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Box 1

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
Air Cavalry Troop 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment  
1 January 1968 - 31 December 1968

*James W Bradin*  
JAMES W. BRADIN  
Major, Armor  
Commanding

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**1. Summary of Year's Activities**

During 1968 the Air Cavalry Troop provided air support 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment operations from Nui Dat to Loc Ninh. With an aggressive spirit unequaled in this theatre of operations the Air Cavalry Troop firmly established itself as the finest unit of its kind in Vietnam.

**2. Breakdown of Monthly Activities**

a. During the month of January the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operations Fargo, Attala, and Casey from Lai Khe, Tan Le Choc, and Loc Ninh. During this period the Weapons Platoon flew armed reconnaissance and convoy escort missions. The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol conducted two missions resulting in 4 VC KIA and 2 LRRP WIA. Troop Aircraft and maintenance were consolidated at Lai Khe. Two aircraft, a UH-1D and a UH-1C were damaged in accidents.

b. During the month of February the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operations Casey, Adairsville, and Kitty Hawk from Lai Khe, Phu Loi, Bear Cat, and Blackhorse Base Camp. The Troop left Lai Khe on 17 February and returned to Blackhorse Base Camp where the Weapons Platoon continued to support Kitty Hawk. The Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol conducted two missions, spotting several VC base camps and killing three enemy with Claymore mines. Five aircraft were damaged by mortar fire at various locations.

c. During the month of March the Air Cavalry Troop provided aviation support for the Regiment during Operations Kitty Hawk, Adairsville, and Alcorn Cove from Ben Cat, Duc Hoa, Bien Hoa, and Blackhorse Base Camp. The Troop was based at Blackhorse Base Camp during the entire period. Units supported included: 18th ARVN Division, 25th ARVN Division, 199th Light Infantry Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, and the 101st Airborne Division. The Lift Platoon supported four Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol missions. One VC was killed by the LRRP's with no US casualties. Nine aircraft were damaged by ground fire and three aircraft were damaged by mortar fire at Duc Hoa.

d. During the month of April the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operation Alcorn Cove and Campaign Toan Thang from Long Thauth, Duc Hoa, Phuoc Vinh, Bunand, Song Be, and Blackhorse Base Camp. Reconnaissance missions were conducted twice daily in support of base camp security. The lift platoon supported six Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol missions. The LRRP's operated in the Blackhorse AO on five missions. One VC was killed and one LRRP drowned. Troop maintenance operated from Blackhorse

Base Camp and Phuoc Vinh. On 8 April 1968 several organizational adjustments were made. The Aviation Platoon HHT was merged with the Air Cavalry Troop. The 398th DS Detachment was attached to the Air Cavalry Troop. Four aircraft received light damage from ground fire.

e. During the month of May the Troop supported the Regiment during Operation Toan Thang from Bien Hoa, Cu Chi, Duc Hoa, Xuan Loc, Bao Trai, Long Binh, and Blackhorse Base Camp. During the reporting period the Troop took part in eight major actions. On 6 May at approximately 0500 a LFT was sent to Cam My in response to a VC attack. Twelve LFT's were employed with nine expending on the enemy. Two UH-1C's were hit by ground fire resulting in one US KIA and one US WIA. On 7 May at 1150 hours a LFT was sent to support the 18th ARVN Division in a contact 10 miles SW of Dinh Quan on Route 20. Five LFT's were employed with all expending and one UH-1C being hit by ground fire resulting in one US WIA. On 14 May while making a morning reconnaissance, the lead ship of a LFT was hit by 4 rounds of hostile fire just south of Base Camp. The same day a HFT was employed in the vicinity of Duc Hoa in support of the 1st Squadron. The 16th of May found the 1st Squadron in heavy contact with a HFT in support. At 1730 hours on 23 May an Aero Scout section was making an evening reconnaissance and encountered 15 VC in a field 5 miles east of Base Camp. A LFT was employed and 9 VC KIA (body count). The 25th of May found a HFT in support of ARVN troops at Tan Linh. The fire team was credited with 3 VC KIA (body count). Eight LRRP operations were conducted during the month. Nine OH-6A's were received on 8 May.

