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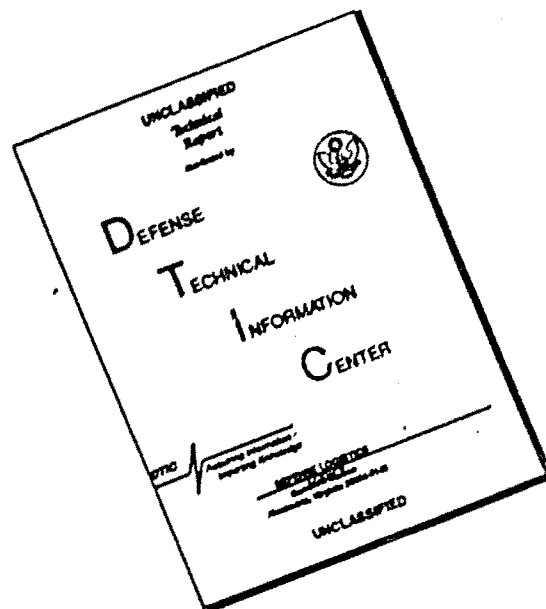
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310



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IN REPLY REFER TO

DAAG-FAP-A (M) (22 Feb 72)

DAFD OTT-712045

13 March 1972

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d Squadron,
17th Air Cavalry, ~~Period Ending 31 October 1971, (U)~~

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

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Operational rept. for period ending 31 Oct 71.

1. The attached report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with para 4b, AR 725-15.
2. The information contained in this report is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.
3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, ATTN: DAFD OTT, within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

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VERNE L. BOWERS
Major General, USA
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(Distribution continued on page 2)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D SQUADRON, 17TH AIR CAVALRY
APO San Francisco 96289

AVBAUY-CC

10 November 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971, RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

SECTION I

1.(U) MISSION: There has been no change in the unit's mission during the reporting period.

2.(U) ORGANIZATION: The organization of the unit was changed on 1 October 1971 when the 334th Aviation Company (Attack Helicopter) was reassigned to the 145th Combat Aviation Battalion (see Incl 1).

3.(FOUO) PERSONNEL: Following is the command group and principal staff as of 31 October 1971 with changes during the reporting periods:

LTC JOHN E. DUGAN [REDACTED]	SQDN CO	Replaced LTC CARL J. HALLAND [REDACTED] on 30 Oct 71.
MAJ JIMMIE S. FORD [REDACTED]	SQDN XO	Replaced MAJ JAMES R. RUFFERTY [REDACTED] on 9 Jun 71.
MAJ ALLEN A. BRESSETTE [REDACTED]	SQDN XO	Replaced MAJ JIMMIE S. FORD [REDACTED] on 30 Sep 71.
CPT JOHN R. JOHNSTON JR [REDACTED]	S-1	Replaced CPT BRUCE A. KENDRICK [REDACTED] on 20 Sep 71.
CPT ROBERT J. COPEN [REDACTED]	S-2	Replaced CPT GARY ELGOTT [REDACTED] on 20 Sep 71.
CPT DENNIS W. McCLELLAN [REDACTED]	S-3	Replaced MAJ ELDON K. BALL [REDACTED] on 21 Jul 71.
MAJ RICHARD A. CHILCOAT [REDACTED]	S-3	Replaced CPT DENNIS W. McCLELLAN [REDACTED] on 18 Oct 71.
CPT POWELL M. SMITH [REDACTED]	S-4	Replaced CPT EARL EDMONDSON [REDACTED] on 30 Jul 71.

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Subject; Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17 Air Cavalry
Period Ending 31 October 71, RCE CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

CPT JOHN B. ALDEN [REDACTED]	SQDN MAINT	Replaced CPT WILLIAM B. KELLOGG [REDACTED] on 7 Jun 71.
CPT JON M. SHIFFER [REDACTED]	SQDN MAINT	Replaced CPT JOHN B. ALDEN [REDACTED] on 21 Oct 71.
CPT JOEL M. ANDRES [REDACTED]	SURGEON	Replaced CPT DANIEL C. BAKER [REDACTED] on 29 Oct 71.
CPT FELIX T. GUTIERREZ [REDACTED]	HHT CO	Replaced CPT JOHN W. COZART [REDACTED] on 30 Sep 71.
CPT ROBERT R. RICE [REDACTED]	A Trp CO	Replaced MAJ DAVID E. RUSSELL [REDACTED] on 18 Jun 71.
MAJ RICHARD A. CHILCOT [REDACTED]	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ JIMMIE S. FORD [REDACTED] on 30 May 71.
MAJ FREDERICK L. ROSS [REDACTED]	B Trp CO	Replaced MAJ RICHARD A. CHILCOT [REDACTED] on 14 Oct 71.
CPT JAMES W. BECK [REDACTED]	D Trp CO	Replaced CPT CHARLES M BAILEY [REDACTED] on 4 Jul 71.
CPT RICHARD A. BELL [REDACTED]	F Trp CO	Replaced MAJ THOMAS HAMILTON [REDACTED] on 17 Jun 71.
CPT FELIX T. GUTIERREZ [REDACTED]	F Trp CO	Replaced CPT RICHARD A. BELL [REDACTED] on 11 Jul 71.
MAJ BILLY F. HATCH [REDACTED]	F Trp CO	Replaced CPT FELIX T GUTIERREZ [REDACTED] on 30 Sep 71.
MAJ MATTHEW M. McGUIRE [REDACTED]	334th Avn Co CO	Unit reassigned 1 Oct 71. No change.
CPT WILLIAM R. STAUFFER [REDACTED]	93d Med Det CO	Replaced CPT JOEL M ANDRES [REDACTED] on 29 Oct 71.

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AVBAUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971, RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

4.(C) UNIT STRENGTH: Following is the authorized and present for duty strength of the unit as of 31 October 1971.

a. Military

	OFFICERS		WARRENT OFFICERS		ENLISTED	
	Auth	P/Duty	Auth	P/Duty	Auth	P/Duty
HPT	24	32	7	6	181	133
A 3/17	18	24	31	13	182	150
B 3/17	18	23	31	19	182	144
D 3/17	5	4	0	0	127	53
F/4	16	26	34	16	216	168
93d MED	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	82	110	103	54	896	653

b. Civilian

UNIT	DAC		VN		3E NATL		CONSTRUCTION		TECH REPS	
	AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH		AUTH/OH	
HHT	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
A Trp	0	0	6	4	0	0	0	3	0	0
B Trp	0	0	6	3	0	0	0	2	0	0
D Trp	0	0	6	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
F Trp	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
93D MED	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
SQDN TOTAL	0	0	30	17	0	0	0	7	0	0

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AVBAUY-OC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry
Period Ending 31 October 1971, PCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

5. (C) AIRCRAFT: Following is the number of aircraft authorized and on hand as of 31 October 1971.

	UH-1H		AH-1G		OH-6A	
	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH	AUTH	OH
NET	7	5	0	0	0	0
A 3/17	8	8	9	9	10	10
B 3/17	8	8	9	9	10	9
F/4	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>
TOTAL	31	29	27	28	29	28

6. (C) RESULTS OF OPERATIONS: While flying 62,379 sorties, the Squadron lifted 43,447 troops, 283 tons of cargo, and was credited with 345 enemy killed, 563 structures destroyed, and 35 sampans destroyed. This was at a material cost of 11 Aircraft lost and 66 aircraft damaged (see Incl 2 & 3).

