

TRCOP B  
1ST SQUADRON (AIRMObILE), 9TH CAVALRY  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMObILE)  
APO SF CALIF. (US FORCES) 96490

AVDARS-D

30 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Month of August 1969

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

1. Significant Organizational and Unit Activities:

a. Principle Operations (Base Defense and security of Song Be with the use of day area and route reconnaissance and night maneuvers in and around the LZ and Phuoc Long Province chief's estate).

1 August 1969: While conducting a route recon, a jeep at YU205068 hit a mine resulting in one slight MIA. The type of mine was undetermined and the route recon continued with no further incidents.

2 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a route and area recon in the vicinity of YU1811, with no reports of enemy activity.

3 August 1969: Savage elements found a trail in grids YU0415 and YU0416 which was used by 6 to 10 individuals moving north in the last two hours.

4 August 1969: Savage elements set up a road check, and picked up 2 ARVN's without ID cards and a CID member with a carbine and severe burns. The individuals were released.

5 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a bridge recon at YU1811, with no reports of enemy activity in the area.

6 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a recon around the base of Nui Ba Ra with no reports of enemy activity.

7 August 1969: Savage elements, while set up as a blocking force for a Combat Assault at YU09143, found at YU137140 a trail which showed recent use by 8 individuals.

8 August 1969: Savage elements, while conducting a route recon, found at YU201113 a fire-cracker round, believed to have been set.

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8 August 1969: (cont) a mine. Savage elements continued 600 to 700 meters further and conducted an area recon because the bridge was out. At 2230 hours, Savage elements moved outside the LZ to secure for Blue Max at the POL point where they received fire and engaged with small arms with negative assessment of enemy losses.

9 August 1969: Savage elements remained at the LZ and conducted a maintenance stand down.

10 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a recon to hill 269 with no reports of enemy activity.

11 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a recon to the ARVN compound in grid YU2403 which was hit the night before. This was the third compound checked out. Savage elements found a Chicom grenade and reported only minor damage to a bunker from a RPG round. At 1520 hours, Savage elements secured an LZ for Company B, 5/7th Cav on hill 269.

12 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a recon north of LZ Buttons and were scrambled to the bridge approximately 1 1/2 kilometers to the southwest of YU195135, where a VC company was suspected.

13 August 1969: Savage elements, while conducting a recon at YU144057, found a trail used by 20 individuals moving north. At YU147056 Savage elements found 2 graves that had been dug up a week earlier.

14 August 1969: Savage elements set up a blocking force at YU045143 for an Air Strike 7 kilometers to the northeast. While returning to the LZ at 1745 hours at YU095107, the CO of 5/7th Cav spotted an individual evading north across the road. The Blue Platoon engaged the area with small arms and received automatic weapons fire. The result of this action was 1 VC KIA for Blue Platoon and 1 VC KIA for Trp G, 2/11th ACR which was scrambled into the area, and no friendly casualties.

15 August 1969: Savage elements, while conducting a recon north-east of LZ Buttons, were informed by 2 ARVN's of a company of VC at YU192082. While checking this area, Savage elements received reports of punji pits and picked up 8 detainees who were released when the hamlet chief produced their cards. At 2200 and again at 2300 hours, the Blue Platoon was scrambled for the theft of Class I through IV on the air strip.

16 August 1969: Savage elements conducted a maintenance stand down and at 1500 hours became Opcon to the 2nd Brigade and remained Opcon to 5/7th Cav. At 1705 hours, Savage elements were scrambled for 5/7th in contact at YU219056.

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17 August 1969: The White Platoon at YU119045 picked up 2 detainees who were taken to the S2 at Song Be. Savage element's 106 Recoilless Rifles were deployed, the 2 from Quan Loi became OPCON to 1/7th Cav at the Bo Duc Special Forces Camp; the one from White Platoon became OPCON to Co B, 1/8th Cav working out of Bo Duc, and the one from Blue Platoon was dismounted on the top of Nui Ba Ra.

