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11th ACK, ORG HIST  
66-71  
Box 3

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY  
(RCS CSHIS-6 (R2))  
2d Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment  
1 January 1966 - 31 December 1966

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ORG HISTORY FILES

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## ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY

(RCS GSHIS-6 (R2) )

2d Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

1 ~~January~~ 1966 to 31 January 1966

## 1. Summary of Year's Activities.

The year 1966 provided the 2d Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment the opportunity to once again serve its country fighting the spread of Communism. Ordered to reactivate in October of 1965, the first half of 1966 saw the men of the Eagle Squadron equip, train and deploy to Southeast Asia. During the remainder of the year the Squadron conducted numerous operations against the Communist enemy and represented the Regiment and the branch of Armor in true Cavalry traditions.

## 2. Breakdown of Monthly Activities.

a. During the month of January 1966, the 2d Squadron was in the preliminary stages of receiving cadre personnel after having been reactivated in October 1965. Additionally, the Squadron was taking an active part in the conduct of the Regimental AIT program. The Squadron's mission in this program was to conduct all cadre type training and house the trainees. Simultaneously, equipment and permanently assigned personnel were arriving and the nucleus of the unit was taking shape.

b. February saw the continuance of cadre training for the combat MOS personnel and the beginning of AIT for specialized skills. The cooks, mechanics, and medics, for example, began their training with a major portion of it being conducted utilizing the facilities of Fort Meade Post such as the meat plant, transportation motor pool and Kimbrough Army Hospital. The new Squadron commander, LTC Kibbey F. Horne, arrived on 21 February. All units of the Squadron continued to receive filler personnel for AIT while simultaneously the troop areas were in the process of being established and equipment was received daily.

c. On 11 March 1966 the Regiment received Department of the Army message number 754439 which alerted all Squadrons for deployment to Southeast Asia. During the month the Squadron continued classroom training for AIT. Subjects included preliminary map reading, driver training and first aid. On 28 March, Company B, Howitzer Battery and the mortars from all three Armored Cavalry Troops moved to Camp Vickatt, Virginia to conduct service firing. The remainder of the Squadron prepared for movement to Camp AF Hill, Virginia, where they would conduct field training.

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Authority AND 873 541

NARA Date 4/10/01

d. On 13 April 1966 the Squadron (-) moved to Camp AP Hill and concluded the AIT program on 23 April. The Basic Unit Training phase began on 25 April with emphasis on squad, platoon and troop/company/battery training. Company H, Howitzer Battery and the squadron mortars rejoined the Squadron on the 25th of April. All three units successfully completed the service firing tables and qualified with their armament system.

e. The month of May saw the continuance of BUI, during which phase the troops conducted exercises in clearing SAI Village, a mock-up model of a Vietnamese village. The M-113 and M-577 armored carriers were utilized in amphibious training, and the mortar squads successfully completed their squad tests. On the 5th of May the Squadron celebrated the Regiment's Organization day with a training holiday and a competitive field day. This brief lull gave the men of the Eagle Squadron the opportunity to know and appreciate the history and heritage of their unit. The month of May was climaxed with the conduct of the platoon tests. The tests started on the 25th and were successfully concluded on the 27th of May. All platoons were tested in mounted and dismounted operations and found to be Combat Ready.

f. June began with the Squadron conducting a live-fire Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) course which enabled the individual crews to gain confidence in their equipment and in themselves as a team. The Squadron conducted Exercise YELLOW RIBBON starting on 13 June which lasted three (3) days. The exercise was designed to provide the opportunity for the unit to function as a coordinated organization, controlled, for the first time in a tactical problem, by the Commander and his staff. The Squadron began its Annual Training Test on 19 June. An evaluation of each troop, Company H and Howitzer Battery was also incorporated into the test. The test lasted four days and paralleled situations which were anticipated in Vietnam as closely as possible. The test was a complete success and the Squadron received an overall rating of Excellent. On the 24th the Squadron, minus Troop E, returned to Ft Meade to begin the tedious task of preparing for overseas movement. Troop E moved to Camp Pickett, Va. and acted as an aggressor force against the 1st Squadron during the conduct of its ATT.

g. July was a month in which a great variety of projects were experienced and the test of the well-coordinated unit was at hand. Simultaneously, equipment was packed for shipment, vehicles were moved to port and the troopers were granted a preembarkation fourteen day leave. On the 8th of July the Squadron took part in the Regimental Field Day which provided the Regiment with the opportunity to have all three Squadrons together for the first time since the 2d Squadron was deactivated in 1965. From 11 July to 23 July a dry-fire Armored Cavalry Platoon FTX was conducted for each platoon in the Squadron. This was the last opportunity for platoons to field train prior to movement to Vietnam. The exercise was a great success and provided the troopers with a finishing touch.

