

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

AVIC-WC

July 1971

SUBJECT: Unit History for July 1971

The Air Cavalry Troop continued in its mission of supporting ARVN operations in Tay Ninh Province along the border of Cambodia, and limited operations in Cambodia. Although support of ARVN ground operations was the troop's principal mission, it also flew in support of its parent squadron, 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

ARVN ground operations in July were hampered by weather which greatly restricted their ground mobility. The period was predominantly one of reconnaissance both by air and ground forces. The ACT conducted the aerial reconnaissance, and participated in ground reconnaissance by ARVN Long Range Recon Patrols.

Visual reconnaissance was continued as in the past by "pink teams" composed of members of the Aero Scout Platoon in their LOH's, and cobras from the Aero Weapons Platoon. Concentrating on areas designated by ARVN commanders as of particular interest or concern, the troop searched areas in the Dog's Head of Tay Ninh Province, particularly on the South Vietnamese-Cambodian border, and in Cambodia itself. Information on locations of possible base camps, trail arteries, supply caches, and movements of civilians in and out of villages was provided to give an up to minute evaluation of enemy activity.

At the same time ARVN forces in the form of LRRP's were inserted by the ACT in various areas throughout Tay Ninh Province. Inserted by Hueys of the Lift Platoon, covered by cobras and coordinated by Command and Control aircraft, these LRRP's spent approximately 24 hours searching areas that were particularly dense in terms of foliage. The LRRP's were the only ones who could obtain the information necessary on these areas. At the end of their mission they were extracted by the same combined team from ACT that had put them in. These missions were successfully completed without incident.

The ACT also worked closely with 2d Squadron, 11th ACR which was continuing its program of reconnaissance in force or RIF operations in southeastern Tay Ninh Province around the Boi Loi Woods. The RIF operations had been initiated the previous month when the squadron's attached land clearing company had been withdrawn. Pink teams from the troop provided valuable information for the conduct of these operations, and screening during the actual conduct of operations. In particular they were able to

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keep a close eye on foot traffic for personnel who seemed very intent on leaving the area. Several of these people were picked up by aircraft from squadron's Aviation Section for interrogation.

Soon the land clearing company was back, and squadron returned to some plowing the Boi Loi Woods. The troop continued its support in the form of visual reconnaissance missions, first and last lights of the night defensive positions, and screening missions in areas with a high probability of contact.

This period also saw the insertion of members of the Aero Rifle Platoon into an ambush site, followed shortly by the whispered radio call that they had 30 to 40 enemy soldiers in their area. Cobras, which had been standing by for just such an eventuality, rolled in with rockets, mini-gun, and 40mm grenade launchers to place devastating fire on the enemy force. In coordination with artillery fire, the cobras were able to neutralize the enemy force, allowing the ARF's to be picked up by ACAV's from squadron. Due to close teamwork not a single casualty resulted from this operation. Damage to the enemy force was not determined due to the onset of darkness.

July held a surprise for the ACT in the form of a mortar attack on Tay Ninh followed by a sapper probe. The attack was actually not directed at the ACT positions, but rather the 187th Assault Helicopter Company across the runway. Several aircraft were damaged by mortar fire and satchel charges. Several sappers were killed in the 187th's area.

Several days later ACT packed everything up to move out of Tay Ninh and return to Long Binh, where plans for the move to Phu Loi were nearing completion.

The end of July found ACT in the midst of their move to Phu Loi, supporting ARVN units from staging areas Tay Ninh and Katum, and continuing in support of 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

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