7. (C) OPERATIONAL REPORT:

a. Summary:

(1) The 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry area of operations (AO) consisted of the western portion of Military Region III and south-eastern Cambodia. It included the Song Be River, Saigon, Snuol, Krek, the Chup Rubber Plantation, and the Parrots Beak. The Squadron operated as a reinforced Air Cavalry Squadron consisting of A Troop, B Troop, F Troop, 4th US Cavalry; Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (OPCON); 33rd Aviation Company (Attack Helicopter); and D Troop, the Squadron's ground Cavalry Troop. The unit was employed in support of ARVN III Corps with the troops oriented in the AO's of the 5th, 18th, and 25th ARVN Divisions. Additionally, troops worked for the Capital Military District and the ARVN Airborne Division.

(2) During May, A Troop supported the 8th ARVN Regiment operating in the vicinity of Snuol, Cambodia. They supported the 3d ARVN Cavalry Brigade during the first few days of June and then supported the 9th ARVN Regiment in the area between Quan Loi and the border, the Song Be River, and the Flatiron. On 21 June, A Troop moved from Quan Loi to Lai Khe. Later, they provided direct support for the 8th ARVN Regiment and the 3d ARVN Airborne Brigade in the Fhouc Viah AO in the western part of War Zone "D" and SR-5. The troop was employed in security operations around Saigon during September and in early October,

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they performed missions in the Parrots Beak, Angels Wing, Pineapple, Key Hole, and areas north and south of Saigon. A Troop also supported the 9th ARVN Regiment thru October in the Saddle area along the RVN-Cambodian border.

(3) B Troop supported the 5th ARVN Division during May. On 20 May, the troop's forward elements returned to Phu Loi from Quan Loi. B Troop then worked for the 25th ARVN Division, Capital Military District, and the 18th ARVN Division. In October, B Troop supported the ARVN Airborne Division and III Corps in operations around Tay Ninh Province.

(4) During the reporting period, F Troop, 4th US Cavalry was located at Lai Khe and provided visual reconnaissance support for the 6th Ranger Group, the 25th ARVN Division, the 5th ARVN Division, the ARVN Airborne Division, and Binh Duong Province Regional Forces. Additionally, the troop performed special missions for Third Regional Advisory Command.

(5) Between 1 May and 31 October, the Air Cavalry Troop, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, was under operational control of the 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry. They flew in direct support of the three ARVN Divisions in III Corps, and their parent organization, the 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The Air Cavalry Troop conducted missions in support of the regiment in and around the Ho Bo Woods, Boi Loi Woods, and the area bordering Highway QL1 from Cu Chi to Go Dau Ha. During the reporting period, the troop relocated twice; on 3 August, they moved from Tay Ninh West to Camp Frenzil Jones and on 25 August, they moved from Camp Frenzil Jones to Phu Loi.

(6) From 1 May to 30 September, the 334th Aviation Company (Attack Helicopter) was assigned to the Squadron and conducted missions in general support of Third Regional Advisory Command and Military Region III. As an attack helicopter unit, their role was primarily providing gunship support throughout the III Corps AO. On 1 October, the 334th was reassigned to the 145th Aviation Battalion.

(7) From 1 May until 28 July, D Troop was under operational control of 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division and located at FNB Mace. Their missions were primarily convoy security, and mounted and dismounted patrols. On 28 July, the troop relocated to Lai Khe where their primary mission was to strengthen the security of Lai Khe Base Camp.

(8) During this reporting period, there were two high points of significant enemy activity. The first was the Battle of Snoul, Cambodia, which occurred the end of May and the first days of June. In this battle, A and B Troops, and the 334th provided aerial support for ARVN forces engaging elements of three VC/NVA divisions. The second high point, the Battle of Krak, Cambodia, and Tay Ninh Province, occurred from 26 September until the end of the reporting period on 31 October.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(R)(U)

On this occasion, B, F, and the 11 ACT provided Air Cavalry support for an ARVN task force engaging two enemy divisions. In each of these two battles, air cavalry operations conducted by 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry produced significant and decisive results while in support of ARVN ground forces.

b. Significant Activities:

(1) A Troop:

(a) 2 May 71 - XU368274, XU333256, XU341248 - 8th ARVN Regt. A Troop guns destroyed 4 sampans while performing a river recon. Later, the team came upon 3 more sampans and destroyed them. One individual was sighted and engaged, but a BDA could only produce his clothes.

(b) 7 May 71 - XU594344 - 8th ARVN Regt. While in direct support of an 8th ARVN Regiment contact the scout received ground to air fire with negative hits or injuries occurring. A Troop was credited with 20 KBH's.

(c) 10 May 71 - XU487458 - 8th ARVN Regt. The scout spotted one individual, the gun engaged. Results: 1 KBH, 3 cows killed, 2 carts destroyed.

(d) 12 May 71 - XU528991 - 8th ARVN Regt. The scout came across five huts and bunkers with dual entrances. Activity was within the last 15 minutes, the scout reconned by fire. Returning to the area, the scout found blood stains on a tree with a pool of blood at it's base. Results: Scout credited with 1 KBH.

(e) 18 May 71 - XU328233 - 8th ARVN Regt. The scout found 5 NVN soldiers in fighting positions. The gun engaged. Results: Gun credited with 3 KBH and 2 huts destroyed.

(f) 20 May 71 - 8th ARVN Regt. The scout received ground to air fire from a 30 cal. position. The low bird sustained negative hits or injuries, an airstrike was put in on the position. ~~XU678445~~

(g) 25 May 71 - XU479399 - 8th ARVN Regt. While on a reconnaissance mission, the scout spotted 3 packs on a trail. Also spotted on the trail was an individual and another two individuals in the bushes beside the trail. The scout came under ground to air fire. The gun engaged. Results: the gun was credited with 2 KBH.

(h) 26 May 71 - XU560350, XU552335 - 8th ARVN Regt. In direct support of an 8th ARVN Regiment contact, the Cobra on station was on a gun run and received 51 caliber ground to air fire. One round hit the main rotor blade. Another contact was supported and again the Cobra came under ground to air fire, but had negative hits or injuries.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(B)(U)

(i) 27 May 71 - 4 Troop DS to the 8th ARVN Regiment.

The following ground to air firings occurred during the day:

XU684264	UH-1H	51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU684264	UH-1H	51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU589379	UH-1H	30 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU576353	OH-58A, AH-1G, UH-1H	51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU589380	UH-1H	51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU576353	UH-1H	51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU589380	OH-58A	30 & 51 Cal.	NEG H/I
XU661289	OH-58A	51 Cal.	Neg H/I

At 1630 hours, an OH-58A was returning to home base when it received heavy ground to air fire. The ship exploded twenty feet from the ground. Pilot and observer were declared MIA, later changed to KIA.

(j) 28 May 71 - XU548313 - 8th ARVN Regt. While the Cobra was expending on an NVN Battalion in the open, he received ground to air fire. Firing came from a 51 Cal. position and 9 other lighter automatic weapons positions. There were negative hits or injuries.

(k) 29 May 71 - 8th ARVN Regt. Ground to air fire was very prevalent during the day. All ships in the team received ground to air fire as did the assisting organic Cobras from the 334th AHC and TAC AIR while putting in followup air strikes. Air strikes were utilized against enemy buildups found by 4 Troop Pink Teams.

(l) 30 May 71 - XU651277 - 3d ARVN Cavalry Bde. The scout took ground to air fire resulting in 4 hits. The ship was landed at Fire Support Base Heymaker with negative injuries occurring. While supporting two T.I.C.'s all three aircraft again came under heavy automatic weapons fire. In the evening, 4 Troop lift ships were used to medivac 19 ARVN's from Fire Support Base Heymaker.

