

POSITION FORM

(Form, see AR 340-15; the proponent agency is The Adjutant General's Office.)

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S3 Cels

PLACE SYMBOL	SUBJECT
	Summary of Activity 3 August 1971

FROM	Commanding Officer	DATE	4 Aug 1971	CMT 1
	C Troop, 2/17th Cavalry			
	1C1st Abn Div (Abn)			
	AFM Gun Preciseo 96303			

1. On 3 August C Troop participated in two separate insertions operations, one near FOB Normandy and the other near FOB Sarge. Critical timing and precision were not evident in either operation. The following comments may aid in the smoother and more professional accomplishment of future operations.

2. Vicinity FOB Normandy

The operations were very smooth until the CH-47 was called. The sequence of events easily points out the lack of both communication and range of visibility on the part of the CH-47 pilot.

1200 hrs.	C Troop to planned aircraft. CH-47 parked on runway.
1244 hrs.	CH-47 pilot with all and riggers on the ground. CH-47 was called for pickup.
1312 hrs.	Message to forward CH-47 aircraft ready for extraction.
1330 hrs.	C Troop and aircraft A CH-47 was launched. No range within CH-47.
1347 hrs.	C Troop WSO was checked and informed CH-47 was launched.
1350 hrs.	Range visually established with CH-47.
1345 hrs.	CH-47 attempted pickup. Aircraft too heavy aircraft then further dispersed.
1405 hrs.	Forward CH-47 extracted.
1410 hrs.	PE
1415 hrs.	PE complete

The above sequence points out the visibility difficulties needed from initial request until communication with the CH-47 and the even longer time of forty-five minutes until initial pickup. This time factor is not acceptable when a small security element is on the ground; the longer they are on the ground the more danger they are in. A successful operation necessitates timely and decisive reaction by all elements involved.

3. Vicinity FOB Sarge

The general comment from all pilots was that the operation did not go smoothly due to a poor CH-47 lead. Right lead came from Headquarters Troop. He flew at an extraordinarily slow speeds during the flight. This caused

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either communications security or reaction time for ~~communications~~

(c) Recommendations: When ranger teams are deployed a distance greater than thirty miles from Camp Eagle, and the operation is to be of a duration greater than five days, deploy a ROB close to the ranger ~~area~~ ~~interest~~.

(2) False Extractions

(a) Observations: On 21 January 1971, this unit accomplished a false extraction with a ranger team who had made contact with a undetermined size NVA force, one hour prior.

(b) Evaluation: This was the first time this unit had attempted a false extraction under actual combat conditions. After information had been received stating no friendly casualties had incurred during contact with the NVA force, the Company Commander made the decision to execute a false extraction, to allow the ranger team to continue their assigned mission. The false extraction occurred 100 meters from the site of the initial contact. No problems were observed.

(c) Recommendations: Execute false extractions in the future only when it has been determined the ranger team on the ground did not obtain casualties during the contact, and the terrain affords such cover so to deny the enemy knowledge that a false extraction did occur.

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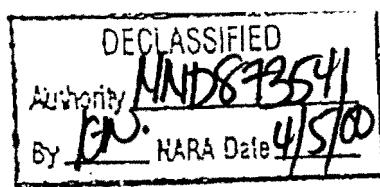
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m. Air Cavalry Operation.

(1) A Troop.

(a) The mission of Troop A during the November and December was to provide visual reconnaissance in the 2/17th Cavalry reconnaissance zones. It also provided reconnaissance and security for the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division (Abn) and its subordinate elements in the form of first and last light reconnaissance and reaction to contact missions. Due to high winds and heavy rains operations in the recon zones declined during the reporting period. Troop A did not support the Hac Bao Company in the reporting period. Troop A ~~participated~~ a stand down during the last days of the reporting period. Among the main objectives of the stand down were instrumental training, proficiency check rides, and aircraft maintenance. Major emphasis was placed on aircraft maintenance to insure maximum combat-ready aircraft at the termination of the stand down. The Aero Rifle Platoon also secured downed aircraft in the 101st Airborne Division's northern area of operations. On 6 November 70 Troop A was given the mission to conduct a visual reconnaissance in the vicinity of Fire Base KATY, RIPCORD, and BRADLEY. During the morning the ARP were inserted to secure a downed aircraft at coordinates YD928434. During a visual recon of area 7 a UH-1H chase aircraft received 8-10 rounds of .51 caliber fire with negative hits. The following teams also took fire from the .51 caliber with negative hits. While engaging this area a total of 110-130 rounds of AK fire was received with negative hits. Numerous trails were spotted in the vicinity of coordinates YD241132 with recent activity in the past 24-48 hours. Footprints of 2 to 3 personnel at coordinates YD241144 were observed with recent activity in the last 24 hours. In a 2 grid square area around YD230120 three hootches and 16 bunkers were observed with recent activity in the past 12-24 hours. On 14 November the missions for Troop A were began with



