

DECLASSIFIED

DAIM-FAR-RR # 19 (mm) DATE: 8 Apr 87

TROOP D

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

AVDARS-D

15 June 1969

SUBJECT: Lessons Learned (14 May 69 - 15 Jun 69)

Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 9th Cavalry
1st Air Cavalry Division
ATTN: S-3

1. The following observations were noted during the operational period 14 May - 15 Jun 69.

a. The Troop is constantly OPCON to the Infantry Battalions of the Division and must have excellent communications.

(1) Evaluation: All frequencies that have been assigned to the Troop are clear at the location they are assigned. However when the Troop deploys to another area, OPCON to another battalion, the frequency usually is in use by an adjacent unit.

(2) Recommendations: That Troop D be assigned a clear frequency that would be clear in any area of operation.

b. The Troop in the past 14 days has changed OPCON to different battalions at different LZ's.

(1) Evaluation: When the Troop moves to the controlling battalion we have found that there is very little time for maintenance of weapons and vehicles. The new battalion desires immediate use of the fire-power and flexibility of the Troop.

(2) Recommendations: The Troop be provided 2 full days of stand-down time for maintenance during the interim of changing from one battalion to another.

c. Bunkers and living quarters must be constructed for personnel intervals the Troop on the LZ's.

(1) Evaluation: Each time the Troop is attached to a different battalion there are no materials available for construction of bunkers and living quarters on the LZ. Therefore personnel of the Troop must move into already crowded areas for cover and safety.

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(2) Recommendations: That materials be supplied in sufficient quantity and quality 24 hours in advance of the Troop move from OPCON to battalions. Moreover, the Troop must be provided time to adequately construct these bunkers and living quarters on the IZ's before being employed in the AO.

d. The Troop must have maps available for the AO assigned.

(1) Evaluation: The Troop was attached OPCON from one battalion at Phuoc Vinh to another on an IZ approximately 90 miles away. Only 1 map was available for the entire Troop therefore time was lost in coordination of correct routes to take. Once the Troop arrived at its AO only limited maps were available. The Troop requires 23 sets of maps when working in its entirety or 7 sets per platoon.

(2) Recommendations: Battalions be alerted enough in advance that the Troop will be OPCON to them in order to obtain sufficient maps.

2. I feel most of the above evaluation and some not covered would be solved if the Troop was attached OPCON no lower than brigade level and receive missions from a Brigade S-3 and Brigade Commander.



ANDREW J. HUDSON
Captain, Armor
Commanding

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