

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER	
AD508835	
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES	
TO:	UNCLASSIFIED
FROM:	CONFIDENTIAL
LIMITATION CHANGES	
TO: Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.	
FROM: Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors; Administrative/Operational Use; 28 APR 1970. Other requests shall be referred to Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development (Army), Washington, DC 20310.	
AUTHORITY	
AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980; AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980	

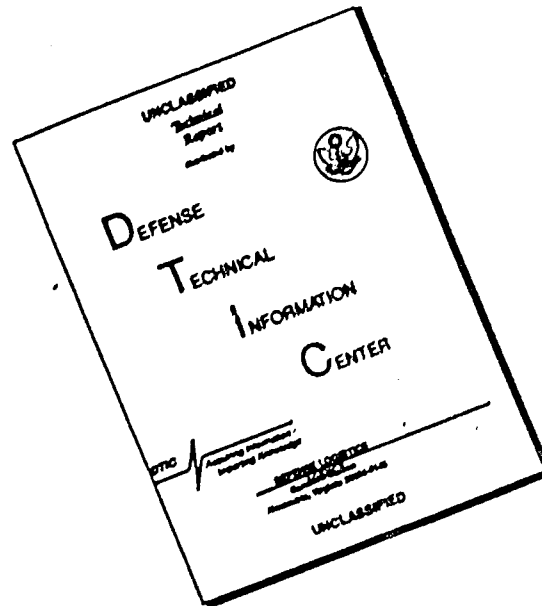
THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND
NO RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED.

DISCLAIMER NOTICE



THIS DOCUMENT IS BEST QUALITY AVAILABLE. THE COPY FURNISHED TO DTIC CONTAINED A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF PAGES WHICH DO NOT REPRODUCE LEGIBLY.

SECURITY

MARKING

The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked.

Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.

NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a definitely related government procurement operation, the U.S. Government thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that may in any way be related thereto.



CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AD5033

AGDA (M) (20 Apr 70) FOR OT UT 701101

28 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d Squadron,
 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION Defense of the United States
 Espionage Laws, Title 18, U.S.C. 794. Its transmission in any manner to a foreign power is prohibited by law.

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
 Major General, USA
 The Adjutant General

1 Incl
 as

DISTRIBUTION:

- Commanding Generals
 - US Continental Army Command
 - US Army Combat Developments Command
- Commandants
 - US Army War College
 - US Army Command and General Staff College
 - US Army Armor School
 - US Army Aviation School
 - US Army Field Artillery School
 - US Army Infantry School
 - US Army Ordnance School
 - US Army Transportation School

Copies furnished:
 Office, Chief of Staff, US Army
 Deputy Chiefs of Staff

Regraded unclassified when separated
 from classified inclosure.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
3RD SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY
APO SF 96250

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

SECTION 1 Significant Activities

1. (U) MISSION: The squadron's mission has been that of providing reconnaissance, surveillance, security and economy of force support to units operating in the III and IV Corps Tactical Zone.

2. (FOUO) PERSONNEL:

a. Personnel Changes: Following is the command group and principal staff as of 31 January 1970, with the changes during the period.

LTC GORDON T. CAREY (212-30-9434)	CO	Replaced LTC ROBERT A. ARNET (566-32-4462) on 15 Jan 70
MAJ WILLIAM E. OAKES (414-56-7471)	XO	NO CHANGE
MAJ HAROLD L. SMITH (406-42-1454)	S3	Replaced MAJ ARTHUR S. DERVAES III (263-48-8592) on 30 Nov 69
1LT DALTON A. LE BLANC JR. (437-62-1526)	S1	Replaced 1LT JAMES P. CAUSEY JR. (216-42-7801) on 21 Nov 69
CPT VICTOR L. DONNELL (460-60-4181)	S1	Replaced 1LT DALTON A. LE BLANC JR. (437-62-1526) on 15 Dec 69
MAJ NEIL W. JOHNSON (556-48-6179)	S4	Replaced CPT LESTER R. BELL (556-46-7961) on 8 Nov 69
CPT JAMES F. THOMSON (377-34-9342)	S4	Replaced MAJ NEIL W. JOHNSON (556-48-6179) on 15 Dec 69
CPT STANLEY L. REED (570-58-6625)	S1	Replaced CPT VICTOR L. DONNELL (460-60-4181) on 30 Jan 70
CPT HERBERT G. DREZINS (507-56-5264)	S2	NO CHANGE