visual recons in recon zone 7. Two .51 caliber pits, 10 bunkers, 3 trails, and several hootches were observed at coordinates YD148063. At coordinates YD150070, 25 hootches were observed in a 100 meter square. While reconning the area at coordinates YD151055 a light observation helicopter took 20 to 30 rounds of AK-47 fire. The pilot was hit in the hand. The aircraft was flown back to Quang Tri. At coordinates XD862287 two big reinforced bunkers, and numerous footprints were spotted. At coordinates YD151055 a gunship was fired at by both Ak-47 and .51 caliber weapons. A FAC was on station to get the target where the aircraft was fired on. Air strikes were placed on the target with unknown results. On 15 November a team from Troop A observed a 3/4 ton truck at coordinates YD305074. The truck was engaged and destroyed, and the aircraft received 10 rounds of .51 caliber fire with negative hits. Also at this location, 5 to 7 bunkers were destroyed. At coordinates XD916255 a black box size 1" x 8" was observed. Several trails were also spotted from this coordinate. An 8' x 8' bunker at coordinates XD923235 was observed and engaged with unknown results. AK-47 fire was received at coordinates YD125107 and XD923235 by the light observation helicopter. On 26 November began a five day stand-down for Troop A. Throughout the entire stand-down period, time was allocated for proficiency check rides and instrument training. Major emphasis was placed on aircraft maintenance to insure maximum combat-ready aircraft at the termination of the stand-down. On 30 November was the last day of stand-down. Final emphasis was placed on the maintenance of aircraft, the concluding of proficiency check rides, and area beautification. Weather had been bad during the entire stand-down, however, goals set for the stand-down were achieved.

(b) During December A Troop was to provide visual reconnaissance in the 2/17th Cavalry reconnaissance zones. It also provided reconnaissance and

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security for the 3rd Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and its subordinate elements in the form of first and last light reconnaissance and reaction to contact missions. Due to high winds and heavy rains operations in the recon zones declined during the reporting period. Troop A did not support the Hac Bao Company in the reporting period. Teams for L Company (Ranger) were sent to Troop A to be placed in the recon zones. Troop A supplied overflights, insertions, reaction forces, and extractions for the 101st Airborne Division's northern area of operations. Missions in support of ARVN's located in the vicinity of Fire Base BARARARA were also preformed by Troop A.

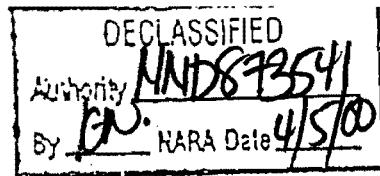
(c) During January Troop A participated in the Jefferson Glen operation in general support of the 101st Airborne Division. 1-2 January, inclement weather prevented combat operations in the AO. 3 January, VR of RT 616 showed signs of heavy truck traffic. Gunships received 12.7mm Antiaircraft fire at XD910243. One aircraft was hit with minor damage resulting. 4-5 January, inclement weather prevented combat operations in the AO. 9-16 January, Troop A performed Visual reconnaissance in the AO with emphasis on RT 616, a Ranger Relay Team was inserted on Hill 950. Numerous shot ats resulted throughout the period. Active 12.7mm pits were observed and engaged. Bunkers were spotted for TAC AIR and Artillery. 18-21 January, Troop A worked in close support with TAC AIR, ARA and Artillery to destroy bunkers, cache sites, tunnels and spider holes along RT 616. 22-23 January, inclement weather prevented combat operations in the AO. 25 January, several sensor strings were activated and were visually checked for activity. 26-28 January, inclement weather prevented combat operations in the AO. 30 January, Troop A performed mission of flank security for 1/5 Moth in Khe Sanh area of operations. A downed LOH from F Troop 8th Cavalry was secured and rigged for extraction. 31 January, provided security for units in Khe Sanh and Sheppard areas of

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operations. BDA of Arc light was completed with satisfactory results noted.

(d) 2-3 February, Troop A conducted VR of RT 616, extracted two Ranger teams and inserted two others. Troop D was inserted to accomplish ground reconnaissance of RT 616. 4 February, Troop A ARP was inserted into Khe Sanh combat base, to secure the arrival of Troop D and Squadron HQ. 4-7 February bad weather precluded normal operations. 8 February, Troop A crossed the Iactian border. Aircraft reported shot-downs with three aircraft reporting hits and aircraft flyable. 10 February, worked area West of Khe Sanh utilizing FAC and ARA. An LOH and AH-1G were shot down, crews were extracted. Aircraft were destroyed by the crash. Seven NVA were KBH. 12-17 February were spent in support of ARVN ground elements operating in Laos. Troop A worked with FAC controlled TAC Air, ARA and it's organic gunships to suppress enemy antiaircraft fire, while teams continued their missions of VR for the ground forces. Approximately 16 NVA were KBH. 18-25 February, Troop A was engaged in it's assigned missions of VR and close screen to the ground forces. Weather during this period frequently delayed missions until 1100-1200 hours. 26 February, Troop A had visual sighting on enemy armor. Two active tanks were sighted and an AH-1G received 15 hits in the process of flying VR in the vicinity of LZ 31. 27-28 February, Troop A alternated with Troop C and Squadron Company as C&C to recover an LOH that had been shot down Vic JD6225. Three 12.7mm antiaircraft weapons were located in the area.

