

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority ND873541
 By 6 NARA Date 4/5/00

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AVDG-SQ-D

SUBJECT: After Action Report for period from 1 January to 31 January 1971.

TO: Commanding Officer
 2/17th Cavalry
 101st Abn Div (Ambl)
 APO SF 96383
 ATTN: S-3

FROM: Commanding Officer
 Trp D, 2/17th Cavalry
 101st Abn Div (Ambl)
 APO SF 96383

5 March 1971

1. During the month of January 1971, Delta Troop was employed as reaction for downed aircraft, ground reconnaissance and base defense security. Troop D was used extensively for ambushes and sweeps outside the perimeter of Camp Eagle. Statistically, D Troop was employed as follows: 2 days downed aircraft security, 6 days ground reconnaissance, 16 ambushes and 1 sweep.
2. On the 26th of January, D Troop was inserted at YC 804824 to support a Ranger team in contact. The LZ was hot but negative casualties were sustained by ground troops. Despite poor weather and limited visibility, cobra pilots brought in close and accurate air support continuously until weather and visibility no longer permitted. The next day a small element of Delta, with two rangers as guides, went to recon the area where the fire had come from. I was one of these men and I feel that area offered the best natural protection of any I have ever seen in Vietnam. There are steep granite walls, caves, and only one route of access from the down-hill side. The enemy is safe from anything but a direct hit from the air, which is almost impossible due to the rock conformation. However, there was evidence of no more than a squad using this location. That day everyone was extracted, and small arms fire was again taken, but there were negative casualties.
3. Lessons Learned
 - a. Use of vehicles for missions.
 - b. Because D Troop so rarely used vehicles for troop or platoon sized missions except for nightly base defense reaction force, most activities are geared for airmobile insertions.
 - c. To obtain maximum effectiveness, D Troop needs maximum advance notice of any missions that require use of vehicles.
4. Analysis and evaluation
 - a. Although activity was slightly curtailed due to monsoon weather, D Troop proved its value by its ability to react immediately to any given mission, from support of units in contact to convoy and convoy escort, and capable of providing organic fire support on any mission.

Thomas D. Chenault
 THOMAS D. CHENAULT
 1LT, INF
 Operations Officer

CLASSIFIED BY: COE, 101
 SUBJECT TO GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
 SCHEDULE OF EXPIRATIVE ORDER 11652
 AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR
 INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED ON: 31 DECEMBER 1977

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GROUP 4
 Downgraded at 2 year intervals;
 Declassified after 12 years.