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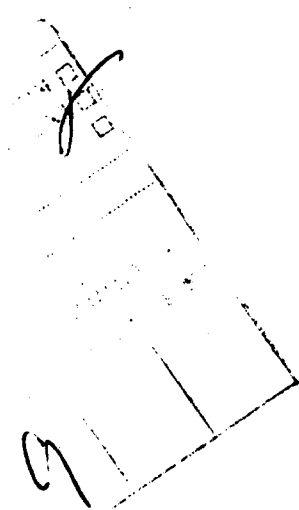


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**HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON, 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER BUILDING  
30 APRIL 1970**

AVRACA-OC

10 May 1970

**SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970. RCS CSPOB-65 (R2)(U)**

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**PARAGRAPH 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 30 April 1970, with the changes during the period.

LTC GORDON T. CARY ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	09	No Change.
MAJ RICHARD A. SOMME ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	X0	Replaced MAJ WILLIAM E. OAKES ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> ) on 16 Feb 70.
CPT JEFFRY D. COLLITON ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	S3	Replaced MAJ HAROLD L. SMITH ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> ) on 12 Mar 70.
CPT STANLEY L. REED ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	S1	No Change.
1LT PATRICK J. MOE ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	S2	Replaced CPT HERBERT G. LREZINS ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> ) on 25 Apr 70.
CPT BOYD W. LOCKABY JR. ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> )	S4	Replaced MAJ JAMES F. THOMPSON ( <del>XXXXXXXXXX</del> ) on 28 Apr 70.

**GROUP 4  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS**

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Inclosure

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CPT GEORGE J. SWIFT JR (██████████)	HET CO	Replaced CPT JAMES R. THOMAS (██████████) on 13 Feb 70.
CPT PERRY F. STARKEY (██████████)	Sqdn Maint	Replaced CPT DONALD A. DEVIS (██████████) on 15 Mar 70.
MAJ ARTHUR S. DERVADE III (██████████)	A Trp CO	No Change.
MAJ WILLIAM E. OAKES (██████████)	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ RICHARD L. SCIES (██████████) on 16 Feb 70.
MAJ JAMES P. THOMPSON (██████████)	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ WILLIAM E. OAKES (██████████) on 28 Apr 70.
MAJ JAMES D. DANIELSON (██████████)	C Trp CO	Replaced MAJ FRED M. LYSSY (██████████) on 2 Apr 70.
CPT RALPH S. BRYNER (██████████)	D Trp CO	Replaced CPT WILLIAM R. CONDOS JR. (██████████) on 2 Feb 70.
1LT MICHAEL A. CAROTHERS (██████████)	575TC CO	Replaced CPT CHARLES M. FOSTER (██████████) on 16 Apr 70.
CPT JOHN G. BURNSIDE (██████████)	576TC CO	Replaced CPT JAMES L. ROBERTS (██████████) on 20 Apr 70.
CPT JOSEPH P. DEVITO (██████████)	369TC CO	Replaced CPT JOHN G. BURNSIDE (██████████) on 19 Mar 70.
1LT MARION C. DEVAKE (██████████)	812 Sig CO	Replaced CW5 GEORGE H. ALLISON (██████████) on 20 Apr 70.
CW5 JAMES C. HUNTSINGER (██████████)	813 Sig CO	No Change.
CW5 PAUL (HMS) SLOOTER (██████████)	816 Sig CO	No Change.

b. Unit Strengths as of 30 April 1970: The squadron is authorized 85 officers, 103 warrant officers, and 848 enlisted men. Assigned strength at the end of the reporting period was 84 officers, 89 warrant officers and 799 enlisted men (See Inclosure #3).

c. Infusion: There was no infusion of officers, warrant officers or enlisted men during the reporting period.

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d. Awards and Decorations: Eight hundred and fifty-six (856) awards were recommended during the reporting period. Three hundred and forty-six (346) were approved and five hundred and ten (510) are still pending (see inclosure 5).

e. Friendly Losses: Friendly losses for the period were 5 KIA and 46 WIA. There were no personnel MIA (see inclosure 6).

3. (C) INTELLIGENCE: The squadron conducted extensive aerial reconnaissance and surveillance missions, providing its various control headquarters with valuable and timely information concerning the enemy. The squadron's efforts were concentrated in Bien Duong, Hau Nghia, Gia Dinh, Long An, Bien Hoa, Binh Long and Long Khanh Provinces and, to a limited extent, in Phuoc Long, Phuoc Tuy and Binh Tuy Provinces. In the IV Corps Tactical Zone operations are 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, extensive rubber plantations in parts of Binh Duong and Long Khanh Provinces, and extensive broadleaved evergreen forests elsewhere.

(1) Observation and Fields of Fire: Observation and fields of fire ranged from extremely limited in the forested areas of Binh Long and Long Khanh Provinces to excellent as one moved south in the delta areas.

