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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
919TH ENGINEER COMPANY (ARMORED)  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

AVIC-MT.

13 January 1970

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

COMMANDING OFFICER  
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT  
ATTN: AVIC-MT  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

1. NAME OF OPERATION: Kentucky Cougar
2. DATES OF OPERATION: 22 June - 30 November 1970
3. LOCATION: Northern III Core Zone-An Loc-Loc Ninh area, XT854835-XT625809 and XT705924-XT723775.
4. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS: 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment
5. REPORTING OFFICERS: CPT Richard A. Corradini, 1LT Barry G. Hittner, 1LT Michael G. Kuehn, 1LT Floyd M. Livingood, and 1LT Rexford K. Widener.
6. TASK ORGANIZATION:

919th Engr. Co. (Armd)	General Support 11th ACR
1st Plt 919th Engr Co (Armd)	OPCON 1st Air Cav; Convoy security to Phuc Vinh
2nd Plt 919th Engr Co (Armd)	Direct Support 1/11 ACR
3rd Plt 919th Engr Co (Armd)	Direct Support 3/11 ACR
4th Plt 919th Engr Co (Armd)	Direct Support 2/11 ACR

7. SUPPORTING FORCES: N/A

DECLASSIFIED AT 30 YEARS BY TEC 100;  
DECLASSIFICATION AFTER 10 YEARS;  
... DOD DIR 5200.10

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6. INTELLIGENCE: See allth ACR INTSUM

9. MISSION: The 919th Engineer Company (Armored) was to provide direct combat Engineer support to the 11th ACR for the duration of the operation.

10. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: The separate platoons of the 919th Engineer Company (Armored) were OPCON to individual troops or teams of the 11th ACR on a mission by mission basis to ensure the maximum utilization and speed of mission execution. Engineers were capable of demolition work, ford and AVLB construction, reconnaissance, NDP construction, tunnel clearing, security, mine detection, and combat as an armor element.

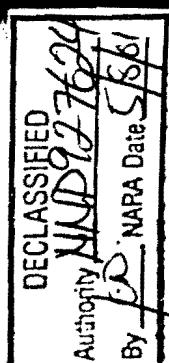
11. EXECUTION:

(Attached Platoon 919th Engt Co (Armored))

On 21 June the Platoon became attached to M Co and on 23 June moved out with M Co on a recon mission. The engineers were used as right and left security while on the move and it was their responsibility to search and destroy any bunker complexes encountered. On 29 June, a Bn size bunker complex was discovered and destroyed by the Platoon.

On 28 June, the Platoon secured an AVIP site for M Co and K troop. After crossing was accomplished, the engineers secured a disabled Recovery vehicle and 3 tanks. On 30 June, the Platoon laagered at FSB Sidewinder and began sweeping the road from An Loc to Thunder III daily. On 7 July, while with M Co, the Platoon destroyed 17 bunkers. From 17-31 July, the Platoon was located at Quan Lci for a maintenance standdown. During Aug and the first half of Sep, the Platoon was located at Blackhorse Basecamp where they assumed the responsibility of sweeping the road from Blackhorse to Xuan Loc and Cam My. On Sep, the Platoon moved to

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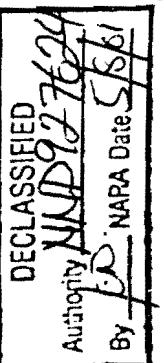
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FSB Aspen II. On 6 Sep, while on a minesweep with M Co, the Platoon was ambushed. The resulting action credited the engineers and M Co with 98 NVA/KIA. On 12 Sep, the Platoon was replaced by the 3rd Platoon and came into Quan Loi to support the company HQ section. From 14-21 Sep, the Platoon provided security for the closing of FSB Allons II and FSB Eagle II. The Platoon, during this time, also participated in the clearing up of FSB Thunder IV. On 21 Sep, the Platoon returned to Quan Loi and began construction of a 30 x 45 ft command bunker for the 919th Engr Co (Armd). On 25 and 26 Sep, eight men of the Platoon were OPCON to the ARPs for a demolition mission. The engineers were air lifted to a bunker complex northwest of Quan Loi and destroyed 50 enemy bunkers. From 5-11 Oct, the Platoon widened and repaired a bridge at XT77103 and constructed and placed culverts at the same location. From 17-25 Oct, the Platoon enlarged a command bunker and conducted a recon for AVLB sites on Rt 304. On 26 Oct, the Platoon road marched to FSB Gwen.

