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2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry (Airmobile), Unit History for 1970.

January 1970 found the 2/17th Cavalry Squadron staging out of Camp Eagle, Republic of Vietnam, under the command and direction of LTC Bindig, Headquarters, and all Troops and the Ranger Company were located at Camp Eagle, except for G Troop which staged from Phu Bai Army Airfield, directly across Highway QM from Camp Eagle. New Year's Day started for A Troop on the DMZ in support of ranger team Shelby in contact. An OH-6A received AK-47 ground fire from an estimated platoon size element across the Laotian border. The aircraft received one hit in the tail rotor and was flown back to Camp Eagle with negative casualties to the crew. B Troop continued visual reconnaissance in the 1st Brigade AO and supported the rangers with overflights and LZ selection. The Troop also conducted sniffer missions throughout the Division area of operation. G Troop OH-6A received enemy ground fire from eight to ten enemy personnel resulting in two sustained aircraft hits and one US KIA. The KIA was flown to 85th Evacuation Hospital. Delta Troop was inserted to support ranger team Shelby who had made contact with an estimated squad of NVA. The team was monitoring a trail and observed eight NVA and engaged with claymore mines, fragmentation grenades, and small arms fire. The contact resulted in two NVA KIA and one US KIA.

The primary areas of operations for Company L, (Ranger), 75th Infantry, during January 1970 were the (Da Krong Valley) and the (Khe Sanh Plains) in Northern I Corps. There was considerable increase in the number of enemy sightings and contacts during the month, indicating areas of heavy enemy activity. Thirty-three teams were deployed in January, observing the enemy on seventeen different occasions and determining the location of several large enemy forces in the area of operations. There were 15 enemy KIA's credited to Company L during January. Several teams made contact with the enemy shortly after insertion, presenting the possibility that the NVA were utilizing LZ watchers and were observing the insertion of the teams. Numerous teams deployed in the Da Krong Valley heard enemy signal shots at various times during their operation. Often these shots were along the Da Krong River, indicating troop movement along its bank. The enemy encountered by the teams was well equipped, usually wearing green fatigues, load bearing equipment and AK-47 rifles.

The stage was set for another year as the "Eyes, Ears, and Teeth" of the Division continued to seek out, hamper, harass, and destroy the enemy. A Troop continued to work the northern region of the Division AO and support the 3rd Brigade. B Troop sliced the middle recon zones and G Troop commanded the southern AO. All Troops went direct support of the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Brigades respectively, and at the end of the month, the 2/17th Cavalry had killed more than 90 of the enemy; destroyed over 28 bunkers and 43 huts; one bulldozer and one 1 1/2 ton trailer, and sliced a number of 12.7mm anti-aircraft machine guns.

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During the month of February, ranger teams were employed along enemy infiltration routes in the Khe Sanh Plains area of Quang Tri Province, the (Three-Forkes) region of the Song Bo River, and in the area approximately 30 kilometers southeast of Camp Eagle near (FSB Thor) and (Pike). A total of five enemy sightings were made by the 28 teams employed during the month. Nine enemy were killed and Company L sustained one wounded.

A Troop continued direct support to the 3rd Brigade, and B and C Troops were in direct support of the 1st and 2nd Brigades respectively. Delta Troop was inserted south of (FSB Tennessee) to conduct a reconnaissance in force (RIF), and found numerous trails with no recent activity. The Troop did find and destroy one ten by ten foot hut and then when was extracted back to Camp Eagle. Troop F was formed in mid January and continued Squadron missions throughout the area of operations. The Troop was composed of A Company, 101st Aviation Battalion personnel and was augmented with OH-6A's to form the Troop.

The Squadron moved into Operation Randolph Glen on 15 February 1970 through 31 March 1970. A Troop staged from Quang Tri Army Airfield with all their operational assets, while the 332 TC Detachment and a skeleton crew remained at Camp Eagle. The Troop continued direct support to the 3rd Brigade and the Aero-rifle platoon provided ground reconnaissance and was the immediate reaction force for downed aircraft in the northern portion of the Squadron's AO and in the 3rd Brigade AO. Air Cavalry operations were controlled by the Troop Commander or the Operations Officer in the Command and Control aircraft. The Troop flew reconnaissance missions, BDA's and supported ranger overflights, insertions, and extractions. Artillery was provided and controlled by the 5th Mechanized Division and was adjusted by the Troops aircraft. Tactical airstrikes were on call from the Brigade S-3 Air and directed by the Troop.

