

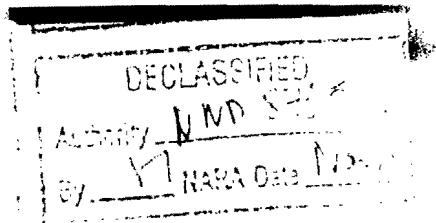
RE 472 USA Vietnam  
11th ACR Org. History  
1968-71  
Box 4

UNIT HISTORY

1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment  
1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

25 January 1970  
Approved

*John M. Norton*  
JOHN M. NORTON  
LTC, Armor  
Commanding



1. OPERATIONS: January 1969 found the 1st Squadron continuing operations in AO SADDLE (SE Binh Duong and NW Bien Hoa Provinces) where it had been since 15 Nov 68. The Squadron had the mission of conducting reconnaissance in force operations, establishing night ambush positions, and pacifying the villages of Binh Co and Binh My. Also, almost daily LTL 16 was cleared and convoy security was provided for the 1st Cav Div (AM) convoy to Phuoc Vinh.

Elements of the Dong Nai Regiment, probably the K1 and K3 Battalions, posed the main enemy threat in AO SADDLE from 1-16 Jan 69. There was no significant threat from any of the enemy's local force units. During the period contact was made on several AP's. The most significant of these engagements occurred on 4 Jan when F/2/11 ACR (OPCON to 1/11 ACR) killed 7 VC and captured 6 individuals and 1 crew served weapon at XT869712.

On 11 January, 2/A/11 ACR, OPCON to the 1st Cav Div (AM), at 1000H in the vicinity of XT767799, while moving south on QL 13, was ambushed by two NVA companies employing RPG's and S/A fire. After being reinforced by HQ and 1st Platoon of A/1/11 ACR, 3/H/2/11 ACR, and B/2/2 Inf (MECH), and after expending 7 flights of aerial rocket artillery and an air strike, the fighting came to a halt with 2 US KIA, 21 US WIA, 2 AC4V's combat losses, and 2 AC4V's and 1 tank heavily damaged. Enemy losses were 41 KIA (C), 11 AK-47's, 4 RPG launchers, and 23 grenades captured.

On 16 January, the 1st Squadron moved to Blackhorse Base Camp and assumed responsibility for the BLACKHORSE TAOR. While in this area from 16-31 Jan, the main enemy threat was the 274th VC Regiment.

On 27 January, B/1/11 ACR began Sheridan training at Blackhorse. The Sheridan M551 was issued to each reconnaissance troop on the basis of three per platoon. Consequently, a reconnaissance platoon now consists of 6 AC4V's and 3 Shermans. The training program consisted primarily of familiarization with the weapons system and the vehicle itself.

In early February elements of the Squadron began moving from Blackhorse to the Bien Hoa area to serve as RRF for the anticipated 1969 Tet Offensive. On 10 February, B/1/11 ACR was placed OPCON to BHTAC. Four days later, A/1/11 ACR was placed OPCON to BHTAC and given the same mission as B Troop. On 15 February, TF Privette was formed under the command of the Squadron Executive Officer to control A and B Troops.

On 23 February, A/1/11 ACR made contact with elements of the 3/274th VC Regiment at YT084048. B/1/11 ACR, ACT/11 ACR, and one company of 1/2 Inf were deployed to reinforce. After the battle, 1st Squadron units were credited with 88 VC KIA, 6 VC PW and 1 US WIA. Enemy equipment captured in this action consisted of: 16 107mm rockets; 1 .51 cal A/A MG; 2 RPG-2 launchers; 3 RPG-7 launchers; 2 LMG's; 21 AK-47's; 2 60mm mortars; 188 82mm mortar rounds; 24 60mm mortar rounds; and 30,000 AK-47 rounds.

On 25 February, 2/A/1/11 ACR, OPCON 1/2 Inf in a joint US-Thi operation, received B-40 and small arms fire at YT114052, resulting in 5 US WIA and 1 Sheridan combat losses.

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by:  NARA Date 1/20/2024

On 26 February, elements of TF Privette participated in two separate actions. 3/8/11 ACR was conducting a sweep along the east berm of Bien Hoa Army Base when it came under fire from a small village located at YT028127. The platoon was placed OPCON to the 5th ARVN Division and participated in a cordon around the village. The village was occupied by elements of the 3/275th VC Regiment and the D2 Sapper Battalion. After unsuccessful efforts to pursue the enemy to surrender, the GVN forces called in air strikes and helicopter gunships. The village was destroyed by air power and tank main guns. At the same time this action was taking place 1/8/11 ACR was set up in a blocking position at YT045131, while the 2nd ARVN Marines were operating in Ho Nai village. Action at both locations lasted from 0700 to 1930. The results of these actions were 170 VC KIA and 77 VC PW. Of those, elements of the 1st Squadron were credited with 14 VC KIA.

