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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
TROOP D, 1ST SQUADRON (AIRMObILE), 9TH CAVALRY
1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION
APO 96490

AVDARS-D

31 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Month of October 1969

Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 9th Cavalry
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)

1. Significant Organizational and Unit Activities:

a. Two platoons (2nd & 3rd), and Command Group Troop D, (-), continued in operational control of the 2nd Brigade at FSB Buttons, conducting base defense, mounted and dismounted reconnaissance, convoy security, check point control with Vietnamese National Police and search missions.

b. One platoon (-), (1st platoon), continued operational control to the Third Brigade at Quan Loi as base defense in control of the Red Sector of the base perimeter.

c. Principle Operations:

1 October 1969: At 1120 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU157121. From this location the 2nd platoon conducted a dismounted recon 500 meters in each direction along the river. At YU159121 the 2nd platoon received 18 rounds of small arms, fired from an ARVN out post. The ARVNS thought they were shooting at VC, D Troop (-), did not return fire and had no casualties, this was reported to the 2nd Brigade. At this same location the Troop spotted 2 sampans moving down the river but could not get the National Police to check them out. At 1400 hours the Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU 198081, from this location the 3rd platoon conducted a dismounted recon to the South with no report of enemy activity.

2 October 1969: At 0930 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU 127023, there they set up the 81mm mortar tube and fired to the south in the area of YU1099, YU1499, to YU1098 and 1498 at suspected enemy locations, and agent reports. A C Troop 1/9th Pink Team (LOH and Cobra), started to BDA the impact area but was called to another mission. The Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1450 and were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade the remainder of the day.

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3 October 1969: At 0930 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to L.Z. Janet, there they set up the 81mm mortar tube and fired to the west into the block YU0512, YU0492, YU0509 and YU0909. They fired into suspected enemy locations and for the purpose of crew drill. BDA by C Troop 1/9th Cav found 1 trail with negative recent use.

4 October 1969: At 0516 and 0533 hours Phuoc Vinh received incoming with negative casualties or damage in D Troop area. At 1105 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU196998 to fire the 81mm mortar. At YU195011 the troop (-), found a suspected anti tank mine in the form of a tree 2 1/2 feet high. An EOD team was called to check it out, but the team did not show up. The suspected mine turned out not to be a mine. At 1550 hours D Troop (-), established a logger position at YU185033. LTC Booth (Squadron Commander), is at this location having a conference with CPT Hudson. D Troop (-), did not fire their 81mm mortars today because of the suspected mine and returned to FSB Buttons at 1655 hours.

5 October 1969: At 0240 hours FSB Buttons received 30 rounds of 60mm mortar, negative casualties or damage, D Troop (-), established a screen from 1040 hours to 1650 hours for the convoy going to FSB Buttons from Phuoc Vinh.

6 October 1969: D Troop (-), from 1030 to 1630 hours established a screen for a convoy coming from FSB Buttons and going to Phuoc Vinh. The Troop (-), occupied selected strong points at YU264037 and 209047. At 1100 hours an APC from the 11th ACR I Troop detonated an enemy mine at YU240064, shrapnel from the enemy mine struck SP4 Clariday in the forehead, he was treated at 2nd Brigade Aid Station, 2 stitches and returned to duty. As the medical APC from the 11 ACR was attempting to get to the disabled vehicle it ran over the rear of D-37, injuring SP4 Arnett (Left Shoulder Blade), and severely damaging the rear of D-37, it is being ECOD by 27th maintenance at Song Be to determine if it can be repaired.

7 October 1969: D Troop (-), today had a maintenance stand down on FSB Buttons. At 1430 hours an awards ceremony was held at FSB Buttons for awards earned on 14 September, SGT Salvador A Silva, Silver Star and SGT Mark W Bills Bronze Star "V". At 1830 hours FSB Buttons received approximately 17 rounds of 82mm mortar impacting outside of the perimeter between the 2nd and 3rd strands of wire. Direction of attack, azimuth of 10° negative casualties or damage from "Hostile Fires". At 2045 hours until morning, 10 persons from D Troop (-), secured a downed helicopter from C 227th at YU124081.

