

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3RD SQUADRON
11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO San Francisco 96257

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AVIC-ZP

9 March 1970

SUBJECT: Combat After Action Report (Kentucky Cougar)

TO: Commanding Officer
11th Armd Cav Regt
ATTN: AVIC-ME
APO San Francisco 96257

1. Name of operation: Operation Kentucky Cougar.
2. Dates of operation: 220001 June 69 through 312359 Jan 70 (Cont).
3. Location: Gia Dinh, Tay Ninh, Binh Long Provinces, Republic of Vietnam.
4. Control/Command Headquarters: Headquarters, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, APO San Francisco 96257.
5. Reporting Officer: George C. Hoffmaster Jr., LTC, Commanding, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.
6. Task Organization:

- a. Headquarters, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.
- b. Headquarters, 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

(1) Operational/Tactical Unit assigned:

- (a) Headquarters Troop, 3/11 ACR
- (b) I Troop, 3/11 ACR
- (c) K Troop, 3/11 ACR
- (d) L Troop, 3/11 ACR
- (e) M Company, 3/11 ACR
- (f) Howitzer Battery, 3/11 ACR

(2) Operational Tactical Unit attached with inclusive dates
(See Annex A).

7. Supporting Forces: Not Included.

8. Intelligence:

During the period 10 June 1969 to November 1969, the Third Squadron used four basic intelligence gathering systems. They are: Human sources, Captured documents, Technical systems and Visual reconnaissance.

a. Human sources: the most reliable human sources were the ralliers and P. O. W.'s. Through interrogation of these personnel, the size, location and plans of the units were usually gained. Also included in human sources are agent reports, and face to face contact with the villagers. Basically, these last two sources were rather unreliable. However, occasionally some good intelligence was gained from them.

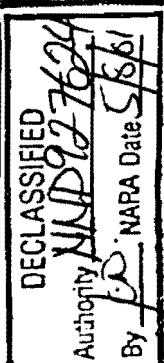
b. Captured documents: Through these captured documents, the Squadron was usually able to obtain the unit designations. In some cases, the strength, armament, and morale of the unit were also obtained.

c. Technical systems: Technical systems include SLAR, Red Haze, photo interpretation, personnel detector (Sniffer), ground sensors, and ground radar. Of all of these systems, ground radar was used the most extensively in the role of perimeter defense. The other systems were used mainly as a supplement to the overall intelligence picture.

d. Visual reconnaissance: VR's were conducted by ACT and the HHT aviation section. The sightings were used as the largest bulk for the daily tactical intelligence.

e. Appendix: The PSYOP programs on the part of the Third Squadron were limited to I - CAPS and civic actions. On the I - CAPS, person to person contact was stressed for all of the people present. In addition, whenever possible, the use of Vietnamese medics and/or doctors were used. During this reporting period the complete indifference towards the war and the fear of the Americans was somewhat diminished. The people are now more responsive to the I - CAPS, and have provided some limited information concerning VC activity.

The civic actions that were carried out by the Third Squadron were done in coordination with village and province officials. One civic action program was the mine clearing operations in the rubber surrounding Minh Duc Village (X720820) with the coordination of the rubber officials. This program opened up many new areas for work, which had previously been denied to them due to the large number of mines. This program gave the rubber workers safer and more working days, plus added to the output of the rubber plantation. One other major civic action program was conducted. This was the furnishing the school at Binh Ninh Village (X720861) which badly needed school supplies.



9. Mission:

The mission of the 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during operation Kentucky Cougar was to screen the eastern edge of War Zone "C", and the area generally known as the Fish-hook, and to protect the western, southwestern and southern approaches to the populated areas of Loc Ninh, An Loc, and Quan Loi. In addition, destroy the North Vietnamese Army and Viet Cong forces and their infrastructure whenever possible either through overt or covert action. And to assist the Republic of Vietnam Forces in their pacification efforts through MEDCAPS and I-CAPS, and improve the training of indigenous forces.

10. Concept of Operation:

The concept of the operation used in Operation Kentucky Cougar is best described as being dominated by small unit tactics.

In a normal operating period the individual units broke down into several elements moving on parallel axis, stretching out in a "finger like" configuration, each moving independently, each, however, mutually supporting.

