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 53 Command Reports
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 Box 16

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 1ST SQUADRON 4TH CAVALRY
 APO San Francisco 96345

AVIB-CHCO

1 October 1968

SUBJECT: Quarterly Evaluation Report

Commanding General
 1st Infantry Division
 ATTN: AVIB-TP

1. GENERAL:

During the past quarter (July, August, and September 1968) the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry has not had any significant contact with a hostile force. However, the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry has added new tactics and new techniques to old tactics.

a. One of the new techniques that has been put into operation is the use of the Xenon searchlight to form a barrier of white light completely around an entire village to effectively seal a village during the hours of darkness. Once all vehicles are in place with the tank mounted Xenon searchlights strategically placed, the searchlights are turned on forming a white wall of light completely around the village. The ACAV's are placed behind the wall of light where they can see anyone trying to cross the light to get out of the village. In addition, trip flares are placed between all vehicles to supplement the white light barrier, thus forming a secondary barrier for those who may find a dead space to crawl under the white light.

b. In following up of the village seal, a new technique of sweeping has been employed which is to use an ARVN sweep force in

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conjunction with an American mine sweep team. The mine sweeps are used to detect weapons, ammunition or other metallic artifacts of war which may be buried somewhere in the village. We feel that the use of an ARVN sweep force creates less hostility than an American sweep force. Not only that, but the ARVN soldier knows better than the American soldier what signs to look for that would indicate the presence of Viet Cong.

c. Another technique developed which has been practiced by the Squadron is the use of persistent CS powder in connection with sealing tunnels. The method used is to place a one pound charge with a one gallon container of CS powder every 20 feet in the tunnel, and a charge large enough to seal the opening of the tunnel is placed in the tunnel entrance. The two charges are connected together by det cord so that they will explode at the same time. This not only seals the tunnel but lessens the chances of being reopened because of the persistent CS powder. In doing this, the Squadron hopes to deny the use of old tunnels to the enemy thus making it more difficult for the enemy to find suitable RDN positions.

d. The Commanding Officer of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry has developed a new method of covering the Squadron AO. The Squadron AO is divided into four or five smaller areas for the purpose of conducting RIF operations. Within each area there are three to four grid squares that are designated as "special interest areas". These areas are given special ~~attention~~ in that a detailed terrain search

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is made of the entire grid square before going to the next square. Each day three or four different grid squares are designated as "special interest areas" until every grid square within the entire Squadron AO has been thoroughly searched. This method is used in conjunction with the daily RIF operations in order to keep up with the overall coverage of the larger RIF AO.

e. Another technique is also being used in conjunction with the daily RIF operations and that is the daily use of aerial reconnaissance at day break to cover those areas not covered by the RIF ground operations. Using the aerial reconnaissance allows the entire Squadron AO to be covered completely on a daily basis as well as giving us the opportunity of catching the enemy during the period when enemy movement is most likely to occur.

f. Trafficability maps are being updated by actually being on the ground to determine whether or not the ground will hold the weight of a tank. On a daily basis the Troop Commanders feed reports back to the Squadron S-2 as to the trafficability of the terrain they move over on their RIF operations. These maps not only tell us where we can not go, they also tell us where we can find routes through an area that is generally considered to be untrafficable. These trafficability maps are a great aid in planning operations.

g. The "Quarterhorses" has also been active in developing new tactics in an effort to gain the advantage over a hostile force. The new tactics involved are the mounted ambush patrol, the night attack from an ambush position and the use of the EB riot agent launcher mounted on the main gun of a tank.

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MOUNTED AMBUSH PATROL (MAP)

1. (c)

^{mounted}
 a. The ambush is employed in a triangular pattern with a tank employed at each of three points of the triangle. Each of the tanks can fire sixty degrees to the left and right of line, bisecting each of the three angles of the triangle. This affords three hundred sixty degree fire power with the ninety millimeter tank gun. The ACAV's are spaced an equal distance apart between the tanks and the command track is placed in the center of the triangle. The command track ^{is} being the only track with its radios turned on. The remainder of the tracks communicate with each other and the command track by use of field phones. This eliminates the noise of the radios and eliminates the ^{need to periodically start the engines.} ~~vehicle being periodically started.~~ An infra red wall of light is placed in a triangular pattern one hundred meters to the front ^{of the MAP By the use of homemade infra-red systems.} of the flares placed about twenty-five meters to the front ^{of the infra-red} to give double protection.

b. ~~The mounted ambush is put into position by using a large force of tracked vehicles screening the ambush.~~ ^{As a covering force} As soon as it becomes dark, the ^{MAP} ~~ambush patrol~~ quickly moves into position, while the ^{COVERING} ~~screening~~ force keeps moving and makes any hostile force in the area believe that the entire ^{element} ~~force~~ is still moving out of the area.

c. ~~In connection with the mounted ambush, the "Quarterhorses" employs the night attack, thus making the ambush patrol a much more aggressive force, capable of the element of surprise and an aggressive follow through. Once the ambush is popped, the side of~~ ^{MAP} ~~ambush~~ ^{MAP}

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the triangle that has popped the ambush immediately cranks their engines, turn on their headlights with the two tanks at each end using their Jaxon searchlights and move out smartly toward the startled enemy ^{to sweep the area.} Once the enemy has been completely overrun, the attack force moves back into its position in the triangle ambush.

k. The B3 chemical launcher which disperses sixty-four pellets of CS gas up to a range of two hundred meters has been mounted coaxially with the main gun of the tanks, and is fired by the tank commander. Immediately upon contact with a large hostile force, the B3 launcher is expended on the enemy completely disorganizing them. The most effective range of the ninety millimeter canister round is two hundred meters. These two weapons are quite effective when used together.

END

2. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS:

The "Quarterhorse", regrettably has not participated in any significant operations that yielded contact with a hostile force.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES OR OCCURRENCES:

The "Quarterhorse" has adopted the village of An My which is just northwest of Phu Loi Base Camp and the scene of a fierce battle in early February 1968. The "Quarterhorse" has given candy and other items purchased by the troopers of the Squadron to the villagers and has also built a schoolhouse to help further the education of the children. The Squadron has also conducted MEDCAP's in the village

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of An My in an attempt to gain the respect and feeling of goodwill from the people of An My.

4. SUMMARY:

Many long hours have been spent in organizing and rehearsing these new tactics and techniques, although they have not yet been proven to be sound through actual combat. We stand, waiting to prove to the enemy that the "Quarterhorse" remains "Prepared and Loyal".

5. ASSESSMENT:

We of the "Quarterhorse" feel that the progress of the Squadron and the 1st Infantry Division have definitely influenced the counter-insurgency effort in the Republic of Vietnam. Not only have we shown the people of South Vietnam that we are willing to meet in battle, a force which is hostile to them but we are also capable of defeating this force and helping the Army of The Republic of Vietnam to also successfully combat this hostile force. Not only has our good will been displayed in a combat situation but it has also been displayed by our direct efforts of helping the South Vietnamese people to rebuild their villages and schools and offering them a more secure place from the hostile forces of the North.

John C. Faith
JOHN C. FAITH
LTC, Armor
Commanding