(m) 31 May 71 - XU660270, XU645285, XU661266 - 3d ARVN Cavalry Bde. 4 Troop supported ARVN troops in three T.I.C.'s in the morning and in the afternoon, observed TAC AIR destroying abandoned Fire Support Bases and crippled vehicles. There were two more ground to air fire incidents with 51 cal. positions. 4 Troop lift ships were again used as medivac ships in the late afternoon, medivacing 80 ARVN's from Fire Support Base Heymaker.

(n) 1 June 71 - XU650285, XU38874 - 3d ARVN Cavalry Bde. In the morning, 4 Troop supported a small T.I.C. north of FSB Heymaker. In the late afternoon a VR team observed a 155mm Howitzer towed by a truck. Later the team observed 2 105's being towed to a hamlet. All guns were in good condition.

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AF 100-100

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(o) 9 July 71 - XU812271 - 9th ARVN Regt. A Troop scout found 5 individuals in the open. The gun engaged along with ARA and Artillery. Results: 2 KBH's credited to A Troop.

(p) 24 July 71 - XU730333 - 9th ARVN Regt. While performing a VR mission in Cambodia, the scout took ground to air fire. The aircraft went into a spin and crashed into the thick triple canopy jungle. Attempts were futile at inserting the Browns. The medic was finally repelled into the area and was only able to recover the wounded pilot. The two crewmembers, having been confirmed dead, were left at the crash site due to intense enemy activity in the area. Two days later an attempt was made to recover the bodies, but the aircraft had been tampered with and the bodies could not be located.

(q) 27 July 71 - XT7737 - 9th ARVN Regt. A Troop revetment area at Lai Khe Base Camp was probed by 6 sappers during the early morning hours. Results: 2 AH-1G, 2 OH6A aircraft totally destroyed. Two US wounded.

(r) 6 September 71 - YT047313 - 3d ARVN Airborne Bde. A Troop Pink Teams found 40 bunkers in an area south of Phouc Vinh. The gun engaged. Results: Gun credited with 1 KBH outside of bunker. Also five bunkers destroyed.

(s) 9 September 71 - 3d ARVN Airborne Bde. A Troop supported a T.I.C. for the 3d ARVN Avn Pde. Results: 3 Bunkers destroyed, 1 KBH.

(t) 15 September 71 - XT377093 - Hau Nghia Province. While performing a VR the Crew Chief of an OH-6A threw a white phosphorous grenade from the back seat. The grenade went off prematurely and sprayed the inside of the aircraft. Results: 2 US wounded, 1 US dead.

(u) 21 September 71 - XT929332 - Capital Military District (Cha Dung Jungle) A Troop performed a special mission for the Capital Military District in the Cha Dung Jungle. Six individuals were spotted with packs and helmets. The gun engaged. Results: 2 VC KBH.

(v) 22 September 71 - Capital Military District (Keyhole)

The low bird, while performing aerial reconnaissance, received ground to air fire from four different positions. Results: 1 OH-6A 17 hits, 1 US WIA, 1 AH-1G negative hits or injuries, gun destroyed 3 bunkers and 1 hut.

(w) 1 October 71 - XS939943 - Capital Military District (Keyhole) The low bird, while on a VR mission received ground to air fire. The gun engaged the positions with negative roadout. US Casualties: 1 US WIA, 1 OH-6A 10 hits.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

(x) 6 October 71. - X9998461 - 8th ARVN Regt. While performing aerial reconnaissance, an A Troop OH-6A took ground to air fire. Results: 6 hits to the aircraft, 1 US WIA.

(y) 13 October 71 - XT872440 - 8th ARVN Regt. An A Troop light fire team supported an 8th ARVN Regiment contact and was credited with 3 KEH's. Later in the day, the Cobra took ground to air fire and expended on the area. A BDA was performed by the scout producing one KEH on a trail and another KEH was found after following a blood trail 100 meters.

(z) 14 October 71 - XT878445 - 8th ARVN Regt. A Troop supported an 8th ARVN Regiment contact again. Due to maintenance, only one Cobra was bounced. The Troop was credited with 4 KEH during its support.

(aa) 22 October 71 - XT639429 - 8th ARVN Regt. The A Troop Pink Team on station, located 50 individuals digging bunkers and fighting positions. The scout received ground to air fire sustaining one hit. The gun engaged the target. Negative BDA was performed.

(bb) 23 October 71 - 8th ARVN Regt. A Troop inserted the Aero-Rifle Platoon for ground reconnaissance of the area engaged on 22 October 1971. In the wet LZ, one individual had to be pulled out of the water, after walking into a bomb crater, and medivaced to the 24th EVAC with water in his lungs. Another individual was then determined to be missing and a search of the LZ proved to be fruitless. The ARP's were extracted.

(cc) 24 October 71 - XT632430 - 8th ARVN Regt. A Troop inserted the Brown's, ARP's, and two NAVY divers. The divers located the body of the missing Aero Rifle Platoon member within 10 minutes. The body was extracted with the ARP's.

(2) B Troop:

(a) 1 May 1971 - 19 May 1971 5th ARVN Division:

(1) 1 May 71 - XU755275. Scout found 5 huts 10 x 20 with cooking equipment. Several articles of clothing and black PJ's. Activity in the area was 2 hours old. Gun engaged with organics and destroyed 1 hut and damaged 4 huts, destroyed 1 bunker and damaged 4 bunkers.

(2) 2 May 71 - XU663304. Low bird took ground to air fire from AK-47. High bird also took ground to air fire at the same location, the low bird took ground to air fire for the second time.

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AVB.UY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

Blue Max was called in and bounced second Pink Team to location. All three teams expended. Artillery was requested into area that night and again the next day. There was negative readout on the EDA.

(3) 4 May 71 - XU592440. Scout observed 80 water buffalo with pack marks, engaged and destroyed 22. At XU593339 the VN LNO reported a T.I.C. Gun engaged the area on request of LNO, with negative readout. LNO also reported FSE Snoul under mortar attack.

(4) 6 May 71 - XU015920. Scout found 1 mortar position (negative weapon). Scout engaged and destroyed the position with organics. At XT840939 the scout spotted 1 dam 6 ft. long, 2 ft. wide, and 2 ft. high. The dam was engaged and destroyed with organics.

(5) 7 May 71 - XU719246. Low bird took ground to air fire, approximately 6 rounds of 4K-47. Bird engaged with organics, negative results.

(6) 8 May 71 - XU4601. EDA of airstrike: 35 hangers destroyed, size 4x4 to 10x15, 16 huts 10x10 to 30x30 destroyed, 10 huts 30x30 with concrete walls destroyed.

(7) 10 May 71 - XU663248. Inserted Browns (LZ Green) at 1335 hours. Extracted at 1440 hours. Browns found 30 bunkers 3x6 with 50% overhead cover, 5 huts 5x10, 1 eating table, maze of trails, and activity in the area was 2-4 hours old.

(8) 11 May 71 - XU426047. Scout spotted 120 men, women, and children walking on trail, some appeared to be middle age males. Appeared to be migrating from village at XU435032 moving north-west. At XU430138 the scout spotted 1 hut 25x30 with multiple rooms and a tin roof. 1 Military aged male evaded into hut. Scout dropped smoke to mark and hut caught fire with 3 secondary explosions. Status of individual unknown, possibly died in fire and explosions. At XU420170 the scout observed 2 men, 1 riding Honda pulling ox cart with 1 300 pound bag of rice, and 5 bags of 10 pounds each. The other individual was on a bicycle with numerous bags of rice. Scout engaged with organics, all vehicles destroyed. Unable to locate bodies of individuals.