On 6 March, 1/11 ACR(-) moved to FSB Holiday Inn to conduct operations in AO SADDLE. During the period 6-17 March, the Squadron had negative contact with the enemy. On 17 March, 1/11 ACR received orders to move to the Michelin Rubber Plantation to participate in Operation Atlas Wedge.

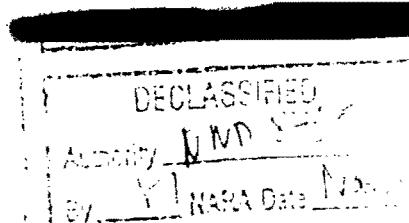
Operation Atlas Wedge was a three division (1st Inf, 1st Cav, and 25th Inf) operation conceived to destroy a strong enemy buildup in the vicinity of the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Deploying on the 17th, the Squadron spent the night along QL 13, just north of Thunder I. On 18 March, the maneuver elements of the Squadron, B/1/11, C/1/11, and D/1/11 ACR, moved west from QL 13 along the "Great Swath", a large Rome plowcut leading from QL 13 just south of Thunder II to the Michelin. Also on 18 March, the Squadron CP and How/1/11 AC moved into FSB Thunder II (KT783557) to provide command and control and fire support.

Contact was first established at 1815Z March at KT588508 by D/1/11 and B/1/11 ACR. These elements received SA and R&G fire from the north. The Squadron deployed to attack in a wedge formation with D/1/11 in the lead, B/1/11 on the left flank, and C/1/11 on the right flank. When the enemy force retreated, they left behind 21 NVA KIA and assorted documents and explosives. Friendly losses were 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA.

On 21 March, the Squadron received OPCON of H/2/11 ACR(-) and moved toward Objective Ford (KT5757). On 22 March, C/1/11 ACR established contact with an unknown sized enemy force at KT6062 and killed 8 NVA with 4 US WIA. Late on the 22nd, the Squadron reached Objective Fox (KT623547). On 23 March, C/1/11 ACR became OPCON to ACT/11 ACR and established light contact with the enemy. On 24 March, the maneuver elements of the Squadron moved back to the "Great Swath" and Operation Atlas Wedge came to a close.

On 25 March, the 1st Squadron moved into the Iron Triangle to participate in Operation Omega. The maneuver elements assigned to the Squadron for the operation were B, C, and D/1/11 ACR, H/2/11 ACR, D/2-28 Inf, and a Riverine Assault Group (RAG). The Squadron CP moved into Lai Khe Base Camp and How/3/11 ACR moved into FSB Huertgen (KT694321) to provide fire support.

On 26 March, the Squadron received OPCON of the 2nd Bn, 9th Regt, 5th ARVN Inf Division. The morning was spent checking out tunnel and bunker complexes in the vicinity of KT721246. The RAG force established contact and ACT supported. Fifteen VC were killed.



On the morning of 27 March, Operation Omega terminated and 1st Squadron was ordered to return to FSB Holiday Inn. The RAG force, 2/9/5 ARVN, B/2-28, D/2-28, and H/2/11 ACR were detached from the 1st Squadron. The Squadron worked AO SADDLE out of FSB Holiday Inn until 12 April.

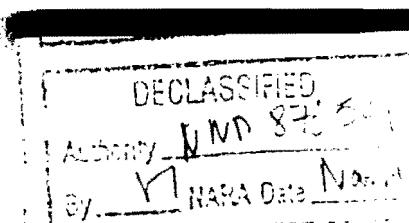
On 12 April, the Squadron moved to the vicinity of Dau Tieng and began the first phase of Operation Montana Raider. The Squadron received OPCON of C/1-8 Cav. Also on 12 April, the Squadron Commander was medically evacuated and the Squadron Executive Officer, MAJ Privette, took command of the Squadron.

On 13 April, the units were organized into maneuver teams consisting of one tank platoon, two recon platoons, and one infantry platoon. Team A/1/11 ACR was attached to the ACT to reinforce the Aero Rifle Platoon in contact at XT458525. The results of the contact were 2 NVA KIA, 22 US KIA and 22 US WIA. Team A was returned to Squadron control shortly after the contact terminated. On 14 April, Team C became OPCON to 1-8 Cav and the following day Team A also became OPCON to 1-8 Cav.