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

(3) Cover and Concealment: The enemy has limited natural cover; however, 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 nippa 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 major 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

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lines of communications and enable allied forces to ship large quantities of materials. For the same reason, these rivers form important lines of communication for the enemy.

(5) Avenues of Approach: The following VC/NVA avenues of approach into the squadron's area of operations 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) Phuoc Long "Saddle" (YU 0936) to War Zone "D".
- (h) Cambodia, Gulf of Thailand, Western Coast of IV Corps.
- (i) Seven Mountains (VS 0060), Three Sisters, U Minh Forest.

b. Weather: During the reporting period the squadron's area of operations was characterized by fair weather clouds and strong Northeast Monsoonal winds. The III CTZ was under the influence of the Northeast Monsoon. February and March was characterized by high northeasterly winds and partly cloudy skies. During the mornings ceilings were often less than 800 feet and visibility as low as 1/10 mile at some locations. Minimum temperatures ranged from 66 to 75 degrees with maximum temperatures from 84 to 93 degrees. Total rainfall in most areas during the period was less than 1 inch. April was characterized by the transitional phase from NE (dry) monsoon season to the SW (wet) monsoons. Patchy morning fog and haze occurred, with visibility reduced to 1/4 to 3 miles. Afternoon and evening rain showers and thunder showers occurred on 7-10 days during the month with total rainfall of 3-5 inches at some locations. Surface winds were generally from the northeast to southwest at 5-15 knots, gusts to 26 knots. High temperatures ranged from 91 to 106 degrees. The low was from 75 to 82 degrees.

4. (C) OPERATIONS: The 3/17 Air Cavalry areas of operation were located primarily in the north central, southern, western and eastern areas of III

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Corps and the southern and southwestern area of IV Corps. The squadron with its troops in direct support of two brigade size units and two major commands (Delta Military Assistance Command and Capitol Military District) conducted reconnaissance, security, surveillance and economy of force operations throughout the major portions of III Corps and southern portion of IV Corps. At various times during the reporting period, A Troop was in direct support of Delta Military Assistance Command, 5th ARVN Division, Long Binh Special Zone, Senior Advisor Nhon Trach District and the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone. On 29 April A Troop began direct support of the 269th Aviation Battalion for a special mission. B Troop remained in direct support of the 3d Brigade, 9th US Infantry Division in Long An Province and on 18 April began direct support of Capitol Military District (CMD). On 30 April a portion of B Troop began direct support of 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division for a special mission. During the reporting period C Troop remained in direct support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Long Khanh Province. C Troop also supported the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces (RTAVF), Senior Advisor Nhon Trach District, the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone, and the 18th ARVN Division. D Troop supported D Co, 75th Infantry until 31 March 1970. On 15 April D Troop began direct support of the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division operation in the Nhon Trach District. On 27 March the 317th Aviation Detachment (Divisional) became attached to squadron for administrative and logistical support.

## a. Significant Operations:

(1) The missions of A Troop have included extensive armed aerial visual reconnaissance and surveillance missions, aerial checkpoint missions, road and convoy security and combined missions with ground operations. The aero-rifle platoon was not used while in support of Delta Military Assistance Command; however while in support of the 5th ARVN Division they were used for limited ground reconnaissance missions and provided security for downed aircraft.

(a) During the month of February while supporting the 21st ARVN Division A Troop accounted for 143 structures destroyed, 112 sampans destroyed and 46 enemy killed.

(b) During the month of March A Troop accounted for 134 structures destroyed, 134 sampans destroyed and 60 enemy killed. On 21 March A Troop began a four day transition from support of Delta Military Assistance Command to support of the 5th ARVN Division. By 25 March A Troop had closed DiAn and was in full support of the 5th ARVN Division.

(c) In April, A Troop destroyed 22 structures, 6 sampans, and killed 7 enemy while in support of the 5th ARVN Division, the US Navy in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Senior Advisor, Nhon Trach District. A Troop also provided first and last light visual reconnaissance support to the Long Binh

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Special Zone beginning 27 April.

(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 ground reconnaissance missions, as security for downed aircraft and to develop any situation found by the visual reconnaissance teams.

(a) During the month of February B Troop accounted for 38 structures destroyed, 4 sampans destroyed, and 24 enemy killed. Five of the 24 enemy killed were a result of a Night Hawk or night gunship support given to the 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

(b) In March, B Troop destroyed 141 structures, 5 sampans and killed 55 enemy. On 19 March the aero-rifle platoon killed 6 enemy and captured 2 AK-47's and several pounds of documents.

(c) During the month of April B Troop destroyed 53 structures, 4 sampans, and killed 8 enemy while in support of Capitol Military District and the 3d Brigade, 9th Infantry Division.

(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. The aero-rifle platoon was used frequently by the troop commander for limited ground reconnaissance operations and to provide security for downed aircraft. C Troop also supported other units during the period as previously noted.

(a) During the month of February C Troop destroyed 41 structures, 4 sampans and killed 11 enemy while in support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Nhon Trach District and the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Forces.