(e) 1 March, employed airstrikes against known and suspected enemy locations. 2-3 March, inclement weather prevented combat operations, 4-6 March, supported ARVN at LZ Sophie and LZ Victory, employed TAC AIR and artillery on known positions. 6 March, Hac Bao ~~waded~~ ~~disembarked~~ to secure a downed crew at Vic JD478409. 7 March, Hac Bao and downed crew were extracted under heavy 12.7mm antiaircraft fire from three weapons. One AH-1G received



4 hits and returned to base where it was determined to be non flyable. A truck (5 ton) was destroyed and a bulldozer spotted. Area was marked for a FAC. 8-10 March inclement weather prevented combat operations. 11 March, Troop A conducted a VR of LZ Aloui, LZ Bravo, LZ Alpha, and LZ Hotel to determine condition. Sighted five 2½ ton trucks and marked for a FAC. ARA was utilized on selected targets. 12-13 March, Troop A missions were VR and screen Vic LZ Sophia. 14-15 March, inclement weather prevented combat operations. 16-23 March, Troop A supported the 1st ARVN Division vicinity of LZ Brown with heavy teams. Air strikes were employed and remaining targets were turned over to the FAC on station. During this period an AH-1S was shot down by small arms fire Vic XD439405. Crew was extracted. Tanks were sighted on 19 March and were marked for the FAC. 24 March, continued support to 1st ARVN Division with heavy Cav teams. Marginal weather on 25 March prevented working in the AO until 1400 hours. Route recon of 616 revealed no significant spots and no traffic, past three days. 26-28 March, Troop A performed in Visual recon role in the Iaotian and Vietnamese Salient areas to spot possible targets of opportunity. Heavy small arms fire was received throughout the area of interest. 29-30 March, supported insertion of ARVN near XD6802. And performed VR in Iaotian Salient.

(f) 1-5 April, Troop A conducted visual reconnaissance in the Vietnamese and Iaotian Salient areas. Emphasis was placed on Route 616 and by passes. 6 April, spent early day in visual reconnaissance of routes of approach, departure, and planned LZ's for the insertion of the HAC BAO. TAC AIR was employed. Troop A screened ahead of the advancing ground forces after insertion. 7-9 April, Troop A screened ahead

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7-9 April, Troop A supported the 3rd Brigade in the vic of Vandergrift and Mai Loc. 10-13 April, inclement weather caused mission delays. Troop A however worked vic Fire Base Gladiator, observing light trail traffic. Vic Fire Base O'Rielly observed light foot traffic. Gunships received heavy small arms fire. One AH-1G was downed and crashed landed in a field. 12 April inclement weather prevented combat operations in the AO. 13-15 April, Troop A worked the recon zones with emphasis on Route 616 from Fire Base Leatherneck to Fire Base Shiloh. Small amount of traffic was observed. Teams continued to receive 12.7mm and small arms fire. 16 April, Teams observed old bunkers trails but negative recent activity vic YD128209. 17-18 April, Teams were given priority mission of Hue Rocket Belt Screen. 19 April, Troop A supported the 258th Vietnamese Marines in their insertion near Holcomb, 12.7mm fire was received throughout the area. 22-23 April, Teams worked in support of the 258th VNMC vic Fire Base Shiloh and Tun Tavern. Support was also rendered to the 54th ARVN Regiment vic Fire Base Barnett, team observed 50-55 bunkers, two NVA and light foot traffic and negative vehicle traffic. 24 April, Teams observed 3 bunkers under construction at YD005297, 1 NVA was KIA. Bulldozers had been working on Route 616 bypassing bomb craters. Bunkers observed had a spacing of approximately 50 meters, 25-26 April, Troop A worked with a FAC and employed TAC AIR in support of HAC BAO raid in prep and destruction of targets of opportunity. 27-28 April, Teams returned to visual reconnaissance in the Division Recon Zone. TAC AIR was employed vic YD095204 against a bunker complex. 29-30 April, Troop A supported HAC BAO raid and continued its visual reconnaissance responsibilities.

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(2) B Troop.