8 October 1969: At 0900 hours D Troop (-), and a Combat Tracker Team conducted a large 360° around FSB Buttons. At YU118081, the 3rd platoon found a five pound satchel charge, and blew it in place. At YU118093, they found an expended 90mm recoilless round. At 1230 hours the Troop (-), returned to FSB for QRE for C Troop 1/9th Cav infantry. At 2230 hours Phuoc Vinh received 4 rounds incoming, negative casualties or damage in D Troop area.

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9 October 1969: At 0900 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU144095 and established a CP at this location. The third platoon reconned dismounted to YU144113 and east and west along the stream, with no signs of recent activity. The CP moved from YU144095 to YU141084. The 2nd platoon while reconning dismounted south along the stream at YU137083 found a suspected mortar position 2 - 3 days old, 7" deep and 2 1/2' across. The Troop (-), closed FSB Buttons at 1630 hours. The 1st platoon's (2), 106 rr returned to Quan Loi from Bo Duc.

10 October 1969: Mission was to destroy a hooch southwest of FSB Buttons. At 0900 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon and mine sweep with mine detectors to YU098038. There they established a CP the 3rd platoon reconned dismounted northeast to YU105045 where they found the hooch and destroyed it with C-4, M-79 and small arms. The Troop (-), returned to FSB at 1500 hours.

11 October 1969: D Troop (-), at 0930 hours conducted a route recon to YU124093. From there the 2nd platoon reconned dismounted to the east. At YU136087 they found a suspected mortar position 3 weeks old at an intersection of 2 trails. The 3rd platoon reconned dismounted 500 meters to the north, no report of enemy activity. The Troop (-), returned to FSB at 1530 hours and were on base defense and QRF for the 2nd Brigade.

12 October 1969: At 0930 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU194091, established a CP and fire support position with 3rd platoon and two mortars. The 2nd platoon reconned dismounted south along a stream to YU203068 found no signs of recent activity. The troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1550 hours and were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade.

13 October 1969: From 1030 hours to 1625 hours D Troop (-), secured 3 check points for National Police. First check point at YU156121, no detainee's. Check point moved to YU172112, checked 2 sampans, no detainees. Troop D (-), conducted a route recon to YU185035 and secured 3rd check points for National Police, checked 2 trucks, 1 motor bike with no detainees.

14 October 1969: D Troop (-), remained on FSB Buttons today, the 2nd platoon's mortar sections took a mortar examination. The Troop (-), was also on base defense and QRF for the 2nd Brigade.

15 October 1969: At 0900 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU090034, established a CP and fire support position with 2nd platoon and two mortars. The 3rd platoon reconned dismounted to the north and followed a recently used trail by 4 individuals moving south. Mortar rounds were fired into the area to block these individuals. The third platoon continued pursuit with negative results. Troop D (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1730 hours.

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16 October 1969: D Troop (-), remained on FSB Buttons today for a maintenance stand down. The Troop (-), was also on base defense and QRF for the 2nd Brigade.

17 October 1969: At 0900 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU109098. At YU108098 they picked 2 individuals moving north. They had with them 3 days supply of rice and 6 packs of cigarettes. They were taken by D Troop (-), to 2nd Brigade at FSB for interrogation. The 2nd platoon reconned dismounted south to YU108096 found 3 bunkers with 2' overhead cover, destroyed bunkers with C-4. The 3rd platoon reconned dismounted 500 meters to the west, no report of enemy activity. D Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1500 hours and were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade.

18 October 1969: D Troop (-), had a maintenance stand down today on FSB Buttons. The 27th Maintenance AIM Team TI'd the vehicles. At 2130 hours the 2nd platoon spotted 1 individual in wire engaged with small arms and M-79.