B and C Troops faced increased enemy activity during the period from 15 February to 31 March 1970. The Troops revealed extensive enemy presence in the A Shau Valley, the area around FSB Airborne, and in the vicinity of FSB Spear. On 1 March, an C Troop OH-6A received heavy 51 caliber ground fire and the aircraft was forced down at the A Lout Air Strip. The same day PSP and log bridges were destroyed. On 3 March, 15 hootches were observed and 24 bunkers sighted six kilometers west of FSB Airborne. Tactical air was directed onto the target and a complete target destruction resulted. The battle in the Valley continued throughout the month and the enemy exchanged 51 caliber fire with 20mm Cobra gunships. The Troops had been successful in locating, delaying and harassing the enemy, but the infiltration continued.

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DOWNED TOO SEVERELY FOR IN-COUNTRY REPAIR -

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During March, ranger teams continued to operate in Quang Tri Province and in the area southwest of Camp Eagle. Teams were also employed in the (Rueng Ruong Valley) south of Camp Eagle. The 33 missions conducted during the month resulted in enemy sightings on 27 occasions. Eight enemy were killed and the company suffered eight wounded.

2 April, 30 ranger teams were inserted throughout the Division Reconnaissance Zones, sightings the enemy 14 times. Missions assigned to Company L during the month of April emphasized the capturing of prisoners of war. Ranger teams integrated ambushes, sensor monitoring missions, and joint US/ARVN reconnaissance patrols into their operations. The monitoring of sensor devices proved highly successful in detecting enemy presence and movement. Artillery and gunship fire was employed in the areas of activation. Four ranger teams participated in US/ARVN combined patrols, with some difficulty encountered in coordination due to language difficulties and differences in tactics.

While operating on an early morning mission, an A Troop Hunter-Killer team (one Scout OH-6A and one AH-1G Cobra), discovered five NVA swimming across a river. The OH-6A received AK fire from the enemy and in return, called the AH-1G Cobra who engaged the area using high explosives and flechette rockets. While the Cobra furnished protection to the OH-6A, the Scout went down to see if he could recover one of the packs. The observer from the OH-6A dismounted his aircraft and while retrieving the pack, noticed that there were five bodies, five additional packs, weapons and other equipment. At this time the Troop Commander decided to combat assault a squad from the Aere-rifle platoon to recover the weapons, equipment, and to search the bodies. At 1030 hours, 14 April 1970, a nine man squad from the A Troop aere-rifle platoon conducted a combat assault, utilizing two lift aircraft. No fire was received on approach or exit. The squad met with no enemy resistance and were able to complete their mission in thirty minutes, capturing six packs, one AK-47 type 50 rifle, one new Soviet made gas mask, personal clothing, food-stuffs, a Chinese radio, and some cleaning equipment. After gathering the items the team was extracted back to Quang Tri and the items sent forward to the Squadron S-2 for analysis, and then to Division G-2.

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On 27 April, ranger team Arizona spotted an unknown number of NVA crossing a river near FSB Kilcomb. A Hunter-Killer team from A Troop was called in to reconnoiter the area. During the reconnaissance, the OH-6A spotted two NVA engaging the aircraft with small arms fire. The Cobra gunships engaged the area with fleshette rockets. The OH-6A dipped down and discovered three NVA killed and two more wounded. At 1550 hours, four UH-1H helicopters were combat assaulting the A Troop area--rifle platoon into the contact area. Medora: AG-47 ground fire was received by all aircraft and the fourth aircraft received hits and the doorgunner was injured wounded. The platoon moved into the area and discovered a NVA body, six packs, and a new AK-47 rifle. The Kit Carson Scout called out to the enemy and told them to surrender and that they would be well treated. After no reply was received the Troops continued to search the area. One uninjured NVA engaged the point man with his AK-47. The point man returned fire and killed the NVA. Moving further the platoon found two more dead NVA and removed their packs. Near a small pond two more NVA were found dead, their packs removed, and the platoon moved back to the LZ for extraction. During the ground operations, Cobra gunships killed six more NVA while screening for the ground element.