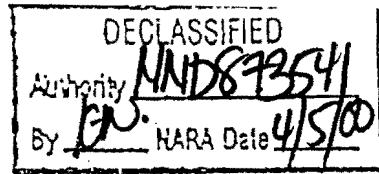
(a) During November B Troop was used in general support of the 101st Airborne Division and worked very closely with the 1st Brigade. The primary mission was to gather intelligence through visual reconnaissance missions. Secondary missions included downed aircraft security in the Divisions Area of Operation, bomb damage assignments for B-52 strikes, sky spots, and artillery. 1-7 November B Troop worked heavily as weather permitted with elements of the 1st Brigade around THREE FORKS area (YD5012). The specific mission was to determine the size, location, and movement of an enemy force that made contact with a friendly infantry unit. 8-14 November the poor flying weather hampered B Troops attempts to support the Rangers. Finally on the 13th the weather lifted enough to insert team Bills; and set the stage for the remaining 2 weeks of November. On 16 November Bills had contact with unknown size enemy force. The action resulted in two members of the team wounded. B Troop tried to extract the men but were driven off by enemy ground to air fire. In the action three UH-1H helicopters of B Troop received combat damage, resulting in a limited combat role for 5 days. However, Pink teams were employed in an effort to find more information about the enemy. From that time B Troop has worked directly with the 1st Brigade in an effort to destroy any logistical build up in the area and to limit the Three Forks area as an enemy avenue of advance to the lowlands.

(b) 1-11 December 1970, poor flying weather did not permit much reconnaissance, however on 2 December 1970 the Aero Rifle Platoon was inserted on some wooden boxes vicinity YD605230. The boxes were found to be empty American powder connisters and were returned to Eagle. 12-17 December 1970, Troop B worked with the 1st Brigade around Three Forks YD5012 to conduct bomb damage assessments and locate targets for artillery and airstrikes.

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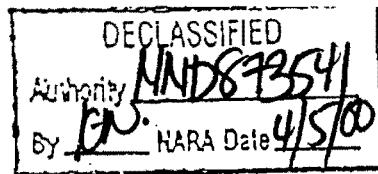
On 17 December 1970, Troop B ARP was inserted on a downed aircraft YD496115, the aircraft was down for 31 days prior to the recovery attempt. The aircraft was recovered without incident. 18 December - 22 December 1970, Troop B was working around Eagle's Nest YD4105 a NVA base camp was found by a Troop B pink team and once the area was developed Troop B went to support the 1st Brigade which took over the operation. The mission was to determine size, location, and disposition of the enemy force. Secondary missions included CS drops, bomb damage assessments, and relief for Brigade Command and Control personnel. Also on 18 December 1970, a pink team from Troop B while working in the southern part of the A Shau Valley was engaged by two 12.7mm antiaircraft machineguns and an undetermined number of small arms positions. The team leader managed to contact a FAC and mark the area for an airstrike. The bomb damage assessment revealed both active 12.7's destroyed and undetermined small arms and fighting positions destroyed by Air Force. 19-31 December 1970, Troop B worked the Squadron reconnaissance zones, screened Camp Eagle on 22 December 1970 for operation Holly (Bob Hope).

(c) During January and February Troop B participated in the Jefferson Glen operation in general support of the 101st Airborne Division. With a primary mission of intelligence gathering through Visual reconnaissance. 1-11 January 1971, Troop B was able to accomplish only limited Visual reconnaissance due to low ceilings and inclement weather. On 6 January a detailed search was made for a missing AH-1G from Troop C 2/17th. During this search a AH-1H listed as missing since 1969 was found near Fire Base Veghel. The Aero Rifle Platoon of Troop B was later inserted on this crash site to recover the remains of the crew. 14 January, an LOH was shot down



at YD385001 Vic Aloui airstrip. The aircraft and crew were secured. 16 January, the Troop B ARP secured a downed aircraft Vic YC830889. Additionally on 16 January an LOH was shot down due to 12.7mm antiaircraft fire Vic YD558794. The crew was recovered, the aircraft was lost due to fire. 17 January, the Troop B ARP was again inserted on a downed FLIR aircraft YC870985. 19 January, Troop B ARP was inserted on a suspected enemy location Vic Fire Base Musket. From 20-27 January, Troop B worked in the area of the Ruong Ruong Valley YC8584 supporting Company 11(Ranger). 30 January, Troop B operations moved to Quang Tri to support operations Dewey Canyon II vicinity Khe Sanh.

