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11th ACR, 2d SQD
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ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY

(RCS CSHIS-6(R2))

2D SQUADRON, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT

1 January 1968 to 31 December 1968

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Authority NND 927622

By DAV NARA Data 6/22/01

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1. Summary of the Year's Activities:

The year 1968 provided the 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment with the opportunity to continue serving its country and the Republic of Vietnam in fighting the spread of communism. During the year the squadron was called upon to assist in crushing the communist TET offensive in the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA area; the communist Spring offensive at CAM MY; and the Fall offensive in the LOC NINH area of the republic. Each of these missions was eagerly accepted and successfully executed, thereby inflicting massive casualties on both Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army forces in the grandest tradition of the Eagle Squadron.

2. Breakdown of Monthly Activities:

a. January: The 2d Squadron continued Operation FARGO through the first three weeks of January conducting RIF operations in AO PLYMOUTH, located southeast of LOC NINH, extending to the Cambodian border. On 21 January, 2d Squadron terminated Operation FARGO and moved into attack positions along Hwy 13 to join the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division on Operation CASEY. During this operation, the Squadron moved to an area just east of the Michelin Plantation on 27 January and established a base camp, where it remained until 31 January.

b. February: The Squadron arrived in the BIEN HOA area during the early morning hours of 1 February. The mission was to provide security to the Bien Hoa Air Base, the III Corps Tactical Zone Headquarters, and related facilities within the area. The security mission remained unchanged throughout the month, with an increasing emphasis on preventing rocket attacks against the Bien Hoa complex from within the area of operations.

c. March: During the first four days of March, the Squadron continued counter-rocket and base camp security operations in the BIEN HOA area. On 5 March, the Squadron became OPCON to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate) while remaining in the BIEN HOA area. On 8 March 1968, while still OPCON to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate) the Squadron moved to AO WHEELLOCK, south of Hwy 1 and west of XUAN LOC, to conduct Operation VALLEY FORGE. On 16 March the Squadron commenced Operation HARRISBURG north of BIEN HOA. On 20 March the Squadron departed the BIEN HOA area moving to the area west of BEN CAT to participate in Operation ALCORN COVE. In this operation the Squadron was under the operational control of the 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. The month ended with the Squadron conducting RIF operations as part of ALCORN COVE.

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d. April: During the first five days of April, the Squadron continued to conduct RIF operations west of BEN CAM as part of Operation ALCORN COVE. During Operation ALCORN COVE, the Squadron was OPCON to the 3d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. On 6 April 1968 the Squadron returned to the control of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and conducted a road march from BEN CAM to Blackhorse Base Camp. Upon closing the base camp the Squadron conducted maintenance in preparation for future operations. On 10 April the Squadron assumed responsibility for the defense of Blackhorse Base Camp and the security of the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA area as part of Campaign TOAN THANG. On 25 April 1968 LTC John P. Prillaman assumed command of the Squadron from LTC Garland R. McSpadden. On 26 April the Squadron was relieved of the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA area security mission. The month ended with the Squadron controlling base camp security and conducting operations in conjunction with ARVN Forces.

e. May: During the month of May, the 2d Squadron continued the Base Camp security mission and conducted operations as a part of Campaign TOAN THANG. On 5 May the Squadron (-) reacted to and helped defeat the VC attack of CAM MY. On that day E and F Troops with H Company were called upon to respond to the attack on CAM MY. Fighting their way through booby traps, road blocks, mines, and ambushes they finally made their way to the objective. F Troop began a sweep of the village while E Troop and H Company attacked bunker complexes to the south. Encountering anti-tank, small arms and automatic weapons fire the force pushed on, leaving behind 104 VC KIA's in their tracks. At the end of the day the village was back under Popular Forces control and no longer a VC threat. The following day the Squadron (-) reacted to assist the 2-43 ARVN Battalion which had been ambushed in the vicinity of YI 4734. On 13 May, the Squadron (-) extracted a company of the 169th Engineer Battalion from PHONG LAM and escorted them to LONG BINH. On 17 May an engineer element was extracted from the Gia Ray rock quarry and escorted to XUAN LOC. During 24 - 28 May the Squadron (-) blocked along the La Nga River with the 36th Ranger Battalion (ARVN) in conjunction with elements of the 18th ARVN Division that were conducting a sweep north of the river. The month of May ended with the Squadron securing the Base Camp, conducting operations in conjunction with ARVN forces, and providing one troop for security of II FFV installations in the LONG BINH area.

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f. June: During the period 1-11 June the Squadron continued the Base Camp security mission, conducting operations in conjunction with ARVN forces, and providing one troop for security of II FFV installations in the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA area as part of Campaign TOAN THANG I. On 12 June the Squadron commenced operations in Campaign TOAN THANG II, beginning with a road march to an area north of Phu Loi, and conducting RIF with elements of the 1st Infantry Division. During the period 12 - 30 June the mission of the 2d Squadron was to conduct RIF and night ambushes in AO Blackhorse, AO VOODOO, and AO EAGLE II to block enemy infiltration and supply routes to and from SAIGON. In addition, the 2d Squadron provided one troop for security of the Newport Bridge, northeast of SAIGON, OPCON to TF MAYS. The month of June ended with the 2d Squadron conducting area recon in AO EAGLE II with three troop size units after completion of eleven B-52 strikes.

g. July: During the month of July the 2d Squadron had the primary mission of conducting RIF, recon patrols, and night ambushes to block infiltration and supply routes in AO BLADE and AO KNIFE (Sectors of AO BLACKHORSE). On five occasions during July the Squadron cleared and secured Rte ZINC. During the period 19 July to 22 July the Squadron operated against enemy base camps in AO BLADE. On 24 July the Squadron concentrated its efforts on the maintenance of vehicles and equipment. The latter part of July was spent in the southern part of AO KNIFE, with the Squadron conducting cordon and search of Chanh Long Village. Two platoons of G Troop, one platoon of H Company, with C and D Companies of the 2d of the 16th Infantry cordoned Chanh Long while the ARVN District Commander, Major Phouc arrived with his troops and commenced a systematic search of the village. His forces apprehended fifteen suspects, several of whom turned out to be Viet Cong, including one VC sergeant. During the operation the Squadron Howitzer Battery provided illumination throughout the night of the cordon before the search was completed. During July the Squadron also operated Resource Control Points.