FOR OT UT
701101
Inclosure

CONFIDENTIAL

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

CONFIDENTIAL

AVEACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

CPT JAMES R. THOMAS (407-52-0044)	HHT CO	NO CHANGE
CPT DONALD A. DAVIS (555-58-0504)	SQDN MHT	NO CHANGE
MAJ ARTHUR S. DERVAES III (263-48-8592)	A Trp CO	Replaced MAJ HAROLD L. SMITH (406-42-1454) on 30 Nov 69
MAJ RICHARD A. SONES (434-50-0226)	B Trp CO	NO CHANGE
MAJ FRED E. LYSSY (457-60-6878)	C Trp CO	NO CHANGE
CPT WILLIAM R. CONDOS JR (240-72-9619)	D Trp CO	NO CHANGE
CPT CHARLES M. FOSTER (335-34-9217)	575TC CO	Replaced CPT WILLIAM A. WESTERDAHL (523-56-2442) on 1 Nov 69
CPT JOHN G. BURNSIDE (529-50-9397)	369TC CO	NO CHANGE
CW3 GEORGE H. ALLISON (224-36-3283)	812SIG CO	NO CHANGE
CW3 JAMES C. HUNTSINGER (515-26-6588)	813SIG CO	NO CHANGE
CW2 PAUL (NMN) SLOOTER (531-30-4304)	816SIG CO	NO CHANGE

b. UNIT STRENGTHS AS OF 31 JANUARY 1970: The squadron is authorized 85 Officers, 103 Warrant Officers, and 848 enlisted men. Assigned strength at the end of the reporting period was 85 Officers, 84 Warrant Officers and 818 enlisted men (See Inclosure 3).

c. INFUSION: The following Officers, Warrant Officers, and enlisted personnel were infused during the period.

<u>OUTGOING</u>	<u>IN-COMING</u>
OFF - 0	OFF - 1
WO - 3	WO - 2
EM - 8	EM - 8
Total 11	Total 11

d. AWARDS AND DECORATIONS: Six hundred and eighty seven awards were recommended within the squadron during the reporting period. Two hundred and twenty four were approved and four hundred and sixty three are still pending. (See Inclosure 5).

CONFIDENTIAL

INCL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

e. FRIENDLY LOSSES: Friendly losses for the period were two KIA and 12 WIA. No personnel were MIA (See Inclosure 6).

3. (C) INTELLIGENCE: The squadron conducted extensive aerial reconnaissance and surveillance missions, providing supported headquarters with valuable and timely information concerning the enemy. The squadron's efforts were concentrated in Binh Duong, Hau Nghia, Gia Dinh, Long An, Bien Hoa, and Long Khanh Provinces and, to a limited extent, in Phuoc Tuy and Binh Tuy Provinces. In the IV Corps Tactical Zone, operations were concentrated in An Xuyen, Kien Giang, Chuong Thien, and Bac Lieu Provinces. Attention centered on known and suspected enemy base camp areas and lines of communications. The intelligence gathered provided the basis for ground operations, tactical and strategic air strikes, and artillery strikes.

a. TERRAIN: The relief in the squadron's area of operations ranged from flat Delta in the south to gently rolling hills in Bien Hoa and Long Khanh Provinces. Drainage is provided by the Saigon, Nha Be, Dong Nai, Vam Co Dong, Vam Co Tay, and Mekong Rivers and their tributaries. Vegetation consists of extensive rice crops in the Delta regions, scattered rubber plantations in Binh Duong and Long Khanh Provinces, and extensive heavy canopied, broad-leaved evergreen forests elsewhere.

(1) Observation and Fields of Fire: Observation and fields of fire ranged from extremely limited in the forested areas of Binh Duong and Long Khanh Provinces to excellent in the Delta areas.

(2) Obstacles: Neither natural nor artificial obstacles in the TAOR had any effect on squadron operations.

(3) Cover and Concealment: The enemy takes full advantage of all available natural cover and concealment. He is an expert at building tunnel and bunker complexes which provide him excellent protection against direct and indirect fire as well as air strikes. The enemy has excellent concealment in jungle and plantation areas as well as among nipa palm and pineapple trees which frequently line rivers and canals in the Delta areas. He also makes maximum use of darkness and camouflage to conceal his movement or presence in an area.

(4) Key Terrain: Highways 1, 4, 15, and 20, and the Dong Nai, Saigon, Vam Co Dong, Vam Co Tay, and Mekong Rivers together with their tributaries are considered key terrain. The highways are selected because of their importance as lines of communications - not only for military traffic but for civilian traffic as well. The major rivers also serve as important lines of communications and enable allied forces to transport large quantities of materials. For the same reason, these rivers form important lines of communication for the enemy.

