

F-472 USA Vietnam
 11th ACR Org History
 1966-71
 Box 4

UNIT HISTORY

2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regt
 1 January 1969- 31 December 1969

9 January 1970
 Approved

for *Frederick M. Brookshire* 1969
 GRAIL L. BROOKSHIRE
 LTC, Armor
 Commanding

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 Authority *DDP 872 5-1*
 11/19/81

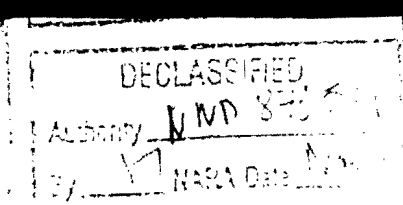
1. INTRODUCTION: In 1969, the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment continued to serve its country in the Republic of Vietnam. During the year, the squadron contributed significantly to the upgrading of ARVN/GVN forces by Dong Tien operations. Also, the squadron assisted in crushing the enemy Spring and Fall offensives in the An Loc/Loc Ninh area and successfully conducted a deliberate road opening of QL14A from Loc Ninh to Bu Dop. Each of these missions proved extremely successful in hampering the operations of the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces in III Corps area of Vietnam. During the year the squadron conducted the following operations: Cowpens (previous year to 8 March); Roughrider (9 March to 13 April); Montana Raider (13 April to 13 May); Toan Thang Phase III (16 May to 26 May); Toan Thang Phase IIIA (26 May to 8 June); Short Stop (9 June to 23 June); Kentucky Cougar (23 June to 7 September); Toan Thang Phase III (8 September to 10 October); Kentucky Cougar (10 October to 4 December); Long Reach II (4 December to 25).

2. MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

a. January: The 2nd Squadron continued Operation Cowpens from 1968. During the month the Squadron conducted the following missions: pacification of the village of Tan Binh; security of land clearing operations and prevention of infiltration by conducting reconnaissance operations and NAP's in the Phu Giao provincial. Most notable operation of the month was an extensive seal of Tan Binh village. The seal was carried out from 10 Jan to 25 Jan and included extensive participation of GVN agencies to include 3/8 Infantry (ARVN), local village chief, popular forces, Phu Giat district forces, and National Police. The effect of the seal was a breakdown of enemy resistance in Tan Binh. Many members of the VC infrastructure and illegal residents rallied to the American and GVN forces.

b. February: During this period the Squadron continued the missions of Operation Cowpens. Because of enemy activity around the village of Phuoc Hoa, a seal was conducted from 8 Feb to 14 Feb. The 4/8 Infantry (ARVN) and local Vietnamese authorities participated in the seal. Interrogation of detainees determined that there was no significant VC infrastructure within Phuoc Hoa. By the end of February, the Song Be bridge defensive fortifications were completed which permitted a significant reduction of American forces for security. This allowed the Squadron to improve anti-infiltration operations by the employment of more NAP's and increased reconnaissance operations in the AO.

c. March: On 7 March Operation Cowpens terminated. During the operation there had been 28 significant contacts. Operation Roughrider commenced on 7 March with the movement of the Squadron to Blackhorse Base Camp. The Squadron mission of Base Camp security supplemented when the Squadron (-) was placed OPCON to BHTAC and moved to the



vicinity of Bien Hoa Base. The mission at BHTAC was to provide Ready Reaction for the Bien Hoa/Long Binh complex and security for land clearance operations in that area. During March the Squadron had no significant contacts with enemy forces.

d. April: Operation Roughrider terminated on 13 April and Operation Montana Raider commenced. On 18 April, LTC James H. Aarestad assumed command of the Squadron from LTC Lee E. Duke. The unit conducted area reconnaissance missions six kilometers northeast of Nui Ba Den and fifteen kilometers northwest of the Michelin Rubber Plantation. During this operation, due to heavy jungle and numerous streams a combined arms team was used. The team consisted of a tank platoon, reconnaissance platoon, infantry platoon and an AVLB or Zippo, if practical. The Squadron found numerous base camps, bunkers and caches during the month.

e. May: During the first 13 days of May, the 2nd Squadron continued Operation Montana Raider. Operation Toan Thang Phase III commenced on 13 May. The Squadron had the mission of conducting combined reconnaissance operations in conjunction with elements of the 18th Infantry Division (ARVN), Regional Forces, and Popular Forces. Also, night road security operations were conducted between Blackhorse Base Camp and Xuan Loc. The operation lasted ten days with negligible results. However, progress was made in the improved efficiency of ARVN and US combined operations. On 26 May Operation Toan Thang Phase IIIA commenced with the Squadron moving to the An Loc/Quan Loi area and OPCON to the 1st Infantry Division. This move was in response to the movement of four regiments from the 1st and 7th NVA Divisions into the An Loc/Quan Loi area. Reconnaissance in the area north and west of An Loc failed to turn up anything significant in May.

