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DAIM-FAR-RR #

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HEADQUARTERS
1ST SQUADRON 9TH CAVALRY
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
APO 96490

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

TO: Commanding General
1st Cav Div (AM)
ATTN: G3, D&T
APO 96490

1. Significant Organization and Unit Activities

a. Principle Operations

(1) All elements of the Squadron were fully operational in the III CTZ by the beginning of November. A Troop is located at TAY NINH WEST; B Troop is located at QUAN LOI; C Troop is located at PHOUC VINH. D Troop initially moved to PHOUC VINH and participated in Base Defense. On 18 Nov 68 they moved to QUAN LOI (LZ ANDY) to perform road reconnaissance and convey escort.

(2) A Troop closed at TAY NINH WEST on 2 Nov 68 and immediately returned to its role as "The Eyes and Ears" of the 1st Bde 1st ACD.

(3) Aerial reconnaissance of the AO has revealed significant enemy activity and led to numerous air strikes and A/C lights on enemy supply points and staging areas.

(4) During the month of November, A Trp accounted for 16 NVA KIA and 1 VC KIA. They had 22 aircraft firings and 4 aircraft sustained hits; however they all remained flyable.

(5) At the close of the month A Trp was conducting a Mini-Cav operation with C Company 1/5th Cav in AO BEAR.

(6) B Troop completed its portion of OPERATION LIBERTY CANYON by closing into QUAN LOI on 1 Nov 68.

(7) B Troop began support of OPERATION SHERIDAN SAERE on 1 Nov 68 by killing 4 VC, receiving fire 7 times with 1 aircraft down. This was characteristic of action throughout the month.

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AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968

(8) During November, E Troop conducted extensive reconnaissance of the border areas in the 3d Bde AO. They plotted the major trail networks and roads running from Cambodia into South Vietnam. Observations indicate that during the first part of the month, there was extremely heavy traffic, both foot and bicycle from the border area North of LOC NINH to the Southwest. During the middle of the month most of the movement appeared to be small units moving back to the North and West. During the latter part of the month heavy Southward movement was again indicated in the area North of LOC NINH.

(9) On 12 Nov 68, B Trp flew its first night visual reconnaissance mission utilizing a starlight scope mounted in a UH-1H. B Trp reported that they could effectively observe roads, rivers and open terrain at night. These missions should be very selective in that they do place a heavy burden on our resources.

(10) On 14 Nov 68 while on screening mission for the 1/12th an OH-6A from B Trp received intense automatic weapons fire; the pilot and observer were killed. The gunner who was only slightly wounded was medevaced by another OH-6A from B Trp.

(11) On 17 Nov 68 while screening for 1/12th an OH-6A observed an enemy ambush position toward which a friendly element was moving. The OH-6A killed 5 NVA and disabled a medium machinegun which was in the center of the ambush position. The remainder of the ambush, an estimated 40 to 50 NVA opened up with intensive automatic weapons fire. The OH-6A sustained 1 hit and had to land immediately. The armed helicopter covering the OH-6A put suppressive fire around the downed aircraft resulting in 6 additional NVA KEH.

(12) On 22 Nov 68 while on a general reconnaissance North of the LOC NINH rubber plantation, a small village was observed that did not appear normal. Closer examination revealed approximately 40 military age males and 25 bicycles in the village. C Trp 1 11th Armd Cav was notified and began moving into the area. The Armored Cav Troop made heavy contact killing well over 60 NVA on 27 Nov 68. B Trp 1/9th Cav provided a continuous screen to the North of the contact area taking fire 5 times, killing 8 NVA and coordinating 3 airstrikes. Enemy casualties during this encounter was well over 150 NVA KIA.

(13) During the month of Nov 68 B Trp Blues were inserted 3 times, detaining 17 individuals who were all later classified as ICS.

(14) B Trp conducted 11 sniffer missions with 261 max readings. They received fire on 1 mission and engaged the area with artillery and airstrikes resulting in 11 KEA.

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968

(15) During the month of Nov 68 E Trp accounted for 42 NVA KIA, 12 VC KIA, 2 AK-47's destroyed and 115 enemy structures destroyed. Their casualties were 2 KIA and 3 minor WIA.

(16) C Troop was the last air Cav Trp to move South. They performed a dual role by supporting the Base Defense of Div Hqs and the 2d Ede with general reconnaissance.