18 August 1969: The Blue Platoon provided security for the Province Chief for a road tour of the province. In the afternoon, Savage elements provided security for a Medcap at Song Thuy Hamlet. The White Platoon's 106 Recoilless Rifle was released for return to LZ Buttons.

19 August 1969: At 0200 hours Savage elements at YU140070 received 2 bursts of AK-47 fire from the northeast. There were no friendly casualties and no assessment of enemy losses. At 0630 hours, LZ Buttons received 20 rounds of 82mm, automatic weapons, and RPG fire. Savage elements conducted a recon of the suspected area of enemy fire with no signs of recent activity. Savage elements also conducted a dismounted recon of Nui Ba Ra where they climbed to within 300 meters of the top and CSed some caves.

20 August 1969: At 0530 LZ Buttons received 10 rounds from an 82mm mortar impacting in Savage bunker area with no reports of friendly casualties. Savage elements conducted a maintenance stand down. The two 106 Recoilless Rifles were released from 1/7th Cav at Bo Duc and returned to Quan Loi.

21 August 1969: Savage elements set up a blocking force at the base of the east side of Nui Ba Ra, while the ARVN's searched and cleared down the mountain. Savage elements picked up 79 detainees coming out of the woods and later taken to Song Be for further questioning. The White Platoon 106 Recoilless Rifle was dismounted on the top of Nui Ba Ra.

22 August 1969: Savage elements at YU148071 found 3-3'x3'x6' foxholes that were a month old. Savage elements also distributed Chieu Hoi leaflets along Highway 311 while setting up check points.

23 August 1969: Savage elements set up a blocking force at YU164074 with no reports of enemy activity.

24 August 1969: Blue Platoon provided security for a Medcap at YU143097 where the hamlet was attacked the night of 23 August. After the Medcap, Blue Platoon joined the White Platoon in a clover-leaf recon around the hamlet. Trail markers were found at YU145091, YU142093, YU141095 and YU142094. At YU145091 and YU141083, Savage elements found holes 1 foot in diameter and 8 feet deep; believed to be hiding places for mortar tubes.

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24 August 1969: (cont) At YU142094 were nine 4 X 2 X 3 foot fighting positions about 20 days old. And 40 meters North of YU143094 Savage Elements found a bandage used for a serious wound which was about 3 days old. The two 106 recoilless rifles at Quan Loi became QPCON to 1/7th Cav at the Bo Duc Special Forces Camp.

25 August 1969: Savage Elements stood by as a reacting force. At 1620 hours Savage Elements escorted an artillery element from YU225040 to the L.Z.

26 August 1969: Savage Elements were inspected by Squadron and remained on the L.Z. for maintenance of weapons and vehicles.

27 August 1969: Savage Elements remained on the L.Z. as a QRF for the convoy coming from Phuoc Vinh. They were not called out.

28 August 1969: Savage Elements set up a blocking position from 250018 to 262010. At YU253014 Blue platoon found 5 foxholes 5 X 3 X 3.

29 August 1969: Savage Elements escorted A Company 5/7 Cav to YU125100. Blue platoon set up in a blocking position at YU142084. White platoon at YU 144078 made a dismounted sweep to YU142084 with no report of enemy activity.

30 August 1969: At 0130 Savage Elements were scrambled to red alert because villagers were leaving Song Be. At 1122 hours Savage Elements conducted a search with ten National Police in the area of YU193045 with no report of enemy activity. At 2358 hours Nui Ba Ra received incoming and small arms fire from the Northeast. White platoon had two WIA's, but were not medevaced.

31 August 1969: Savage Elements conducted a first light around base of Nue Ba Ra with no report of enemy activity. At 1555 hours White Platoon found a fresh trail going straight up the mountain at YU175079.

b. Other Activities

None

c. Base Defense

During the month of August Troop D conducted day and night operations around Song Be for the purpose of security around the L.Z. Besides manning bunkers the Troop was utilized around an artillery element, in the revetments and around the Province Chief's estate.

d. Base Improvements

During the month of August Troop D continued to improve living conditions and fighting positions at Song Be. At Phuoc Vinh the interior of the Supply Room was renovated.