CONFIDENTIAL

INCL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(5) Avenues of Approach: The following enemy avenues of approach into the squadron's areas of operation are considered significant:

- (a) Parrot's Beak (XS 3192) and Vam Co Tay River.
- (b) Parrot's Beak, Bo Bo Canal, Pineapple Plantation (XS 5890) Saigon.
- (c) Ba Thu (XT 2703), My Thang Dong (XT 4402), Tan Nhut (XS 7083), Saigon.
- (d) Angel's Wing (XT 3113), An Ninh (XT 4013), Hau Nghia Swamp, Saigon.
- (e) Angel's Wing/Ba Thu, Vam Co Dong River, Pineapple Plantation, Saigon.
- (f) Fishhook (XT 5890), Michelin Plantation, Boi Loi Woods, Saigon River, Binh My (XT 5318), Saigon.
- (g) Cambodia, Gulf of Thailand, Western Coast of IV Corps.
- (h) Seven Mountains (VS 0060), Three Sisters, U Minh Forest.

b. WEATHER: During the reporting period the weather in the squadron's areas of operation was characterized by fair weather clouds and strong Northeast Monsoonal winds. The III CTZ was under the influence of the Northeast Monsoon. The Northeast Monsoon set in with strong winds and occasional showers usually occurring in the afternoons and evenings. This condition prevailed through November and December. Temperatures during this period ranged from minimums of 71 to 78 degrees to maximums of 87 to 93 degrees. January was characterized by high Northeasterly winds and partly cloudy skies. The upper air flow shifting to the East and Southeast produced increased cloudiness and morning fog. During the mornings ceilings were often less than 800 feet and visibility as low as 1/10 mile at some locations. Minimum temperature ranged from 84 to 93 degrees. Total rainfall in most areas during the month was less than 1 inch.

4. (C) OPERATIONS: The 3/17 Air Cavalry areas of operation were located primarily in the central, southern, western, and eastern areas of III Corps and the southern and southwestern area of IV Corps. The squadron, with its troops in direct support of two brigade size units and one major command, Delta Military Assistance Command, conducted reconnaissance, security, surveillance and economy of force operations throughout the major portion of III Corps and the southern portion of IV Corps. At various times

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (K2) (U)

during the reporting period A Troop was in direct support of Capital Military Assistance Command (CMAC), Bien Hoa Tactical Area Command (BHTAC), Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force (RTAVF), Senior Advisor Nhon Trach District, the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone and after 5 January 70, the Delta Military Assistance Command in the IV Corps area. B Troop remained in direct support of the 3rd Brigade, 9th Infantry Division in Long An Province. C Troop, provided support to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Long Khanh Province. D Troop was OPCON to BHTAC until 1 Dec 69 and provided direct support to D Co 75th Infantry during the reporting period. On 1 Dec 69, the squadron received operational control of the Corps Ranger Company, D Co, 75th Infantry and regained operational control of D Troop, 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry.

a. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS:

(1) The missions of A Troop included reconnaissance of major infiltration routes, aerial check point missions (ACP), road, bridge and convoy security and reconnaissance of the rocket belt around Saigon, Bien Hoa and Long Binh. The Aero-Rifle platoon was used for small search and clear operations, security for downed aircraft and aerial check point missions in conjunction with the National Police Force.

(a) On 10 November 69 the A Troop Aero-Rifle Platoon was inserted to investigate a possible enemy location at XS 951955. After a sweep of the area, the platoon accounted for four enemy killed, one wounded, 400 pounds of rice, one AK-47 and assorted medical supplies. Nine structures were destroyed and twelve personnel were detained for further questioning.

(b) During the period 14-26 November 69 A Troop accounted for 21 enemy killed, 120 structures destroyed, 6 sampans destroyed and 5 personnel detained for questioning. On 19 November 69 an A Troop visual reconnaissance team discovered a large bunker complex at XS 9666. Ground personnel were inserted and discovered a large ammunition factory. Several weapons were discovered including parts to .51 caliber machine gun.

(c) During the month of December, A Troop supported the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces, the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the 18th AAVN Division in the Nhon Trach District. Ten enemy were killed, 48 structures and 9 sampans were destroyed during the month.