f. June: During the first 8 days of June Toan Thang Phase IIIA continued. Reconnaissance based on the current intelligence resulted in heavy contact from 3 to 7 June. Casualties taken by the 101st Regiment, 1st NVA Division and the 165th Regiment, 7th NVA Division were high. The Squadron accounted for 175 KIA and 13 NVA PW's. On 9 June Operation Shortstop commenced with a two-fold mission. Through 13 June the mission was to conduct area reconnaissance and establish NAP. Offensive operations were targeted against the 7th NVA Division and local force units. On 14 June an additional mission of conducting convoy security of the log convoy from the 57 East to West grid line to Quan Loi and return daily was received. Attacks by the enemy were limited to small ground probes and attacks by fire in the An Loc area. On 23 June Shortstop terminated and Operation Kentucky Cougar commenced. The mission was to conduct combined operations with elements of the 9th Infantry Regiment (ARVN) in the area of An Loc and Loc Ninh.

g. July: On 28 June the 2nd Squadron moved to the Loc Ninh District.

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The mission was to conduct combined US and ARVN operations, support the pacification effort, conduct reconnaissance in the AO, and be RRF to villages within the Loc Ninh area. The Squadron conducted combined operations with elements of the 9th Infantry Regiment (ARVN). For greater coordination a joint Tactical Operations Center was employed. This facilitated the coordination of combat personnel, fire, and supporting fires. The joint TOC improved the efficiency of the combined operation. Also, in July a very successful pacification program was conducted. The Squadron conducted 21 Medcaps treating a total of 1427 of the local populace, and aided and assisted in the construction of four compounds for the Regional/Popular Forces to increase the security measures in the District. In addition, NAP's were placed around the local villages. Assisting the local populace in erecting barriers and providing security for the villages at night assisted in accomplishing the mission at hand. Except for sporadic contact the enemy avoided engagements.

h. August: On 27 July, the Squadron moved from Loc Ninh to An Loc. The mission was to conduct combined operations with the 9th Infantry Regiment (ARVN) to the west of An Loc for the purpose of locating and destroying NVA/VC forces believed moving into the area for an attack on An Loc, continuing the pacification effort, and securing the log convoy on QL13 in the AO. On 12 August, Troop E and H Company came in heavy contact with a battalion size element from the 271st NVA Reg in the rubber southwest of An Loc. Simultaneously, Troop F, escorting a log convoy on QL13, was ambushed from both sides of the road at coordinates XT765740 with RPG, small arms and mortar fire by an element of the 101st Regiment. For the day, casualties taken by 101st and 271st NVA Regiments were heavy (200NVA KIA). U.S. losses were 9 KIA.

i. September: During the first six days of September, the Squadron continued its combined operations. On 5 September 1969, LTC Grail L. Brookshire assumed command of the Squadron from LTC James H. Aarestad. On 7 September the 2nd Squadron marched to its new base camp, Di An, and became OPCON to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. The mission was three-fold: (1) Conduct eight days of new equipment training on the M551 Sheridan with each Armored Cavalry troop; (2) Prepare for and pass the Command Maintenance Management Inspection; (3) Conduct reconnaissance and ambush patrols around Di An. Each mission was successfully carried out. The month ended with the Squadron still at Di An.

j. October: On 10 October the 2nd Squadron completed the Sheridan training and conducted a road march from Di An Base Camp to Loc Ninh district to assume responsibility for the security of the district capital of Loc Ninh. Besides the security mission the Squadron was to

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locate and interdict infiltration routes from Base Area 350, gain contact with and destroy NVA/VC forces in the AO, and conduct Long Tien operations. During the month, enemy activity was light. In Dong Tien operations, the Squadron conducted joint ICAPS with RF/PF medical personnel in the Loc Ninh district. Twenty-four ICAPS were conducted treating 1634 of the local populace. Also, Troops E and G conducted combined military operations with the RF/PF/CIDG in the District.

k. November: During this month, the 2nd Squadron continued its missions in the Loc Ninh AO. Due to increased pressure in the Bo Duc area by the 7th NVA Division the Squadron was given the mission of airlifting Troop F to Bo Duc/Bu Dop. On 9 November the troop was airlifted by C130 aircraft from Loc Ninh to the airstrip at Bu Dop. From there Dong Tien operations were conducted with the CIDG and ARVN forces. In conjunction with the airlift of Troop F, the 2nd Squadron conducted an armored cavalry demonstration from Loc Ninh to Bu Dop and setup a fire support base at the half-way point. This demonstration relieved the pressure on 3rd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division troops in contact at Bu Dop/Bo Duc. Along with the joint ICAPS and combined operations in the Loc Ninh area, the Squadron initiated another Dong Tien operation. As the Popular Self Defense Force received new weapons, they needed to be taught how to use them. The Squadron conducted M-16 marksmanship training and mine detection training with the Popular Forces. The significant enemy activity was their laying of mines. The Squadron encountered a total of 85 mines. Sixty-six mines were destroyed or evacuated by the Squadron for a percentage found of 77.7.