Thunder storm weather held B and C Troop from any significant activities in the middle reconnaissance zones or in the A Shau Valley. The Troop continued their Squadron missions and support the Division Brigades. ARPs remained on standby of downed aircraft security and air and artillery adjustment were provided by the Troops.

May saw the Air Cavalry Troops recon the Division AO with A Troop working out of Quang Tri and concentrating in the Da Krong and Khe Sanh Plains. Troops A, B, and C also worked for the 3rd, 1st, and 2nd Brigade respectively during May. Troop D was employed as a ready reaction force for downed aircraft and was responsible for providing gun jeep escort on Highway 547 in the (PSB Veghel, Bastogne) and Birmingham area. D Troop was also employed ten man reconnaissance teams which provided screening missions and intelligence for the Division. Co L, (Rangers) 75th Infantry, conducted operations throughout the reconnaissance zone during the period, mainly in the Tennessee Valley, (PSB Brick) area and west to Ruong Ruong Valley. The three Air Cavalry Troops conducted specific operations to include; first and last light security around fire bases, insertion of ranger teams, bomb damage assessments for B-52 strikes, and reconnaissance missions to determine the effectiveness of high performance aircraft strikes, chemical drops, flame drops, and artillery strikes. Pink teams were also provided to Delta Project on request. On 6 May a Hunter-Killer team while on a light signal reconnaissance mission. The enemy was engaged and resulted in four enemy killed eight kilometers south of FSB Ripcord.

At 0430H, on 11 May a communications check was made by the rangers TXX, with teams Kansas located east of (PSB Spear). At 0600H, communications with the team was lost. An OH-6A was dispatched to establish communication but the six man team was found dead. B Troop ARP was inserted to recover the bodies and equipment.

A pink team spotted 12 NVA crossing a river at the Three-Forks area on 18 May. After a delay to get clear to fire, the team engaged the enemy, resulting in 3 NVA/KIA. ARA was then engaged and they accounted for an additional three NVA/KIA.

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On 21 May an OH-6A from B Troop while conducting a BDA in the southern A Shau Valley received small arms fire. The crew was forced to make a precautionary landing further north in the Valley. The aircraft was found to be non-flyable and was extracted along with the uninjured crew.

Near PSB (Kathryn) on 24 May C Troop's aero-rifle platoon were utilized on numerous false insertions. The operation was conducted in conjunction with a 3rd Brigade move and was designed to confuse the enemy as to the location of the troops that were actually inserted.

While supporting Delta Project on 28 May, a reconnaissance team from A Troop spotted an NVA base camp along Highway 616 in the Laotian Salient. Two NVA were engaged one was killed. Further north three vehicles were engaged, resulting in two destroyed.

The 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry continued during the month of June to conduct reconnaissance in the Division Reconnaissance Zones. A Troop continued to support 1st Brigade 5th Mech Infantry, 3rd Brigade, and the 54th ARVN Division. Special missions continued for the Squadron including responsibility for securing downed aircraft, conducting bomb damage assessments for B-52 strikes, sky spots, heavy artillery, and tactical air strikes and providing first and last light reconnaissance around US held PSB's. D Troop continued to provide a reaction force for downed aircraft and convoy security along route 547. Co L (Ranger, 75th Infantry moved their area of operations north from the A Shau Valley to the hills around Khe Sanh.

During the first week of June, the 9th Battalion, 66th NVA Regiment attacked F Langley and Tun Tavern. Both A and B Troops supported the 54th ARVN Division with pink teams and Command and Control aircraft to stop the NVA attacks. On 2 June Troop A killed four NVA by Cobra gunships in Tun Tavern area. When the Air Cavalry men engaged the enemy, secondary explosions resulted. On the trail A Troop located three packs, one bedroll, and two AK-47 rifles were captured.

Until 17 June when the Squadron initiated its first Squadron size operation of the reporting period, the Troops continued their visual reconnaissance concentrating on sniffer and BDA missions.