(d) On 4 January 70, A Troop moved to Soc Trang and began operations in support of the Delta Military Assistance Command. During the period 5-23 January A Troop accounted for 47 enemy killed, 156 structures destroyed and 55 sampans destroyed in the U Minh Forest, in Western IV Corps Tactical Zone.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(2) The mission of B Troop has included visual reconnaissance, people detector (sniffer) missions, ranger insertions and Night Hawk missions. The troop used its Aero-Rifle platoon at the discretion of the troop commander for small search and clear operations, as security for downed aircraft, for aerial check point missions and to develop any situations found by the visual reconnaissance teams.

(a) During the month of November, B Troop was credited with 40 enemy killed and three PW's. Two suspected enemy personnel were detained during aerial check point operations and 26 structures were destroyed including 3 sampans.

(b) During December 69, B Troop, while performing visual reconnaissance missions in Long An Province, accounted for 24 enemy killed, 78 structures and 7 sampans destroyed.

(c) On 3 January 70, a visual reconnaissance team captured one suspected enemy personnel at XS 685817. Through interrogation it was determined that the detainee was an NVA Captain in command of a company size unit. The information obtained from the PW proved valuable to friendly forces in the area. During the remainder of the month B Troop accounted for 34 enemy killed and 46 structures and 3 sampans destroyed.

(3) Throughout the quarter, C Troop performed visual reconnaissance and aerial check point missions in the Long Khanh Province in support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. Occasional support was given to the 18th ARVN Division, the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces at Bear Cat. The Aero-Rifle platoon was used frequently by the troop commander for small search and clear operations and in conjunction with aerial check point missions. People sniffer missions were conducted frequently to locate possible enemy positions.

(a) During the month of November, C Troop performed visual reconnaissance missions in Long Khanh province resulting in 11 enemy killed and several structures destroyed. Seven personnel were detained for questioning during aerial check point operations.

(b) On 18 December a visual reconnaissance team observed 25-30 enemy personnel moving across an open field at YS 2792. Personnel were engaged with unknown results. During the remainder of the month C Troop accounted for 15 enemy killed and 11 structures destroyed.

(c) During the month of January, C Troop accounted for 4 enemy killed and 17 structures destroyed.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(4) During the reporting period D Troop, operated daylight reconnaissance and night ambushes east of Long Binh Post and provided a ready reaction force to D Company 75th Infantry.

(a) On 1 December 69 D Troop was released from Operational Control of Bien Hoa Tactical Area Command and returned to Operational Control of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry. During the remainder of the month D Troop conducted reconnaissance in force operations and sweeps in support of D Company 75th Infantry.

(b) On 21 January the 2nd platoon was inserted to reconnoiter a suspected enemy base camp at YT 389550. Five large structures were discovered as well as 1200 pounds of rice, 50 pounds of beans, corn, wheat and assorted cooking utensils. All structures and the food stuffs were destroyed.

b. SUMMARY: While flying 31,879 sorties, the squadron lifted 22,106 troops, 115 tons of cargo, and was credited with 292 enemy killed, 297 structures destroyed, and 140 sampans destroyed. (See Inclosure 9). During this quarter the squadron was engaged in numerous small scale operations but visual reconnaissance remained the primary mission.

5. (U) ORGANIZATION: The squadron is organized under TOE/MTOE 17-95T dated June 1965 and USARPAC General Order 401 dated August 1968. In addition, RL/KD teams are attached (one per air cavalry troop) by 12th Combat Aviation Group General Order 60 dated August 1968. The current organizational structure and unit locations are listed in inclosures 1 and 2.

6. (U) TRAINING: During this reporting period, the squadron had maximum participation in all allocated school courses. New in-country replacements received training at the 1st Infantry Division Replacement Training Center, located at Di An. On 19 January 1970, the 1st Division discontinued in-country training at Di An. All new replacements are currently being sent to Blackhorse Academy in Long Binh, operated by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The 3/17 provides one instructor to aid in the additional student load.

a. All training within the squadron was conducted with no reduction in the operational status of the unit.

b. Training days - 0

c. Tactical Moves: There were two tactical moves during this quarter. On 30 December 1969 D Troop moved from Bien Hoa to Di An. On 4 January 1970 A Troop moved by air (less RL/KD teams) from Di An to Soc Trang.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

d. Operational days - 92

e. School Quotas filled by squadron during the period;

OH-6 Airframe	3
T63 Engine	4
T53-L13 Engine	2
E & E	2
Aircraft Arm Sub - EM	2
Aircraft Arm Sub - OFF	1
UH-1H Airframe	2
AH-1G Airframe	4
In-country Training	137
AH-1G Trans	6
OH-6A Trans	2
IP OH-6A	3
IP AH-1G	2
IP UH-1H	2
Tech Supply	2
Tech Inspector	3
PLL Course	19

7. (C) LOGISTICS:

a. The following ammunition was expended by the squadron during the reporting period.