(b) In March, C Troop accounted for 71 structures and 1 sampan destroyed and 21 enemy killed. On 3 March C Troop killed 10 enemy while in support of the 18th ARVN Division.

(c) During the month of April, C Troop was credited with 8 enemy killed, 3 structures destroyed and 2 sampans destroyed. On 20 April the aero-rifle platoon was inserted to perform a ground reconnaissance mission of a mechanical ambush site set on 11 April. One B-40 rocket and a fresh grave were discovered at the site. One enemy kill was credited to C Troop.

(4) During the quarter, D Troop provided supported units with ground reconnaissance, security and ambush capability. D Troop elements were used frequently as the aero-rifle platoons for the Air Cavalry troops and

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performed the primary missions of ground reconnaissance and security of downed aircraft.

(a) On 31 March D Troop was released from OPCON of D Company 75th Infantry. No significant activity was reported during the month of February. In March, while in support of D/75th Infantry, D Troop was credited with 2 enemy killed and 1 structure destroyed.

(b) On 15 April D Troop became OPCON of the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. During the month D Troop killed 5 enemy and destroyed 12 structures. All of the enemy killed were from operations in the Nhon Trach District in support of the 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry (mechanized).

b. Summary: While flying 30444 sorties, the squadron lifted 25490 troops, 115 tons of cargo, and was credited with 282 enemy killed, 738 structures destroyed, and 295 sampans destroyed. (See inclosure 7)

5. (U) ORGANIZATION: The squadron is organized under TOE/TEOE 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 the 12th Combat Group General Order 60 dated August 1968. The 317th Aviation Detachment is attached to the squadron for administrative and logistical support. On 20 March C Troop, 16th Cavalry became attached to the squadron for a 20 day period. It was during this attachment that A Troop was moved from Soc Trang to DIAN and C/16th Cav was moved from Phu Loi to Soc Trang to begin operations in the Delta. On 10 April C/16th Cav was released from attachment to 3/17th Air Cavalry.

6. (U) TRAINING: During this reporting period, the squadron had maximum participation in all allocated school courses. New incountry replacements received training at 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. Following is an operational report of the move of C Troop, 16th Air Cavalry from Phu Loi to Soc Trang and the move of A Troop 3/17th Air Cavalry from Soc Trang to DIAN:

(1) On 20 March 1970, C Troop (Air) 16th Cavalry was attached to this squadron for administrative and logistical support for a 30 day period. This mission required the relocating of C Troop (Air) 16th Cavalry from Phu Loi

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to Soc Trang and returning A Troop (-) 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry from Soc Trang to DIAn, and the establishment of new logistical support accounts within the IV Corps area for C/16 Cav.

(2) Initial requisitions for the new augmented aircraft maintenance section were placed against the 605th Trans Co, Phu Loi and the 754th Supply & Service Co, Binh Thuy by 28 March 1970.

(3) Initial tactical elements began their move using organic air and 6 each C-130 sorties (2 per day 25, 26, 27 March). The same 6 aircraft (C-130) returned A Troop (-) from Soc Trang to DIAn on the above dates.

(4) The remainder of C Troop (Air) 16th Cavalry moved to Soc Trang between the period 4-13 April utilizing the following modes of transportation:

<u>Air</u>	<u>Phu Loi to Soc Trang</u>
C-130	3 Sorties
C-123	4 Sorties
CH-47	2 Sorties
<u>Land</u>	<u>Phu Loi to Newport Docks</u>
5 Ton S&P (48th Trans Bn)	23
<u>Sea</u>	<u>Newport to Binh Thuy</u>
LST	1 ea
<u>Land</u>	<u>Binh Thuy to Soc Trang</u>
2 1/2 Ton (IV Corps MCC)	

(5) The total cargo and organic vehicles shipped are as follows:

### Phu Loi to Soc Trang Air (C/16)

Conexes	25	114,000 lbs
Ammunition	4 pallets	10,000 lbs
Misc Cargo	6 pallets	4,525 lbs
Truck 1/4 Ton	1	2,400 lbs
Truck 3/4 Ton	3	18,000 lbs
Truck 2 1/2 Ton	3	41,500 lbs
Mobilizer	1	5,000 lbs
Sub Total		<u>195,425 lbs</u>

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## Soc Trang to DIAn Air (A/3/17)

Conexes	11	44,000 lbs
Truck 1/4 Ton	2	4,800 lbs
Truck 3/4 Ton	2	12,000 lbs
Mobilizer	2	10,000 lbs
Trailer, water	1	1,000 lbs
Sub Total		<u>71,800 lbs</u>

## Phu Loi, Newport, Binh Thuy to Soc Trang Land & Sea (C/16)

Conexes	45	180,000 lbs
Truck 1/4 Ton	3	7,200 lbs
Truck 3/4 Ton	3	18,000 lbs
Truck 2 1/2 Ton	5	67,000 lbs
Tanker 2 1/2 Ton	4	58,000 lbs
Wrecker 5 Ton	1	30,000 lbs
Forklift	1	15,000 lbs
Trailers	6	19,500 lbs
Sub Total		<u>411,200 lbs</u>