l. December: On 4 December, the 2nd Squadron initiated operation Long Reach II. The mission was to conduct a deliberate road opening of QL14A from Loc Ninh to Bu Dop and destroy any NVA/VC forces enroute. QL14A had not been open since January 1968. For the operation the squadron had under its command a task organization of the following:

| | |
|----------|----------------------|
| Trp HQ | B 1/12 Rifle Co |
| Trp E | D 1/12 Rifle Co |
| Trp G | 919 (-) Engr Co |
| Co H | 984 Land Clearing Co |
| How Btry | |

Light enemy resistance was encountered during the cutting with mining incidents the main problem. Forty-six mines were encountered. The operation was completed on Christmas Day with 2265 acres of jungle cut.

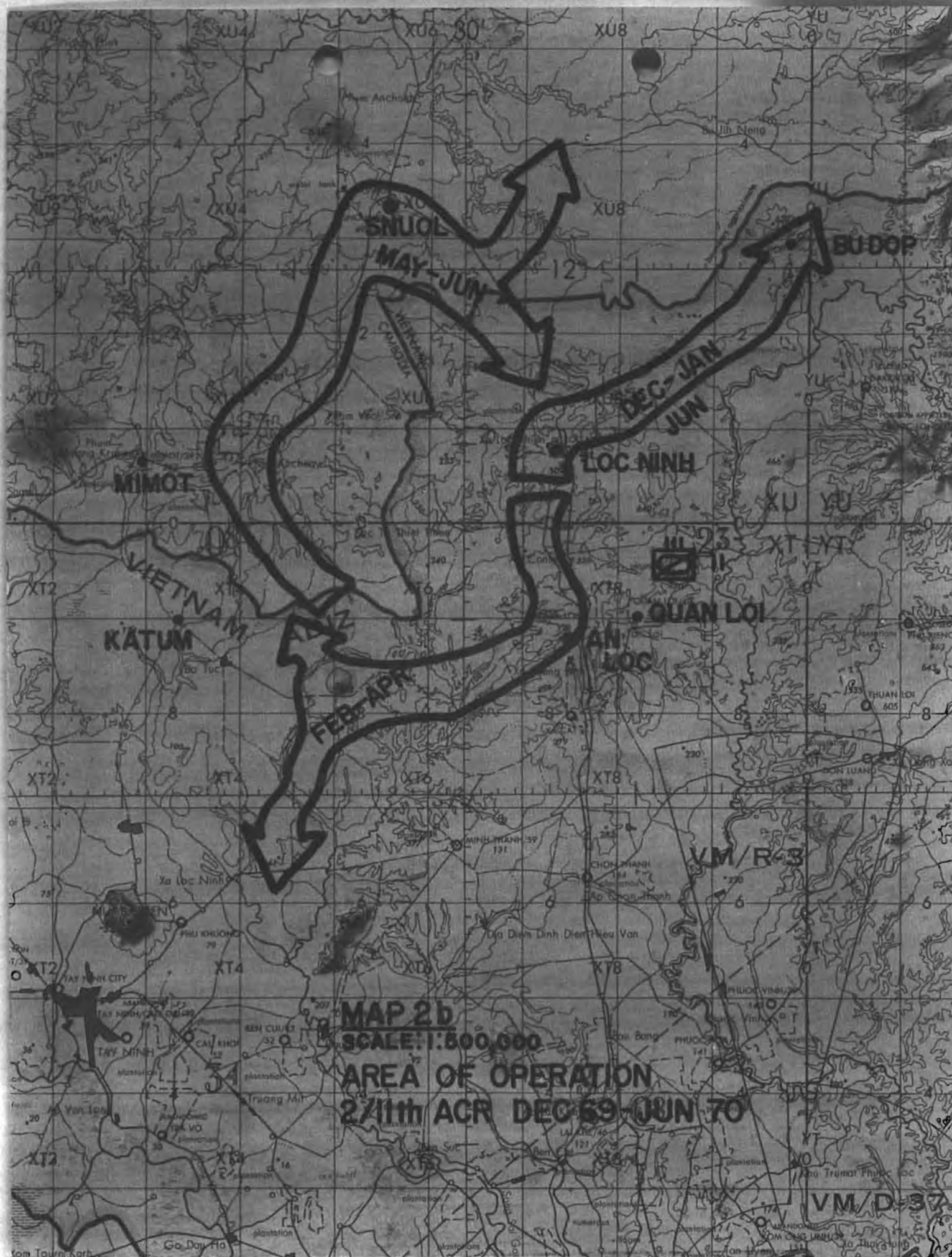
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