From 21 Oct to 6 November, the Platoon was daily engaged in cutting trees into 12' - 14' lengths and stacking them in preparation for the construction of a supply road. On 7 & 8 Nov, the Platoon was engaged in the construction of an NDP at XT823842 and completed placing the wire around the perimeter on the 13th of that month. On 10 Nov, the first squad of the Platoon was sent OPCON to A troop.

On 14 Nov, while on a recon mission, the Platoon discovered 9 abandoned bunkers along the tree line at XT824835 and made plans to destroy the emplacements at a later date. During 12-18 Nov, the Platoon was engaged in regular mine sweeping operations and, during this period, discovered

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seven 23 lb Chicom pressure type mines; all were blown in place. On two separate occasions, the 13th and 17th of Nov, the Platoon was called upon to spread a total of 50 gallons of perma-prime on LZ at XU738062.

On 27 Nov, the Platoon was engaged in repairing a ford site at XT625809 and, during this operation, lost 2 men WIA. On this same day, the Platoon discovered 2 separate mines: one 25 lb Chicom pressure type and one booby-trapped RPG round; both were blown in place. Other mines were discovered on the 28th (2 23 lb Chicom pressure type-blown in place), 29th (2 23 lb Chicom Pressure type-blown in place), and the 30th (one 83mm round buried in the road-blown in place). During the remainder of November, the Platoon conducted daily mine sweeping operations in the An Loc - Loc Ninh area.

**Third Platoon/ 919th Engr Co (Armored**

On 8 June, the Platoon constructed an NIP at coordinates XT739820 which was named FSB Sidewinder. The Platoon remained at this location until 28 June. During this time the Platoon conducted daily mine sweep operations and culvert recon along QL 13. They were also a reactionary force for the resupply convoy to Quan Loi. From 29 June to 8 July, the Platoon was stationed at Loc Ninh when the convoy was ambushed. The action resulted in 22 NVA/KIA, 1 POW, 4 Engineers KIA and 11 Engineers WIA. On 10 July the Platoon moved to Quan Loi for two chb AGAVs. While at Quan Loi, the Platoon served as a reactionary force for the resupply convoy from Lai Khe.

During the first week of August, the Platoon worked on various construction projects at Quan Loi improving the bunker line and command bunker of the red sector of the Quan Loi perimeter defense. On 12 August,

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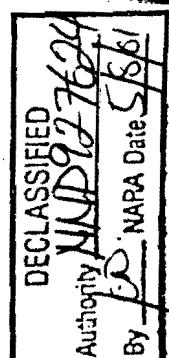
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the Platoon played a major role in plugging a hole in the perimeter defense of Quan Loi. The perimeter was attacked by NVA sappers, the wire was breeched, and the enemy was inside the basecamp. The Platoon aided in the evacuation of friendly casualties and held a 200 meter front until reinforcements arrived. The Platoon and two GEVs from the company's maintenance section were credited with 10 enemy KIA and the destruction of two RPG teams during this action. For the remaining weeks of August the Platoon worked at Quan Loi building bunkers. They also dispatched one vehicle crew and a mine sweep team to An Loc to secure a bridge site. On 14 Sep the Platoon, OPOCN to M Co, moved to FSB Aspen II. The Platoon remained there for the rest of Sep providing security and daily mine sweeps in the Aspen II area. On 6 Oct the Platoon moved to a new NDP at coordinates XT705924 and performed demolition work in the area. Later in the month the Platoon moved to FSB Eagle I and cleared the area of enemy fortifications and obstacles. On 21 Oct 12 enemy bunkers were located and destroyed. On the following day another 19 bunkers were destroyed. On 23 Oct the Platoon moved from NDP Eagle I to coordinates XT697928. Before leaving Eagle I, the Platoon destroyed all excess ammo and captured enemy ammo and destroyed all entrances to the NDP.

On 30 Oct, the Platoon conducted a recon mission at XT624815 surveying possible ford sites and checking the serviceability of an already existing Bailey Bridge. On 9 November, the Platoon was attached to M Co and conducted recon operations for ford and/or culvert sites in the vicinity of XT6418. From 11-15 Nov, the Platoon constructed a crossing site at XT637820, the scene of an earlier recon. For the remainder of

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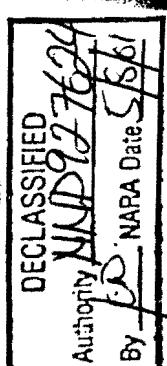
November, the Platoon provided mine sweeping operations in the An Loc-Loc Ninh area.