In the event a maneuver element came into contact with the enemy, the remaining elements converge upon the contact area, normally flanking and destroying the enemy. The use of organic artillery, non-organic artillery, tactical air and Army air are normally controlled by the Squadron Commander or S-3 using a command and control helicopter.

In addition to effective small unit tactics, maximum effort and emphasis has been placed upon stay-behind ambushes, automatic ambushes, manned ambushes, and the establishing of strong points.

Stay behind ambushes have proven an effective means of denying the enemy information and trash, which in a guerrilla operation, may be gleaned to produce offensive weaponry.

Automatic ambushes require minimum use of friendly personnel and has taken the freedom of movement the enemy has held in the past. These ambushes have effectively controlled the enemy avenues of approach to the populated areas.

Manual ambushes using organic weaponry bring maximum organic fire on the enemy. This tactic denies the enemy one of his most valuable assets; movement at night.

Strong points are in keeping with the independently operating, mutually supporting concept, in that the strong point can easily be converted into one or several ambushes. Also it fulfills the role of a rapid reaction force to any or all of the ambush points.

The use of small units operating independently, mutually supporting, produces maximum coverage, exercises maximum casualties on the enemy, and considerably reduces friendly casualties.

11. Execution:

221200 June 1969, the 3rd Squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, commenced operation Kentucky Cougar with the mission as described in paragraph 9. Significant activities, especially combat operations, are described with date and time indicated. Operations were centered in portions of Tay Ninh, Binh Long, Gia Dinh, and Lonh Khanh Provinces, RVN.

(1) 231253 June 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT702930, while moving north from AP Kalati, established contact with 6 to 9 VC. I Troop was supported by a pink team and the Squadron command and control ship. K Troop and M Company moved north to reinforce. Negative artillery and tactical air in support. Results: 3 US KIA, 2 US WHA; enemy unknown.

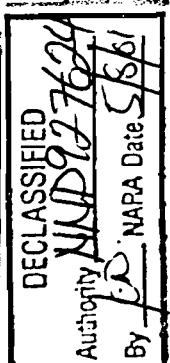
(2) 061900 July 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 688806, while moving along a trail paralleling a stream line south of XA Than Binh, prior to establishing their NDP, found 9 VC KHA. The bodies were 3 to 4 weeks old. Also found at this location were one SKS rifle and 2 RPG Rounds.

(3) 080730 July 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 702838 southwest of XA Than Binh, found a Vietnamese body, tentatively identified as the interpreter from E Troop, 2/11 ACR, who had been missing for several days. The body had been dragged into the middle of the road.

(4) 08730 July 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 699813, while on a reconnaissance mission, questioned a rubber section leader who said that he allowed no traffic on the road at XT 699843 because of mines. He further stated that 3 weeks ago he buried 14 VC at XT 710842.

(5) 162100 July 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, sighted and engaged 8 NVA with small arms and .50 caliber. Artillery was called in to support primarily for illumination. Results: 1 US WHA (minor). 3 NVA KHA, 3 AK-47 CIA, 3 field packs CIA.

(6) 171215 July 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 765755 of XT 765755, while escorting the convoy up Quan Loi 13, engaged an unknown number of enemy. The enemy initiated contact with 82 mm mortar, RPG's and small arms. M Company returned fire with organic weapons. I Troop, 3/11 ACR, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, ARP/11 ACR, reinforced. Contact was broken at 171230. Results: 9 US WHA. 1 Civilian KHA, 1 Civilian WHA. 8 NVA-KIA, 1 NVA CIA.



CIA. 2 AK-47 CIA, 1 LMG CIA, 1 Radio CIA.

(7) 190825 July 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 740796, was engaged in enemy initiated contact. L Troop, 3/11 ACR, was reinforced by K Troop, 3/11 ACR, ARP/11 ACR, a LFT, and artillery. Results: 1 US KHA, 5 US WHA. Negative enemy.

(8) 211415 July 1969, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 670804, while moving south to hiway 245, received small arms while engaged in a reconnaissance dismount. Pink team requested, denied. The weather closed in. Contact was broken at 211420 when enemy fled to the east. Results: 1 US WHA. 1 NVA KIA.

(9) 251030 July 1969, Bravo Company, 2/8. (OPCON to 3/11 ACR), at XT 720735, engaged 3 enemy while searching a bunker complex. K Troop, 3/11 ACR, reinforced. Contact broken at 251040. Results: 1 NVA KIA.