Grand Total 678,425 lbs

d. Operational Days - 89.

e. School Quotas filled by squadron during the period:

OH-6 Airframe	2
T63 Engine	1
T53-L13 Engine	5
PLL Course	2
Aircraft Arm Sub - EM	1
Aircraft Arm Sub - OFF	1
UH-1H Airframe	2
UH-1G Airframe	1
OH-6A Trans	6
UH-1G Trans	5
In Country Training	73

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IP OH-6A	3
IP UH-1H	2
Tech Supply	3
Tech Inspector	3
Audio Visual Proj	3
OH-58A Trans	14
OH-58A Maint	15
XM-35 Arm Sub - EM	7

7. (c) LOGISTICS:

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

<u>DODIC</u>	<u>NOUN</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A 068	Ctg 5.56mm tracer	3,200
A071	Ctg 5.56mm ball	22,225
A131	Ctg 7.62mm lkd 4-1	112,931
A165	Ctg 7.62mm lkd 4-1 minigun	164,941
A400	Ctg cal 38 special	2,820
A475	Ctg cal 45 ball	950
A556, A557	Ctg cal 50 ball and tracer lkd	5,750
B534	Ctg 40mm MP	505
B535	Ctg 40mm WS para	505
B568	Ctg 40mm HE M406	8,726
B569, B574	Ctg 40mm M386	300
B572	Ctg 40mm XM384 E1	20,766

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C251, C226	Ctg 81mm Illum	51
C256	Ctg 81mm HE	102
C276	Ctg 81mm .mk WP	80
C650	Ctg 106mm RR AT	3
C651	Ctg 106mm RR HEP-T	28
C660	Ctg 106mm RR APERS	8
G881	Gren hand frag M53	2636
G889, G880, G890	Gren hand frag M26A2	1173
G930	Gren hand mk white AC	739
G900	Gren hand inc	15
G910	Gren hand offensive	720
G937	Gren hand-rifle mk WP	425
G940	Gren hand mk green	152
G950	Gren hand mk red	96
G955	Gren hand mk violet	526
G963	Gren hand mk CS	42
H488	Rkt 2.75in 171lb VT	1824
H489	Rkt 2.75in 101lb UT	2002
H490	Rkt 2.75in 101lb HE	10,608
H519	Rkt 2.75om WP	352
H534	Rkt 2.75om 171lb HE	1729
H555	Rkt 66 heat, LAW	40
K143, K145	Mine AP claymore	12
L306	Sig illum gd clus rod S	72

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L312	Sig illum gd-para wh S	126
L495	Flare surface trip	296
MD23	Chg demo blk CA	45
MD24	Chg demo blk 2 lb	81
M130	Cap blast spec elec	96
M131	Cap blast spec w/elec	1400
M456	Cord detonating	300
M766	Ign time blast fuse M2	1

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	27
OH-6A	20	20
OH-58	10	9

(See Inclosure 8).

8. (U) COMMUNICATIONS: None.

9. (U) MATERIEL: None.

10. (U) SAFETY:

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

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TYPE ACCIDENT</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>MAJOR</u>	<u>MINOR</u>	<u>STRIKE</u>	
AH-1G	0	0	0	0

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<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MAJOR</u>	<u>MINOR</u>	<u>STRIKE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
UH-1H	1	0	1	2
OH-6A	1	0	1	2
OH-58	0	0	1	1
TOTAL	2	0	3	5

### CAUSE FACTOR

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>HUMAN</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
AH-1G	0	0	0
UH-1H	2	0	0
OH-6A	2	0	0
OH-58	0	0	1
TOTAL	4	0	1

b. Safety Records: (February, March, April). Listed below is a summary of aircraft accident experience of the squadron during the reporting period:

<u>TROOP</u>	<u>ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>	<u>RATE</u>
HBT	1	680	147.6
A Trp	0	5505	18.1
B Trp	2	5394	37.0
C Trp	2	5592	35.7
TOTAL	5	17,171	29.1

### 11. (U) CIVIC ACTION:

a. During the quarter the squadron began a revised civic action program based on coordination with local civic authorities and M.C.V. Advisors from Team 98, DIAN District. Several visits have been made to Team 98 by the squadron chaplain, S5 and PIO. On one occasion the squadron commander presided over a distribution of clothing to RF dependents of DIAN.

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b. Future projects have been discussed with the District Advisor and Vietnamese authorities. These projects include distribution of food, clothing, and medical supplies, repair of eight schools and possible construction of an additional classroom to one school.

c. An account for the Donor's Deposit Fund has been established with an initial deposit and total balance of \$221.20. A constitution has also been adopted and approved.

d. Squadron personnel contributed approximately 30 man days in the collection and distribution of foodstuffs, building materials, and clothing. Approximately 500 lbs of clothing, 150 lbs of food and one truck-load of building materials were distributed.

e. On 29 April 1970 the squadron S5 representative attended a meeting with the 11th ACR Community Relations Council. At this meeting possible future projects, coordinated activities, and community relations activities were discussed. No definite commitments were made and another meeting is planned in the near future.