Ctr 12 GA 00 Buckshot	6
Ctr 5.56mm Tracer	4,855

CONFIDENTIAL

AVEACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. HCS CSFOR-65 (I:2) (U)

Ctg 5.56mm Ball	30,143
Ctg 7.62mm LKD 4-1	210,370
Ctg 7.62mm 75 ORD Belt	972,940
Ctg Cal 38 Spec Ball	625
Ctg Cal 45 Tracer	909
Ctg Cal 50 BL & TR LKD	7,000
Ctg Cal 50 AP W/TR AC LKD	9,215
Ctg Cal 50 Spotter TR	111
Ctg 40mm HE	300
CTG 40mm	1,887
Ctg 40mm/WS Para	250
Ctg 40mm HE	1,632
Ctg 81mm Illum	27
Ctg 81mm Smk WP	257
Ctg 81mm HE	667
Fuze Hand Gren Offensive	30
Gren Hand Frag	1,419
Gren Hand Inc	290
Gren Hand Offensive	319
Gren Hand Riot CS1	20
Gren Hand Smk White	114
Gren Hand/Rifle Smk WP	657
Gren Hand Smk Green M18	326
Gren Hand Smk Yellow M18	778

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVEACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. NCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Gren Hand Smk Red M18	528
Gren Hand Smk Violet	676
Gren Hand Riot CS	250
RKT 2.75IN HE WH	295
RKT 2.75IN HE W/MTR	13,465
RKT 2.75IN WP W/MTR	40
RKT 66mm Heat Law M72	11
Mine AP M18 Claymore	10
Sig Illum GD-Clus RS H	46
Sig Illum GD-Clus WS H	152
Sig Illum GD-Para Red ST	40
Sig Illum GD-Para White ST	284
Sig Illum GD-Clus GN	36
Chg Demo Blk C-4	52
Chg Demo LB	6
Chg Demo BLL TNT 1&2 lb	20
Cap Blast Non Elect	6
Cap Blast Elect #8 1st DEL	54
Cord Detonating	1550
Fuze Blasting Time	205
Igniter Time Blasting Fuze	15
RKT 2.75IN W/MTR	4,758
40mm HE (For AH-1G)	44,937
RKT 2.75IN Flechett	38

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

b. AIRCRAFT STATUS: Squadron aircraft status at the end of the reporting period was as follows:

<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>
UH-1H	31	29
AH-1G	27	23
OH-6A	30	28

(See Inclosure 10)

8. (U) COMMUNICATIONS: None

9. (U) MATERIAL: None

10. (U) SAFETY:

a. During the reporting period there were seven accidents involving squadron aircraft. The accident experience by aircraft type and cause factor is listed below.

TYPE ACCIDENT

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MAJOR</u>	<u>MINOR</u>	<u>STRIKE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
AH-1G	1	0	1	2
UH-1H	2	0	1	3
OH-6A	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	4	0	3	7

CAUSE FACTOR

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>HUMAN</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
AH-1G	2	0	0
UH-1H	0	3	0
OH-6A	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	0
TOTAL	3	4	0

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

b. SAFETY RECORD: (November, December, January 1969-1970). Listed below is a summary of the aircraft accident experience of the squadron during the reporting period.

<u>TROOP</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
HHT	958	0	00.0
A Troop	5852	3	51.2
B Troop	7229	3	41.5
C Troop	<u>6190</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>16.1</u>
TOTAL	20229	7	34.6

11. (U) CIVIC ACTION:

a. During the quarter the squadron continued its support of Bethany Orphanage in Ho Nai Village. Squadron contributions to the program were approximately \$VN 114,460 (\$US 970). Financial contributions from the squadron are distributed from the donors fund at 12th Aviation Group.

b. Squadron personnel spent approximately 14 man days in the distribution of collected foodstuffs, clothing and health items. The contributions totaled 440 lbs. of food, 200 lbs. of clothing, and 35 lbs. of health items. Many of these items were distributed during the December 22 Christmas party given by 12th Aviation Group to the children of Bethany Orphanage.

c. During the month of January, the squadron chaplain, Major Runnels was transferred to Can Tho and the new chaplain, Major Rowan, arrived to direct the civic action program. Present plans for the civic action program are to find a project closer to Di An in order to make wider participation by squadron personnel possible. Efforts at Bethany Orphanage have in the past been hampered by transportation difficulties. Closer coordination of squadron civic action activities both within the squadron and with 12th Aviation Group civic action programs is also forecast.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry For Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

PARAGRAPH 2 Lessons Learned

Commanders observations, evaluations, recommendations, and command action.