(10) 280001 July, Blackhorse 3/11, was placed OPCON to 199 LIB and was ordered to move south. During this period the Squadron received the M551 armored reconnaissance assault vehicle, the "General Sheridan". Upon completion of M551, the Squadron rejoined the Regiment. Also during this time the troop 4.2" mortar sections were consolidated to form a provisional Mortar battery which is now operating as a separate element within the Squadron. On 04 September 1969, the Squadron received word that it was to move from its Blackhorse location and go north to rejoin the Regiment and its sister Squadrons in the An Loc, Quan Loi, TAOR's. The move was completed 06 September 1969.

(11) 07 September 1969, at XT 708820, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, made contact with an unknown size enemy force. Support came from artillery, LFT, and Tac Air. Results: 1 US KHA, 5 WHA. 32 NVA KIA. Enemy was believed to be from the 101D, NVA Regiment.

(12) 07 September 1969, M Company 3/11 ACR, at XT 710840, engaged an unknown size enemy force. Reinforcement was provided by L Troop, 3/11 ACR, Tac Air, LFT, and artillery. Results: 1 US KHA, 4 US WHA. 32 NVA KIA. Enemy was believed to be from 101D, NVA Regiment.

(13) 110205 September 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 703819, while in their NDP, received 15 82mm and RPG fire. I Troop returned fire with organic weapons and artillery. Contact was broken at 110250 September 1969. At 110406, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, contact was resumed with RPG fire from the north. Fire was returned with organic weapons, artillery supported. The contact was broken at 110418 September 1969. Results: 2 US KHA, 10 US WHA. 2 VC KIA. 1 ARVN KIA. 2 Acav CBL, 1 M551 moderate damage.

(14) 191330 September 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 730799 found 1 VC KIA. Individual was in shallow grave.

(15) 012204 October 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 585761, spotted 6 VC when enemy set off trip flare. Engaged enemy with claymore and organic weapons. VC returned fire and fled to the west. A dismount was dispatched with negative results. Results: 1 US KHA. Enemy negative.

(16) 041945 October 1969, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, engaged 4 VC with organic weapons. Results: 4 VC KIA. 4 AK-47 CIA.

(17) 040100 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, while securing FSB Buttons, came under heavy fire by small arms and RPG. Results: 1 US KHA, 10 US WHA. 3 Acav CBL. Negative enemy.

(18) 1001400 November 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 630883, discovered 2 NVA KIA lying on the ground. Bodies estimated to be 6 days old.

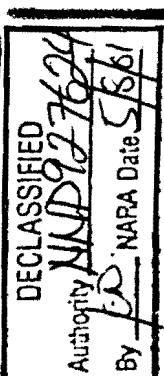
241200 November 1969, the 3rd Squadron began operation Texas Traveller centered along the eastern and western edges of the TAOR boundaries, approximately 5 K's west of the Ton Le Cham River.

(19) 241507 November 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, at above location, established contact with an unknown size enemy force. They received small arms and RPG fire from the east side of the road. They engaged the enemy with organic weapons. Contact broken immediately. Contact again established until 251545. Results: 1 US WHA. 1 NVA KIA, 6 60mm, 400 pounds of rice, 100 pounds of corn, 2 helmet liners, 2 pounds documents, all CIA.

(20) 250645 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 550840, while extracting from ambush point, received RPG and small arms from the south. I Troop engaged with organic weapons. Contact broken immediately. Results: 5 US WHA. Enemy negative.

(21) 250934 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 540835, made contact with unknown size enemy force. I Troop received small arms fire from the north and returned fire with organic weapons. LFT and Blue Max supported. Contact broken at 251050 November 1969. Results: 2 US KHA, 3 US WHA. Enemy negative.

(22) 250934 November 1969, L Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 560843, received small arms and automatic weapons fire from an unknown size enemy force. L Troop returned fire with organic weapons. Contact broken at 251050 November 1969. Results: 1 US KHA, 2 US WHA. Negative enemy.



(23) 251000 November 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 560843, while in contact, received small arms and RPG from the south. They returned fire with organic weapons, LFT, Blue Max and artillery. Results: 1 US WHA. 1 ARVN WIA. 1 NVA KIA.