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During the period 17 to 25 June the 2/17th Cav. was involved in extensive operations in the vicinity of FSB Leathorneck. The Squadron relocated its Tactical Operations Center to Quang Tri. Prior to concentrating the entire Squadron, A Troop conducted extensive visual reconnaissance in the area and had developed a good deal of reliable intelligence. Five NVA wearing green uniforms and armed with AK-47's were observed moving across a landing zone. The area was engaged with gunships resulting in two NVA killed. An estimated 200 log reinforced bunkers were observed. Fifteen pup tents, two camp fires, numerous trails oriented in all directions, six ponchos, and ten NVA were observed and the area engaged by gunships. It was felt that elements of the 304th NVA Division, specifically the 66th NVA Regiment, had a base camp and a hospital in the vicinity. It was this target that the Squadron sought to discover.

Initially, D Troop was committed on 19 June, and they discovered a complete field hospital and bunker complex. Enemy contact was made resulting in one NVA/KIA by fragmentation grenade. All enemy equipment with the area totaled eight RPG's, 71 Chicom grenades, two rolls of commo wire, 40 pounds of demolitions, 1000 pounds of rice, 24 full rucks, 100 pounds of medical supplies, a complete supply of surgical instruments and one SRS rifle, 20 pounds of documents. A and B Troops aero-rifle platoons and inserted with D Troop to exploit the situation. On the 19th the Squadron received operation control of the Hao Bao Company, from 1st ARVN Division. The Hao Bao, a well trained highly disciplined mobile strike force, normally employed by the 1st ARVN Commander, was inserted and swept across the hospital-base area objective. The operation terminated as a complete success on 25 June and the Squadron's organic elements and the Hao Bao back to their base camps.

The Squadron in July remained "OUT FRONT" in the Division Reconnaissance Zones. Having the same operational commitment as in the previous three months, and having just completed a successful combined US/ARVN operation, the Squadron was anxious to launch into a new month. The rangers remained in the vicinity of the Laotian border and the Khe Sanh Plains, until 28 July when they moved into the 2nd Brigade area of Operations around Leach Island and south of FSB Bastogne.

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The first week of July, A Troop continued its reconnaissance of the Khe Sanh Plains and surrounding highlands and provided a pink team daily to the 3rd Brigade. B and C Troops concentrated on reconnaissance, bomb damage assessment and artillery and airstrike adjustments in the A Sann Valley and southern reconnaissance zones. On 6 July, Headquarters Troop moved and established a forward CP at Quang Tri. The following day the remainder of the Squadron closed on Quang Tri Army Airfield with their air and ground assets. The second major Squadron operation was under way.

Having destroyed part of the 66th Regiment the previous month, the 2nd 17th Cavalry was targeted against the 9th Regiment believed to have first arrived in south Vietnam from its sanctuaries in Laos. At approximately 1130H on 8 July, a pink team, while conducting a visual reconnaissance in the FSB Snapper area, observed 150-200 NVA in the open moving along a fresh, well-beaten trail. The enemy was immediately engaged by the Cobra gunship. Additional pink team gunships and ARA were requested. In the initial engagement 50 NVA were killed. One hour later ten more NVA were killed by helicopters in the same area. Continuing to recon the area, the pink teams observed groups of ten to twenty NVA, separated by 100-200 meters all along the trail. The enemy was wearing green uniforms, with helmets, and were carrying rice rolls and assault rifles and carbines. At 1358H, Delta Troop and the Aero-rifle platoon of A Troop were inserted at the point of initial contact to sweep the area and capture a prisoner. The element placed a number of rucksacks and enemy equipment on landing zone. On the trail UH-3H as it off loaded the last of Troop D personnel.

The element was immediately extracted to Quang Tri where initial readout identified the enemy as elements of the 9th NVA Regiment.

On 9 July, the Squadron continued to conduct visual reconnaissance of the area resulting in two NVA/KIA vicinity FSB Snapper. That evening a wounded NVA was captured and evacuated to the 18th Surgical Hospital where he later died of wounds. Two hours later a LOH extracted a HAI Chanh who was taken to Quang Tri for interrogation. In reaction to this activity, Operation Clinch Valley, was initiated.

Elements of the 3rd Brigade opened (FSB Shepard) and two battalions of the 3rd Regiment (ARVN) assaulted into (FSB Smith). This started the reconnaissance in force, which the Squadron with extensive aerial gunships cover.