- A. (U) PERSONNEL: None
- B. (U) INTELLIGENCE: None
- C. (C) OPERATIONS:

1. Observation: During this reporting period, A Troop has evaluated a new reconnaissance team concept to determine its feasibility during tactical operations in the Mekong Delta of the RVN.

Evaluation: The reconnaissance team was initially composed of two AH-1G's, two OH-6A's and one UH-1H Command and Control Helicopter. The two OH-6A's were deployed low, at tree top level, with the lead aircraft actually performing the reconnaissance and the trail aircraft providing cover. This tactic worked well until it was applied in the open areas of the Delta, where it was determined that the trail aircraft, when suppressing fire, usually received more hits than the aircraft it was covering. Pilots mentioned restricted maneuverability due to the possibility of a mid-air collision. Other problems encountered were the lead aircraft masking the fire of the trail aircraft and difficulty in coordinating between the OH-6A's and the AH-1G's. The AH-1G's orbited at 1200 feet providing aerial fire support while the UH-1H Command and Control helicopter maintained 1500 feet and provided liaison between the aerial and ground elements. A Troop omitted one of the OH-6A's there-by increasing the flexibility of the reconnaissance element and decreasing the number of vulnerable targets. These changes in the operation deployment proved to combine the flexibility of the AH-1G and OH-6A (visual reconnaissance) team, with the tremendous fire power of an AH-1G light fire team.

Recommendation: Other Air Cavalry units should evaluate this concept to determine its possible use in terrain common to their area of operations.

Command Action: Continuing emphasis is being placed upon the development and evaluation of new concepts in the tactics and employment of the Air Cavalry Troop.

2. Observation: Each Air Cavalry Troop is authorized and allocated only two UHF frequencies for combat operations involving up to four visual reconnaissance teams daily.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Evaluation: Combat situations often arise when four visual reconnaissance teams may be involved in simultaneous operations. The density of traffic on the two allocated frequencies becomes excessive for proper operation of the visual reconnaissance teams. The UHF radio is essential for air to air communication as the ground forces operate on FM and not all Army aircraft have VHF capability (OH-6A).

Recommendation: A minimum of four UHF frequencies be allocated each Air Cavalry Troop.

Command Action: Two additional UHF frequencies have been requested from the Squadron communications section.

3. Observation: There has been an increased amount of drug abuse during the reporting period.

Evaluation: The low price and easy access to drugs and marijuana make the problem particularly acute. In many cases, individual, on-the-job effectiveness has decreased considerably due to over-consumption and hospitalization requirements. Numerous inspections have been conducted with relatively little success and Vietnamese Nationals suspected of transporting drugs on post have been interrogated and searched with limited results.

Recommendation: More emphasis should be placed upon controlling the source of drug and marijuana supply. Local authorities should be encouraged to enforce existing drug laws or enact new legislation to curb the flow of drugs onto military installations. Units should ensure that adequate recreational facilities are available for off duty personnel. Clubs should be encouraged to expand their recreational facilities to accommodate all interested personnel.

Command Action: Recreational facilities are being improved and greater command emphasis is placed upon the confiscation and destruction of drugs and marijuana.

4. Observation: Visual reconnaissance team operations often result in targets being found which require immediate engagement. Due to the problems of obtaining immediate clearances to fire, many targets are lost.

Evaluation: Because of the extensive communications network involved to obtain clearances, lengthy delays on firing requests are not uncommon. The nature of the visual reconnaissance team mission requires prior or immediate clearances in order to operate effectively as a combat team.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

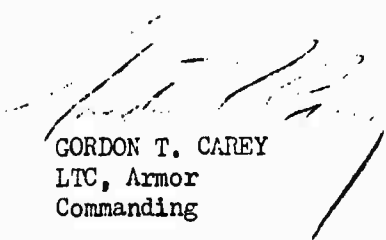
AVBACA-GC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Recommendation: Clearances to fire be given to the visual reconnaissance team prior to beginning a mission. These clearances should include all target areas the supported unit desires reconnoitered.