(17) The Blues were inserted 3 times during the month resulting in 3 enemy KIA and 1 civil defendant captured.

(18) C Trp performed reconnaissance, insertion, screening and extraction of 9 Long Range Reconnaissance Patrols. 5 of these patrols were extracted under fire at night.

(19) Aero-scout teams accounted for 41 enemy KIA with their organic weapons and directed artillery resulting in 2 KIA. C Trp also coordinated air strikes which killed 24 enemy soldiers, destroyed numerous structures and interdicted enemy supply routes.

(20) C Trp conducted 2 night reconnaissance missions utilizing a large starlight scope which proved to be effective.

(21) D Troop completed their move to PHOUC VINH on 5 Nov 68 and were on stand down for maintenance and worked on their living quarters until 11 Nov 68.

(22) 12-19 Nov 68 D Trp performed Search and Clear, and reconnaissance missions in the PHOUC VINH area.

(23) On 19 Nov 68, D Trp was placed OPCON to the 23d Group II Field Force Artillery and moved to LZ SHIRLEY (Vic AN LOC). They retained the OPCON status for the remainder of the month.

(24) The month of December showed a decrease in enemy activity.

(25) A Trp continued to support the 1st Ede and accompanied the Ede into a new TAOR designated AO NAVAJO WARHORSE in the vicinity of CU CHI.

(26) Sampan and foot traffic was observed along the Saigon River Northeast of TAY NINH. Several small ammo caches were found by the Trp and exploited by Ede elements.

(27) During the month of December A Trp accounted for 3 NVA KIA and 21 VC KIA. They had 20 aircraft firings with 1 sustaining a hit.

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

(28) E Trp continued to support the 3d Bde in OPERATION SHENIDAN-SAREE. The most significant aspect of this month's operations was the increased availability and utilization of Tactical airstrikes. E Trp coordinated air strikes on 21 targets resulting in 131 enemy killed, 50 probable killed and 109 bunkers destroyed.

(29) The Trp conducted 13 sniffer missions with 451 max readings.

(30) E Trp aircraft accounted for 46 NVA KIA and 10 VC KIA. They had 25 aircraft firings and 3 aircraft were hit.

(31) C Trp provided extensive reconnaissance in the 2d Bde AO. They also supported the Div Hqs Base Defense on 3 operations as well as providing a daily first light and last light reconnaissance around PHOUC VINH.

(32) The Arco-Rifle Platoon was inserted twice during the month. On one of the insertions, the mission was to retrieve a downed aircraft belonging to the 2d Bde. The aircraft was secured, rigged and extracted from hostile territory within 10 minutes. The Platoon was also inserted to recover the bodies of three fallen comrades.

(33) On 29 December 1968 an OH-6A was flying in the vicinity of the "Fishhook" along the Cambodian border; the aircraft received an intense amount of small arms and automatic weapons fire. The aircraft was hit and downed. All three crew members were killed.

(34) C Trp inserted 9 IRRP Teams during the month and extracted 6 Teams under fire at night.

(35) Arco-scout teams accounted for 78 enemy killed with their organic weapons and directed artillery resulting in 6 more KIA.

(36) During the month C Trp had 55 aircraft firings; 16 aircraft were hit (2 by incoming mortar rounds). 2 aircraft were destroyed by combat.

(37) 1 Dec 68 D Trp continued its road missions out of THUNDER IV while being OPCON to 3d Bde. The Red Platoon made contact with an estimated two squads of enemy troops while screening for a convoy between AN LOC and LOC NINH. They received 3 to 9 rounds of RPG fire, plus a heavy volume of small arms fire. Three personnel were wounded, only one requiring medevac. E Trp engaged with rockets and artillery was requested. A quick search of the area resulted in negative findings.

(38) 4 Dec 68, D Trp was released from OPCON 3d Bde and returned to PHOUC VINH and became OPCON to 2/5th Cav. The Trp was OPCON to 2/5th for the remainder of the month and conducted ambushes and search and clear operations in the vicinity of PHOUC VINH.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

(39) During the month of Jan 69 A Trp continued to support the 1st Bde, concentrating their reconnaissance in the SHENIDAN SARE AO. They performed reconnaissance in the NAVAJO WAREHOUSE AO on a mission request basis.