DECLASSIFIED

Authority AND 873 541

10 NARA Date 11/10/01

Concurrently the ground surveillance crews of the Squadron were given a short training course and administered a Qualification Course. All crews successfully completed this test. General Creighton Abrams Jr., Vice-Chief-of-Staff of the United States Army, visited the Regiment and spoke to a representative body of the 2d Squadron. In his brief but pointed speech, he emphasized the importance of the non-commissioned officer, the need for independent action by the small unit commander, and the tremendous responsibility the troopers assumed as representatives of the first major Armor Command deployed in Vietnam. During the remainder of the month the Squadron conducted weapons qualification for Fiscal Year 1967, processing for overseas replacement (PCR), processing for overseas movement (PCM), training, and orientation on the Starlight night observation device.

h. On the 9th of August the Squadron's Advance Party, consisting of 12 officers and 36 enlisted men, departed by air for Vietnam. Their task was to establish a staging area and prepare for acceptance of the main body. Meanwhile back at Ft. Meade the Squadron flew from Baltimore, Maryland to Oakland, California. They boarded the USS UPSHIP and sailed on 20 August 1966. Shipboard training included such areas as physical conditioning, Vietnamese language, weapons, medical training and small unit tactics.

i. On the 7th of September the Squadron arrived at BINH TAN, South Vietnam, was flown to BINH HOA Air Force Base and trucked to their temporary home, a staging area located at LONG BINH. The remainder of the month was occupied with receiving equipment, test firing and zeroing weapons, and conducting orientation visits by commanders and staff to Armor and Mechanized units of the 1st Infantry Division and the 25th Infantry Division.

j. On 1 October the 2d Squadron conducted its first combat operation in Vietnam, Operation BATTLEWY. The mission was a route reconnaissance of Highway 15 from BINH HOA to BA GIA, providing security for 169th Engr Battalion Reconnaissance team. No enemy contact was made during the one-day operation. During the month, the Squadron also participated in Operation UNCLE TOM which provided for the security of installations in the BINH HOA-LONG BINH area. Negative contact was reported. On the 25th of October the Squadron Rear Detachment joined the unit. The 2d Squadron took part in the Regimental Operation ATLANTA on 22 October when it moved to the QUANG RUBBER Plantation (YB3994) and established a Combat Base. From the combat base the Squadron conducted search and destroy operations in the local area. Enemy activity was confined to sniper fire, anti-tank mines and harassment by local force units. On 3 November the Squadron relocated to its assigned area in the Regimental Base Camp at LONG GAI (YB29921). The process of establishing a base camp and concurrently conducting local operations in the Regimental tactical area of responsibility, had now begun.

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Authority AND 873541

NARA Date 11/10/01

k. During the month of November the Squadron continued its role in Operation ATLANTA and concurrently started fortifying the Regimental Base Camp with concertina and bunkers, clearing fields of fire and patrolling daily from the base. The area reconnaissance missions which were conducted resulted in large amounts of VC supplies and equipment being confiscated. No sizeable enemy contact was made although several VCs were hit by claymore mines and sniper fire.

l. During December the Squadron continued Operation ATLANTA and took part in CANARY/DUCK, during which it was OTCO to the 173d Airborne Brigade (Sep). Concurrently, the rear elements of the Squadron continued to improve the Regimental Base Camp perimeter and construct temporary ANFOC billets. Operation ATLANTA was terminated on 6 December. The Squadron commenced Operation CANARY/DUCK on 7 December and continued with the mission until 25 December. The tactical elements of the Squadron were located along Highway 15 from LONG BINH to LONG THANH (YS1687). The Squadron provided security for troop movements of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade and the 9th Infantry Division, from VINH TAU to their respective staging areas. Concurrent with the route security mission were area search and destroy missions in the assigned area of operations. Enemy contact was light and consisted mostly of mines and sniper fire. The month drew to a close with the Squadron occupying positions on Highway 15 preparing to take part in Operations COTAR FALLS which was to start in January 1967.

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Date 1/10/01

## GLOSSARY

ACAV - Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle - A modified M113 Armored Personnel Carrier with a crew of five. Major modifications include a turret mounted 7.62mm machinegun and a 7.62mm machinegun mounted on each side of the vehicle utilizing a gun shield mount.

JABTOC - Joint Authorized by Theater Overseas' Commander - Construction materials issued units which when assembled provided temporary billets and the means by which units can improve their respective areas on a self-help basis.

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