(d) 9 February, Troop B inserted five Ranger teams. 10 February, Troop B lost 2 LOH aircraft. The first while on convoy cover in the Hai Van Pass. Troop B ARP was inserted on the site and aircraft and crew were extracted. The second was shot down in the A Shau Valley by 12.7mm antiaircraft fire. The aircraft was destroyed and the crew are listed as MIA. From 11-14 February, Troop B worked the Division recon zone detecting enemy truck traffic and destroying a truck a bulldozer. 15 February, a UH-1H on a night Ranger extraction crashed resulting in seven US KIA. On 16 February, five Ranger teams were extracted. From 19-20 February, Troop B supported Ranger teams and continued the Visual reconnaissance in the recon zone. 21 February, an AH-1G indirect support of a Ranger contact fired too close to friendly troops, resulting in one KIA and two WIA. The team was extracted. 24 February, a Troop B LOH suffered a tree strike and set down on Fire Base Tomahawk. The aircraft was recovered. 25 February, Troop B extracted a Ranger team with POW Vic YD719901. 26-27 February, Troop B secured for extraction of two aircraft Vic YD 719901 and YD531132. 28 February, Troop B conducted Visual reconnaissance in the Division recon zone mapping enemy infiltration routes and directing air strikes in the A Shau Valley.



(e) 1-31 March, Troop B worked in the Division recon zone conducting Visual reconnaissance, checking sensor activations and URS reports. 5-6 March, Troop B ARP secured a downed AH-1G at YD865211 and a UH-1H at YD391361. 13 March, an LOH received an unknown amount of 12.7mm antiaircraft and SAF Vic YD199129. The aircraft crashed and burned resulting in two US MIA. 14-17 March, Troop B ARP secured a downed UH-1H Vic YC727143 and an AH-1G at YD35747211. 22 March, Troop B ARP secured a downed AH-1G at YD961162. 24 March, extracted Ranger teams 19s and 19w when team became in contact. 29 March, Pink team coverage was provided for downed UH-1H at YD030025. 30 March, Troop B ARP was inserted at YD513031 to reinforce Ranger team 19h in the capture of 2 NVA PW~~AL~~. During the entire reporting period additional missions included BDA of airstrikes and Arc Lights and limited ground reconnaissance.

(f) On 1 April, B Troop ARP was inserted on Fire Base Veghel to secure and recover an AH-1G. Both aircraft and crew were recovered. 2 April, B Troop extracted a Ranger team in contact. The team was then used to secure a B Troop LOH on Fire Base Rendezvous. Both aircraft and crew were recovered. On 4 April, a B Troop UH-1H on medevac mission vicinity YD552017 received intense SAF resulting in one US WIA. 6 April, a B Troop UH-1H carrying Rangers to attempt a body snatch vicinity YC451950 received intense SA and MG fire resulting in 1 US KIA and 3 WIA. B Troop ARP secured a UH-1H vicinity YC872793 on 8 April. A large grass fire caused by a smoke grenade destroyed the aircraft before it could be extracted, and caused serious burns to 3 US. On 10 April the ARP secured a B Troop UH-1H (C&C) on Fire Base Rendezvous where it was landed after receiving one 37 MM hit west of Fire Base Erskine. One US was killed. The aircraft and crew were extracted. 13 April, the ARP secured and recovered a B Troop LOH shot down vicinity AT837978. For the

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remainder of the month, B Troop operated in the Recon Zones and provided support for Company L, 75th Rangers. On 23 April, a B Troop UH-1H was shot down vicinity YC479927 while attempting to reinforce a Ranger team in contact, resulting in 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA. The aircraft was not recovered.

(3) C Troop.

(a) During November, Troop C staged from Phu Bai Army Airfield in general support of the Division. This included aerial VRs, BDAs, ground reconnaissance and support for the Rangers. In addition the ARP was on standby for downed aircraft in the Division AO. Due to the monsoon season, there was little air and reconnaissance activity during the first portion of the reporting period. On 13 and 14 November, the ARP along with a team of engineers was inserted to clear Fire Bases Kelly, Maureen and Kathryn. A number of old 105 rounds, fragmentation grenades and blasting caps were discovered and disposed of. On 16 November, Ranger team Bills was in contact resulting in one friendly KIA. The ARP and elements of Delta Troop were inserted just south of Fire Base Maureen. The ARP in an attempt to recover the Ranger KIA received RPG and AK-47 fire resulting in six wounded and another Ranger KIA. Due to extremely poor weather conditions, the wounded were unable to be extracted that day. On the following day, 17 November, extraction of the critically wounded was made by an LOH under heavy AK and 50 caliber fire. On 18 November, an attempt was made to extract the ground elements with no success due to weather restrictions. In the attempt one C&C, one Cobra, and one LOH received heavy AK fire along with 50 caliber and five RPG rounds. The next day, 19 November, the ARP and other ground elements started to move by foot towards Fire Base Cannon. In an attempt to make

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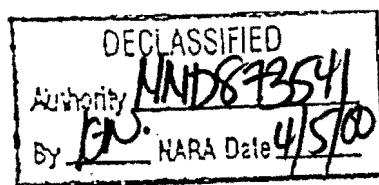
radio contact with the ground elements, one C&C took two RPG rounds and one LOH with pilot and crew member crashed into a mountain side killing both. On 20 November the element was able to be extracted, along with remains of the LOH crew. The remainder of the month was relatively quiet with daily VR of the A Shau Valley.

