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

AVDARS-D

30 September 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Month of September 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 D Troop (-) continued in operational control of the 5th Battalion, 7th Cavalry up to the 27th of September at 0700 hrs, at which time D Troop (-) became a COG to the 2nd Brigade at FIB 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. The two (2) 106 recoilless rifles of the 1st platoon were under operational control of the 1st Battalion 7th Cavalry and 1st Battalion 8th Cavalry respectively at Bo Dap during periods of (1/7-17Aug-20Aug69, 24Aug-18Sep69) (1/8-18Sep-30Sep69) with primary mission of security of the water point positioned at H979291 and base defense of Bo Dap.

d. Two (2) 106 recoilless rifles, one each of the second and third platoon provided base defense of Nui Ba Ra from 21Aug69 to 17Sep69.

e. Principle Operations:

1 September 1969: On the night of 31 August at approximately 1130 hours, suspected enemy activity was engaged at YU142083 with 81mm mortar fired from L.E. Buttons by the 3rd platoon 81mm mortar. D Troop (-) at 0300 hours conducted a search of the area with negative enemy assessments.

2 September 1969: D Troop (-) was on maintenance stand down concurrently with base defense of Song Bo.

3 September 1969: The 3rd platoon resupplied water and mail to A Company 5th Battalion 7th Cavalry from 1015 to 1135 hours. At 1030 hrs, the 2nd platoon made a dismounted patrol on the east side of Nui Ba Ra within 300 meters of the top with no reported enemy activity in the area.

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4 September 1969: At 1150, the 3rd platoon provided security for B Company 5/7 from Song Be to L.Z. Buttons. At 1348 D Troop moved out to conduct a route reconnaissance from YU127055 to YU055000. At YU078025 the 2nd platoon captured a Honda motorbike hidden along side the road camouflaged with bamboo. At YU063011 the Troop found a B-40 rocket under and partially covered by an ammo can lid, and took it back to L.Z. Buttons to be analyzed along with the motorbike. At 1506 hours, Quan Loi received 5 rounds incoming with negative casualties or damage.

5 September 1969: At 0945 D Troop (-) provided security for a D Company 5/7 element at YU202051 until G Troop 2/11 ACR came to pick them up at 1521 hours, D Troop (-) then sent out dismounted patrols from YU205-068 along a stream 200 meters in both directions with no report of enemy activity. At 1038 hours this morning Bo Dup received incoming mortars. Three individuals from D Troop's 1st platoon were wounded (SGT Risselada and PFC Fontanez who were medevaced and PFC Sullivan.)

6 September 1969: At 1205 hours, D Troop (-) conducted a route reconnaissance 1.5km north of L.Z. Mary with no report of enemy activity. At 1800 hours the 3rd platoon made a last light around L.Z. Buttons.

7 September 1969: From 1028 to 1700 hours D Troop (-) set up a blocking position at YU263009 with negative contact for a Company of ARVN's who were sweeping the area from the northeast.

8 September 1969: At 1526 D Troop (-) provided mounted security for the 1st platoon of E Co. 5/7 to YU217046 with negative enemy contact.

9 September 1969: From 1025 to 1250 hours D Troop (-) established a check point with the Vietnamese National Police at YU207058 and from 1300 to 1449 hours established another check point at YU224043. Results of the check points were 7 detainees with no I's. The detainees were turned over to the National Police who took them to Song Be for interrogation.

10 September 1969: D Troop (-) secured for a Medcap of Ad Phuoc Qua Hamlet at YU184035 from 1030 to 1240 hours.

11 September 1969: D Troop (-) provided mounted security for a convoy to the vicinity of L.Z. Mary, then at 1050 hours from YU263008 the Troop operated a mobile screen to YU250030. At 1200 hours the 3rd platoon at YT-276984 found an east-west trail used in the past 12-24 hours.

12 September 1969: At 0120 hours L.Z. Buttons (not in D Troop area) received AR-17 fire and 14 rounds incoming mortars with negative casualties or damage. At 1242 hours, D Troop (-) established check points at YU203073 and YU198038 with no detainees taken.

