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AVDG-SQ-3

5 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 2d Squadron, (Ambl), 17th Cavalry period ending 30 April 1970 RCS - 65 (R2).

Troop D conducted ground and mounted sweeps and on 20 January uncovered a 200 lb rice cache in H sector (YD 815125). Another sweep of Hotel sector by Troop D captured 1 fully equipped NVA at coordinates YD 801122.

Troop D participated in night ambushes around the Eagle perimeter and on 13 February sprung an ambush resulting in 1 VC with AK47 killed.

(6) Rangers: During the report period Ranger operations were concentrated in four major areas. During the last stages of Randolph Glen, Rangers were targeted in the Co Yan (XD 9431) and Khe Sanh (XD 8639) areas. During the beginning of Texas Star the rangers were targeted in the Ba Long river valley (YD 0941) in support of a 54th ARVN operation. Toward the end of April, after the 54th ARVN operation began, the Ranger teams displaced west of the Ruong Ruong valley (YC 7190) in support of the special Cavalry areas of operations.

Throughout the report period I Company maintained an average of 5 teams in their designated area of operation daily.

c. Organization.

Headquarters 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry is located at Camp Eagle, Hue/Phu Bai Republic of Vietnam and is commanded by LTC Robert F Molinelli. The squadron is organized under table of organization and equipment 17-95T and is currently in general support of the Division. The Squadron has attached I Company 75th Infantry and had detached F Troop 101st Aviation Bn on 10 March 70.

(a) Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, Camp Eagle, Hue/Phu Bai, Republic of Vietnam is organized in accordance with TOE 17-96-T.

(b) Troop A Combat elements and forward CP are located at Quang Tri, while the 33rd TC Detachment and HQ Admin Section are located at Camp Eagle, Republic of Vietnam. Troop A is organized under TOE 17-98-T and is 1 of 3 Air Cavalry Troops. 17-95T

(c) Troop B is organized under TOE 17-98-T and is located at Camp Eagle Republic of Vietnam. The 33rd TC Detachment provides direct support maintenance to the Troop.

(d) Troop C is also organized under TOE 17-98-T and is located at Hue/Phu Bai. The 507th TC Detachment provides direct support maintenance to the troop.

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## 9. Operations

(1) BMT: The basic mission of the Command Aviation Section of Headquarters Troop was to supply support aircraft and conduct administrative liaison between the troops.

During the month of March, aviation support was supplied principally to the Rangers as C&C and lift ships, resulting in numerous insertions of Rangers in the area between the DMZ and the Ruong Ruong Valley. Contact was made in numerous areas during this period with damage to only one headquarters aircraft. Command Aviation support was also called on by Bravo and Charlie groups during this period. Division G-2 (ground surveillance) requested air support and ground monitoring for sensor drops, which produced excellent results.

The month of April marked a major increase in enemy activity in the A Shau Valley and Khe Sanh area. This demanded a coordinated effort of all elements of the 2/17 Cavalry to maintain constant surveillance of enemy movements. This effort resulted in heavy combat damage to all troop's aircraft who in turn called upon headquarters for support. Support was furnished to troops day and night as required. One aircraft was destroyed due to combat damage and one excessively damaged as a result of enemy ground fire. All injuries were of a minor nature. These missions resulted in Headquarters Command Aviation Section flying well over 450 hrs with 7 aircraft in a 30 day period. Other sections of Headquarters Troop supported the Squadron with logistical and maintenance support. During the months of March and April Headquarters Troop provided a greater number of guards in Bravo sector of the Eagle defense perimeter in relief of Troop A.

(2) Troop A: During the reported period Troop A participated in two major operations; Randolph Glen beginning 8 December 69 and ending 31 March 70, and Texas Star beginning 1 April 70 and still in progress. Throughout this reporting quarter all operational assets were at Quang Tri, while the 332d TC Detachment remained behind at Camp Eagle. During the later stages of Randolph Glen Troop A provided direct support to the 3d Brigade 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) through the use of Hunter-Killer Teams (One AH-1G, one OH-6A). The teams often worked in close support of company size ground elements, providing visual reconnaissance in front of the maneuver element, and securing their flanks and rear. The teams were also called on to reconnoiter areas of interest dealing with URS's, SPAR's and sensor activations. The remainder of the Troops assets were used on missions in different areas of interest provided by Squadron and Division in an area extending from the DMZ to the Southern boundary of the A Shau Valley, which produced excellent results.

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