(40) In the latter part of the month A Trp Blues were inserted 3 times along the Saigon River to check bunker complexes for possible caches. Results of these actions were 4 VC KIA and 1 VC POW. Numerous bunkers and sampans were destroyed.

(41) For the month A Trp accounted for 5 NVA KIA and 13 VC KIA. They sustained 2 US KIA and 5 US WIA. They had 7 aircraft firings with 1 aircraft being hit.

(42) During the month of January, B Trp continued in general support of 3d Bde. Observations indicate that the enemy continues to move through the 3d Bde AO. Major contacts continue to occur along the same general infiltration route in an area approximately ten kilometers East of the SONG IL. They will continue to monitor this area closely, particularly the portion to the East and Southeast of QUAN LOI.

(43) Tactical Air Strikes continued to be utilized. B Trp put in a total of 39 strikes during the month.

(44) During the month of Jan 69, B Trp conducted 17 sniffer missions resulting in 567 max readings.

(45) B Trp operations for the month accounted for the following:

ENEMYFRIENDLY

NVA KIA	106
VC KIA	17
Detainees	14
VC Captured	2
Indiv Wpns	3
C/S Wpns	1
Ammunition	200 rds

US WIA	1
A/C Firings	32
A/C Hit	4
A/C Hit (fly)	2
A/C Hit (no fly)	2
A/C Dest (non-cbt)	2

(46) C Trp continued its reconnaissance throughout the 2d Bde AO and supported Base Defense at PHOU VINH with daily reconnaissance.

(47) The Aero-Rifle platoon was inserted 4 times during the month; on 2 occasions their mission was to secure downed aircraft.

(48) In the area South of the "Fishhook" C Trp maneuvered a friendly element into a large ammo cache. The ground unit estimated 30 tons of ammo was air lifted by CH-47 out of the area.

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

(49) Aviators of C Trp accounted for 74 enemy killed with organic weapons. They also adjusted artillery resulting in 2 enemy killed and 10 secondary explosions.

(50) C Trp directed 31 Tactical Air Strikes resulting in 13 enemy killed and numerous bunkers and supply points destroyed.

(51) D Trp remained OPCON to 2/5th until 14 Jan 69. At this time the Trp became OPCON to 3d Ede.

(52) 15 Jan 69, D Trp again moved to QUAN LOI where they performed various missions for Base Defense at LZ ANDY.

(53) At the close of the quarter all air cav trps were supporting their normal Edes and D Trp was again OPCON to the 3d Ede.

(54) Summary of losses for the quarter are as follows:

(a) Enemy losses:	NVA KIA	480
	VC KIA	74
	NVA Cptd	1
	VC Cptd	2
	Detainees	48
	Wpns Cptd	13
	Rice	75 lbs
	Documents	3 1/2 "
	Ammo	204 rds
	Pack	1

(b) Friendly Losses:	US KIA	8
	US WLA	48
	US MIA	3
	A/C Firings	255
	A/C Hit	46
	A/C Fly	16
	A/C No Fly	26
	A/C Dest	12

b. Other Activities

(1) Base Defense

(a) During the quarter, the squadron manned 4 bunkers and 1 tower nightly, plus an additional tower during the day, while maintaining control of Red Sector Base Defense of PHOUC VINH.

AVD-RS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operations Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

(b) Red Sector consisted of 10 bunker frames when it was taken over by the Squadron. Since then, the bunkers have been sandbagged and modified both inside and out. Three new towers have been put up and sandbagged; 1500 meters of outer fence, tangle foot and apron wire have been emplaced. Wire standoffs were put up in front of each bunker and 33 fugas obstacles have been installed. A sector ASP was constructed, a guard SOP was published and the RRF platoon was established.

(2) Base Improvement.

(a) During the quarter, a new Squadron Tactical Operations Center was constructed, the Squadron messhall was painted and 1 shower and 1 latrine was installed.

(b) All troops concentrated on police of individual areas and flight lines to preclude FOD from occurring to the aircraft.

(3) Civil Action. During the quarter the Squadron Chaplain was responsible for delivering fuel and assorted candles to the orphanage, in addition, having the main generator repaired.

(4) Training and Organization.

(a) A new Training SOP was published and implemented. Troop ladder training was conducted for the Squadron medical personnel. The gas chamber and rifle range was utilized by the Squadron during the quarter.