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e. Training and Organization

On the 10th, 11th and 12th the Troop at Song Be recieved training in the techniques of ambushing and patrolling from the 75th Rangers and the armorer attended the 3 day "Unit Small Arms Repair Course" given at 27th Maintenance (BN). During the month all weapons were test fired. Two individuals attended the Combat Leaders Course and fifteen individuals qualified in repelling. Also the Troop attended classes on the new UCMJ.

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 130	5 N/A 130

(2) Organizational Standing for Combat

CO	CPT Hudson
XO	1LT Lowe
Opns OFF	N/A
1st Plt	2LT Hahn
2nd Plt	1LT Lowe (1 - 18 Aug) 1LT Cullen (19 - 31 Aug)
3rd Plt	1LT Ross
Lift Section	N/A
Maint Section	N/A

(3) Awards and Decorations

Soldiers Medal	3
Silver Star	0
Bronze Star "v"	0
Bronze Star	2
Air Medal	6

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(3) Awards and Decorations (cont)

Purple Heart	2
ARCOM	5
ARCOM "V"	4

(4) Losses

OFF WO EM  
0 N/A 8

Un-programmed Losses

OFF WO EM  
0 N/A 1

(5) Promotions

E-6	0
E-5	9
E-4	8

(6) R&R

In-Country 1  
Out-Country 7

(7) Replacements

OFF WO EM  
1 N/A 14

(8) Logistics

(a) Class I

Class A	1850 meals
Class B	None
Class C	4340 meals

(b) Class II

1/4 Ton Truck, Utility

Air Mattress

Ruck Sack Nylon

Fire Extinguisher

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(b) Class II (cont)

M-60 Machine Gun	1
XM-28 Gas Mask	120
Shirt Wool Knit	75

(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	5040
7.62	4800
40mm	None
60mm	None
81mm	None
106mm	None
45cal	None
Frgs	None
Claymores	None
M-72	None

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2. Losses

a. <u>Enemy</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
NVA KIA	0	0
VC KIA	1	1
NVA Captured	0	0
VC Captured	0	0
Detainees	89	90
C/S Weapons	0	0
Indiv Weapons	0	0
Ammunitions	1	81
Documents	0	1"
Packs	0	0
Uniforms	0	0
Rice	0	0
Salt	0	0
Grenades	1	1
Booby Traps	0	3
b. <u>Friendly</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
US KIA	0	1
US WIA	2	6
US MIA	0	0
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

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2. Losses (cont)

b. <u>Friendly</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Quarter</u>
A/C Dest (Non Combat)	N/A	N/A
Indiv Wpns Lost	9	4
C/S Wpns Lost	0	0
Vehicles Dest (Combat)	1	1
Vehicles Dest (Accident)	0	0
Vehicles Turned In	3	3

3. Commanders Comments

Discussion

During the month of August D Troop remained OPCON'D to the 5/7 at Song Be (L.Z. Buttons). Operations conducted during the month consisted of sweeps (mounted and dismounted), route reconnaissance, area reconnaissance, security missions and quick reaction force. The first platoon of D Troop remained on base defense at Quan Loi. Additionally the Troop was further fragmented with two 106 recoilless rifle vehicles and crews being dispatched to Bo Duc, two 106 vehicles and one mortar to Nui Ba Ra. The two platoons at Song Be performed missions within their organizations and capabilities, the platoon at Quan Loi continued to perform the mission of an infantry platoon. The fragmentation of the 106 and mortars greatly distracts from the combat potential of the Troop.

4. Recommendations

That this Troop which was organized to be used as a highly skillful, fast moving, quick communicating Troop be utilized in it's entirety. Fragmentation of the Troop does not lend to its combat effectiveness and should be held to an absolute minimum. The true usefulness of this Troop is fully realized when used as a ground reconnaissance unit and as such can furnish commanders valuable and timely EEL.

*Andrew J. Hudson*  
ANDREW J. HUDSON

Captain, Armor

Commanding  
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