While the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment (ARVN) continued to operate in the area, both A and B Troops checked possible infiltration routes into the battle area and possible escape routes used by the enemy. Operation Clinch Valley closed on 13 July, with the Squadron credited with 214 confirmed enemy KIA. As the finished Headquarters and B Troop moved back to Camp Eggo to continue their mission.

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Until 21 July the Squadron conducted routine first and last light reconnaissance missions, bomb damage assessments, and visual reconnaissance missions. On 21 July, near the FSB Bradley area, a IOH spotted 20 NVA in the open. Immediately the Cobra gunships engaged the target resulting in seven NVA/KIA. Additional airstrikes, and CS drops were employed in the area. A base was uncovered with 50 assorted sized bunkers. Two NVA were spotted in the bunkers and engaged with gunships. Both NVA were killed.

On 23 July the 3rd Brigade evacuated (FSB Ripcord). The Squadron provided a screen force to west for the operation. Upon completion of the extraction, of all ground troops, the 2/17th Cav assumed control of the Ripcord area. For the remainder of that day and all of the next. A, B, and C Troops employed a steady flow of airstrikes and artillery concentrations, into the same infested area.

On 26 July, the Squadron assaulted the FSB Ripcord area with a platoon from D Troop to extract the US bodies left behind by the 3rd Brigade.

The month of August, the Squadron continued surveillance along the Laotian Border to the DMZ. B Troop continued direct support to the 1st Bde as well as visual reconnaissance and first and last light missions throughout the AO.

A and C Troops continued to assist the rangers and RAVN's in the northern AO. Delta Troop remained IAF for Camp Eagle and acted as back up force for the major ARVN insertions. Delta also continued armed jeep convoy escorts for the 1st Bde.

A Troop provided aerial and ground reconnaissance; provided screening and security for various brigade elements; and supported numerous ranger insertions and extractions. The Troop reacted to numerous contact missions of both U.S. and ARVN elements and supported numerous air mobile operations involving D Troop the RAVN Mac Bao Company, and the A Troop anti-rifle platoon. BDA's were also conducted and marked increase of 51 caliber anti-aircraft machine gun positions were noted and engaged.

B Troop was utilized in direct support of both the 1st Bde and the 1st ARVN Division. The Troop continued it's visual reconnaissance missions and provided security for downed aircraft in the division area of operations. BDA's were conducted of B-52 strikes; sky spots; artillery; tactical air strikes; and gunship attacks employed by the troop.

C Troop conducted aerial VR's, BDA's and supported the rangers. The rangers support included insertion of the AR P as security for ranger radio relay teams. In addition, the ARP was used as a security force for engineer LZ cutting teams and provided a reaction force for downed aircraft in the Division AO.

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D Troop provided extensive ground reconnaissance, downed aircraft security and recovery, a ready reaction force for ground units in contact, and daily convoy escort. Also ambushes and sweeps of the Camp Eagle perimeter were provided, and Troop served as the Base Defense Reaction Force. Delta was inserted with the Hae Dao Company on 16 August; secured and recovered two downed aircraft; re-inforced two ranger teams in contact; provided 21 days of convoy escort; and eight days of ground reconnaissance.

Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry deployed 38 teams during the month of August. Teams were inserted near FSB Leatherneck, in the Huong Huong Valley, and in the FSB Spear area. Fourteen enemy sightings were made and contact was initiated on ten occasions. As a result of these contacts, two NVA/VO were killed. The company sustained three KIA and nine WIA.

Increased enemy activity in the (Elephant Valley) called for immediate command and control by the 2nd Squadron, 17th Cavalry, and on 8 September 1970, 20 vehicles from Ban quarters Troop, five from C Troop, and six from D Troop road marched from Camp Eagle to Marble Mountain, Da Nang. A CP was immediately established and the Elephant Valley belonged to the Cavalry. Enemy small arms and auto-matic fire slammed into the assaulting Cavalry, crippling two C Troop aircraft and wounding two crewmembers on 8 and 15 September. Sooty pressure and increased use of ARP's for ground operations slowly ebbed the enemy from his stronghold.