(9) 13 May 71 - XU732275. Spotted 25 bunkers 8x12, 12 huts 8x10, articles of clothing throughout area. Also spotted 35-40 individuals, engaged with organics resulting in 4 KEH's -- further read out of action -- 6 KEH's for Bravo Troop, 1 KEH for Blue Max. 2 Bunkers and 2 huts destroyed by air strike. EDA of airstrike at XU735275: 5 huts destroyed, 2 bunkers, 2 tables destroyed. 1 Hut 8x10 with 1 individual evading inside, engaged and partially destroyed hut. Low bird spotted blood trail. Individual found on stretcher dead at XU735275.

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AVRDUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(10) 17 May 71 - XU460560. 1 VC KEH.

(11) 19 May 71 - XU588325. 1 VC KEH and 2 VC probables.

(b) 20 May 71 - 31 May 71. 25th ARVN Division.

(1) 20 May 71 - WT548646. Lowbird took AK-47 ground to air fire, with negative hits. Cobra engaged, negative readout. At WT609612 Lowbird took ground to air fire. 1 Individual evaded into hut. Gunships engaged hut with results of 2 KEH's. 3 NVL KEH's at WT607629 - WT607627.

(2) 21 May 71 - WT636602. Spotted 2 individuals, 1 with AK-47. Gunship expended with negative readout. Spotted at WT636602 50 to 60 bunkers, 50 to 60 fighting positions. Engaged 1 individual with AK-47, with negative readout. 10 Huts and 3000 pounds of rice destroyed at XT645995.

(3) 25 May 71 - WT608518 - 2 VC KEH's, WT492648 - 2 huts destroyed.

(4) 27 May 71 - XU542308 - 2 VC KEH's, XU543307 - 1 mortar destroyed.

(c) 1 June - 15 June 71. 5th ARVN Division

(1) 7 June 71 - XT285616. Friendly unit ambushed. 5 Cobras expended and 1 section of Blue Max. Also provided dust-off for 3 ARVN and 1 US advisor WTI's.

(2) 14 June 71 - WT695444. 1 VC KEH and 4-5 probables.

(d) 16 June - 19 June. Special cover mission Saigon area.

(e) 20 June 71 - 2 August 71. 25th ARVN Division

(1) 23 June 71 - XT902255. Lowbird took ground to air fire from AK-47, with approximately 40 rounds and negative hits. Engaged with organics with negative readout. Spotted 1 bunker 10x15 used last 2 hours at XT902255. Engaged bunker blowing top off. Inside was 1 roll of detonating fuse, 1 radio, 2 bodies, and 1 175mm round, all partially destroyed.

(2) 6 July 71 - XT652405. Scout observed wreckage of UH-1H showing negative activity. Scout spotted at XU435036 a 100 bunker complex showing heavy recent activity.

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AVBLUY-CC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(3) 7 July 71 - XT636301. Scout observed wreckage of 2 OH-66's. At the same grid low bird took ground to air fire sustaining 5 hits from AK-47, the pilot was listed as WIA from a minor shrapnel wound in leg. Cobra engaged the area with negative results.

(4) 11 July 71 - XT934303. Scout spotted Honda lying in weeds. Scout reconned by fire resulting in 1 Honda destroyed.

(5) 14 July 71 - XT329949. Low bird took ground to air fire of 30 to 40 rounds of AK-47. Aircraft took 5 hits, gunship expended with negative results.

(6) 17 July 71 - XT4388. Scout spotted large bunker complex/base camp area with two kilometer radius. Hundreds of bunkers were spotted along with such things as buildings with metal roofs, clothing and back packs. At XT5169 the scout spotted numerous bunkers, fighting positions, blue uniforms spread out on the ground, and several weapons laying around on top of bunkers.

(7) 25 July 71 - XU4606. EDA of tactical airstrike in the Fish Hook revealed relatively light damage to enemy facilities in the area. Activity had been recent--mostly within 24 hours.

(8) 28 July 71 - WT771401. Gunships engaged VC/NVA in the open and were credited with 40 confirmed KEH's and 1 WEH.

(f) 3 August - 28 September 1971. 18th ARVN Division.

(1) 6 August 71 - WT8290. A significant built-up area was uncovered which included 50 buildings ranging in size from 10x10 to 10x25. Also 50 to 100 bunkers, some as large as 10x60 were observed. The area showed heavy recent activity. Area engaged with mortars; numerous small fires were ignited. US artillery was brought into area.

(2) 7 August 71 - WU983100. Extracted 4 LRRP's, one of which was wounded.

(3) 7 August 71 - WU985115. Inserted Browns to locate missing LRRP patrol leader. (LZ Green) At WU992118 extracted Browns with negative results. 1 Hut was destroyed at WT822907.

(4) 12 August 71 - WT965740. 1 Bunker destroyed. At WT9470 scout observed new building, bunkers, fighting positions, old complexes being occupied, several NVA uniforms hanging in trees, cooking utensils, animal pens (corrals), and construction material. Several bunkers 15x20, reinforced with sandbags were also spotted. At WT9669 scout observed numerous docking sites, and several large sampans, one 75 ft. long boat was docked along river.

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AVBAUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(5) 15 August 71 - XU203147. Both high and low bird took ground to air fire. No hits or injuries.

(6) 19 August 71 - WU039149. Lowbird took ground to air fire, negative hits. 1 NVA in uniform was spotted evading area. Hut was destroyed on same grid.

(7) 16 August 71 - WT955725. 5 Bamboo cages 4x4x7 feet. It was speculated that these cages were used for purposes of detaining human beings - maybe POW's. Heavy recent activity in area. Cages gone on 18 August.

(8) 21 August 71 - XU375490. BDA of B52 strike resulted in negative damage.

(9) 25 August 71 - XU345336. BDA of B52 strike resulted in negative significant findings.

(10) 27 August 71 - WT786635. 2 Individuals were snatched and taken to 18th Division CP. The individuals were acting suspicious, riding bicycles, wearing black and purple PJ's, had crow cuts, and map with markings on it. Initial readout was that they were communist Cambodians.

(11) 28 August 71 - WT684866. 4 Individuals were snatched while riding bicycles loaded with packs and bundles. Information gained from the detainees was not significant; they were returned to the same area 2 days later.

(12) 2 September 71. Spotted significant enemy activity in area of the neck of the Dog's Head. Large size bunkers, huts, evidence of new construction, clothing, concertina wire, and recent trail activity.

(13) 4 September 71 - WT943740 to WT943746. A BDA of B52 strike revealed 12 bunkers and 10 fighting positions were destroyed, 1 building frame partially destroyed. Also uncovered were uniforms, cooking utensils, and other bunkers and fighting positions.

(14) 6 September 71 - WT928778, WT916780, WT913782, and WT915188. Spotted numerous bunkers, trail activity and buildings.

(15) 9 September 71 - XT051347. 4 Individuals were snatched and taken to the 65th Ranger Battalion where they gave information relating to VC elements moving eastward along Highway 241 towards the Straight Edge Woods (vicinity XT1536).

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AVBAUY-CC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(16) 11 September 71 - WT793509. Snatch mission was executed after spotting 2 individuals evading with weapons. 1 escaped and the other was detained and interrogated. It was determined that he was Chinese and admitted nothing concerning military activities. He maintained that he was a merchant.

(17) 13 September 71 - WT967498. Browns were inserted to perform ground reconnaissance in an enemy area. Low bird scouting ahead took ground to air fire resulting in 8 hits on the aircraft and the pilot killed. The observer flew the aircraft back to Tay Ninh. The QRF was inserted immediately, linked-up with the Browns, and a sweep of the area was made. A small complex was located, a number of mortar rounds, and small arms ammunition were located and destroyed, and 3 US claymore mines were captured. The area was also heavily booby-trapped. There were five or six locations from which ground to air fire was received to include possible .30 caliber. During the extraction of the Browns and QRF, the LZ was red on both lifts (no hits, no injuries). The operation took place over a five hour period. At XT987492 1 bunker was destroyed. At XT968492 3 huts were destroyed.