On 17 April, Major John C. Bahnsen assumed command of the Squadron. The Squadron assumed control of Teams A and C. At 1600H, the Squadron CP elements assaulted an enemy position at XT458583. G/2/11 ACR was placed OPCON to 1st Squadron and reinforced. The results of the action were 20 NVA KIA and 6 NVA PW.

The three maneuver teams of the Squadron moved north on parallel axis toward FSB White (XT457627) on 18 April. Team B made contact at XT430597. Team A, moving to reinforce Team B, made contact a short distance from that location. The contact continued all day as both teams moved through the area clearing bunkers and eliminating pockets of enemy resistance. Results of the day's contact were 78 VC KIA and large amounts of enemy equipment destroyed. Friendly losses were 7 US KIA and 30 WIA. On 20 April, all elements closed on the Squadron NDP just outside Dau Tieng for a two-day stand down that brought an end to Phase I of Operation Montana Raider.

On the morning of 22 April, the Squadron departed Dau Tieng enroute to An Loc and the second phase of Operation Montana Raider began. D/1/11 ACR was placed OPCON to 3/11 ACR and the Squadron received OPCON of M/3/11 ACR. On the morning of 24 April, the Squadron moved west from An Loc to FSB Jamie. Upon reaching Jamie on 25 April, maneuver elements were formed similar to those used in Phase I. Team Minnie was formed from the command group of B/2-7 Cav, OPCON to 1/11 ACR, 3/B/1/11 ACR, and the HQ CAV's. On 27 April, Team B found a base camp and captured a large amount of enemy equipment. On the same day Team A found a bunker complex and picked up large amounts of enemy equipment and explosives. On 30 April, Team Minnie was lead into a bunker complex by an ACT pink team and encountered an entrenched enemy force. Artillery and ARA supported and D/2-7 Cav moved to reinforce. The results of the contact were 8 NVA KIA, 1 US KIA, and 4 US WIA. On May 2nd, the Squadron moved to gates of Quan Loi and ended Phase II of Operation Montana Raider.



On 7 April, 1st Squadron departed Quan Loi to begin the third phase of Operation Montan Raider. The Squadron received OPCON of A/2-7 Cav and How/3/11 ACR was replaced by How/1/11 ACR in the task organization. The Squadron CP and How/1/11 ACR established FSB Greene at XT642790. Team B went OPCON to 5-7 Cav. The remaining maneuver elements of the Squadron conducted reconnaissance in AO Lance with emphasis on the eastern edges of the Saigon River. Several base areas were discovered but no contact was made with enemy forces. Contacts during the remainder of the operation were light and scattered. On 14 May, the Squadron moved to Bien Hoa. The period 14-22 May was spent in Bien Hoa on maintenance operations and missions under the control of BHTAC.

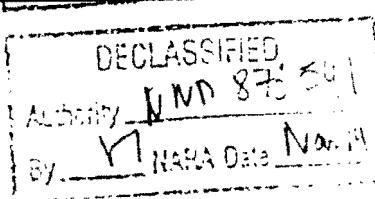
On 23 May, the 1st Squadron moved into the BLACKHORSE TAOR. On 24 May, A Troop made contact and killed 14 NVA, elements of the 33rd VC Main Force Regiment. Several contacts during the end of May and early June resulted in 62 enemy KIA. On 10 June, the Squadron, minus B Troop, moved north to participate in the opening of the Song Be Road. The night of the 10th was spent at FSB Jim (XT883393) and the next day they moved to FSB Remagen VIII, from which it conducted road security operations until 18 June.

The Squadron moved to FSB Bandit Hill (XT859368) on 18 June, and became OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 1st Inf Div. The initial mission was to conduct ground reconnaissance in the vicinity of Bandit Hill. On 19 June, the Squadron CP was moved to FSB Thunder I. On this same day, C/1/11 ACR was led into an enemy base camp by an aerial observer and made contact with a platoon sized enemy force from the Dong Nai Regiment. The action resulted in 12 NVA KIA, 6 NVA PW, 5 AK-47's captured, and a large number of documents collected.

On 30 June, the 1st Squadron executed a change of AO's with the 1/4 Cav. The Squadron CP and How Battery moved to a central location in the new AO and established FSB Monica (XT707312). The Squadron organized into maneuver teams consisting of one tank platoon, two reconnaissance platoons, and one infantry platoon each. The teams deployed immediately upon entering the AO and conducted a thorough search of the northern portion of the "Iron Triangle". The reconnaissance showed many signs of recent activity, but no contact was established. Making heavy use of aerial reconnaissance aircraft, the Squadron continued to work the northern part of the "Iron Triangle" with the teams constantly checking out aerial sightings. This type of operation proved very successful. From 2 to 9 July, 62 enemy were killed and an enemy hospital complex was destroyed.