B Troop detailed visual reconnaissance missions of the South, East, and West began FSB Spear determined to locate an unknown size enemy force. On 3 September contact was made and pink teams killed six enemy soldiers three kilometers northeast of the firebase.

Meanwhile, A Troop concentrated on supporting the ARVN units in the vicinity of FSB O'Reilly. Five aircraft were shot at, two receiving hits, and two NVA were killed during the engagement. The Troop continued its visual reconnaissance of the northern reconnaissance zones and responded to URS's and performed aerial and ground BDA's. The ARP was utilized near FSB Shiloh and FSB Leatherneck to RIF and BDA Arc Light.

B Troop worked mid-month night missions with the F4IR aircraft, and on 15 September, F4IR spotted a truck depot southeast of Khe Sang. Later in the morning airstrikes were employed and tank teams bomb damage assessment revealed five enemy trucks destroyed. For the remainder of the month B Troop was in direct support of the 1st ARVN Division at FSB O'Reilly.

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The Squadron returned from Marble Mountain, and C Troop worked the BSB Braskine area. On the night of 18 September, and morning of 19 September, the Troop, using FLIR and Cobra gunships engaged and destroyed one four ton truck in that vicinity. Follow up airstrikes destroyed another four ton truck, a 51 caliber weapon and pit, and several bunkers. For the remainder of the month, C Troop worked the southern reconnaissance zones employing pink teams and the RRP against enemy forces, in the area.

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A Troop continued supporting ARVN forces near BSB Barrett, and northwest of BSB Barbara. Numerous shot-at's and targets were encountered, and on 18 September the Mac Dao Company was inserted with A Troop providing command and control aircraft, scoring pink teams, and directing airstrikes. Activity shifted to the BSB O'Reilly area and A Troop continued support for the remainder of the month with visual reconnaissance, location and destruction of enemy mortar and gun positions, direction of BDA's of airstrikes, and flank security for maneuvering ARVN units.

Delta Troop continued to provide convoy escort, and was available for downed aircraft security and recovery. Additionally Delta provided ambushes and sweep outside. Camp Eagle and served as its base defense reaction force. One platoon was used as convoy escort for 1st and C Troop on the mission to Da Nang.

On 29 September, Delta Troop repelled 12 kilometers south of BSB Fiest for reconnaissance in force. The Troop discovered two 100 pound caches of rice, corn, and grain, and farming equipment. Due to low flood coverage, the troop remained on the ground for five days before extraction could be completed.

During the month of September 1970, Co L, (Hanger), 75th Infantry, deployed 24 teams in the A Shau and the Huong Huong Valley. Thirteen enemy slingshots were made and contacted imitated on six occasions. As a result of these contacts five NVA/WU were killed, and the Company sustained one KIA.

Company J, (Hanger) deployed a total of 24 teams during the month of October. Two teams were inserted in the vicinity of the Da Nang; four teams were inserted along route 547; and the remainder were inserted in or near Khe Quan, Ruo Trang, and Song B Bo Rivers. Rangers teams established contact with the enemy on five occasions and had visual sightings on eight occasions.

A Troop continued surveillance of the northern reconnaissance zones and also provided reconnaissance and security for the 3rd ACo and its subordinate elements in the form of first and last light reconnaissance and reaction to contact mission. Troop A, as in the two previous months, provided cover aircraft and a Command and Control aircraft flown by the Troop Commander even the Mac Dao Company on several different occasions. Rifle utilizing to aero-rifle platoon also conducted. Troop A conducted bomb damage assessment of Aero Light strikes and provided aircraft to support FLIR missions. The aero-rifle platoon also secured downed aircraft in the Division AO.

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B Troop was used in general support of the 101st Airborne Division and in direct support of the 1st Brigade. In addition to gathering intelligence through visual reconnaissance missions, the Troop provided downed aircraft security, night ambushes outside Camp Eagle perimeter, BDA's and support to range

C Troop continued to stage from Phu Bai AAF in general support of the Division. This included aerial VR's BDA's, ground reconnaissance, support for the rangers and standby for downed aircraft recovery.

Delta Troop operations were severely limited due to monsoon weather. Still, Delta provided four days of ground reconnaissance, a reaction force for ground contact, (Once securing an area for ranger operations), ambushes and sweeps outside Camp Eagle and served as base defense reaction force.