19 October 1969: At 0820 hours D Troop (-), and Tracker Team searched the area of last nights movement. At YU134072 found plastic bag containing 3 AK-47 magazines fully loaded, oiled and all preserved, also found blood and bandages one bottle of oil for weapon stock, bottle of oil for weapon and cleaning equipment, D Troop (-), was given credit for 1 enemy KIA due to last nights action.

20 October 1969: At 0900 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU 129090, established a CP with 3rd platoon. The 2nd platoon conducted a dismounted 360 degree around this location and found no signs of recent enemy activity. The Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1430 and were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade. At 2130 hours 3rd platoon night location, a trip flare went off engaged with M-79 and small arms, negative enemy assesment.

21 October 1969: The 2nd platoon remained on FSB Buttons to build bunkers. At 0830 hours 3rd platoon conducted a dismounted recon 500 meters to the South-east of FSB Buttons. The 3rd platoon found no signs of enemy activity and returned to FSB at 1445 hours and joined the 2nd platoon in building bunkers.

22 October 1969: The 3rd platoon remained on FSB Buttons to improve living areas. At 1300 hours 2nd platoon conducted a dismounted recon west of FSB Buttons. At 124074 2nd platoon found and destroyed 3 bunkers with 2 1/2 feet overhead cover. 2nd platoon returned to FSB Buttons at 1530 hours.

23 October 1969: The 3rd platoon remained on FSB Buttons to improve living areas. From 0900 hours to 1300 hours 2nd platoon secured 2 check points for the National Police. 1st check point at YU134064 took 4 detainees, 2 with improper ID's and 2 individuals in a lambretta carrying 100 105 cannisters. The 4 detainees were turned over to the National Police for interrogation. The 2nd check point at YU175113, no detainees taken. The 2nd platoon returned to FSB at 1345 hours. At 1530 hours an awards ceremony was held on FSB Buttons for awards earned on 13 and 14 Sept 69. At 2300 hours one of 2nd platoon's bunkers blew up, cause of explosion unknown, negative casualties.

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25 October 1969: At 1030 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU095106 set up the two 81mm mortars and fired to YU118117, YU116118, YU109118 YU106123, YU099119 and YU127130. There was no BDA of impact area. The Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1430 hours.

26 October 1969: At 1000 hours D Troop (-), established a screen between YU134064 and YU100034 for an ARVN unit working to the North and West. At this location D troop (-), found 5 trails crossing the road used by 2, 3 individuals in the last 8 hours. At YU102043 D Troop (-), found 125 bunkers 8, 12 months old, bunkers running parallel to the road, 75% of the bunkers had never been destroyed by an airstrike, 2 bunkers showed signs of use the night before, small amounts of rice was found in the bunkers. The 2nd platoon destroyed the bunkers. The troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1625 hours.

27 October 1969: The 2nd platoon remained on FSB Buttons for maintenance also base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade. At 1030 hours the 3rd platoon secured a check point for the National Police at YU174113 with no detainees taken. The 3rd platoon returned to FSB at 1500 hours.

28 October 1969: At 2030 hours the 2nd platoon was scrambled to secure a downed helicopter 400 meters west of FSB Buttons. They remained at this location until 1400 hours then returned to fire base Buttons. At 0700 hours part of the 2nd platoon provided security for 2 artillery pieces to FSB Alvarado, established a blocking force at YU105042 for an ARVN unit working from the north with negative contact.

29 October 1969: D Troop (-), had a maintenance stand down on FSB Buttons also were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade.

30 October 1969: D Troop (-), had a maintenance stand down on FSB Buttons also were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade.