(b) The Squadron continued to conduct aviation training on a priority basis due to the rapid changeover to OH-6A and AH-1G aircraft.

(c) Administration and Logistics.

(1) SI Activities.

(a) During the last quarter the Squadron processed 186 incoming personnel and 184 outgoing personnel including 30 unprogrammed losses resulting in a net gain of 2 personnel. The most critical shortage of personnel continued to be 11B MOS's.

(b) During the quarter the following enlisted promotions were made:

4 to E7
17 to E6
101 to E5
158 to E4

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Period Ending 31 January 1969

(c) During the quarter the following awards were presented:

SS	4
DFC	20
BS W/V	24
AM W/V	25
ACM W/V	51

(d) The Squadron utilized 187 R&R allocations during the quarter.

(2) S4 Activities.

(a) Logistical support continued to improve during the quarter. Various essential items, i.e. Nomex Flying Suits and gloves, vehicles, GRC-106 radios, etc. were received. A convoy was established to pick up supplies at 15th S&S, EIEN HOA.

(b) Critical items of supply shortages exists for fire extinguishers (all types), armor aircrewman, helmets (flying) and truck 1/4 ton.

(c) Shortage of H227 rockets was a problem area, it is anticipated that a shortage of H490 rockets will develop due to the allocation change to the ASR.

(3) Aircraft Maintenance.

(a) During the quarter, Squadron aircraft maintenance personnel inspected all troop elements and made recommendations as to the methods to be utilized in improving maintenance.

(b) A total of 19 aircraft were either turned in or picked up.

(c) Squadron maintenance personnel presented T&E&S classes to all aviation mechanics.

2. Commander's Observations and Recommendations.

a. Part I - Observations (Lessons Learned).

(1) Personnel. None.

AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

(2) Operations.

ITEM: Employment of "Tac Air".

DISCUSSION: Throughout the quarter, "Tac Air" has been very successfully employed by the Squadron. This has been particularly true when the troops have been performing aerial reconnaissance in areas distant from friendly forces on the ground. On such missions, clearance to fire can be obtained for large areas and "Tac Air" can be employed on targets of opportunity as they are found. This method of employment contributed greatly to the 238 KEA's accounted for by "Tac Air" employed by the Squadron during the quarter.

OBSERVATIONS: In order to exploit the unique capability of the Air Cavalry Squadron to successfully employ "Tac Air", the Squadron should be allocated three preplanned air strikes per day as long as good targets are available. This would enable each troop to employ one air strike per day. The primary advantages of these preplanned air strikes for the Squadron are as follows:

(a) It enables the troops to plan their visual reconnaissance (VR) in conjunction with the air strike, thereby minimizing the time spent solely for the purpose of employing the "Tac Air". Currently, the great majority of preplanned air strikes are being allocated to the Brigades. Many of these are subsequently being employed by the 1/9th at the Brigade's request. Not having a foreknowledge of the frag times of these strikes, it requires a complete mission be flown for the sole purpose of locating a target for the air strike.

(b) It enables the troops to plan their VR's in remote areas at times which correspond to the preplanned strikes. This in effect, provides an aircap which is always desirable and often necessary on missions of this type.

(c) It insures that prompt and accurate BDA's of the air strikes are performed. This has often resulted in significant findings which would have gone unobserved if air strikes had not opened the canopy, or if the enemy had been given time to clear and camouflage the area after the strike.

(3) Training and Organization. Same as last quarter.

(4) Intelligence. None.

(5) Logistics. None.

DECLASSIFIED

DAIM-FAR-RR #

19 enm

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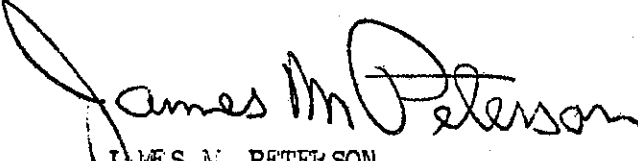
AVDARS-3

4 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1969

b. Part II - Recommendations.

- (1) Personnel. None.
- (2) Operations. None.
- (3) Intelligence. Same as last quarter.
- (4) Training and Organization. Same as last quarter.
- (5) Logistics. None.


JAMES M. PETERSON
LTC ARMOR
COMMANDING