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AVBACA-GC

10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

## PARAGRAPH 2 Lessons Learned

1. (U) PERSONNEL: None.
2. (U) INTELLIGENCE: None.
3. (U) OPERATIONS:

a. Observation: During the reporting period C Troop acquired the OH-58 light observation helicopter to be used in the scout role. Following is the first 30 day evaluation report which began on 1 April. Subsequent evaluations are due on 5 June and 5 July. These evaluations will be included in the next ORLL.

### b. Evaluation:

(1) Mission and Employment Evaluation: During the evaluation period (1 Apr to 30 Apr) the OH-58 has been employed as a reconnaissance aircraft in the visual reconnaissance teams of C Troop, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry. The visual reconnaissance team is composed of either one AH-1G gunship and one OH-58, or two OH-58's. The OH-58 is employed at tree top level and slow air speeds in order to locate and possibly engage enemy forces. C Troop utilizes a crew of three personnel - a pilot in the right front seat, an observer in the left front seat, and a crew chief in the right rear seat. The observer and crew chief are each armed with an M-60 machine gun and approximately 400 rounds each of ammunition. In addition there are approximately 20 hand grenades on the aircraft to include smoke, fragmentation, and concussion. Their primary mission is to locate enemy personnel or enemy locations. The scout has the capability to defensively engage targets and mark targets of opportunity for the AH-1G gunship. When the M249 minigun system is employed, the OH-58 carries a scout pilot and a single observer. The minigun equipped OH-58 is normally the trail scout ship in a VR team of two scouts. During this portion of the evaluation period the OH-58 was found to be a very effective scout aircraft. Some modifications are strongly recommended and will be discussed in this evaluation.

### (2) Pilot Comments and Operational Evaluation:

(a) Visibility: Visibility to the front (windscreen and chin bubble) is good; however side visibility is somewhat restricted due to the size of the armor plating on the pilot and co-pilot seats. The scout mission requires particularly good visibility directly under the aircraft. An EIR has been submitted requesting the armor be cut to provide the easy movement of the head in and out of the aircraft.

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10 May 1970

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(b) **Maneuverability:** The aircraft handles very well in flight. It turns easily at slow airspeeds and has a very small turning radius. It was noted that control response and acceleration are somewhat slow at lower airspeeds; however pilots have adjusted their individual tactics to compensate for these shortcomings. Sideward flight is difficult because of the large vertical stabilizer; however this is not a serious problem as sideward flight is not a common tactic.

(c) **Pilot Comments:** Pilot comments concerning the OH-58 have included the visibility and maneuverability characteristics already mentioned. In addition the pilots have made comments concerning the following:

- 1 The OH-58 has excellent radio reception and transmission.
- 2 Instrumentation is very good with the exception of the positioning of UHF control head which makes frequency identification difficult.
- 3 Autorotative characteristics are exceptionally good.
- 4 Engine armor is insufficient for the scout role (see maintenance evaluation).

### (3) Avionics and Maintenance Evaluation:

(a) **Avionics:** As previously mentioned, the radios of the OH-58 are very good. At this time there is no test equipment for the radios currently used in the OH-58. It is expected this problem will be corrected as new radios enter RVN in the future.

(b) **Maintenance:** Since acquiring the initial OH-58, C Troop has flown more than 830 hours in the aircraft. As of this date there have been no periodic inspections performed and no serious maintenance problems encountered. Very few spare parts have been needed and those that were required were readily available. During the reporting period C Troop maintained a 90% mission ready status of all OH-58's. The small amount of down time was due primarily to combat damage and minor unscheduled maintenance problems. There have been two aircraft lost to ground fire during the evaluation period. Both aircraft received numerous hits and both received one round in the combustion chamber of the engine causing instantaneous engine failure. An EIR has been submitted as a result of these two aircraft losses. It was also found that replacement aircraft for those lost to combat damage are readily available in the supply system. At the present time C Troop has ten OH-58 crew chiefs, eight of which have attended the OH-58 Maintenance Course and two of which are OJT.

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AVRACA-CC

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970. RCS CSFGR-65 (R2)(U) 10 May 1970

(c) EIR's Submitted:

1 It was recommended that the observer's armor be cut to facilitate side observation (EIR #266259).

2 It was recommended that a floor mike switch be mounted on the right rear passenger compartment floor to facilitate communication between the crew (EIR #P48654).

3 It was recommended that additional armor be added in the engine compartment to protect exposed areas of the engine. Bell Helicopter is currently developing a satisfactory armor for the engine (EIR #P48654).

4 It was recommended that a bracket be installed on the aircraft to mount the two M-60 machine guns - one to be installed in the left front door and one in the right rear door. These points would serve as attaching points for the bungi cord which supports the M-60 machine gun (EIR #P48507).

c. Recommendation: None.

d. Command Action: None.

