7 September, and a third by 1 October.

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f. Administration and logistics:

1. Platoon strength-

<u>Authorized</u>			<u>Assigned</u>			<u>Present for Duty</u>		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
1	NA	22	1	NA	23	1	NA	23

2. Organization for Combat-

C.O. - 1LT RICHARD E. BAUMER
 P.S.G. - SSG RAY ADAMS
 T.L. - SGT HOWARD JOHNSON
 T.L. - SGT GARY COOK
 T.L. - SGT LAWRENCE DeROSIER
 T.L. - NONE

3. Awards and Decorations-

<u>AM</u>	<u>BS</u>	<u>BSV</u>	<u>ARCOM</u>	<u>PH</u>
0	2	0	1	3

4. Losses for August-

<u>Programmed</u>			<u>Unprogrammed</u>		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
0	NA	3	0	NA	0

5. Promotions-

<u>E7</u>	<u>E6</u>	<u>E5</u>	<u>E4</u>	<u>E3</u>
0	0	4	3	0

6. R & R-

<u>In-Country</u>	<u>Out-of-Country</u>
0	3

7. Replacements-

<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
NA	NA	5

8. Logistics-

- a. Class I
 Gaines Meal- 70lbs
 Gaines Burger-
 Horsemeat (Canned)

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8. b. Class II

Fatigues - 20 pr (camouflage)
Boats - 0
Seeks - 0

c. Class III

JP 4 -NA
MOGAS - 275 gal.
DISEL - NA

d. Class IV - NA

e. Class V

5.56mm - 1500
7.62mm - NA
40mm - NA
.38Cal- NA
.45Cal- NA
Smoke - 1 case
MLB Frag 1 case

2. Losses

a. Enemy	Month	Quarter Total
KIA	0	2
WIA	0	1
DET	0	0
POW	0	0
INDIV WPNS	0	3
C/S WPNS	0	0
AMMO	0	607 rds
DOC	0	2"
PACKS	0	1
RICE	0	300 lbs

b. Friendly	Month	Quarter Total
US KIA	0	8
US WIA	0	3
US MIA	0	0
DOG KIA	0	0
DOG WIA	0	0
DOG SICK	0	2
INDIV WPNS LOST	0	0
VEHICLES DEST(CT)	0	0
VEHICLES DEST(ACC)	0	0

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c. Merbundy (DOG/ Days non-operational)

1. NAME	PBN	No DAYS	REMARKS
BRUCE	5201	24	No Handler
LUCKY	B383	20	New Handler
SAMBO	5A15	18	No/ New Handler

2. Possible Days 93 (3 dogs)
Available days 31

3. Commander's comments:

The major problem encountered this month, as in the past, was the elapsed time from an actual contact, to when the mission was actually laid on. Many units do not realize that time is the biggest obstacle that Combat Tracker Teams encounter. Too many tracks were 7-10 hours old and the enemy exfiltrated before the team was even inserted. Additionally, in most cases, even with tracks two hours old, units are reluctant or unwilling to deviate from preplanned lines of march to pursue the enemy. Hence, the Combat Tracker Teams have only rarely been utilized to their true potential. The majority of the missions this month have involved "intelligence gathering" which is not the primary mission of the Trackers.

4. Recommendations:

It will be necessary to brief all Bn S-3's, and Brigade operations sections again on the utilization and employment of Combat Tracker Teams.

Richard E. Baumer
 RICHARD E. BAUMER
 1LT Infantry
 Commanding

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