### Wgryth Platoon/910th Engr Co (Armd)

During the month of July, the Platoon provided convoy security on QL 13 from Quan Loi to Thunder III and from Quan Loi to Loc Ninh. On 17 July the Platoon along with elements of the company's maintenance section reacted to an ambush on QL 13. The contact resulted in 13 NVA/KIA. During this action the main guns of the company's CEVs were put to extensive use. To our knowledge this is the first time the main gun of a CEV was fired in combat in Viet Nam.

During the last part of July and the beginning of August the Platoon was located at FSB Aspen. The Platoon, during its stay there, improved the perimeter defenses by setting up trip flares and building a 43 foot watch tower. In addition to improving the defenses, the Platoon conducted daily mine sweep and culvert recons between Duc Vinh and Thunder III. On 6 Aug, the Platoon traveled to Quan Loi. On that day the Platoon was given the mission to proceed to An Loc and recover a 50,000 gallon fuel tanker that had overturned on QL 13 at coordinates XT756880. The truck, after 1½ hours of work, was recovered with its load intact and it was escorted back to Quan Loi. On 7 Aug the Platoon departed Quan Loi and given the mission of building a new FSB, Eagle II, large enough for the 2/11, 2 ARVN artillery batteries and an ARVN Bn HQ. Sixty percent of the berm was completed after the first day of work. The following day the berm was completed and gun positions were constructed. The platoon then returned to Quan Loi.

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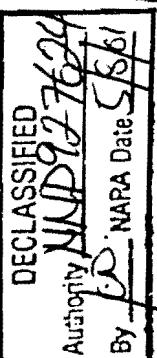


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On 27 Aug the Platoon moved with H Co and conducted mine sweep operations from coordinates XT723775 to XT737794 to XT725779 and found 9 Chicam AT mines, 2 60mm rounds and 1 RPG-7 round. The Platoon then linked up with H Co and E Trp and, on their return trip to FSB Aspen II, they were ambushed by an estimated platoon size NVA force. No casualties were reported by the friendly forces and 6 NVA were KIA. On 29 Aug the Platoon with F Trp traveled south paralleling the Minh Than road to coordinates XT723775. From there they swept to XT707784, the location of a damaged tank and ACAV. Those vehicles were blown in place. On 30 Aug the Platoon left Aspen II and traveled to the village of Lang Nam. This village was searched revealing 3 cannisters used to fire rockets, an NVA first aid pouch and an RPG-2 booster.

On 1 Sep the Platoon moved to Di An. The Platoon stayed there until 10 Oct pulling maintenance on their vehicles, putting in concertina and trip flares to improve the perimeter defense. The Platoon also conducted mine sweeping classes and demolition classes for 2/11 personnel and constructed quarters for the 2/11. The Platoon, during this time, also aided in the construction of tent frames for Regt HQ at Bien Hoa. The Platoon left Di An and laagered at FSB Marge on 10 Oct. The rest of the month found the Platoon engaged in daily mine sweep operations in the vicinity of Marge. During mine sweeping operations, the Platoon discovered and removed 2 23 lb Chicam AT mines on 17 Oct. Also on that date 21 bunkers, one recently abandoned, were discovered and plans were made to destroy them at a later date. On 19 Oct an AVLB bridge was emplaced at 11742968 and a ford site was constructed.

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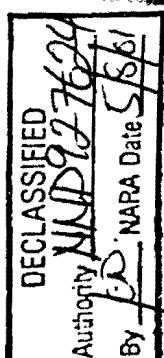
## First Platoon, 919th Engr Co (Armd)

On 22 June the Platoon moved to a bridge site at XT847334 with a dozer from the 1st Engr Bn and repaired damage caused by heavy rains. They remained at the site as a security force until 25 June. From 25 June to 7 July the Platoon was stationed at FSB Thunder I, there they conducted daily mine sweep operations and acted as security for the resupply convoy to Quan Loi.

From 7 July to 31 July the Platoon was stationed at FSB Frieda XT585335 and conducted daily mine sweeps to the Ben Cat bridge. On 17 July the Platoon conducted a mounted ambush patrol at XT626328. The following day the Platoon made contact with the enemy while trying to return to FSB Frieda. Approximately 10-15 NVA were encountered, one POW was taken. On 19 July, while supporting A troop 1/11 ACR, the Platoon made contact with 7-10 VC which resulted in 4 VC/KIA and 1 VC/WIA.