All of the maneuver teams of the Squadron closed FSB Frieda on 10 July, and for the next two days all elements concentrated on maintenance of vehicles. Operations resumed on 13 July with all teams departing Frieda and working generally to the north.

On 28 July, the 1st Squadron rejoined the 11th ACR in the Regimental AO around the An Loc/Loc Ninh area. The Squadron assumed the AO around Loc Ninh. The first two weeks of activity in the Loc Ninh area were characterized by light, scattered contact with small units of NVA. On 8 August, the 34th ARVN Ranger Battalion was airlifted into Loc Ninh airstrip. TF Wright



was formed consisting of 1/11 ACR and the 34th ARVN Rangers. A joint CP was established and joint operations with the Rangers commenced immediately. The usual method of operation was one Ranger Company with each maneuver element of the Squadron. However, on numerous occasions the Rangers conducted dismounted operations on their own.

On 12 August, the 209th NVA Regiment began an extensive attack in the Loc Ninh area. The 1st Squadron NDP at FSB Jon (XU732077) received 70 mixed mortar, rocket and RPG rounds in a series of attacks which terminated at 0615. D/1/11 received light attacks by fire and minor ground probes at XU729087 during the same time. 11 NVA were found around D Company's position the next morning. At first light the next day, the maneuver elements of the Squadron moved out to find and destroy the enemy elements. No contact was made in the eastern portion of the AO, however, A and C/1/11 ACR had running engagements in the north western and western portions of the AO which resulted in 17 NVA KIA. On 13 August, D/1/11 ACR and one company of the 3/7th ARVN Rangers engaged a company sized NVA force at XU693087. The action resulted in 30 NVA KIA. From late August through 4 September, the level of enemy activity was confined to indirect fire attacks and minor probes of RF/PF locations in the area.

On 5 September, C/1/11 ACR with one company of Loc Ninh CIDG made contact with elements of the K8 Bn, 209th NVA Regiment, just to the northwest of Loc Ninh. 12 NVA were killed in this action. TF Wright was dissolved on 6 September. This same day, B/1/11 ACR engaged a NVA battalion in the vicinity of XU695090 while conducting a reconnaissance of the area. C and D/1/11 ACR and one company of CIDG reinforced. The battle raged for five hours and resulted in 74 NVA KIA and 5 NVA PW. Friendly casualties were 3 killed and 36 wounded. There was no significant action for the remainder of September and early October.

On 12 October, the 1st Squadron moved south and began to work an AO southwest of Quan Loi. The Squadron CP was initially established at FSB Gwyn (XT827847) but was moved to FSB Linda (XT823841) where it remained until 25 November. Operations in this area consisted of local ground reconnaissance missions in the Quan Loi rubber and its jungle fringes combined with a concentrated program of RF company training. The only contacts during the period were established on NAP's. The Squadron completed training of 7 RF companies in combined armor/infantry tactics and air assault techniques.

On 25 November, the Squadron assumed responsibility for an AO west on An Loc and the mission of keeping LTL 246 open for a 3/11 ACR operation in eastern War Zone C. A Squadron CP was established at XT704892 where the HQ remained until 29 November. There was no contact established with enemy forces during this period. On 27 November, B/1/11 ACR was airlifted to Bu Dop by C-130 to become OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 1st ACD.

On 29 November, 3/11 ACR operations in War Zone C terminated and the Squadron was released from the security mission of LTL 246. An AO was assigned that

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encompassed the area northwest of An Loc and the Squadron CP moved to XU710-928. Extensive reconnaissance was conducted in the jungle north and west of the An Loc rubber plantation until 3 December. Again, no contact was established with enemy forces.

On 3 December, the Squadron moved north to assume responsibility for the Loc Ninh AO. The Squadron CP was established at FSB Marge, XU734063, where it stayed for the remainder of the year. During this period Squadron operations consisted of ground reconnaissance throughout the AO. The only significant action during this period took place on 27 December. Action was initiated when an Air Force FAC observed NVA in the open at XU690205. The ACT/11th ACR engaged the enemy and A and D/1/11 ACR reacted to the sighting along with the 196th Regional Force Company. The ground elements failed to find the bulk of the enemy force. In that contact the results were 4 friendly KIA, 1 friendly WIA, and 3 NVA KIA. A total of 76 enemy were killed by air and artillery fire. Other reconnaissance in the AO indicated light enemy traffic but turned up nothing specific.