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h. August: During most of the first half of the month of August the 2d Squadron had the primary mission of conducting RIF and night ambushes in an AO west of AN LOC. The primary mission during this time was to defend the provincial capital. During this period the Squadron had very little contact with the enemy. In the second half of the month the Squadron encountered heavy enemy contact from elements of the 141st and 165th Regiments of the 7th North Vietnamese Army Division while conducting RIF in this area. In the latter part of the month the Squadron conducted RIF around and north of AP LOC THANH. During the fighting at LOC NINH approximately one out of every fourteen men involved in direct contact with the enemy was cited for a valor award. At the close of the month VC and NVA forces broke contact with the Squadron and a general lull prevailed.

i. September: During the first days of September the Squadron continued its mission in the LOC NINH area. Except for sporadic contact the enemy continued to avoid engagements. On 8 September the Squadron minus E Troop moved to an area close to LONG BINH. The Squadron conducted platoon sized recon missions and NAP's in this area with negative results. On 13 September the Squadron assumed control of Blackhorse and began local operations in the Blackhorse AO. The operations during this time consisted primarily of security operations for convoys to both Blackhorse and PHUONG LAM. The Squadron conducted four reconnaissance missions in the AO with negative results. From 13 to 18 September, Troop E was involved in heavy fighting at LOC NINH while attached to the 1st Brigade of the 1st Infantry Division. More than 100 casualties were inflicted on the enemy by E Troop alone; all without the loss of a single American life.

j. October: During this period the Squadron continued offensive operations in the Blackhorse TAOR in direct support of the 18th (ARVN) Infantry Division. Enemy activity was light during October. Mining activity along routes 2 and 20 continued but at a decreased level. From 1 - 11 October, 2d Squadron provided convoy escort for three gravel convoys from LONG BINH to PHUONG LAM. The Squadron also secured logistical convoys between LONG BINH and Blackhorse. Troops E, F, G and H Company participated in these operations with no significant difficulties. Operation LEXINGTON commenced on 11 October. The Squadron provided one troop DS to LONG KHANH Sector forces conducting operations in the "SPARROW", (YS5298) to the east of Blackhorse Base Camp. During this period G Troop and F Troop conducted RIF and NAP operations jointly with the 43rd I&R Company (ARVN) and the 18th (ARVN) Infantry Division I&R Company.

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Both troops assisted sector forces in construction of an RF/PF outpost as well as road improvement in the area. On 24 October at the request of the LONG KHANH Province Chief, one platoon of F Troop was dispatched to CAM MY as an RRF to the RF/PF Company which was anticipating an attack. A platoon size element remained there until the 2d Squadron was moved to AO BOOTS on 29 November. On 25 October, E Troop was placed in direct support LONG KHANH sector for a combined US and ARVN cordon and search operation which resulted in several VC killed and wounded with numerous weapons and equipment captured.

k. November: On 3 November, Operation YELLOW TAVERN was initiated and took place in the "Rice Bowl" (XT845385). This was a combined effort by the 2d Squadron and the 3rd Battalion 52nd Regiment (ARVN). The main objective was to provide security for local civilians harvesting rice. RIF operations were conducted north of the LA NGA River, and AP's and NAP's were conducted throughout the operation. There were no significant military results, although substantial intelligence information was obtained. On 10 November, Operation CAPITAL, a combined effort by the 1st Australian Task Force and the 2d Squadron commenced. The mission was to block all enemy movement through the east-west corridor; destroy all enemy assets and installations found in the area, and conduct zone reconnaissance. In addition the Squadron was to be prepared to react to any attack on CAM MY. Intelligence indicated that the enemy was warned of the operation.

l. December: Operation COWPENS, which commenced on 30 November is presently in progress. During this period the Squadron is conducting pacification efforts, bridge security, and route security, as well as RIF's, AP's, and NAP's. In addition the Squadron has responsibility for securing an extensive Rome plow operation. Significant results have been achieved in all aspects of the operation most worthy of which has been the return to the government of more than 100 ralliers as "Hoi Chanh's".

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GLOSSARY

RIF - Reconnaissance in Force

SPARROW - An AO east of Blackhorse base camp which appears to be shaped like a "sparrow" on maps of the area.

NAP - Night ambush patrol

I&R - Intelligence and Reconnaissance

RF/PF - Regional Forces/Popular Forces - local forces recruited by the Government of South Vietnam from specific regions, with the mission to defend and conduct operations against the enemy in their local community.

RRF - Rapid Reaction Force

Rice Bowl - A vast rice growing area in the vicinity of XT845385 near the La Nga River.

Hoi Chanh - A former VC or NVA soldier who voluntarily comes over to the side of the South Vietnamese government under its "Open Arms Program".

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