31 October 1969: D Troop (-), provided security for a convoy from FSB Buttons to Song Be Bridge south of Phuoc Vinh. D Troop (-), was then released by 5/7th Cav and returned to Phuoc Vinh and became OPCON to DIVARTY 3rd platoon pulled last light around Phuoc Vinh.

b. Other Activities
None

c. Base Defense

During the month of October Troop D (-), conducted day and night operations around Song Be for the purpose of security around the FSB. The troop at night was utilized as security around an artillery element and in the revetment.

d. Base Improvements

During the month of October Troop D continued to improve living conditions and fighting positions at FSB Buttons, Quan Loi and Phuoc Vinh. A secure area for disbursing of mail was established.

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Training and Organization

10 Oct 69 Rigging class, attended by SGT Kielbasa, SGT Parkhill
SGT Gardner, SP4 Barber

15 Oct 69, Mortar crew tested, 2nd and 3rd platoon mortar crew

26 Oct 69, Fire fighting procedures, SGT Gardner, SGT Parkhill
SGT Kielbasa, SP5 Foster, SP4 Barber, and SP4 Pearce.

Two individuals attended the Combat Leaders Course.

f. Administration and Logistics

(1) Authorized Assigned Present for Duty

OFF WO EM
5 N/A 127

OFF WO EM
5 N/A 119

OFF WO EM
4 N/A 113

(2) Organization for Combat

CO	CPT Hudson
XO	1LT Lowe
Opns Off	N/A
1st Plt	1LT Cullen
2nd Plt	1LT Hahn
3rd Plt	1LT Ross
Lift Section	N/A
Maint Section	N/A

(3) Awards and Decorations

Silver Star	2
Bronze Star "V"	4
Bronze Star	0
Air Medal	31
Purple Heart	3
ARCOM	14
ARCOM "V"	23

(4) Losses

OFF WO EM
0 N/A 12

Un-programmed losses

OFF WO EM
1 N/A 2

(5) Promotions

E-6	0
E-5	3
E-4	16

(6) R&R

In-Country	2
Out-Country	5

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(7) Replacements

OFF	WO	EM
0	N/A	6

(8) Logistics

(a) Class I

Class A	9,610 meals
Class B	None
Class C	3,844 meals

(b) Class II

Fire extinguishers, water	5
Fire extinguisher, chemical	15
M-79 Carrying Vests	45

(c) Class III

JP-4	N/A
AVGAS	N/A
MOGAS	4000 gal
DIESEL	250 gal

(d) Class IV

None

(e) Class V

5.56	1300
7.62	3000
40mm	300
60mm	None
81mm	81
106mm	9
50 Cal Spotter	9
Frag	0
Claymores	4
M-72	0
Smoke Grenade	34
Signal Ill.	6
Trip Flares	

2. Losses

a. Enemy

NVA KIA	1	1
VC KIA	0	0
NVA Captured	0	0
VC Captured	0	0
Detainees	0	0

Month

Quarter

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Losses (Cont)

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
C/S Weapons	0	0
Indiv Weapons	0	0
Ammunitions	90 rds AK-47	90 rds AK-47
Documents	0	0
Packs	0	0
Uniforms	0	0
Rice	0	0
Salt	0	0
Grenades	0	0
Booby Traps	0	0

<u>b. Friendly</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
US KIA	0	0
US WIA	0	0
US MIA	0	0
A/C Firings	N/A	N/A
A/C Hits	N/A	N/A
A/C Hit (No Fly)	N/A	N/A
A/C Dest (Non Combat)	N/A	N/A
Indiv Wpns Lost	0	0
C/S Wpns Lost	0	0
Vehicles Dest (Combat)	0	0
Vehicles Dest (Accident)	0	0
Vehicles Turned In	2	2

3. Commanders Comments

Discussion

A Combat Tracker Team was made available to the troop for most of the reporting period. This Team was used extensively by this troop and OPCON elements of the 2nd Brigade. The Combat Tracker Team proved extremely helpful and contributed to NVA kills for the 2nd Brigade.

4. Recommendations

A Combat Tracter Team be on quick reaction for this troop to exploit contact on fresh trails or signs found during our reconnaissance.

Andrew J. Hudson
ANDREW J. HUDSON
Captain, Armor
Commanding

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