(b) During December, operations involving C Troop were significantly hampered by the monsoon weather conditions. A short break in the weather allowed us to work in the northern end of the A Shau Valley in the vicinity of Tiger Mountain. On 11 December the ARP stood by on Fire Base Veghel while D Troop was inserted by our UH-1H helicopters in the vicinity of Aloui Air Strip. D Troop destroyed bridges that had been spotted earlier by our LOH Observation Helicopters working in that area. During the next few days increasing enemy activity was noted in the northern valley and the surrounding areas. On frequent occasions our observation aircraft came under enemy small and heavy arms fire. Even so, our Pink Teams worked the area with considerable success. Enemy bunkers, fighting positions, bridges, and hooches were destroyed. A number of the enemy were KIA. On 16 December, a LOH on an AAR mission was shot down by enemy 50 caliber fire. The crew, none whom suffered any injuries, was immediately picked up by the UH-1H that was flying as chase. On the night of 19 December this same general area was worked by FLIR. Sighting a number of the enemy in the open, FLIR engaged and was credited with 10 enemy KIA. During this period FLIR was also utilized in the daylight hours. Accompanying our regular VR missions. In the reporting period FLIR accounted for a large percentage of the enemy KIA credited to the Troop.

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(c) During the 1 January to 31 January reporting period, Troop C staged from Phu Bai Army Airfield participating in Jefferson Glen operations, in general support of the 101st Airborne Division, with a primary mission of intelligence gathering through Visual reconnaissance. 1-10 January, Monsoon weather prohibited extensive reconnaissance of the Division recon zone. 11-30 January, was marked by improving weather which enabled Troop C to continue the Visual reconnaissance of the Division recon zone. A heavy increase in enemy activity was noted during this period around the Alouï airstrip and west of Tiger Mountain. An estimated NVA Company was pin pointed. A "Cavalry Cobra" raid was launched and a BDA in the fifteen foot high elephant grass revealed 3 NVA KBH. It is felt that better results were obtained than those indicated by the BDA, as the team was able to silence rather intense fire in the area. During this period Troop C reacted with its Aero Rifle Platoon to five downed aircraft. Additionally Troop C supported three Ranger Teams in contact.

(d) From 1-4 February Troop C staged from Phu Bai Airfield. From 5 February to 28 February, it staged from Khe Sanh combat base. 8 February, 0743 hours the Troop C commander, Major James T. Newman led the first heavy Cav team into Laos in support of the Vietnamese Rangers. 12 February, Troop C lost two AH-1Gs to hostile fire on the Laotian border. One crew is listed as MIA. The second crew was extracted. The area of the contact was engaged by Artillery, TAC AIR, and one B-52 strike. 18 February, the Troop commander extracted four of five Americans from a downed Dustoff aircraft, while the Ranger fire base was under heavy small arms, antiaircraft fire and mortars. Additionally on the 18th an LOH was shot down and it exploded. The crew is still listed as MIA. The remainder of the month of February was spent in a



primary role of screening for extraction of Vietnamese Ranger fire bases and working fire bases 30 and 31.

(e) 1-31 March, Troop C staged out of Khe Sanh combat base in general support of Lam Son 719. During this period Troop C ARP manned a portion of the Khe Sanh perimeter. The ARVN movement of their forces enabled the Troop to resume it's full time job of reconnaissance. Troop C was assigned recon zone that extended westward to Tchepone and to the north of Highway 9. After the ground objectives had been reached and withdrawal began, Troop C began close support by screening PZ's and reconnaissance of flights routes. The Troop also acted in resupply capacity on occasion during this period.

(f) April saw the end of Lam Son 719, with Troop C performing missions in support of the final phases of the operation. Returning to Phu Bai, all efforts were again concentrated on the A Shau Valley and the infiltration routes along the Laotian border. Heavy pink teams once again employed their organic fire power along with artillery and air support against suspected enemy locations in and around Base Area 611. Often forced to work without a LOH because of hostile fire, the effectiveness of the visual reconnaissance was greatly reduced. Support of Delta Troop operations in the Valley raised morale and supplied a sense of accomplishment. Other daily missions included reconnaissance of the Hue-Phu Bai rocket belt, convoy escorts, and support of the 2nd Brigade. These missions allowed many of the new aviators in the unit to familiarize themselves with Cavalry Operations as well as the peculiarities of Troop C.

(4) D Troop.