From 16 Aug to 22 Aug the Platoon under the direction of the 1st Cav began clearing land for LZ Ann. During this seven day period the men of the Platoon with demolitions and a dozer cleared over 100 trees. In addition to clearing land for the LZ, the Platoon constructed 21 bunkers and encircled the area with more than 1600 meters of triple standard concertina fence. On 23 Aug the Platoon was divided: 1 squad worked on completion of FSB Kelly and another cleared fields of fire at NDP Allons II and the 3rd squad was used as convoy security from Loc Ninh to Quan Loi. On 1 Sep, 1 ACAV and a five man crew from the Platoon working with C Troop 1/11 went on a recon mission and found twenty bunkers. The next

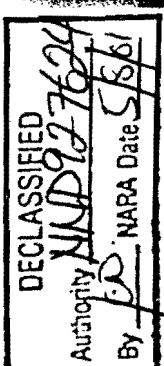
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day on a similar mission 5 x miles northwest of LZ Kelly, 200 fighting positions were discovered. On 5 September LZ Kelly received incoming RPG, mortar and recoilless rifle rounds. That morning a sweep of the area of contact was conducted resulting in contact with the enemy and the engineers were credited with 12 NVA/KIA. On 23 and 24 Sep, the Platoon constructed a Class 12 log bridge and conducted recons of other possible bridge and ford sites. From 25 Sep to 11 Oct the Platoon was laagered at FSB Deb. The first 6 days were spent constructeing 1500 meters of berm, 200 meters of triple standard concertina fence and reinforcing bunker positions to improve the perimeter defense. The engineers, from 3 Oct to 11 Oct, conducted daily mine sweeps between FSB Jon to FSB Deb and along QL 13 from Loc Ninh to FSB Thunder III. In addition to keeping the roads open, the Platoon also destroyed defective ammunition and an observation tower at FSB Jon. During the first days of November, the Platoon conducted demolition classes for members of A, B, C, and D Troops, pulled maintenance on their vehicles and provided convoy security to Loc Ninh. On 12 Nov, the Platoon reinforced a Bailey Bridge on QL 13 at XU722973 using 6 x 6 x 4 timbers.

On 13 Nov the Platoon moved to Special Forces camp in the vicinity of XU263878 and pulled security for the 501 Reme Plow Company. On 15 Nov while returning to Phoc Vinh, the Platoon was ambushed by an unknown sized enemy force in the vicinity of XU287973 receiving negative casualties. The Platoon returned to Quan Loi on 19 Nov.

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at 117669Z. From 22-28 Oct the Platoon working out of Marge worked on Civic Action projects, draining and cleaning a swimming pool and replacing culverts along QL 13.

**12. RESULTS: Engineers KIA: 6**

**Engineers WIA: 11**

**Enemy Losses: See 11th ACR SITREP**

**LOGISTICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS:** Any existing logistical problems can be adequately minimized if the Squadron Commanders take an active and personal in the situation.

**14. SPECIAL EQUIPMENT AND TECHNIQUES:** Again, the 1½ ton cargo trailer was proven to be the wrong vehicle for armor operations. There is not enough room in an ACAV for an Engineer squad, its tools, and equipment. The trailer would be fine on roads but that is not traditional Cavalry country. An M548 cargo carrier, tracked, per platoon would help ease this current at 117669Z. Future 11th ACR platoons working out of Marge will have recurring mobility problem.

**15. COMMANDER ANALYSIS:**

a. Combat assault of Engineer sweep teams to choke points along a trace is a time saving tactic and its continued use is encouraged. The use of sweep teams from the line troops should be encouraged to allow Engineers more freedom for normal engineer operations.

b. Vehicle recovery operations were once again facilitated by technical advice from the Engineers. Squadron Commanders should be aware that in this operation in particular, the Engineers proved that, when necessary, they can fight as well as any of the armor troops.

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d. Engineer sweep teams enabled the Cav to march into the AO considerably faster than expected and gave the Cav the element of surprise.

**16. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- a. More detailed logistical support at Squadron level should precede future operations. This should include who shall feed and supply the Engineers.
- b. The  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ton cargo trailer should be replaced by one M548 per Engineer platoon.

*(Signature)*  
BARRY G. HITTINGER  
Maj, CE  
Executive Officer

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