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13 September 1969: At 0910 D Troop (-) provided mounted security for an ARVN convoy to the vicinity of L.Z. Mary then at YU253027 conducted a mobile screen to the east. At 1335 hours, the 3rd platoon at YT275984 received RPG, automatic weapon and small arms fire. D Troop (-) returned fire with small arms, automatic weapons and 81mm mortars and called in artillery, ARA, and airstrikes. Contact broke at 1405 hours with no friendly casualties. The Troop (-) made a sweep of the area after the air strikes and found 4 bunkers with 2 feet overhead cover freshly dug, 2 sacks of rice 1 RPG round and 1 B-40 rocket. D Troop (-) destroyed all: bunkers, rice and rockets.

14 September 1969: D Troop (-) had completed a convoy security mission to L.Z. Nancy. At L.Z. Nancy D Troop (-) and the attached platoon were moving on highway 311 south enroute to vicinity of L.Z. Mary to establish a screen and later to secure an L.Z. for A Co. 5/7 for a Combat Assault. In response to the reconnaissance by fire, the enemy was forced to return fire causing a premature disclosure of a re-inforced NVA Battalion sized ambush. The enemy opened fire at 1145 hours in the vicinity of YT253012 with RPG's, B-40's, automatic weapons, individual weapons and mortars. Five vehicles were hit by RPG's, D-23 and D-26 were destroyed on each side of the road and RASH 21 adjusted 2 airstrikes on the area. Helicopter gunships from 227 Assault Aviation Battalion (Blue Max) expended. G Troop 2nd Squadron, 11 Armored Cavalry (TUFFS) layed down suppressive fire and 5/7's Command Control helicopter expended. Contact was broken at 1500 hours. There were sections of Blue Max expended. Six (6) helicopter gun ships from C Troop 1/9 and 3 air strikes. D Troop (-) had 1 KIA (SGT Skidgel) and 10 MIA's, 4 of which were medevaced (SP4 Baxter (2nd platoon sergeant) SP4 Boals, SP4 Jones and SP4 Britzius) D Troop (-) was credited with 15 enemy KIA's. A Co. 5/7 searched the immediate contact area and found one command bunker, 8 bunkers and a mortar pit.

15 September 1969: At 1507 hours, D Troop (-) provided security for 5/7's S-4 Officer and a load of PSP to L.Z. Nancy with negative contact. A Co. 5/7 found 60 more bunkers in D Troop (-) contact area of yesterday, 30 with overhead cover. The positions were for 1 to 3 men each and had been hit by artillery/airstrike.

16 September 1969: At 1330 hours memorial services were held for SGT Skidgel by Chaplain Simons, Squadron Chaplain. At 1900 hours, D Troop (-) completed their security mission of A Co 2/12 from L.Z. Don to L.Z. Nancy with negative contact.

17 September 1969: At 0850 the 3rd platoon had a security mission to L.Z. Nancy with negative contact. The 2nd platoon at 0900 secured for a Redcap at YU116088. At 1149 the 2nd and 3rd platoon's 106 Recoilless Rifles were returned to L.Z. Buttons from Nui Ba Ra and remounted on vehicles. At 1300 D Troop (-) found 20 mortars in the center of L.Z. Mary. The suspected TOC sight of the enemy fighting positions of the 14th Sept. Rounds were blown in place by C Troop 1/9 Infantry platoon.

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18 September 1969: The 1st platoon's two 106 Recoilless Rifles at Bo Lap are now OPCON to 1/8. At 1036, D Troop (-) conducted a route reconnaissance to L.Z. Nancy, test fired all weapons and conducted a route reconnaissance back to L.Z. Buttons with negative contact.

19 September 1969: D Troop remained on L.Z. Buttons for a maintenance stand down and base improvement, also as QRF for 5/7.

20 September 1969: At 0933 hrs, D Troop (-) departed L.Z. Buttons to conduct a mounted and dismounted reconnaissance north of the L.Z. The 2nd platoon conducted a mounted recon to YU144092 from this point, reconed dismounted to YU144103 with no report of enemy activity. The 3rd platoon conducted a dismounted reconnaissance to YU138087 with no report of enemy activity.