(a) During the last two months of 1970, Delta Troop provided ground reconnaissance downed aircraft security, and reaction force for units in contact. Additionally, the troop provided ambushes and sweeps outside

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Camp Eagle and served as the base defense reaction force. In the period of 1-18 January, Troop D performed it's assigned missions of Eagle Reaction Force, Perimeter Defense and acted as immediate Reaction Force with Troop (-) to all insertions of any Squadron Aero Rifle Platoon. 1-4 January, over-flights of the perimeter defenses were made with respect to possible enemy routes of infiltration, and possible ambush sites. Reports submitted covering this activity indicated areas of possible improvement. 28 January, warning order for movement to Quang Tri was issued. Troop was to further prepare to carry out combat operations. 2 February, Troop D made a combat assault via XD854238, to conduct a ground bomb damage assessment (BDA) and a ground reconnaissance of the surrounding area that had been tentatively identified as a NVA headquarters complex. The Troop was extracted at 031500 hours at XD854238 and XD848236, PZ's were green. 4 February, Troop D moved to Khe Sanh combat base in support of Iam Son 719, Headquarters (-) by convoy and two platoons by air. 5-14 February, Troop D hardened the perimeter defenses. Bunkers, fighting positions and overhead cover were given priority. 15 February, Troop D was given the responsibility of security for the rear refuel point at La Con, XD814368, and at this time assumed control of the Aero Rifle Platoons of the assigned and 6RCON Air Cav Troops. Ambush and sweep operations in the Squadron AO were accomplished as part of the perimeter defense plan through 14 March.

(b) 15 March, the Khe Sanh combat base began to receive daily Artillery attacks by NVA 122mm field guns. 23 March, at 0230 hours, Troop D repulsed a Sapper attack by the 2nd Company 15th NVA Engineer Battalion. This 40 man attack, supported by indirect fire, 60mm mortars and RPG's penetrated the 3rd Platoon position in it's attempt to reach the airfield POL and rear points.

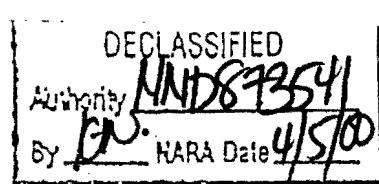
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The enemy broke contact at 0645 hours. A first light check revealed 14 NVA KIA, 1 POW, 9 AK-50s, 3 RPG launchers and one 9mm pistol captured along with numerous small arms ammunition and demolition equipment. An additional 6 NVA are estimated KIA. (Bodies were recovered by retreating enemy). US losses were 3 KIA, 5 WIA major, 13 WIA minor. 27 March, Troop D was given order to return to Quang Tri. Area was evacuated in approximately 1 hour with minimum exposure to possible indirect fire attack. 28 March to the end of the reporting period Troop D acted as the Squadron Reaction Force for downed aircraft and crew security.

(c) During the month of April 1971, Delta Troop provided ground reconnaissance, downed aircraft security, reaction force for 101st Division and a reaction force for units in contact. Additionally, Delta Troop provided base security for Camp Eagle. Statistically, Delta troop was employed as follows: secured two downed aircraft in A Shau Valley, reinforced one Ranger team in contact in A Shau Valley, inserted and provided diversion for two Ranger platoon size ambushes in A Shau Valley, conducted three days of ground reconnaissance in A Shau Valley, twenty-nine days of base defense reaction force for Camp Eagle, and 5 sweeps, one of which was mounted. After returning from Khe Sanh on 2 April, Delta Troop began a week of stand down training. The training stand down ran from 4 April to 10 April 71. Upon completion of the training stand down Delta moved once more into action. On April 15th the troop was inserted in the A Shau Valley at coordinates YC451920. Delta's mission was to provide security and diversion for a Ranger platoon stay behind ambush of Route 548. The troop also performed a ground reconnaissance of a 2½ kilometers of Route 548. D Troop found signs of recent vehicular traffic on the road as well as six 6 x 8 ft. bunkers which faced the road. The tropp was extracted late on the afternoon of the