(18) 14 September 71 - XT170370. While working the Straight Edge Woods a bunker complex (75-100 bunkers) was located showing signs of fresh activity. The bunkers had been constructed a long time ago but were maintained.

(19) 15 September 71 - WT9650. The 65th Ranger Battalion conducted a large scale operation into the 13 September contact area. The operation was a two day sweep of the area and proved to be very successful. 5 VC were killed, weapons and munitions were captured or destroyed, and enemy base camp facilities were destroyed. Significant contacts were reported on several occasions and 18 pounds of documents (containing propaganda material, training information, and information on the VC infrastructure around Tay Ninh) were captured.

(20) 17 September 71 - WT861491. While reconning an area showing heavy recent use, the Low bird spotted 1 bunker 12x20 with 6 entrances and numerous weapons and gear laying around the bunker. 2 individuals were spotted around the bunker; the Cobra engaged resulting in 1 KBH and 2 bikes destroyed.

(21) 20 September 71 - XT056551. While supporting the 18th Division in defeating the VC/NVA sapper attack on the vicinity of Tay Ninh West, ground to air fire was received in the vicinity of XT056551 and artillery was adjusted into the area. Location was area from where it was suspected that 122mm rockets were fired. VR's conducted in the area indicated recent movement.

(22) 22 September 71 - WT9862 vicinity. Spotted trail activity, bunkers, and huts all with recent activity and heavy use.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R)(U)

At XT192627 the Troop supported a heavy contact involving elements of the 43d Regiment. 18 KEH's were credited to the Troop who fired over 300 rockets as directed by US advisors on the ground. Captured documents indicated the enemy unit was the VC headquarters for Tay Ninh City. Also considerable supplies and equipment were captured in the contact area.

(23) 25 September 71 - Supported Phu Loi Base Camp. 1 Individual with weapon was sighted near a small bunker complex and an infantry platoon from D Troop was inserted (vicinity XT888237). Negative results were obtained. 1 KEH, XT899249, individual was carrying a K-54 pistol.

(f) 26 September 71 - 10 October 71. 25th ARVN Division.

(1) 26 September 71. Gave gunship support to Krek, Cambodia, FSB Pace, Katum, and Thien Ngon which were receiving coordinated attacks from VC/NVA forces. Requested and received VNAF air strikes at XT060863 and XT058870. Spotted VC flag at XT103755.

(2) 27 September 71 - WU997045 and WT983978. Cobras expended in support of T.I.C. Conducted a damage assessment on all the ARVN fire bases in Cambodia of the 25th Division. Results were minor damage. At XT058040, one truck was destroyed. Requested and received 6 American air strikes.

(3) 28 September 71 - XT0976. First team supported T.I.C. at Hung Doe. All trails in area showed west to east movement with very heavy activity last 24 hours. Marked grid XT094766 for 1 American air strike.

(4) 29 September 71 - XT085748. Supported T.I.C. and received report from 25th Division that 325 VC were killed by American gunships that shot in support of T.I.C.'s on 26, 27, and 28 September. Supported resupply mission at Hung Doe.

(5) 30 September 71 - XT143922. Uncovered gigantic enemy base camp and supply area which included bunkers, buildings, trenches with overhead cover, supplies (to include pallets of 82mm mortar rounds and small arms ammunition) and approximately 150 enemy soldiers in the area. 20 Sorties of airstrikes were put into the area on the 30th. BDA of airstrikes: 1 Secondary, 6 KEH, 11 bunkers 10x10 destroyed, personal gear, pots, pans etc, 4K-47, clothes and ammo destroyed and scattered, 10 bunkers 10x15 destroyed, 1 trench 15 meters long destroyed, 1 trench 10 meters long destroyed, 2 6 meter trenches destroyed, 1 hut 10x20 destroyed, 1 pallette of 82mm destroyed, 20 to 30 pallettes of supplies destroyed, numerous weapons and ammo destroyed and scattered. Pallettes were 10x10. At XT282853, aircraft took hit by .51 cal; crewman received minor wounds.

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AVM.UY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(6) 1 October 71 - XT137930 to XT140920. 7 Bunkers 10x10 destroyed, 6 bunkers 10x15 destroyed, 60 bunkers 4x5 destroyed, 1 concrete bunker 10x10 destroyed, 2 trenches 25 meters long destroyed, 2 bodies with green uniforms, tin cans-pint size, pieces of weapons all over area-small arms type, pots, cans, cooking utensils in area, 2 .51 caliber positions destroyed, 1 hut 5x8 destroyed, 1 bomb hit in center and destroyed 1 paint or flour storage area as white substance was thrown around area of 25 meters, 1 bunker 10x10 had been caved in since strike, someone had cleaned bunker out searching for something, 1 hut 6x12 destroyed, and parts of people's bodies all over the area, lots of green clothing in area. People in area during strike, all foot traffic showed carrying heavy loads. All groups moving east out of BDA area. No ordinance left in area. 30 poss KBA; 10 possible WBA. In all, 8 airstrikes were received on this date.

(7) 2 October 71 - XT069872. Scout spotted active .51 cal position. At WT933778 to WT951778 BDA's of B52 strikes in the neck of the Dog's Head revealed considerable damage and destruction to enemy base camp areas and supply areas. Destroyed were numerous bunkers, huts, fighting positions, trenches, 4 .51 and 3 .30 cal positions, 1 kitchen site with picnic tables, silver ware, 55 gal drum halves, 3 KBA's and numerous pieces of bodies throughout area. Pallets of rockets, 82mm mortars, and small arms ammo were uncovered and destroyed by additional airstrikes. It was speculated that the area was a rear supply base for a regiment, possibly the 141st. Thien Ngon under ground attack; supported T.I.C. At least 1 KBH.

(8) 3 October 71 - 2 AH-1G's were damaged by incoming rocket shrapnel in POL at Tay Ninh West. 2 KBH credited for previous night. BDA: WT899871, numerous bunkers destroyed, 150 to 200 bunkers, 4x4, still standing, 50 to 75 of which were partially damaged. In the vicinity of XT9180, scout spotted numerous bunkers, trails, (some hard packed), and tunnel entrances. Activity was last 6 to 36 hours. At WT948778 numerous destroyed bunkers, 1 destroyed pallet containing 2 sleeping bags and many 18"x12" boxes. The entire area had heavy recent use. Received 12 air strikes on this date.

(9) 4 October 71 - XT070855. Command and Control aircraft took .51 Cal ground to air fire receiving 1 hit in the tail boom. At XT220980 the scout spotted 8 to 12 bunkers with 6" to 8" overhead cover, 1 trench 35' long, clothing throughout the area. Supported T.I.C. at XT0501. At WT767784 several bunkers and fighting positions were spotted throughout the village. A snatch mission was attempted after 3 NVA were killed at WT745820 by the low bird. The Browns were inserted but could not subdue the individual captured; individual was killed by the Browns. 3 More KBH's were obtained in the area.

