

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

AVIC-WC

1 January 1972

SUBJECT: Unit History for October 1971

October began as a continuation of the latter part of September with ARVN units heavily committed in defensive operations against a powerful NVA offensive around Fire Base Alpha and Krek in Cambodia, and Thieg Ngon and Fire Base Pace in South Vietnam. The Air Cavalry Troop continued to provide assistance where, and however possible.

Missions during the period were marked by the absence of normal visual reconnaissance operations. The area was too heavily infiltrated with anti-aircraft weapons to conduct these missions. Instead, assistance was rendered with gunships in support of troops in contact, by command and control aircraft and guns in the conduct of escort missions for resupply aircraft carrying vitally needed supplies to these firebases and by the same elements extracting downed aircraft crews, several of which were under heavy fire.

As the tide of the battle turned, and NVA units started to withdraw to recover their strength, the Air Cavalry Troop reverted to its more accustomed role of visual reconnaissance. Missions were run in an attempt to locate enemy base camps, routes of withdrawal, and to assess the damage done by the heavy airstrikes. Pink teams were also used to locate targets for further airstrikes to complete the battering the enemy had been subjected to.

As the battle drew to its final close the Air Cavalry Troop returned to its general support role shifting frequently from one staging area to another to provide intelligence information in support of various ARVN units in the 25th ARVN Division Area of Operations from Tay Ninh to Katum to Dau Tieng. The month closed with the troop still performing these missions in support of the 25th ARVN Division.

In addition to conducting the previous operations the troop continued to support the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment operating out of Fire Support Base Andrews in the Boi Loi Woods. Missions in support of the Squadron consisted primarily of first and last lights of the area with particular emphasis on the areas immediately around night defensive positions. The period was periodically punctuated by scrambles for sightings of individuals or minor contacts.

The troop also provided assistance in the conduct of several snatch missions in the area of operations which netted valuable intelligence information.

October also saw the further recognition of the individual efforts of members of the Air Cavalry Troop in an Awards and Decorations ceremony where LTC. Stokes, the Squadron Commander presented various medals for valor and achievement to the officers and men of the Troop.

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