4. (U) ORGANIZATION: None.

5. (U) TRAINING: None.

6. (U) LOGISTICS:

a. Observation: Personnel on unit level do not have sufficient knowledge or experience for complete accomplishment of a unit move in country that involves all modes of transportation.

b. Evaluation: Upon notification of a unit move in country, the unit level personnel, i.e. S4 or Troop XO's, must make contact with too many different agencies for coordination and requests for non organic transportation, i.e. MACVTRA, II Field Force G4, Navy (Newport), Local MCC etc. This requires many wasted man hours and mistakes due to the lack of a central agency.

c. Recommendations: Upon notification of an in country move of any unit, a specialist with knowledge of all modes of travel be attached to the unit for assistance. This should be automatic upon notification of the move.

7. (U) COMMUNICATIONS: None.

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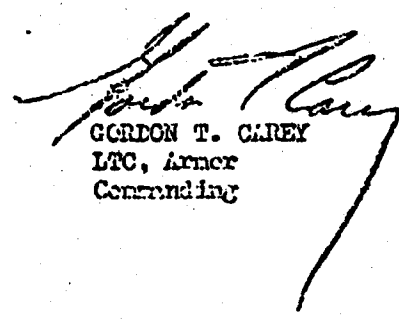
AVMCA-CC

10 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air  
Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970. RCS CSFCA-65 (R2)(U)

- 8. (U) MATERIAL: Mono.
- 9. (U) OTHER: Mono.

- 9 Inclosures
- 1. Unit Organization
- 2. Unit Locations
- 3. Unit Strength (Military)
- 4. Unit Strength (Civilian)
- ~~5. Awards & Decorations~~
- 6. Friendly Losses
- 7. Operational Results
- 8. Aircraft Status
- 9. Aircraft Loss and Damage



GORDON T. CAREY  
LTC, Armer  
Commanding

Distribution:

- A Plus
- 2- CINCPAC, ATTN: GPOB-DT
- 3- USARV, ATTN: AVHOG-DST
- 2- 1ST AVN BDE, ATTN: AVBAGC-O
- 3- 12TH CIG

Incl 5 w/d HQ DA

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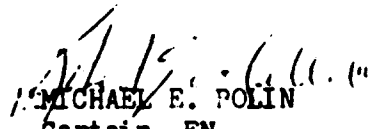
AVBACA-SC (10 May 70) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 3/17th Air  
Cavalry Squadron for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS-  
CSFOR-65 (II) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 12TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96266 26 May 1970

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

In compliance with USARV Reg 525-15, the Operational Report - Lessons  
Learned of the 3/17th Air Cavalry Squadron for the period ending 30  
April 1970, is forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
MICHAEL E. POLIN  
Captain, EN  
Acting Adjutant

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AVFBC-RE (10 May 70) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 3/17th Air Cavalry  
Squadron for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 3 JUN 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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry and concurs except as indicated below.
2. (C) Reference item concerning "Unit Moves", page 17, paragraph 2-6: nonconcur. Upon notification of a unit move, the Squadron S-4 should contact the 12th Combat Aviation Group S-4 to establish procedures or to coordinate all requirements for the move. The support agency, i.e., Saigon Support Command should then be contacted to obtain non-organic ground or water transportation after the unit has determined its requirements. Requests for airlift movement should be routed through operational channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
W. C. BARTEL  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

CF:  
CO, 12th Avn Gp (Cbt)  
CO, 3d Sqdn, 17th Air Cav

AVBAC-0 (10 May 70) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air  
Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 1ST AVIATION BRIGADE, APO 96384 10 JUN 1970

MEMO: 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

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report-  
Lessons Learned of the 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry. The following  
comments are considered appropriate.

a. Paragraph 3b(3)(a), page 16, the availability of avionics test  
equipment for the OH-58 (SLAE) package is in short supply throughout  
Vietnam. Presently all repair is performed by avionics general support  
facilities as there is not sufficient test equipment to equip the  
direct support avionics facilities. Upon the receipt of additional  
test equipment, those direct support facilities having sufficient den-  
sity of OH-58's, will be issued the required test equipment to perform  
direct support avionics maintenance.

b. Paragraph 6, page 17, training for unit moves must be accomplished  
at company and battalion level. Unit S3/S4 coordination and planning  
should provide for movement by all modes of transportation. The Saigon  
Support Command will assist in necessary technical training when requested.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
VERNON A. PETERSON  
CHIEF, G.C.  
ASST AG

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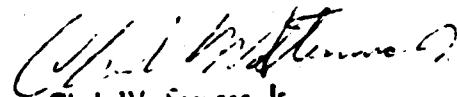
AVHGC-DST (10 May 70) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air  
Cavalry for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 2: J