Command Action: Each proposed visual reconnaissance mission received by the Air Cavalry Troop is submitted to higher headquarters for firing clearances in the reconnaissance area. The missions are sent during the night so clearances are received prior to mission time the following day.

- D. (U) ORGANIZATION: None
- E. (U) TRAINING: None
- F. (U) LOGISTICS: None
- G. (U) COMMUNICATIONS: None
- H. (U) MATERIAL: None
- I. (U) OTHER: None


GORDON T. CAREY
LTC, Armor
Commanding

11 INCLOSURES:

- 1. Unit Organization
 - ~~2. Unit Location~~
 - ~~3. Unit Strength (Military)~~
 - ~~4. Unit Strength (Civilian)~~
 - ~~5. Awards and Decorations~~
 - ~~6. Friendly Losses~~
 - ~~7. Operations Map (III Corps)~~
 - ~~8. Operations Map (IV Corps)~~
 - 9. Operational Results
 - 10. Aircraft Status
 - 11. Aircraft Loss and Damage
- Incl 2 - 8 wd HQ, DA

CONFIDENTIAL

AVRACA-SC (13 Feb 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970. CS 10FC-65 (2) (1)

DA, HQ, 12th Avn Gp (Cbt), APO 96266 24 Feb 70

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266

(U) In accordance with USARV Reg 525-15, subject report is forwarded.

FOR INFO COMNAV JET:

John A. Johnson
John A. Johnson
Major, Infantry
Adjutant

AVFBC-RE-H (13 Feb 70) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 7 MAR 1970

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, ATTN: AVBA-C, APO 96307

Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -
Lessons Learned of the 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for the period ending
31 January 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W. L. Boshang
W. L. BOSCHANG
CPT, ACC
Asst. A.

AVEAGC-0 (13 Feb 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384

16 MAR 1970

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375
Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the contents as indorsed.
2. The following additional comment is considered pertinent: Paragraph 1b, page 12, contains incorrect statistical data on aircraft hours. The total hours for B Troop should read 6,269 and an accident rate of 47.9. Total hours for the squadron should read 19,269 with a rate of 36.5.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ARTHUR W. LITTLE
CPT AGC
Asst AGC

AVHGC-DST (13Feb70) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3rd Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 January 1970 RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)
(U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2: MAR 70

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 3d
Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry and concurs with the comments of indorsing
headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

L. D. Murray
L. D. MURRAY
CPT, *ACC*
Assistant

Cy furn:
3d Sqdn, 17th Air Cav
HQ, 1st Avn Bde

GPOP-DT (13 Feb 70) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry for Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 MAR 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