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AVBAUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(10) 5 October 71 - XT065865. Requested and received 100 rounds of 105mm, 155mm, and 8" US and ARVN artillery. Cobras expended on XU099023 in support of downed aircraft. In the vicinity of XU1896 numerous bunkers and clearings all with recent use were spotted. At XT171970 the scout spotted a .51 Cal tripod in clearing along tree line. WT930845 spotted trail 12" wide running east to west, activity last 2 to 3 days by an estimated 50 to 60 people. At WT788935 the scout spotted bunkers and individuals in green and black uniforms with blue shirts. Scout spotted more individuals in green uniforms at WT752840, WT782940, and WT710758 1 barge was spotted. Barge was 10x10. At WT13753 3 individuals were snatched. 3 KIA's also resulted from the mission. Interrogation report indicated individuals were civilians. They indicated 2 NVA squads had been in the immediate area and 1 squad was located approximately 1 mile away. They indicated the enemy were members of MR C30.

(11) 7 October 71 - WT967498. Spotted campsite with rocket sites. XT287949, 1 Base Camp, many fighting positions with bamboo fence circling base camp were spotted. This area showed negative use.

(12) 8 October - WT9185. Spotted 40 to 50 useable bunkers, showing heavy recent activity last 24 hours. BDA of WT918858 small arms type secondary in bunkers, 2 bunkers destroyed of which 1 contained possible fuel with flames 4 to 5' high burning for over 5 minutes. 1 Bloody area. BDA: WT917858, 1 large secondary created crater 100 feet across, 5 bunkers destroyed. Requested and received US artillery of 175mm, 40 rounds on this location. BDA XT169917: 20 to 30 bunkers partially damaged to destroyed, 6 KIA's and 10 possible WBA's. At WT153974 the scout spotted 25 to 40 bunkers built within the last month; fresh activity last 24 hours. BDA XT132984 to XT132993, 23 huts destroyed.

(13) 9 October 71 - WT951602. Spotted deserted village, picnic tables with fresh food on it, 1 black shirt, 1 empty ammo container; activity last 1 to 5 hours. T&C AIR on this location.

(14) 10 October 71 - WT967483. Scout spotted 1 tunnel going into underground bunker, well built. WT933857 an old base camp running east to west was spotted. At WT913858 scout spotted 40 bunkers, 20 fighting positions and trench line, numerous trails; activity last 2 hours. A platoon size element passed through WT967500 in last 6 hours. The scout spotted at XT108391 20 fighting positions 4x2x2 with a blast wall around 5 of the fighting positions. Activity was 24 hours old. A possible resupply area, rice bags, chopped wood, and recent use 24 hours old by a platoon size element was spotted at XT105397. XT100404, 1 bridge 24' long, 5' wide destroyed was observed by lowbird. At XT089791, 4 aircraft received ground to air fire from small arms and .51 Cal with negative hits.

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AVELUY-CC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 71. RGS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(g) 11 October 71 - 16 October 71. Began supporting III Corps.

(1) 11 October 71 - BDA of B52 strike WT972493 to WT936482: 17 bunkers destroyed, 10 bunkers damaged. 3 Trench lines 30 meters long destroyed. 10 Spider holes uncovered. 2 Huts destroyed. 2 Sampans destroyed and 1 pallet of ammo boxes scattered through area. Lt WT954480 2 pallets of suspected 5.56mm ammunition was observed. Scout spotted at WT952489, 1 .51 Cal pit with 72 hour old activity. 1 Hut with bunker underneath at WT971486. Hut was engaged resulting in 3 KEH's. 6 Gallons of fuel and 1 AK-47 destroyed.

(2) 12 October 71 - BDA of B52 strike WT982625 to XT003624: Probable 10 to 15 KEH's, 7 bunkers destroyed, 2 huts destroyed, 2 huts destroyed, pallet of rice with 10 to 15 50 pound bags destroyed. Spotted old trail and bunker complex with 3 individuals evading into bunker at WT885864; engaged with negative results. Requested and received air strike at this location. Aircraft took ground to air fire with negative hits at WT8584. 6 Bunkers 6x8 and 2 10x10 huts showing activity 2 days old were engaged and destroyed at WT962620.

(3) 13 October 71 - Lt WT865937 spotted 4 bunkers, and 1 hut in an area used by 30 individuals within last 24 hours of sighting. A bunker complex with activity throughout area was spotted at WT903830.

(4) 14 October 71 - BDA of B52 strike at WT800915 to WT802935 and WT797915 to WT797935: 50% destroyed and 50% partially destroyed were 19 huts, 40 bunkers, and 45 fighting positions. BDA WT788957 to WT798940: 75 huts, 100 bunkers, and 100 fighting positions destroyed. Spotted undamaged were 300 fighting positions, 300 bunkers, and 225 huts. Lt WT9390 spotted numerous trails throughout area showing recent activity. 15 Bunkers with 24 hour old activity were spotted at WT928858. An estimated 100 individuals were spotted at XT030866. Aircraft took ground to air fire from .51 Cal and small arms resulting in negative hits.

(5) 15 October 71 - WT948657. Spotted numerous sampan dockings showing 12 hour old activity. BDA XT035873 to XT025863: 13 bunkers destroyed, 21 bunkers partially destroyed, 5 fighting positions destroyed. BDA XT031872: 30 bunkers 20 to 30 meters from craters, partially destroyed; numerous trails and foot prints in area after bomb strikes. WT958827, spotted 25 fighting positions showing negative recent use, possible stop over and resupply point. XT058879, aircraft took ground to air fire, .51 Cal resulting in 1 WIA.

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AVBAUY-00

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(6) 16 October 71 - WT853611 to WT802648 to WT845605. Scout spotted bunker and hut complex. Approximately 100 bunkers, 25 huts with wood overhead cover. Area showed heavy activity last 48 hours. At WT8276 requested and received air strike on this location due to bunkers, huts, people and blue uniforms in area. Scout spotted 7 huts and 50 bunkers in constant use along with 25 fighting positions at WT8276. Also a trail complex running mostly west to east. Cobra engaged bunkers with 1 secondary explosion, white or light color approximately 75 to 100 feet high. WT949695 to WT945674, scout spotted estimated 100 bunkers with heavy log overhead cover. Bunkers showed light recent 24 hour old activity. 12 Bunkers with light overhead cover were spotted at WT983676. 2 Antenna wires running up a tree. Recent light use last 24 hours. WT933652 spotted possible base camp consisting of 7 huts of which 4 were constructed of tin.

(h) 17 October 71 - 20 October 71. Began supporting 81st Ranger Bn (ABN)

(1) 17 October 71 - WT4861. Scout spotted 100 to 150 bunkers showing light recent activity. Bunkers were 6x6 and numerous trenches in area from 20 to 50 feet long. 10 Probable KBs. Footprints of estimated 20 individuals. WT840851, spotted estimated footprints of 100 individuals moving south.

(2) 18 October 71 - WT894827. Spotted 1 trail 24" wide running north to south. Trail used last 24 hours by 25 individuals headed north. 1 Trail running north to south, half packed, and used by estimated 50 individuals daily through area. Scout spotted bunker area of estimated 20 to 30 bunkers at WT876844.

(3) 19 October 71 - Scout spotted several sets of black and blue clothing, straw mats and 2 ox carts at WT909881.

(4) 20 October 71 - WT963819. Scout spotted trail showing boot prints of estimated 30 individuals moving in both directions last 24 hours.

(1) 21 October 71 - 29 October 71. Supported 18th ABVN Div.

(1) 23 October 71 - XT222586. Inserted and extracted 8 Browns for snatch of 1 male, LZ Green. Both individuals were turned over to the 52d Regiment. WT969211 EDL: 7 bunkers destroyed, 3 fighting positions destroyed, and 1 tunnel entrance uncovered. XT112388 spotted numerous steel pots, M-60 ammo cans, 4 bunkers and 1 trail showing 24 to 48 hour old activity. XT112388 destroyed 1 bunker and spotted blood trail after firing. Requested and received 2 air strikes on this date.