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.
2. (C) Reference item concerning "OH-58 Evaluation", page 15, paragraph 3, and paragraph a, 3d Indorsement. Avionics Test equipment for the OH-58 will be provided to the unit on approximately 15 July 1970 when the DS support packages become available to USARV. Additional distribution within USARV of this test equipment will be made according to the geographic density of OH-58 aircraft. Nonconcur with the requirement to carry fragmentation and concussion grenades in an aircraft which performs a scout mission. This headquarters is conducting a review of the functions and the tactical employment of the light observation helicopter in the scout role.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
Clark W. Sanders Jr.  
Capt.  
Assistant Adjutant General

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

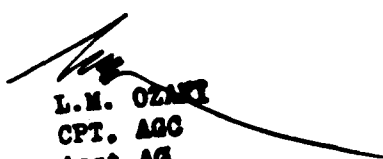
GPOP-DT (10 May 70) 5th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry for  
Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 22 JUL 70

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

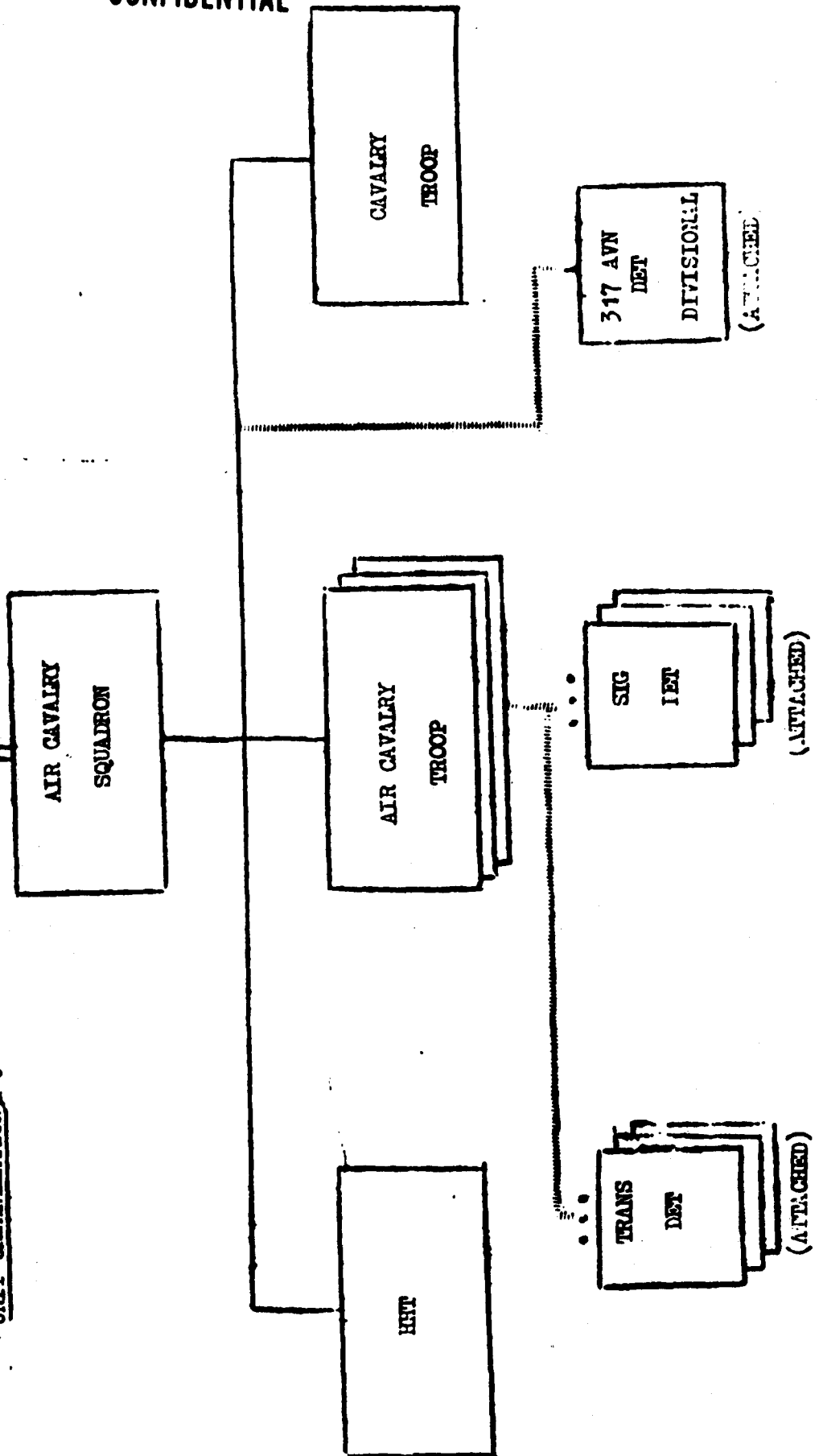
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
L.M. OZANT  
CPT. AGC  
Asst AG

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 April 1970

UNIT ORGANIZATION - QUARTERLY ORAL



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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 APRIL 1970