f. During the month of June the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment during Operation Toan Thang from Bien Hoa, Xuan Loc, and Blackhorse Base Camp. On 4 June a Scout Team spotted two VC in a field. A 12 man team was inserted and a LFT was employed resulting in two VC KIA. On 7 June at 0640 a LFT was sent in support of the 43rd Regiment, 18th ARVN Division, which was in heavy contact. A total of six LFT's expended with unknown results. On the 10th of June two LFT's again supported the 18th ARVN Division with 4 VC KIA (possible) resulting from the engagement. On the 17th of June a LFT was sent in support of D Company, 1/11 ACR at 1150 hours. Two LFT's expended in the contact area. On 21 June a LFT was employed in support of the 18th ARVN Division resulting in 8 VC KIA (possible). On 28 June an OH-6A was hit by ground fire wounding the Crew Chief. Eight LRRP missions were conducted resulting in six enemy sightings. Two OH-6A's were involved in accidents during the month.

g. During the month of July the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operation Toan Thang from Bien Hoa, Lai Khe, and Blackhorse Base Camp. Two UH-1D's and two LFT's were stationed at Bien Hoa to support LRRP operations. On 21 July 1969, Bien Hoa became the Troop's operation center. On 17 July a LOH was hit and downed by fire, after taking 27 hits. The LRRP's conducted 9 missions and was credited with 16 VC KIA. On 20 July at 0720 hours the lead aircraft of a LFT hit the ground and was totally destroyed.

h. During the month of August the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operation Toan Thang II and conducted independent operations in its own AO. Operational units of the Troop were located in Bien Hoa

and maintenance and logistical support were located at Blackhorse Base Camp. On 24 August 1968, the Air Cavalry Troop completed its re-organization in accordance with TOE 17-58E. The Scout Platoon received training in map reading and artillery adjustment. The Weapons Platoon continued to transition pilots into the AH-1G aircraft. The Aero Rifle Platoon was operational on 24 August after intense training. The Aero Rifle Platoon then conducted nine operations resulting in two VC WIA. On 9 August a UH-1D was lost due to an engine failure and on 21 August an AH-1G was lost on a flight from Vung Tau and the crew was reported missing in action.

i. During the month of September the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operation Toan Thang II and conducted independent operations in AO Wildcat. Troop Command and Control elements were located at Bien Hoa and maintenance elements were located at Blackhorse Base Camp. The Aero Scout Platoon made visual reconnaissance throughout the AO with Cobra support. The Weapons Platoon continued to transition pilots into the AH-1G aircraft. The Aero Rifle Platoon conducted 20 missions resulting in four VC KIA and five POW's. The Troop lost one aviator who was killed while riding in an Air Force aircraft which crashed.

j. During the month of October the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in its operations and conducted independent operations in AO Wildcat. Troop Command and Control elements were located at Bien Hoa. The Scout Platoon conducted visual reconnaissance missions in hunter-killer team elements. Three LOH's were shot down by hostile fire killing one pilot. The Aero Weapons Platoon supported scout missions and continued to qualify pilots in the AH-1G aircraft. The Aero Platoon participated in twenty missions resulting in 20 POW's and 14 VC KIA. The SNOD was used extensively in night reconnaissance of the Regiment's TAOR.

k. During the month of November the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment and conducted independent operations in AO Bugle. Command and Control elements were located at Bien Hoa and support elements were located at Blackhorse Base Camp. The Scouts continued to operate in hunter-killer (Pink) teams. One pilot and one observer were killed when their Scout aircraft was downed by enemy fire. The Aero Weapons Platoon continued to provide organic fire support for the Troop. The platoon had 21 confirmed kills for the period. The Aero Rifle Platoon conducted 20 missions with 2 VC KIA and 10 POW's resulting from the action.

l. During the final month of the year the Air Cavalry Troop supported the Regiment in Operation Toan Thang II and continued to conduct independent operations in AO Wildcat. The Troop Orderly Room was moved to Bien Hoa from Blackhorse the third week in December. The Scout Platoon continued to conduct reconnaissance missions in the AO. One Scout pilot was wounded by enemy ground fire. The Aero Rifle Platoon conducted 18 missions resulting in 15 POW's and 18 VC KIA. The Aero Weapons Platoon continued to provide overall fire support for all Troop operations.