The Squadron was restricted from significant activity due to poor conditions throughout the month. Typhoons battered the base camp on two occasions and low clouds and precipitation in the mountainous area of operation further restricted missions. The major significant activity occurred on 22 October when FLIR and chase AHIG's spotted and engaged approximately 20 NVA resulting in 19 confirmed KIA's. Flooding in the lowlands and large area of mountain fog placed new emphasis on weather the OH-6A Scout aircraft. Due to marginal weather and almost totally unaccessible areas, the LOH was found of performing emergency resupplies and Medivac missions. The LOH, by maintaining visual contact with its ground Cav easily hover into clouds and into hot LZ's when the weather is too restricted for UH-1H

Due to the monsoon season, there was little air and reconnaissance activity for C Troop during the first two weeks of the month. On 13 and 14 November the RP along with a team of engineers was inserted to clear PSB Kelly's, (Maurice and Kathryn.) A number of old 105 rounds, fragmentation grenades and blasting cap were found and disposed of. On 15 November, ranger team Bills was in contact resulting in one US/WUA. The ARP and elements of Delta Troop were inserted just south of PSB Maurice, and while attempting to recover the ranger KIA received RPG and AK-47 fire, resulting in six ARP wounded and another ranger KIA.

Company L, (Ranger) 75th Infantry deployed 13 ranger teams during the month of November 1970. Emphasis was on reconnaissance around PSB's Richard and Kathryn. The enemy contacts were initiated. The contact initiated on the 16th by ranger team Bills provided the needed intelligence for establishing the location of the 1st Battalion, 803rd NVA Regiment. The Bills had two friendly KIA as a result of the contact. Due to inclement weather, ranger teams were shifted from the Richard Kathryn area onto the Luang Ruong Valley, to determine infiltration routes. By the NVA Laos into the lowlands of Than Thien Province. No other significant sightings or contacts were made.

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A Troop continued its scan of the northern reconnaissance zones and provided reconnaissance and security to the 3rd Brigade. Due to high winds and heavy rain operations in the recon zones declined during the month. Teams from Co L, (Rang 75th Infantry) were sent to A Troop to be deployed in the northern reconnaissance zones. A Troop responded with overflights, insertions, and extractions and as reaction force for the ranger teams. ARVN support was restricted to the FSB Barl area during the month.

December 1st through 11th provided poor flying weather for the Squadron, and B and C Troops were restricted in reconnaissance missions. B Troop AIP was employed on 2 Dec to recover some wooden boxes spotted during a V.R. The boxes turned out to be old American powder canisters and were returned to Camp Eagle. C Troop was held up until 11 December due to weather, but on that day they repositioned their RRP on FSB Vaghel as a ready reaction force for Delta Troop who C Troop had inserted to monitor sensor devices. The Troop also provided visual reconnaissance in the Ruong Ruong Valley for the majority of the month. FLIR was also supported by the Troop but weather restriction also hampered missions.

For the next five days, all elements of B, C, D, and Co L and IHF went OROON to 1st Brigade, in a joint operations and artillery raid against a Regimental base Camp south of FSB Maureon. The Calry killed 15 enemy and destroyed his suspected strongholds with tactical airstrikes, many of which resulted in secondary explosions.

The Rangers conducted ten long range reconnaissance patrols, employing six teams in the Khe Sanh Plains, and Vietnamese Salient region. Their mission was to check enemy infiltration routes from Laos into Quang Thieu Phing Province. There were no significant sightings or contacts. Four teams were employed in general area of Three-Forks and Fire Support Base Maythra. These teams were employed to check the infiltration routes used by the NVA from Laos into the lowlands of the Thua Thien Province. There were no significant sightings and no enemy contact was initiated.

The Squadron received well deserved rest and issued out the year by viewing Bob Hope Christmas Show on 23 December 1970. Though all the Troopers were tasked to provide security for the Star and his all Stars, the majority of the Troopers were able to see the spectacle.

From COBRA COVER FOX 1969 SHOW AT CAMP ENGLE
SAW 1/2 THE SHOW FROM 1500 FT AWAY

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