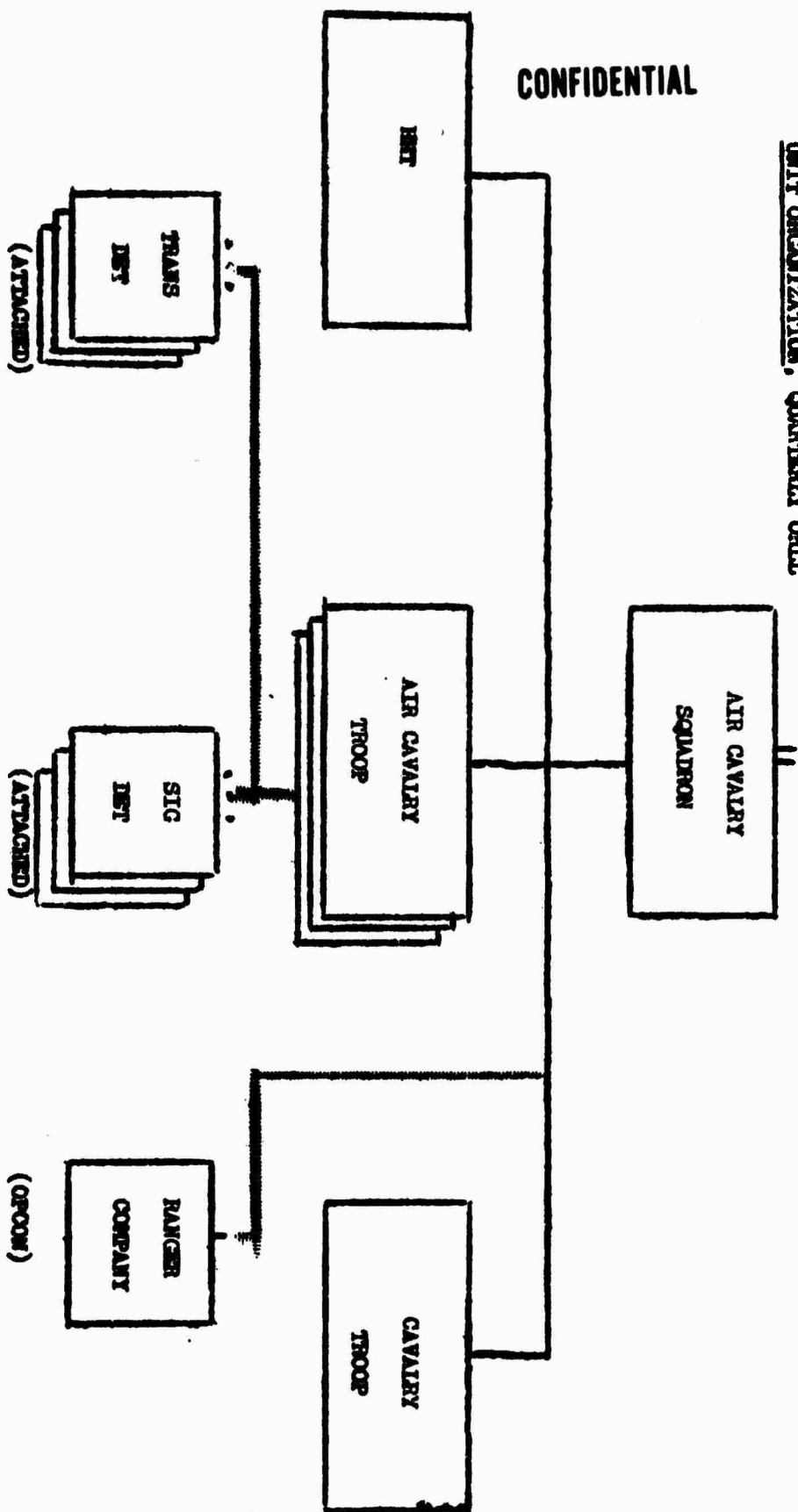
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

HEADQUARTERS
3RD SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 JAN 70

UNIT ORGANIZATION, QUARTERLY ORLT



21

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE 1

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 JAN 70

OPERATIONAL RESULTS, QUARTERLY ORLT.

UNIT	Sorties Flown	Troops Lifted	Cargo Tons	Enemy KIA	Structures Dam	Structures Dest	Sampens Dam	Sampens Dest	Aircraft Loss (Accident, Combat)	Aircraft (Accident, Damaged Combat, Missing)	Aircraft (Accident, Damaged Combat)
HQ TROOP	2206	3648	33	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
A TROOP	8279	5906	18	133	26	165	0	125	6	19	
B TROOP	12351	4910	49	111	11	101	0	12	4	8	
C TROOP	9014	7642	15	47	19	31	0	3	2	5	
D TROOP	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
3/17 Cav 31879	22106	115	292	56	297	0	140	12	32		

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

CONFIDENTIAL
 HEADQUARTERS
 3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
 QUARTER ENDING
 31 JAN 70

AIRCRAFT STATUS, QUARTERLY ORLL

SUBORDINATE UNIT	UH1H		OH6A		AH1G	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HQ TROOP	7	5	0	0	0	0
A TROOP	8	8	10	9	9	8
B TROOP	8	8	10	10	9	7
C TROOP	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
SQUADRON	31	29	30	28	27	23

**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR 5200.10**

INCLOSURE 10

23
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY
QUARTER ENDING
31 JAN 70

AIRCRAFT LOSS AND DAMAGE, Quarterly ORLL

The aircraft loss figures include aircraft retrograded due to excessive maintenance requirements as a result of accidental or combat damage.

		<u>OH-6A</u>	<u>AH-1G</u>	<u>UH-1H</u>
Hqs Trp	Aircraft Loss	0	0	0
	Aircraft Damage	0	0	0
A Trp	Aircraft Loss	4	1	1
	Aircraft Damage	5	6	8
B Trp	Aircraft Loss	1	2	1
	Aircraft Damage	4	3	1
C Trp	Aircraft Loss	1	1	0
	Aircraft Damage	3	2	0
Squadron	Aircraft Loss	6	4	2
	Aircraft Damage	12	11	9

INCLOSURE 11

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

24
CONFIDENTIAL

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		CONFIDENTIAL
		2b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
Undated	27	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A	701101	
c.	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A	OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		

25

DD FORM 1473
1 NOV 66

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification