

RG 472 USA Vietnam
11th ACR CIG Hist.
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Box 4

UNIT HISTORY

3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regt
1 January 1969 - 31 December 1969

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Approved

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1. INTRODUCTION: From 1 January to 11 April 1969, the 3rd Squadron conducted Operation Toan Thang II, and then began Operation Toan Thang III. In addition to each major operation, we often conducted two to six day special operations. The special operations took place primarily in Binh Duong Province, fifty kilometers north of Saigon. From January through March the Squadron normally operated with one or two US or ARVN infantry companies attached. The mission of the Squadron task force during this period was to prevent infiltration toward Saigon.

From 12 April to 7 June, the 3rd Squadron was OPCON to the 1st US Infantry Division for operations in the Ben Cat/Chon Thanh area. A combined arms task force was used extensively during this time to counter the constant enemy pressure.

On 8 June, the 3rd Squadron re-joined the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in a movement to central Binh Long Province for operation Shortstop. This operation was followed on 22 June by Operation Kentucky Cougar which is still in progress in Binh Long Province. Its mission is supporting the pacification program, improving the effectiveness of US and ARVN forces, and conducting operations against enemy forces.

2. OPERATIONS: During the period 1 thru 15 January, the 3rd Squadron conducted reconnaissance operations in the area around Blackhorse Base Camp. On 16 January, the Squadron moved east of Lai Kho to operate along the boundary between Binh Duong and Bien Hoa Provinces. From 16 to 23 January, the Squadron was in direct support of the 18th ARVN Division, and from 24 January to 26 February, conducted joint operations with the 5th ARVN Division. Normally, one armored cavalry troop was attached, and two infantry companies from the 1/18 Infantry, 1/28 Infantry, or 4/8 ARVN Infantry were attached so that the Squadron operated as a combined arms task force. Operations from 16 January to 26 February were conducted in east central and northern Binh Duong Province to prevent enemy infiltration to Saigon. Stay-behind ambushes were used extensively in these operations and contact was made approximately every three days with two to four-man enemy elements.

From 18 February to 24 February, the 3rd Squadron was diverted from operation Toan Thang II to participate in Operation Valentino, which took place between Highway 1 and the eastern edge of Binh Duong Province. For this operation the 4th Battalion, 8th ARVN Infantry was OPCON to the 3rd Squadron. This combined task force captured 41 POW, had 10 VC/NVA KIA, and received 2 Hoi Chanh.

Phase III of Operation Toan Thang started on 25 February and was conducted in east central and northern Binh Duong Province. This operation was conducted jointly with the 5th ARVN Division and lasted until 11 April. During this operation contact was made nearly everyday with 2-6 man elements, resulting in a total of 140 VC/NVA KIA. The largest contact was on 4 March, when L Troop, M Company, and C Company 2/18 Infantry (attached to 3rd Squadron) reinforced the Regiment's Aero Rifle Platoon in heavy jungle near Phuoc Hoa. The two hour contact resulted in 23 VC KIA and 7 US WIA. In an effort to prevent the mining of Highway 16 during this operation, a series

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of towers were constructed along the route. The towers provided continuous night time observation of the highway in the Squadron's area of operation.

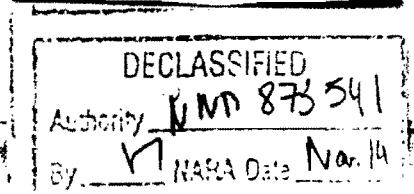
The Squadron was diverted to northwestern Binh Duong Province for Operation Atlas Wedge on 17 March. The operation began in the Michelin Rubber Plantation and heavy enemy resistance was encountered on the first day. On 19 and 20 March, further contacts took place, resulting in total enemy casualties for the 4-day period of 135 KIA and 6 POW, with 2 US KIA and 37 WIA. In addition, extensive enemy stores were captured.

On 11 April, Operation Montana Raider began for the other two Squadrons of the Regiment. During this operation and until 7 June, the 3rd Squadron was detached from the 11th ACR and was OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 1st US Infantry Division. The Squadron operated from Bon Cat to Chon Thanh, generally 25-40 miles north of Saigon. Cross attachment at company and troop level was common, and the 3rd Squadron operated as a combined arms task force. Nearly everyday a contact was made with 2-4 man VC/NVA elements. The task force, including attached units, had a body count of 90 enemy soldiers for the two month operation. The 1st Infantry Division diverted the 3rd Squadron to the area of the Michelin Rubber Plantation for Operation Madison Thrust, which took place from 10-16 May. The combat units under Squadron control for this operation were K Troop, D Company 11th ACR, and C/2/28 Infantry, making Operation Madison Thrust the only time during the year when the 3rd Squadron controlled a task force consisting of only one organic combat unit. During the 6-day operation the task force accounted for 13 KIA and 2 POW. Upon completion of this operation, the Squadron regained control of I Troop.

On 8 June, the Squadron moved to central Binh Long Province as part of Operation Shortstop. A major contact with the 101D NVA Regiment took place southwest of An Loc on 18, 19, and 20 June when an aircraft was shot down and K Troop reacted to secure the ship. All Squadron combat elements became involved by 19 June, in addition to H Company 11 ACR, which was then OPCON to the 3rd Squadron. Contact was finally broken on 20 June with 78 NVA KIA. In a separate contact on 17 and 18 June, I Troop killed 13 NVA five miles north of the area of contact.

From 28 July to 6 September, the Squadron was relocated to central Long Khanh Province and was placed OPCON to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. During this period the Squadron received the M551 Sheridan vehicles and conducted training on this new equipment. Upon completion of the training, the Squadron rejoined the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment to participate in Operation Kentucky Cougar. During this same period, the 4.2" mortar sections were formed into a provisional mortar battery, which is now operating as a separate element within the 3rd Squadron.

With the exception of two enemy contacts in Binh Long Province in September, no unit under 3rd Squadron control has been involved in a major combat action from 22 June until December. On 7 September, in the same general area as the 18-20 June contact, M Company and I Troop engaged a NVA battalion headquarters element that resulted in 98 NVA KIA and 1 POW with 3 US KIA.



During early October the Squadron received a warning order on Operation Texas Traveler, which was a relocation mission to conduct reconnaissance operations in eastern War Zone C. On 24 November, the order was executed and the Squadron, with D Company 2/7 Cav (OPCON), moved to War Zone C. The operation terminated on 28 November by order of the 1st Cavalry Division's General. The cost of the operation was relatively high. The command post was attacked on the morning of 26 November and friendly losses in personnel and equipment were large. The operation, however, resulted in the relocation of major NVA units. The Squadron continued operating in its area of Binh Long Province, and on 20 December the area was extended to cover eastern War Zone C. For the remainder of the year only sporadic enemy contact was made during recons and night AP's.

Throughout Operation Kentucky Cougar the 3rd Squadron worked extensively with ARVN Forces in the An Loc area. Intensive training programs were put into effect to train and retrain US and ARVN forces during this period of light enemy activity.

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