

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

AV1C-WC

1 December 1971

SUBJECT: Unit History

September came in like a lamb and went out like a lion. The month started quietly with the Air Cavalry Troop generally flying the same missions it had been flying for the previous several months. The bulk of its effort continued to be in support of the ARVN 25th Infantry Division working out of Tay Ninh, Dau Tieng and Chu Chi. Teams also flew in support of 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

During the first part of the month a minor contact was made northwest of Chu Chi when a LOH, as part of a "Pink Team" took ground to air fire. Additional troop Cobras were called up to work in conjunction with the ascending Cobra from the "Pink Team". The area was thoroughly worked over until the onset of darkness. Further reconnaissance revealed the area has seen moderate enemy activity, and most probably was the area from which the enemy staged indirect fire attacks on Trung Tap.

Again around Fire Support Base Jamie, northwest of Dau Tieng, a LOH took fire. The teams were working in the area upon request of ARVN ground units in efforts to locate the firing positions from which mortars were being fired at Jamie. These positions were also being used to harass aircraft on resupply missions. Again Cobras worked the area over, and though nothing could be determined through subsequent searches, the aircraft did not receive fire.

The slicks and guns came to the aid of ARVN units operating southeast of Dau Tieng after the NVA executed an ambush on a column of senior officers and advisors. The Cobras provided direct fire support in addition to the guns from several other units. The Cobras remained on station after dark to provide suppressive fire on mortar positions firing on an ARVN ground sweep through the ambush area. During this time, slicks from the troop, were conducting medivacs in darkness to nearby Tamsen. The operation continued the next day with Cobras again providing fire support for ground units conducting a sweep.

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The last week in September saw a major shift of effort to the Thien Ngon, Pace, Krek and Fire Support Base Alpha area to come to the aid of ARVN units under attack by elements of the NVA divisions. The offensive broke out around Thien Ngon and spread north to Pace, Krek and Alpha. The troop temporarily switched roles from that of reconnaissance to one of gun support. Visual reconnaissance just couldn't be conducted in the intense ground to air fire. Gun teams from the Cobras under direction of a Command and Control slick escorted resupply missions and provided direct fire support on suspected enemy antiaircraft weapons, indirect fire weapons and troop locations. As an indication of the level of activity pilots were flying ten and eleven hour days and individual guns pulling out as many as 500 rockets in a day. American airpower particularly in the form of helicopter gunships gave invaluable aid to ARVN ground forces in breaking the back of this offensive which was to continue into October.

Though the mission of 2d Squadron 11th ACR seemed sedate in comparison to the hectic goings on up north it wasn't without its moments. The troop continued to provide "Pink Teams" for visual reconnaissance to aid in the planning and conduct of Rome plow and reconnaissance in force missions. This was punctuated by a short but nonetheless sharp contact when a troop conducting a Rome plow operation ran into an entrenched enemy unit. Despite inclement weather Cobras from the troop provided gun support, though this was quickly stopped due to extremely unfavorable weather. However, slicks from the troop, despite the weather provided medivac missions and artillery adjustment.

Despite the level of conflict in September the troop was able to successfully complete its mission without the loss of a single life.

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