(24) 251830 November 1969, HHT, 3/11 ACR, at XT 544845, detected movement around their NDP. They engaged the enemy with organic weapons and received RPG and small arms from the enemy. I Troop, 3/11 ACR, moved in to sweep and received small arms and RPG fire at 251845 November 1969. Contact was broken at 251845 November 1969. Results: 5 US WHA. Negative enemy.

(25) 260352 November 1969, CP, 3/11 ACR, at XT 545846, received small arms, RPG, and heavy mortar fire from the north. 3/11 returned fire with organic weapons, Blue Max, LFT, Spooky, Shadow, FAC, Flareship, and artillery. Contact was broken at approximately 260513 November 1969. Results: Combat losses; 1 M557, 2 M551, 4 M548, 2 M109, 5-1½ ton trailers, 2-1 ton ammo trailers. 3 US KHA, 34 US WHA. 4 NVA KIA. (Note: the heavy loss of equipment and personnel was due to RPG rounds impacting with ammunition in trailers and setting off the 155mm ammunition.

(26) 260640 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 540848 engaged 2 enemy with organic weapons. Negative return fire. Results: 1 NVA KIA.

(27) 261116 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 558858, received small arms and RPG from estimated platoon in bunkers. I Troop returned fire with organic weapons, Blue Max, LFT, artillery, and TAC air support. Results: 1 US KHA, 8 US WHA. 1 CIDG WIA. 3 NVA KIA, 1 Hoi Chan. 3 AK 47's CIA, 1 RPG CIA, 8 Chi Com grenades CIA.

(28) 270200 November 1969, I Troop 3/11 ACR, and K Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 552860, XT 557861 and XT 558855, found a bunker complex of approximately 50 bunkers. The following items were found and evacuated: 2 rucksacks of medical supplies, 200 vitamin D pills, 1.5 pounds of documents. The following items were found and destroyed: 40 lbs of rice, 50 lbs corn, 5 lbs wheat, 32 M79 rounds, 1 M72 law (US), 7 RPG rounds, 3 Chi Com grenades, 16 60mm mortar rounds, 1000 AK-47 rounds, 1 anti tank grenade, 1 US claymore, 3 blasting caps, 1 RPG booster, 4 105 (US) rounds, 100 7.62 Chi Com m6 linked ammo, 8 entrenching tools, 4 ponchos, 3 rucksacks, 2 NVA uniforms, 1 US mess kit, 1 cooking stove, 8 sandbags (US) of 7.62 NATO ammo brass, and 4 sets US fatigues.

(29) 271830 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 558858, found 3 NVA KIA, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 2 AK-47's, and 6 Chi Com grenades. Credit was given to I Troop as a result of contact of 26 November 1969.

(30) 280830 November 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 538884, during a sweep of the area revealed 1 NVA POW and 2 NVA KHA. Also found: 1 AK-47, 4 B40 rounds, 6 Chi Com grenades, 1 Chi Com compass, 2 pistol belts, and 1 canteen.

(31) 181601 December 1969, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 689976, a dismount came under small arms and B40 rocket fire while looking for a fording site. Fire came from the north edge of the stream. I Troop engaged with organic weapons. Blue Max and artillery supported. A sweep of the area disclosed a small bunker complex, the dismount was probably engaged by a small stay behind force. Results: 1 US KIA, 1 US KHA, Enemy negative.

(32) 242020 December 1969, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 723812, received small arms fire from approximately 20 meters. Enemy element was moving west to east. Artillery fire, illumination and high explosives, and LFT supported. Results: 1 US WHA. Negative enemy.

(33) 081352 January 1970, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 545875, while sweeping a 30 bunker basecamp, found 21 NVA bodies in individual graves, badly decomposed.

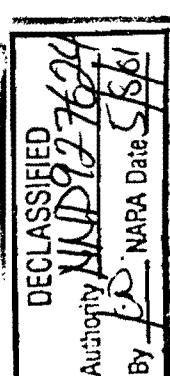
(34) 100615 January 1970, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, FOB, received 10 82mm from the northeast. LFT and Blue Max supported. Results: 2 US WHA. Negative enemy.

(35) 112030 January 1970, K Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 536849, strong point received 10 RPG rounds from azimuth of 300°. Artillery and Blue Max supported. Results: 4 US WHA. Negative enemy.

(36) 141625 January 1970, M Company, 3/11 ACR, at XT 539838, found two individual graves believed to be 4 to 5 days old. Credit given to How 3/11 ACR, for support of K Troop, 3/11 ACR, on 10 January 1970.