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AVBAUY-OC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3) (U)

(2) 24 October 71 - XT037626. Spotted 6 bunkers and 20 fighting positions in area. XT004542, Spotted numerous steel pots, M-60 ammo cans, 4 bunkers and 1 trail showing activity 24 to 48 hours old.

(3) 25 October 71 - WU795088. Spotted 1 bike with roll of concertina wire on handle bars. WU750099, snatched 1 individual, LZ Green. Individual had numerous papers and was able to throw some away. WU869101 spotted 1 village that was deserted 1 month ago. There were also 2 bunkers and 1 fighting position 3' high, 2' deep, and 10' long. Requested and received 12 rounds of 8" artillery at XT004543. Destroyed or damaged were cooking utensils, M-60 ammo cans, hut frames, and bunkers.

(j) 30 October 71 - 31 October 71. Capital Military District. Negative significant activity.

(3) D Troop:

(a) On 11 July 1971 scouts of the Third Platoon, D Troop, OFCON to 1/8th CAV, 3d Bde, 1st Air Cavalry, while involved in a night interdiction operation on Highway 1, sighted 1 evading suspected VC on QL 1, coordinates YS820990. Enemy taken under fire with negative results.

(b) On 23 July 1971, scouts of the Third Platoon, D Troop OFCON to 1/8th CAV, 3d Bde, 1st Air Cavalry, while conducting a ground and mounted patrol was taken under fire in the woods by a sniper, coordinates YS839977. Fire was returned; results were 1 US KIA.

(c) Upon arrival at Lai Khe, D Troop provided security for Lai Khe Base Camp, engaging in building defensive positions and conducting dismounted sweeps in the Lai Khe rubber. D Troop also provided convoy security between Lai Khe and An Loc at various times during the reporting period.

(4) F Troop, 4th US Cavalry:

(a) 1 May thru 8 May 1971. Troop F performed VR's in direct support of TF 52 in and around the Krek Rubber Plantation in Cambodia and provided gunship support for Lai Khe Base Camp. One NVA and 2 VC were killed by helicopter (KBH) during this period. Four bunkers, 3 huts, and 1 motor bike were also destroyed. There were 2 instances of ground to air fire. The Troop staged out of Katur Fire Support Base while supporting TF 52 north of Highway 7 in Cambodia. Numerous trails, some new, leading in and out of the rubber plantation were seen by Pink Teams. There were also many civilians in the area living in the villages. In the Lai Khe area, Pink Teams discovered new fighting positions and reported them to Ban Cat Sector Team 91.

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AVMUY-CC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS BSBOR-65 (R3)(U)

(b) 9 May thru 21 May 1971. Troop F provided direct support to the 6th Ranger Group by performing aerial VR's and gunship support to Ben Cat Sector. Six enemy (1 NVN and 5 VC) were killed by gunships in this period. There were 3 bunkers and 1 hut destroyed. There was 1 ground to air fire incident. While still staging from Katun the troop worked below the Fishhook region in the vicinity of Tonle Cham. Truck or wheeled vehicle tracks were seen in the AO. The 1 incident of ground to air fire was believed to be from small arms or AK-47 fire. There were now bunkers and trails discovered close to the Fishhook section of Cambodia. Two of the KBH's were in this area. The enemy activity around Don Cat District picked up somewhat with fresh trails and mortar positions being discovered. The other KBH's were in this AO. Lai Khe Base Camp received an attack by fire with two 107mm rockets landing in the troop maintenance area. A total of 3 KIA and 5 WIA, all US, resulted from this rocket attack. One UH-1H was totally destroyed.

(c) 22 May thru 26 June 71. Although the majority of the VR missions were flown in support of TF 52, Troop F also supported the 6th Ranger Group and the 5th ARVN Infantry Division and provided gunship support for Lai Khe Base Camp Defense. A total of 11 VC and 1 NVN were KBH and confirmed by ground units. Fifteen huts, 27 bunkers, 2 sampans, 2 houses, 5 bicycles, and 1 truck were destroyed. While working with the 6th Ranger Group, 6 bicycles, including 2 motor bikes, were captured and given to the Rangers. There were 8 ground to air fire incidents during this period. Fresh trail activity, bunker complexes, and fighting positions were discovered in the Krok Rubber Plantation area. All the ground to air fire incidents were in this AO. Numerous tracked and wheeled vehicle tracks were seen going in and out of the plantation and 1 truck destroyed was in this vicinity. Rain slowed operations during this period.

(d) 27 June thru 1 July 1971. Troop F was alerted and packed for movement to Quang Tri Province on 27 June and only local flights were performed. The move was cancelled on 1 July. On that date while supporting a T.I.C. for the 5th ARVN Division, 4 KBH's were accounted for.

(e) 2 July thru 20 July 1971. Task Force 46 of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division was the unit supported during this period. VR's were flown in the Ho Bo Woods, Boi Loi Woods, Iron Triangle, Hu'arcon, and Keyhole areas. While on a VR, a LOH took small arms ground to air fire resulting in the aircraft crashing and burning. The crew got out of the aircraft but the pilot died from wounds soon after arrival at the 24th Evacuation Hospital. The remainder of the period was spent in performing screening missions, VR's, and gunship support for operations in the Parrot's Beak and Angel's Wing area of Cambodia. Also supported was the Ben Cat Sub-sector whenever they had T.I.C.'s.

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AVBANY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(f) 21 July thru 1 August 1971. Troop F worked in Binh Duong Province for the 5th ARVN Division. The missions were VR's and gunship support for the 8th Regiment. Three days during this period were spent in support of the Fishhook area and Tonle Chan. There had been numerous reports of renewed enemy activity and bunker complexes in this AO. This was verified by the Pink Teams which received ground to air fire. The troop also supported T.I.C.'s in the Tonle Chan area resulting in 6 NVL KEH. There were 2 bunkers and 4 huts destroyed, 1 sampan and 1 bunker damaged. A Pink Team on VR around the Lai Kho Base Camp area discovered an 82mm mortar position and destroyed it. While providing gunship support to Ben Cat Regional Forces the troop got a confirmed 8 VC KEH. These VC were supposed to have been VC District Committee personnel attending a meeting. Most of the activity in this AO was within a 10 kilometer radius of Lai Kho Base Camp.

(g) 2 August thru 13 August 1971. Troop F again flew VR's and screening missions in support of the 25th ARVN Infantry Division around the Parrot's Beak area in Cambodia. One bunker, 18 huts, 1 sampan, and 1 fish trap were destroyed. The troop was credited with 5 NVL KEH. The operations here posed a minor problem when hundreds of civilians evacuated their villages ahead of the ARVN forces sweeping on the ground. Mixed in with the population were numerous males of military age who seemed to be avoiding contact with the ground troops. During one mission the Pink Team sighted a group of individuals dressed in black pajamas who, when the LOH got nearer to them, opened their jackets to show they were not men.

(h) 14 August thru 29 September 1971. The 5th ARVN Infantry Division's 7th, 8th, and 9th Regiments were the units directly supported during the period. Missions were VR's, screens for ground troops, and urgent dust-offs. The AO was from around Lai Kho north to the Cambodian border and Thuec Long Province. Fresh trail activity was noted along the streams and new bunkers and fighting positions were discovered. Much of the activity was around the Loc Ninh area. All activity was reported to the supported units who sent in ground troops. Three ground to air fire incidents with no hits were reported. While supporting the 9th Regiment the troop was assigned a special mission to insert and extract a TRC FRU in the vicinity of Deng Xoi. There were 7 bunkers, 5 huts, and 2 trucks destroyed. In support of Lai Kho Base Camp the Nighthawk spotted an estimated 40 VC reported by Ben Cat Sub-sector. Two LFT responded and engaged the enemy near the compound at Chan Luu XT820323. The enemy broke contact and withdrew north along the abandoned railroad tracks. A preliminary report of 8 VC KEH was changed to 17 KEH's two days later after RF troops swept the area. A total of 30 VC were KEH during the reporting period.

