

11th ACR 53

Quarterly Evaluation Reports

67-67

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 11TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96257

AVIC-WE

30 September 1968

SUBJECT: Quarterly Evaluation Report

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In accordance with II Field Force Regulation 335-3, the Quarterly Evaluation Report (QUARTERVAL) for 3d Quarter CY 68 is submitted

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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QUARTERLY EVALUATION REPORT

1. (C) GENERAL:

a. During the reporting period, the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment has continued participation in Operation TOAN THANG Phase II. Regimental operations have been conducted in BINH DUONG and BIEN HOA Provinces and the Blackhorse TAOR. The 2nd Squadron, OPCON to the 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div, conducted operations in the vicinity of LOC NINH and QUAN LOT in BINH LONG Province. The 3rd Squadron became OPCON to CMAC on 15 Sep for the security of SAIGON. The Regiment continued operations in eastern BINH DUONG and northern BIEN HOA Province to interdict enemy infiltration routes, destroy enemy base camps, and provide ground rocket and mortar defense of the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA Complex.

b. Although the enemy has delayed his anticipated third offensive on four different occasions, it is still felt that he continues to have the capability and the intention to conduct the offensive.

c. During the reporting period, the enemy has continued to avoid contact within the 11th ACR (-) A2. Due to heavy enemy casualties sustained during the Tay Offensive, major VC/NVA units have been ordered to avoid contact and to secure base areas while rebuilding their units. Ambush patrols and cordon and search operations have triggered the few contacts that have been made.

d. Significant enemy movement has been noted during the quarter. Two battalions of the DONG NAI Regiment have exfiltrated the CATCHERS TTT and have moved to the LAI THIEU Area (XT863055). HQ, DONG NAI Regiment, and one battalion remain in the CATCHERS TTT. A second significant movement was the

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D1 and D2 Battalions of the U-1 VC S-R who moved into the area northeast of LONG BINH and south of the DONG NAI River (YT1521 and YT2407, respectively). Identification of these units was made from POW's captured in the seal of THIEN TAN (XT080187) on 13 Sep 68. Elements of the U-1 made an attack on TRANG BOM (YT200200). This attack was their only offensive action.

e. There were no significant contacts in the BLACKHORSE TAOR during the quarter, although the 274th Regiment made two significant moves. The Regiment first moved from an area north of QL 1 to a position southeast of the Blackhorse Base Camp. During the move, extensive ground and mortar attacks were made on GIA RAY, XUAN LOC, and surrounding villages. Their second move was west across LTL 2.

f. The 2nd Squadron made significant contact with the 7th NVA Division in BINH LONG Province, while OPCON to the 1st Bde, 1st Inf Div. There are no indications that the 7th Div moved south after disengagement from the 2nd Squadron in the LOC WINE Area.

2. (C) SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS:

a. Throughout the period 1 Jul - 31 Sep, the Regiment continued reconnaissance in force and seal and search operations and night ambush patrols in eastern BINH DUONG Province and the area known as the CATCHERS' TRAP. They were daylight reconnaissance in force operations of platoon and some times company size forces and extensive night ambush operations. Reconnaissance in force operations failed to produce significant enemy contact, but uncovered numerous enemy base camps and prevented the enemy from utilizing base areas for reorganization. Night ambush operations were conducted with mounted and dismounted troops. Mounted forces, usually of platoon size, conducted roving

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ambushes, moving from position to position and frequently dropping stay-behind infantry ambushes. The use of roving night ambushes resulted in numerous small engagements with squad size infiltrating forces, and demonstrated that armor can effectively operate at night to stop or limit night infiltration. Dismounted night ambushes, as many as 22 per infantry company, were successfully employed to deny the enemy access to villages along LTL 16 from XT890370 to XT947260. Frequent contacts were made in the vicinity of BINH Y Village (XT900350) by elements of 2/16 Inf (OPCON to 11th ACR).

b. Numerous seals were conducted on villages which were thought to be supply sources for enemy forces operating in the area. These seals were characterized by the employment of a combined cavalry, tank, and infantry seal force and battalion size ARVN search forces. All seal operations produced tangible results and one seal was highly successful. The seal of CHANH LOU was conducted on 8 and 9 Aug 68 and resulted in 18 VC/NVA KIA, 125 VC/NVA POW's, 261 detainees, 4 tons of foodstuffs, 14 individual weapons, and 2 RPG-2 launchers captured. Seal and search operations throughout the area were conducted as both preplanned and as immediate reactions to intelligence information.