(37) 171515 January 1970, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 541885, ambush point made contact with unknown size enemy force. They engaged with organic weapons, and received small arms fire in return. Results: Negative US. 1 NVA KIA.

(38) 191427 January 1970, I Troop, 3/11 ACR, at XT 520865, dis made contact with estimated 3 NVA. They engaged the enemy with LFT organic weapons. Results: 2 US WHA. Negative enemy.



12. Results:

a. Personnel losses

(1) US/FWMAF/ARVN -	KHA	19(US)	1(ARVN)
	WHA	116(US)	3(ARVN)
	POW	0	
(2) NVA/VC	KHA	231	
	WHA		
	POW	3	
	Chiu Hoi	1	

b. Equipment losses (direct result of contact - does not include mine damage).

(1) US/FWMAF/ARVN -	ACAV	7
	M48A3	0
	M109 How 155	2
	M577	1
	M551	3
	M578	1
	1½ ton trailer	5
	1 ton trailer	2
(2) NVA/VC -	AK47	16
	B40	3
	RPG	1
	60mm mortar	50
	Rice	440 lbs
	Corn	100 lbs
	Chi Com grenades	31

c. Enemy equipment uncovered (Cache) - None.

13. Administrative matters - not included.

14. Special equipment - not included.

15. Commander's Analysis:

The initial period of Operation Kentucky Cougar was characterized by small unit tactics, hit and run engagement, and generally, guerrilla type operations. Later, in June, July, and September, the enemy emerged from his small unit posture to one of decisive engagement. Most of this activity occurred in War Zone "C". The results of these operations were decisively one sided with the enemy suffering numerous casualties.

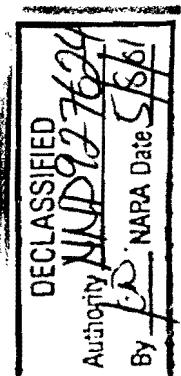
With the Squadron's withdrawal from War Zone "C" to the An Loc, Quan Loi areas, the enemy again went into a defensive posture, to the point of avoiding contact, and engaging only when engaged.

The enemy activity has been characterized by the placing of anti-tank mines and minor harassment of the small villages and hamlets in the area. It appears that the enemy does not wish to be engaged.

16. Recommendations: All concerned

Annex A - Attached

HOFFMASTER
LTC



Annex A

<u>Attachments - Detachments</u>	<u>Attached to</u>	<u>Date</u>
52 Intell and Recon Co (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	30 Aug to 9 Sept
H/2/11 ACR	3/11 ACR	20 Sept to 2 Oct
255th RF Co	3/11 ACR	24 Sept to 27 Sept
C/1/11 ACR	3/11 ACR	1 Sept to 29 Sept
B-2/7 Cav	3/11 ACR	1 Oct to 9 Oct
577 Engr	3/11 ACR	9 Oct
I/3/11 ACR	3d Bde 1st Cav	19 Nov
C & D-2/7	3/11 ACR	23 Nov to 27 Nov
L/3/11 ACR	1st Cav Div (AM)	14 Dec to 31 Dec
1/CIDG/Minh Thanh SF (ABN)	3/11 ACR	09130 Nov to 1500
1 plt/255 RF (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	240800 Sept
1 plt/781 RF (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	240900 Sept
1 sqd/214 RF (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	220930 Sept
Recon/E/1/8/1 ACD	3/11 ACR	210500 Sept
B/2/7 Cav/ 1 ACD	3/11 ACR	190800 Nov
1 plt 255 RF	3/11 ACR	
14/4/9 (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	141715 Nov
C/5/7	3/11 ACR	
622 RF Co	3/11 ACR	202100 Aug
H/2/11 ACR	3/11 ACR	200800 Sept
I/3/11 ACR	1/11 ACR	080800 Oct
B/2/8/1 ACD	3/11 ACR	141500 Jan
2/5 Cav (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	032215 Sept
3/5 Cav (ARVN)	3/11 ACR	301900 Sept
C/1/11 ACR	3/11 ACR	111900 Nov to 121745 Nov
I/3/11 ACR	1/11 ACR	111900 Nov
14/4/9	3/11 ACR	120600 Nov
C/1/11 ACR	3/11 ACR	060800 Nov
L/3/11 ACR	2/1 ACD	281730 Oct

