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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
AIR CAVALRY TROOP, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO San Francisco 96257

AVIC-WC

June 1971

SUBJECT: Unit History for June 1971

The Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment continued its mission of supporting ARVN ground forces and those of its parent squadron in June, despite weather which restricted and curtailed operations throughout the month. Though the first weeks of June saw a continuance of previous operations, the final weeks of June saw a change of mission for 2d Squadron and a change in technique of ARVN ground forces.

2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment began June continuing its operations to clear the Boi Loi woods by use of its attached Rome plows. During this period the frequent attacks by enemy forces on the night defensive positions, characteristic of enemy operations in previous months, dwindled to several nuisance raids. Apparently the enemy had learned from his bitter experience of the firepower of the organic weapons and readily available air support. There were only scattered instances of ground contact, though mines and booby traps continued to take their toll of equipment.

Late June saw the departure of the attached land clearing company whose services were needed elsewhere. The Squadron promptly initiated a program of reconnaissance in force missions in the unplowed areas of the Boi Loi woods and surrounding terrain. The Air Cavalry Troop continued in this phase of operations, as it had in the previous, to supply visual reconnaissance missions to provide intelligence for planning these operations, and screening the forces involved in their conduct. The Troop also participated with elements of Squadron's own Aviation Section in several "snatch missions" which netted valuable information.

ARVN operations continue in Cambodia though on a reduced scale, due to the approach of the rainy season, and its consequent reduction in the mobility of ground forces. The ACT provided visual reconnaissance of areas of interest to ARVN ground commanders to obtain information on movements of civilians in and out of populated areas, traffic along major and minor roads, location of enemy positions and routes of movement, and damage analysis of air strikes. On one occasion this led to direct contact with enemy ground forces.

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An alert scout from the Aero Scout Platoon observed cleverly camouflaged bunkers and fighting positions, in an area previously free of covert enemy action. On his next pass several uniformed enemy soldiers exposed themselves. They were met by the withering fire of the scout and supporting Cobra and Command and Control ship. After repeating the process several times, each time discovering new positions and dispatching enemy troops with prompt fire, ARVN ground forces were inserted. They confirmed the enemy KIA's and secured pieces of enemy equipment including two mortars.

The slicks of the Aero Rifle Platoon participated in the ARVN change of technique when they inserted IRRP's in areas of Vietnam bordering Cambodia. Covered by Cobras these missions were highly successful in inserting and extracting the IRRP's without incident.

Weather as mentioned before has reduced the ability of the Air Cavalry Troop to conduct its operations. Early and mid-morning hours are characterized by low ceilings and reduced visibility, giving way to thunderstorms in the afternoon and evening. Though thus restricted the Troop has still provided valuable assistance to both U.S. and ARVN forces.

June again saw the recognition of individual achievement in the form of awards and decorations. Awards for valor and achievement were presented to troop members by the Troop Commanding Officer at a ceremony in Tay Ninh.

June closes with the thought of moving on everyone's lips. Camp Frenzell Jones will revert to the ARVN's in the continued Vietnamization of the war.

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