c. From 1 Jul to 31 Jul, the Regiment secured the 27th LCT conducting Rome Flow operations along TL 7A, 2A, and LTL 16 to provide increased security for civilian and military traffic from BEN CAT (XT745330) to PHUOC VINH (XT960490) and to eliminate vegetation that provided concealment for enemy forces in the area.

d. From 11 Aug to 31 Sep the Regiment has conducted reconnaissance in

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force and night ambush operations in the BIEN HOA "rocket belt", just north of the DONG NAI River. 1/26 Inf (OPCON 11th ACR) has been employed to discover rocket sites, react to rocket attacks, and deny the enemy access to the "Rocket Belt". The success of this operation is reflected by the fact that only three rocket attacks have occurred since the initiation of the operation. To date, anti-rocket operations have uncovered 20 confirmed firing positions, three 122mm rockets, and seven 107mm rockets.

e. The Air Cavalry Troop was reorganized on 1 Sep to conform to its TOE configuration. The troop was then employed on various types of operations with excellent results. These operations included bomb damage assessment, Aero Rifle Platoon insertions, air landed resupply points, and visual reconnaissance missions. The combined results of these operations have been: 14 VC/NVA KIA (BC), 29 KIA (Poss), 5 PW, 1 jeep and 2 bicycles destroyed, 3 individual weapons, 205 RPG-2 rds, 2,000 rds SA ammunition, 10 grenades, 4 82mm mortar rds, 4 shape charges, and 1,000 blasting caps captured.

f. From 11 Aug to 31 Sep, the 36th Ranger Bn (ARVN) DS to the 11th ACR, has been employed in conjunction with tank and cavalry platoons just south of the DONG NAI River in BIEN HOA Province to prevent enemy infiltration across the DONG NAI River and into the DONG BINH/BIEN HOA Area. All indications are that infiltration has not taken place in sizeable numbers as only one contact has been made in the area during the period. This contact was the result of a seal on THIEN TAN Village (XT080187) and resulted in 10 VC/NVA KIA (BC), 10 VC/NVA KIA (Poss), 7 VC/NVA PW's, 4 individual weapons, 1 crew served weapon, 4 107mm rockets, and assorted munitions captured.

g. From 17 Sep to 31 Sep, the 2nd Squadron has conducted troop security

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missions for 5 engineer rock convoys from LONG BINH (YT70130) to TT748514 along Routes 1 and 20. This security mission continues as the quarter closes with no enemy contact to date.

h. The results of all operations conducted by the HQ, 11th ACE, and OPCON units are as follows:

(1) Friendly Losses:

(a) Personnel:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>
34	349

(b) Equipment Destroyed:

<u>M42A2C</u>	<u>ACAV</u>	<u>M548</u>	<u>M38</u>	<u>M106A1</u>	<u>M60 AVLB</u>	<u>M132A1</u>
5	43	1	1	2	1	1

(2) Enemy Losses:

(a) Personnel:

<u>KIA(BC)</u>	<u>POM</u>	<u>HOI CHANH</u>	<u>DETAINEE</u>
155	27	3	102

(b) Equipment Destroyed:

<u>Samrans</u>	<u>Foodstuffs</u>	<u>Bunkers</u>	<u>Structures</u>
5	34 ton	596	35

(c) Equipment Captured:

<u>Indiv Wpns</u>	<u>Crew Served Wpns</u>	<u>RPG-2 Rds</u>	<u>Med Supplies</u>
90	9	436	200 lbs
<u>SA Ammo</u>	<u>Grenades</u>	<u>Documents</u>	<u>75mm RP Rds</u>
<u>AT Mines</u>			
19,858 Rds	1,562	83 1/2 lbs	62
			179

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<u>107mm Rockets</u>	<u>122mm Rockets</u>	<u>Bangalore Torpedoes</u>	<u>Mortar Ammo</u>
6	4	17	200 Rds

3. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES AND OCCURRENCES:

a. In the area of civilian personnel, the USARV allocation of 30 Direct Hire Local Nationals was met and the prescribed grades and positions were attained. The daily hire program for the quarter was the most productive since the arrival of the 11th ACR in Vietnam. Over 9,000 man-days were utilized with an expenditure of over 940,000 VN\$, and an overall production of over 600,000 sandbags filled. The Civilian Personnel Program was transferred from the S-5 to the DBCC in September 1968.

b. Psychological operations were run from Blackhorse Base Camp and from the forward CP's. The 5th Field Team, 6th PSYOP Bn, in conjunction with 11th ACR PSYOP activities, conducted a total of 60 aerial leaflet drops, 5 ground leaflet drops, 75 aerial loudspeaker missions, and 7 ground loudspeaker missions. A total of 26 MEDCAP's were conducted during the quarter.

