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

14 October 1969

AVDAGT-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry for the period ending 30 Oct 69, RCS CAFOR - 65 (RL)

TO: Commanding General
 1st Air Cavalry Division
 ATTN: AVDAGT-DT
 APO SF 96490

Section II Lesson Learned

1. Personnel: None

2. Operations:

a. Heading changes during combat assault missions.

(1) Observations: During final approach to a landing zone or departure from lift, ships must not make unannounced heading changes if ARA is used for escort and to provide suppressive fire.

(2) Evaluation: This unit has experienced damage to an aircraft during insertion because the lead aircraft did not follow the announced heading. ARA escort was suppressing the area of intended landing when the lead aircraft made an unplanned heading change. ARA was not advised of the change resulting in minor damage to the under side of the aircraft from rocket fragments.

(3) Recommendation: Once the approach or departure heading is announced, it must be followed or if a change is to be made ARA is informed prior to execution. Not only may the approaching and departing aircraft suffer damage, but a mid-air collision could occur. A common frequency (FM or UHF) established will insure coordination between lift and escort aircraft.

b. After action required as a result of ground probe or attack:

(1) Observations: After a ground attack of a Fire Base or Major Base Area, the entire unit area must be searched for mines, grenades and any individuals who could be hiding in brush or culverts.

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(2) Evaluation: One troop after a ground attack swept the troop area with the blue platoon. This unit located 2 NVA hiding in a culvert approximately 8 hours after the attack. Both were carrying sachel charges and grenades. If their presence had not been detected, they could have waited for darkness and caused damage since they had breached the perimeter.

(3) Recommendation: Internal security measures must be reviewed periodically, with special emphases placed on a search and destroy team. At any time a ground probe is made it should be assumed that the enemy has breached the perimeter, and a search conducted of the entire unit area.

3. Training: None
4. Intelligence: None
5. Logistics: None
6. Organization: None
7. Other: None

JAMES W. BOOTH
LTC AACR
Commanding

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