## UNIT LOCATIONS, QUARTERLY ORLL

<u>ASSIGNED UNITS</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>APO</u>
Headquarters Troop	DIAn	96289
A Troop	DIAn	96289
B Troop	DIAn	96289
C Troop	DIAn	96289
D Troop	DIAn	96289
575th Maintenance Detachment	DIAn	96289
576th Maintenance Detachment	DIAn	96289
369th Maintenance Detachment	DIAn	96289
812th Avionics Detachment	DIAn	96289
813th Avionics Detachment	DIAn	96289
816th Avionics Detachment	DIAn	96289
317th Aviation Detachment	DIAn	96289

~~INCLOSURE - e~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 April 1970

OFFICER AUTHORITY, (ALLIANCE) NUMBER OF CALL

SUBORDINATE UNIT	OFFICER AUTH		WO AUTH		EM AUTH		TOTAL AUTH	
		O/H		O/H		O/H		
COMP		22	7	11	101	100	211	211
A SQUAD	10	12	30	27	121	118	169	157
B SQUAD	8	21	30	25	121	105	169	111
C SQUAD	...	15	30	21	121	106	169	111
D SQUAD		5	0	1	127	123	152	152
E SQUAD		2	1	..	54	54	56	56
F SQUAD	1	1	1	1	54	48	56	56
G SQUAD	1	1	1	1	54	47	56	56
H SQUAD	0	1	1	0	5	4	6	6
I SQUAD	0	0	1	1	5	4	6	5
J SQUAD	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	85	84	103	89	848	799	1036	972

~~ENCLOSURE 3~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 April 1970

UNIT STRENGTHS, (CIVILIAN), CURRENTLY ON

UNIT	DAC AUTH O/H		VII AUTH O/H		30 MATL AUTH C/H		CONTRACTORS AUTH O/H		TECH REPS AUTH O/H	
HQ TROCP	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	1	1
A TROCP	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
B TROCP	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
C TROCP	0	0	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
D TROCP	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
SQUADRON	0	0	28	28	0	0	0	0	1	1

~~ENCLOSURE 4~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 APRIL 1970

FRIENDLY LOSSES, QUARTERLY ORLL

	<u>KIA</u>			<u>WIA</u>			<u>MIA</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
FEB	0	0	0	0	2	7	0	0	0
MAR	1	1	0		7	10	0	0	0
APR	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	1	2	1	3	11	32	0	0	0

DIED NOT AS A RESULT  
OF HOSTILE ACTION

WOUNDED OR INJURED NOT AS A  
RESULT OF HOSTILE ACTION

	<u>OFF</u> <u>WO</u> <u>EM</u>			<u>OFF</u> <u>WO</u> <u>EM</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
FEB	0	0	0	0	0	3
MAR	0	0	1	0	1	1
APR	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	0	1	1	0	2	6

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS  
 3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
 QUARTER ENDING  
 30 APRIL 1970

OPERATIONAL RESULTS, QUARTERLY ORIL

UNIT	Sorties Flown	Troops Lifted	Cargo Tons	Enemy KIA	Structures Dam	Structures Dest	Sampans Dam	Sampans Dest	Aircraft Loss (Accident, Cbt, Maint)	Aircraft Damaged (Accident, Cbt)
HQ TROOP	1746	2298	20	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
A TROOP	8020	6274	32	113	17	299	0	252	7	14
B TROOP	10744	8570	31	87	6	232	0	13	8	2
C TROOP	9934	8348	0	40	1	115	0	6	5	6
D TROOP	0	0	0	7	0	13	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	30444	25490	115	282	24	738	0	295	21	22

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~~EXCLUDED~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH CAVALRY  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 April 1970

AIRCRAFT STATUS, COMPLETE ORLL

SUBORDINATE UNIT	UH1H		OH5A		AH1G		OH5B	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
HQ TROOP		5	0	0	0	0	0	0
A TROOP	0	9	10	10	9	9	0	0
B TROOP	0	8	10	10	9	9	0	0
C TROOP	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
SQUADRON	31	29	20	20	27	27	10	9

~~INCLOSURE 0~~

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HEADQUARTERS  
3D SQUADRON 17TH AVIATION  
QUARTER ENDING  
30 April 1970

AIRCRAFT LOSS AND DAMAGE, QUARTERLY ORAL

The aircraft loss figures include aircraft regraded 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>	<u>OH-58A</u>
Hqs Trp	Aircraft Loss	0	0	1	0
	Aircraft Damage	0	0	0	0
A Trp	Aircraft Loss	7	0	0	0
	Aircraft Damage	3	1	2	0
B Trp	Aircraft Loss	7	0	1	0
	Aircraft Damage	1	0	0	0
C Trp	Aircraft Loss	2	0	0	3
	Aircraft Damage	5	0	0	1
Squadron	Aircraft Loss	16	0	2	3
	Aircraft Damage	18	1	2	1

~~ENCLOSURE 9~~

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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.)

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		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 Feb to 30 Apr 70			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry			
6. REPORT DATE 10 May 1970	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 34	7b. NO. OF REFS	
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c.			
d.			
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13. ABSTRACT			

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