c. Civic action activities were directed primarily from the Blackhorse Base Camp. A total of 3,500 lbs of clothes, 9,000 lbs of foodstuffs, 75,000 board feet of lumber, 35 gallons of paint, and 360,000 VND were distributed to the 9th CA Platoon in TUAN LOC, LONG KHANH Province, for further distribution as per instructions of the Province Senior Advisor. Several CA projects that were started and completed in LONG KHANH Province during this quarter include: the 52nd Ranger Bn dependent housing program, library books to the III Corps BOQ reading room, Signal Co (18th ARVN Div) dependent housing, 43rd Regt, 18th ARVN Div, dependent housing program, and the TAN PHONG Road Grass Cutting Project.

6

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d. IMPACT support for LONG KHANH Province and BINH TUY Province included disbursement of the following commodities: 222 rolls of concertina, 40 rolls of barbed wire, 25,000 sandbags, 350 sheets of tine, 290 bags of cement, and 3,000 engineer stakes and/or pickets.

e. In other S-5 activities, a total of over 100,000 VNĐ was paid in solatium payments, with 54 individual solatium payments being made during the quarter. 7 Vietnamese - American claims were initiated during the quarter, with 4 completed and sent to higher headquarters. 4 claim settlements were made or attempted during the 3 month period for a total settlement value of close to 30,000 VNĐ.

4. SUMMARY: The Regimental participation in Phase II of Operation TOAN THANG has been effective in disrupting enemy logistical and infiltration efforts. The following objectives have been accomplished:

a. Enemy exfiltration of the CATCHERS ITT toward SAIGON has been disrupted and slowed. Indications are that the enemy is presently attempting to bypass the Regimental AO to avoid contact.

b. Rocket attacks on the LONG BINH/BIEN HOA Complex have been disrupted and aggressive search and night ambush operations have restricted enemy utilization of the Rocket Belt.

c. Important sources of supply have been denied the enemy as a result of the numerous seal and search operations.

d. Large amounts of supplies and equipment have been captured, increasing the strain on the enemy logistical system.

5. (C) ASSESSMENT:

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a. The Regiment has once again been successful in support of ARVN units. From 1 Jul until 31 Sep, the Regiment supported the 18th ARVN Div in the vicinity of the Blackhorse TAOR. Joint operations with the 5th ARVN Div in the western portions of the Blackhorse AO have been extremely successful and have demonstrated the capabilities of combined US/ARVN forces. The normal employment of these combined forces has been for the US units with superior mobility and firepower to block large areas or to seal villages, while ARVN units conduct detailed search operations. Results credited to 11th ACR elements in combined operations with ARVN units are as follows:

(1) Enemy Losses:

(a) Personnel:

<u>KIA (BC)</u>	<u>POW</u>	<u>DETAINÉES</u>
25	218	419

(b) Equipment destroyed:

Rice and/or Foodstuffs
4.5 tons

(c) Equipment Captured:

<u>Indiv Wpns</u>	<u>Crew Served Wpns</u>	<u>RPG-2 Rds</u>	<u>Med Supplies</u>	<u>SA Ammo</u>
20	1	72	45 lbs	900

<u>Grenades</u>	<u>Documents</u>	<u>AT Mines</u>
49	45 lbs	7

b. As a result of the diversity of missions assigned the Regiment, forces under Regimental control have varied from two cavalry squadrons and one Inf Bn to two Cavalry squadrons, two inf Bns, and ARVN Ranger Bn. The results of operations by these forces are described in Para 2. During most of the reporting

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period, however, subordinate elements of the 11th ACR down to troop level were placed under the operational control of the 1st and 3rd Bde, 1st Inf Div. The results of their combat actions in the LOC NINH and TRAPEZOID Area were:

(1) Enemy Losses:

(a) Personnel:

<u>KIA (BC)</u>	<u>POW</u>	<u>DETAINEES</u>
165	7	13

(b) Equipment Captured:

<u>Indiv Wpns</u>	<u>Crew Served Wpns</u>	<u>SA Ammo</u>	<u>Mortar Ammo</u>	<u>Rockets</u>
108	25	74,033 rds	72 rds	59
<u>RPG-2 Rds</u>	<u>Mines</u>	<u>Grenades</u>	<u>Bangalore Torpedoes</u>	<u>Foodstuffs</u>
1,107	130	82	1	35 3/4 tons
<u>Documents</u>	<u>Structures</u>	<u>Bunkers</u>	<u>Med Supplies</u>	<u>Mortar Rds</u>
9 lbs	7	82	25 lbs	323

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