21 September 1969: The 2nd platoon provided security for CO, 2nd Brigade and CO, 5/7 to the village located at YU119034 at approximately 0900 hours. The 3rd platoon secured a check point at YU174033 for the National Police from 1000 to 1500. The 2nd platoon joined the 3rd platoon after completing their security mission. Results of the check point were one male detainee with improper I.D. He was turned over to the National Police who took him to Song Be for interrogation. Approximately 38 persons were checked and 32 vehicles were searched.

22 September 1969: The 2nd platoon remained on the L.Z. for the purpose of base improvement and QRF for 5/7. At 1040 hours, the 3rd platoon provided security for 5/7 S-3 officer to Song Be and also a small sized element from 5/7 to the firing range in Song Be. They returned to L.Z. Buttons at 1250 with negative contact. The remainder of the day was utilized for base defense and QRF for 5/7.

23 September 1969: The 2nd platoon secured for a Medcap of the village at YU122086 from 1000-1325 hrs. The 3rd platoon remained on the L.Z. for the purpose of base defense, area improvement and QRF for 5/7. At 1350 hours, D Troop (-) provided security for the 1st platoon of E Company 5/7 to YU112093 and returned to L.Z. Buttons at 1435 hours with negative contact.

24 September 1969: Troop D (-) departed L.Z. Buttons at 0930 hours and conducted a mounted recon to YU106042 where they sent a dismounted patrol to the South. At YU105040 they found signs of a night location used by signs of 2 or 3 individuals in the last 48 hours. The trails in the area showed no traces of recent activity. They continued their mounted recon to YU098038 and sent a dismounted patrol to the north. They found an east-west trail that showed no signs of recent use. The mounted reconnaissance was continued to YU089032 where a dismounted patrol was sent to the west. They found a north-south trail that showed no signs of recent activity. The Troop (-) returned to L.Z. Buttons at 1410.

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25 September 1969: Troop D (-), remained on L.Z. Buttons for base defense and QRF for 5/7 until 1500 hours at which they provided security for B Company 5/7 from Song Be to L.Z. Buttons with negative contact.

26 September 1969: Troop D (-), from 1000 hours secured a check point for the National Police at YU188038. Three buses and eight lambrettas were searched and six persons on motor bikes were checked. The remainder of the day Troop D (-), was on base defense and QRF for 5/7 at L.Z. Buttons.

27 September 1969: Troop D (-), at L.Z. Buttons as of 0700 hours today became QPCON to the 2nd Brigade. At 0930 hours D Troop (-), conducted a route recon to YU093035 where they established a blocking force for a company of ARVNS who were sweeping from the Southwest. Cavalier 28 was also reconning the area but had no significant findings. Troop D (-), returned to L.Z. Buttons at 1145 hours with negative findings. The Troop was on base defense and QRF for the 2nd Brigade the remainder of the day. A Combat Tracker Team is now attached to Troop D (-), at L.Z. Buttons.

28 September 1969: At 0930 hours Troop D (-), conducted a mounted reconnaissance to YU112094, from there to the 3rd Platoon conducted a dismounted reconnaissance 2 K.M. to the West. At YU095013 they found an area believed to be a night location used by 3 to 4 individuals in the last 3 to 4 days. They were unable to find any trails in the area due to the weather. They linked up with the 2nd Platoon, who were securing the vehicles at YU101101 and returned to the FSB Buttons at 1500. The Troop (-), was on base defense and QRF for the 2nd Brigade the remainder of the day.

29 September 1969: At 0930 hours the 2nd Platoon and a Combat Tracker Team were lifted, by chinook, to the top of Nui Ba Ra. They made a sweep down the North side of the mountain to YU197087 where the 3rd Platoon had reached the blocking force at 1745 hours, with no report of enemy activity. The Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1820 hours. The third platoon conducted a light around FSB Buttons.

30 September 1969: At 1050 hours Troop D (-), conducted a route recon to YU 197087 with no report of enemy activity. The Troop (-), returned to FSB Buttons at 1400 hours and were on base defense and QRF for 2nd Brigade the remainder of the day.

b. Other Activities
None

c. Base Defense

During the month of September 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 the rearmen.

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d. Base Improvements

During the month of September Troop D continued to improve living conditions and fighting positions at FSB Buttons.

e. Training and Organization

- 3 September 69, vehicle maintenance, all personnel.
- 5 September 69, Safe driving class, vehicles safety and driving test.
- 12 September 69, Mandatory weapons safety class.
- 13 September 69, Map reading class, selected individuals.
- 14 September 69, All weapons test fired, Escape and evasion class.
- 15 September 69, Replacement weapons test fired, selected personnel.
- 18 September 69, 107 Recoilless rifle test fired.

SGT Gardner attended the 3 day "Unit Small Arms Repair Course", given by 27th Maintenance Battalion. Three individuals attended the Combat Leaders Course. One individual attended "Sniper School".

f. Administration and Logistics

(1) Authorized	Assigned	Present for Duty
OFF WO EM	OFF WO EM	OFF WO EM
5 N/A 127	5 N/A 129	5 N/A 128

(2) Organization for Combat

CO	CPT Hudson
XO	1LT Lowe
Opns OFF	N/A
1st Plt	1LT Hahn (1-23 Sep) 1LT Cullen (29-30 Sep)
2nd Plt	1LT Cullen (1-28 Sep) 1LT Hahn (29-30 Sep)
3rd Plt	1LT Ross
Lift Section	N/A
Maint Section	N/A

(3) Awards and Decorations

Silver Star
Bronze Star "V"

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Awards and Decorations (cont)

Bronze Star	6
Air Medal	8
Purple Heart	10
ARCOM	1
ARCOM "V"	2

(4) Losses

Un-programmed Losses

OFF WO EM

OFF WO EM

0 N/A 3

0 N/A 1

(5) Promotions

E6	0
E5	3
E4	5

(6) R&R

In-Country 1

Out-Country 6

(7) Replacements

OFF WO EM

0 N/A 7

(8) Logistics

(a) Class I

Class A 10,500 meals

Class B None

Class C 4,200 meals

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(b) Class II

3/4 Ton Trucks	1
1/4 Ton Truck	3
VRC/46 Radio Set	3
Compass, Magnetic Lensatic	6
XM-28 Gas Mask	140
M-79 Grenade Launcher	16
M-60 Machine gun	12
Ruck Sack, Nylon	108

(c) Class III

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

(d) Class IV

None

(e) Class V

5.56mm	21,050
7.62	14,400
40mm	819
60mm	None
81mm	422
106mm	69
Grenade Frags	

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Class V (cont)

Grenade Hand Offensive 40

Claymores None

M-72 None

2. Losses

a. <u>Enemy</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
NVA KIA	15	15
VC KIA	0	1
NVA Captured	0	0
VC Captured	0	0
Detainees	8	98
C/S Weapons	0	0
Indiv Weapons	0	0
Ammunitions	21	102
Documents	1"	2"
Packs	0	0
Uniforms	0	0
Rice	61b	61b
Salt	0	0
Grenades	1	2
Booby Traps	1	4

b. <u>Friendly</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
US KIA	1	2
US WIA	13	
US MIA	0	

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Losses (cont)

<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
A/C Firings	N/A	N/A
A/C Hit	N/A	N/A
A/C Hit (No Fly)	N/A	N/A
A/C Dest (Combat)	N/A	N/A
A/C Dest (Non Combat)	N/A	N/A
Indiv Wpns Lost	0	4
C/S Wpns Lost	0	0
Vehicles Dest (Combat)	2	3
Vehicles Dest (Accident)	0	0
Vehicles Turned In	2	5

3. Commanders Comments

Discussion

When the Troop is employed in a screening or other security mission it must be recognized that a re-inforcement unit must be available. The organization is intended for an economy of force and to detect and maintain contact with the enemy. The Troop is not designed to conduct mounted assaults.

4. Recommendations

With intense consideration given to the enemy capabilities, that this Troop realign itself with an organization to conduct mounted assaults in the form of CAVS. Further with the new organization all other Cavalry missions can be accomplished with no change in the degree of professional competence or aggressiveness Troop D now enjoys.

Andrew Hudson
 ANDREW J. HUDSON
 Captain, Armor
 Commanding
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