

53 Command Reports

Box 16

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 1ST SQUADRON 4TH CAVALRY
 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
 APO SAN FRANCISCO 96345

AVDB-QH3

5 July 1969

SUBJECT: Quarterly Evaluation Report (QUARTERWAL-1 April-30 June 1969)

Commanding General
 1st Infantry Division
 ATTN: AVDB-TP
 APO San Francisco 96345

21-2

1. General: Squadron operations during the period 1 April 1969 thru 31 June 1969 were divided between Reconnaissance in Force, Rome Plow Security and Convoy Security Missions. The Reconnaissance in Force was executed in the Michelin Rubber Plantation as the Squadron formed an arm of operation Atlas Wedge. The enemy was unable to match the Squadron's quick reaction time and heavy firepower. He was dealt many crucial blows. The Squadron also executed reconnaissance in force in the Trapezoid. Base Camps were located and cleared. Villages such as Ben Chua were sealed with positive results. Contacts were never significant but our continuous pursuit kept the enemy off balance, and rendered him nearly ineffective. The Squadron devoted much of its assets to Rome Plow security. The land clearing teams cleared many acres of jungle under the overwatch of our armored vehicles. The Squadron also lent much of its assets to convoy security missions on Highway 13. We operated from either Thunder I, Thunder II, or Thunder III. The roads were swept for mines. The adjacent areas were faithfully searched. The roads were outpost with armored strong points. The convoy was physically escorted from Ben Cat to Quan Loi, daily. The Squadron participated in another major convoy security mission. The Song Be road opening. It was a week long operation.

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through a major hospital complex. The store of medical supplies could be measured only in the tons. We did capture a few sick and wounded enemy who had been left behind. The mission was accomplished. We kept the enemy on the run. He was always off balance thus never completely effective. The major adverse result of this operation was the number of mine incidents. The squadron was constantly plagued by anti-vehicular mines. We suffered significant vehicular damage but only slight personnel casualties.

c. The Squadron moved from the Trapezoid to a major commitment to Rome plow security. We operated from Mons II, Mons III, and Mons IV. These fire support bases were the jumping off place for the land clearing teams. The squadron furnished the necessary security as the Rome plows destroyed the dense jungle which offers the enemy sanctuary. It became quite evident that the enemy was being hurt. He fought back with Rome plow mines, sniper incidents and mortar attacks. The point however was made. We were preventing the enemy from having his accustomed safe rocket launching sites and staging areas. The Rome plows cleared the ground and now the enemy could quite easily be detected.

d. The Squadron had divided its assets by June. Mons IV was the completion of our major commitment to Rome plow duty. We next moved to Hwy 13 to assume a convoy security mission. This was prompted by a successful ambush of the main convoy between Thunder III and Quan Loi. The enemy destroyed several vehicles large quantities of supplies, and inflicted several casualties. The squadron moved into Thunder III and assumed responsibility for an area from Ben Cat to Quan Loi. We daily conducted a complete mine sweep of the roads. We fired artillery harassment and interdiction concentrations along Highway 13. We searched both sides of the road into the jungles' edge daily. We ambushed Hwy 13 at night. We conducted check points all along the convoy. Finally we ran our vehicles dispersed throughout the convoy from Ben Cat to Quan Loi and back. We were ambushed twice during this period. Both times we dealt the enemy a

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2. Non-Combat Operations:

a. Pacification Operations:

(1) During the period 1 April 69 to 30 June 69, the Squadron continued its pacification operations in Di An and Lai Thieu Districts. These districts continue to show encouraging results. They're fewer and fewer enemy incidents. The Squadron has bolstered its pacification program. We continue to show propaganda movies on a regular bases in all villages. We sponsor regular trips for the village children to the Saigon zoo. We continue to upgrade rural roads. We dig wells for the villages. We sponsor attempts to form local cooperatives. The cooperatives in turn buy cattle, hogs, and grain to create a bases for village self support. This twofold social economic approach to the pacification program appears to be the hope for the future. We are helping these people build for the future.

3. Trends:

a. Early April marked the completion of operation ATLANTIC WEDGE in the Michelin. The Squadron carried out extensive reconnaissance in force during this period. There were never any major confrontation with the enemy. The contacts were usually sporadic and always with a small number of enemy. They did work through several base camps and staging areas. The areas were rendered useless due to concentrated efforts to completely destroy all enemy areas. The body count was small but tons of enemy equipment and food stuffs were either evacuated or destroyed. The long range effect of ~~sur~~destroying the enemy's staging and rest areas can never be completely assessed. However, the nature of this war dictates that the enemy is always dealt a severe blow when his support is destroyed.

b. The latter half of April found the Squadron in the eastern half of the Trapezoid. Here dense jungle was penetrated for the first time. The enemy was being challenged in some of his most lucrative staging areas. We denied him ready use of rocket launching sites. We ran

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defeat. We were able to react before he could destroy any major portion of the convoy. We had light casualties and vehicular change while the enemy lost several lives and valuable equipment. The mission was accomplished because the convoys ran regularly with comparative safety.

c. Late June and the Squadron returned to the Trapezoid. We followed a series of B-52 strikes. The search revealed extensive base camp complexes. There were abundant signs of recent occupation by enemy. However, we never made significant contact. The results of the search was quantity of enemy equipment, several dead bodies, and some abandoned hospital patients. This operation destroyed a large enemy concentration area. This constant pursuit and harassment of the enemy again rendered him less than effective.

5. Conclusions:

a. The Squadron has proven its worth in the past months. The enemy has ceased large organized assaults of confrontations with the Squadron. Thus the Squadron is able to interdict and react to the enemy's actions. We have searched out and destroyed many of his sacred sanctuaries in the trapezoid. He can no longer attack and rocket at his own discretion. We can react quickly to his ambushes. Thus we thwart any decisive blows that he may inflict upon the resupply convoys. The Squadron has helped to put a firmer offensive in the hands of friendly forces.

b. Pacification in the DI AN, LAI THIEU Districts has created an atmosphere where the people can pursue social, economic, and political goals. The continued efforts of the Squadron has made it possible for these people of these districts to seek their own destinies without a constant fear of VC reprisals.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Leonard D. Holder, Jr.
LEONARD D. HOLDER JR.
CPT, AFMCR
Adjutant

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