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15th at grid YC442938. The LZ was anatural one ship LZ but a poor one because of the excellent cover and concealment it offered to an enemy force who might try to ambush it. The PZ was hastily constructed by flattening 6 to 15 ft Elephant grass, it also was a one ship area. On April 20th the troop was again inserted in the A Shau Valley at grid YC456903. The mission of the troop was to insert a Ranger platoon stay behind ambush, provide a diversion for the Ranger platoons movement to their ambush sight and make ground reconnaissance of the western side of the A Shau Valley between YC456903 and YC 457906. The troop found very little signs of recent activity. There were 5 trails in the area which had been used within 48 to 72 hours but they revealed no clue as to what might have passed on them. A quantity of communication wire was found but it had been previously cut in frequent intervals and showed no signs of repair. The troop was extracted on a one ship PZ at YC457906. On the 24th of April the troop was once again inserted in the A Shau Valley at YC484924 in response to a Ranger team in contact and two downed helicopters, one of which was a medivac. The troop was inserted north of the downed aircraft and moved south to make the pick up. Approximately 150 to 200 meters from the aircraft the lead element of the troop came under heavy RRG, small arms and Chicom grenades fire. The platoons were manuevered to react to the threat and pick up survivors of the Ranger team and aircraft. The contact on the 24th lasted approximatly six hours and resulted in 5 friendly KIA and 14 WIA, one known enemy KIA by small arms fire, 11 enemy KIA by aircraft and an unknown enemy WIA. After the extraction of three US from the downed medivac helicopters the troops withdrew approximately 400 meters north to NDP, medivac our wounded and be reinforced by another company. The reinforcement was accomplished that night and in the morning the elements moved back to the contact point to attempt to extract the remaining US



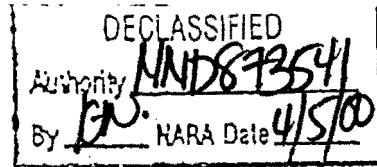
personnel. The NVA had withdrawn the majority of it's forces during the night and the next morning fire was received from only one location and in small quantities. The enemy fire was eliminated but no NVA were found in the vicinity. The extraction of the troop was made at YC486914.

(5) Company L (Ranger), 75th Infantry.

(a) During the month of November a total of thirteen Ranger teams were deployed in the 101st Airborne Division (Airmobile) Area of Operations. Emphasis was on reconnaissance around Fire Support Base Ripcord and Kathryn. Two enemy contacts were initiated. The contact initiated on 16 November by Ranger Team "Bills" provided the needed intelligence for establishing the location of the 1st Bn, 803rd NVA Regiment. Due to inclement weather, Ranger teams were shifted from the Ripcord-Kathryn area to the Ruong Ruong Valley, to determine infiltration routes used by the NVA from Laos to the lowlands of Thua Thien Province. No significant sightings were observed.

(b) During the month of December, ranger operations of this unit were hampered by poor weather conditions caused by the northeast monsoon. Company L deployed a total of ten operational teams. Six teams were deployed in the Khe Sanh Plains and Vietnamese Salient regions, with the remaining four teams deployed in the general area along the eastern side of the A Shau Valley. Deployment of operational teams to the Khe Sanh and Vietnamese Salient area caused this company to locate a Forward Operating Base at Quang Tri, plus deploy a three man radio relay element at Signal Mountain to insure adequate communications with the operational elements. The only problem arose was that of resupplying the Forward Operating Base and the radio relay team, due to poor flying conditions.

(c) Poor weather conditions caused by the northeast monsoon continued to hamper ranger operations during the month of January. However, enemy sightings



increased during this period. Sightings occurred in the Bach Ma, Spear Valley, and Ruong Ruong Valley regions. This unit accomplished a false extraction in the Spear Valley, after the ranger team was compromised. Future false extractions are planned, to allow the ranger teams to continue their assigned mission.

(d) During the month of February, this unit deployed a total of seventeen Ranger teams. Poor weather hampered deployment until February 9th, at which time seven operational teams were deployed into the Ruong Ruong Valley region. The mission of the teams were to replace one US infantry battalion that deployed in the Khe Sanh region. Emphasis during this time was placed on ambush techniques. Two minor enemy contacts were initiated during this period. After being relieved by a US infantry unit from the Ruong Ruong Valley region, Ranger teams began operating south and west of abandoned Fire Base Ripcord, the remainder of the month. Emphasis was placed on reconnaissance of roads and trails through the area. Four enemy contacts were initiated in that region.

(e) During the month of March, this unit deployed a total of twenty-one Ranger teams. Initially continuing to concentrate on reconnaissance of the area surrounding abandoned Fire Base Ripcord, this unit shifted to the mission of monitoring and ambushing along Route 547 from Fire Base Rendezvous to Fire Base Blaze and along Route 548 in the A Shau Valley floor. Six contacts were initiated in these areas resulting in eight NVA KIA and two NVA POW. The information passed on by these POWs resulted in large troop movements by 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Ambl) to counter a serious enemy threat to their Fire Support Base in the area. At the request of 2nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Ambl), three Ranger teams were deployed to the Spear Valley area to determine similar enemy concentrations in their AO.

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(f) During the month of April, this unit deployed a total of twenty-nine Ranger teams. From the 1 April to 10 April, eight Ranger teams were employed in the Spear Valley region with the mission of reconnaissance. One minor enemy contact was initiated. From 10 April to 23 April emphasis was placed on the A Shau Valley region in the form of platoon and company raids to include platoon size stay-behind ambushes. Results of the Company raid was the interdiction of Route 548 by blowing a well-used bridge.