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AVRAUY-CC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(1) 30 September thru 31 October 1971. The AO changed to the Tay Ninh Province-Cambodia Border. Initial reports had indicated major enemy movements around FSB Pace, Hung Duc, Thien Ngon, Katum, and Tay Ninh City. The Troop provided an average of 4 Pink Teams, 1 C & C ship, and 1 lift ship in direct support of the 1st ARVN Airborne Division. Another AH-1G was OPCON to TRAC for use as a OH-47 escort. There were numerous reports of ground to air fire from AK-47, .30 caliber, and .51 caliber automatic weapons. One LOH received .51 caliber automatic weapons fire which wounded the observer and damaged the aircraft. The Troop discovered decking sites along the streams and rivers, supply caches, bunker complexes, fighting positions, and NVA/VC troops in the woods and in the open. The Troop often did bomb damage assessments for Air Force air strikes. It also inserted LRRP's into suspected enemy areas. During T.I.C.'s the 'obras accounted' for 16 KBH's during this reporting period.

(5) Air Cav Troop, 2/11 Armored Cavalry Regiment:

(a) 1 May thru 16 June 71. The Air Cav Troop supported the 18th ARVN Division. The in-country mission was from Thien Ngon westward through the Dog's Head into the Kampong Trach area in Cambodia. The Air Cav Troop conducted VR's of the Thum Krok Rubber Plantation and westward to the Chup Rubber Plantation along Highway 7. From 1 May to 6 May 1971, the Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 48, 18th ARVN Division in Cambodia. The area covered was along Highway 7, from the Phum Krok Rubber Plantation (XU0201) west to the "CLAW" (WU0881). The Air Cav Troop performed VR missions for Task Force 52, 18th ARVN Division from Thum Krok Rubber Plantation east and northeast of Highway 7 from 7 May to 9 May 1971. From 10 May to 19 May 1971, the Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 48, in an area from Thien Ngon (XU0881) west through the Dog's Head and extending into Cambodia along the border. The Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 49 in Cambodia in the vicinity of the Chup Rubber Plantation from 20 May to 7 June 1971. From 8 June to 11 July 1971 the Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 50 in Cambodia due west of the Dog's Head and in the Kampong Trach area. The Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 43 from 12 June to 16 June 1971 performing VR missions west and northwest of the Phum Krok Rubber Plantation. During this period of observation there was no significant activity to be reported.

(b) 17 June thru 19 June 1971. During the period 17 June to 19 June 1971, the Air Cav Troop supported the 6th Ranger Group. VR's were made of a block cornered on the northwest by XU3995, on the northeast by XU3905, on the southwest by XU5095, and on the southeast by XU5005. Trail activity was very noticeable and well tended gardens were found in this area where there is very little civilian population.

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AVBLUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

(c) 20 June thru 25 June 71. The Air Cav Troop again went into Cambodia to support Task Force 50 in areas south and west of the Dog's Head. The Air Cav Troop also conducted a VA around XT0358 with very light activity revealed in this area.

(d) 26 June thru 29 June 1971. During this period the Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 48 in three small areas to the north, south and west of the Dog's Head. On 26 June at WT6869 a Viet Cong strong hold containing 30 bunkers and 20 structures were spotted and artillery was called in. A BDA revealed 4 structures and 13 bunkers destroyed with heavy damage to the others. On 28 June heavy traffic on Routes 155 and 109 was spotted moving northwest near a suspected border crossing point.

(e) 30 June thru 4 July 1971. On 30 June the Air Cav Troop worked a one day mission for the 18th ARVN Division in an area around XT0085. Activity in the area was very light. From 1 to 4 July the Air Cav Troop worked for Task Force 43 in an area southeast of Krok and along the border north of the Dog's Head. Much recent activity was reported, but there was no contact with the enemy. On 1 July a green and white bus in usable condition was spotted at WT884864. A Cobra engaged and partially destroyed the bus.

(f) 5 July thru 8 July 1971. Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 48 in an area around Thien Nhon and a small area at the tip of the Dog's Head during this period. Activity in these areas was very light with no permanent structures visible.

(g) 9 July thru 17 July 1971. During this period the Air Cav Troop worked for Task Force 43 with a two day mission on 12-13 July for Task Force 52. The area of operations for both missions was the Krok Rubber Plantation with no important activity noted. On 10 July a VA of a box command on the northwest by WT955617, the northeast by WT964613, on the southwest by WT954613 and on the southeast by WT963612 was performed. This area appeared to be a staging area with over 50 bunkers of various sizes. Recent activity was spotted in the area although no enemy were observed.

(h) 18 July thru 19 July 1971. The Air Cav Troop again worked in the Krok Rubber Plantation with Task Force 52, with no significant activity to be reported.

(i) 20 July thru 31 July 1971. During this period the Air Cav Troop supported the 3d Armored Brigade. The area of operations was around the same general area as worked on 18 and 19 July with Task Force 52 in Cambodia. On 21 July the Air Cav Troop sent three Cobras to support troops in contact at XT289569. On 23 July a village located at WT WU834995, was reported to have many NVA in it. While making a VA of the area the aircraft received small arms fire. Fire was returned destroying 6 structures. At WU9312 on 30 July a command and control

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AVRBUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

ship received ground to air fire from 23mm or .51 caliber machine guns. The aircraft received no hits. On 30 and 31 July numerous BDL's were performed with negative results. It can be concluded that this area was infested with enemy activity and attacks against the aircraft indicated the enemy had much fire power in the area.

(j) 1 August thru 2 August 1971. The Air Cav Troop supported the 3d Armored Brigade, in the same area as 20-31 July, but negative enemy activity was observed.

(k) 3 August thru 16 August 1971. The Air Cav Troop supported the 9th Regiment, 5th Division from 3 August to 16 August 1971. On 3 August a squad size element of Viet Cong were reported stopping a VW Bus to collect taxes, at XU891186. Later that day the Air Cav Troop supported ARVN's in contact at XT837937. There were negative WIA's or KIA's reported. This entire area had signs of fresh trail activity. On 6 August the Air Cav Troop was given a mission to conduct a BDL of a B52 strike at XU2820. This area appeared to be a base camp and many bunkers and structures had been damaged or destroyed. On 8 August a crash site of a CH-34, tail number 931 or 321, was spotted XU934247. The exact tail number could not be determined because of the tail section being burned. No enemy activity could be observed in the area. On 11 August at XU820125 support was rendered to ARVN's in contact with an enemy force of eight to twelve. ARVN troops had three WIA's who were medivaced to Fire Base B. On 12 August around XU9314 to XU9302 heavy enemy activity was observed and an ARVN Platoon engaged a squad size enemy force at XU211121 with negative friendly casualties and unknown enemy losses.

(l) 17 August 1971. The Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 50 for a one day mission around XU3730. The area showed signs of well tended gardens; however, there were no villages in the area.

(m) 18 August thru 29 August 1971. From 18 August to 29 August the Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 49 and Task Force 46. The area of operations (XT4050) with Task Force 49 showed very little activity from 18 to 22 August. The area of operations was changed to XT4320 and this area had many tunnels, fighting positions, and bunkers. This entire area showed signs of recent activity. On 23 August 1971 troops in contact were supported along a road located from XT488639 to XT450637. On 26 August 1971 while supporting Task Force 46 a command and control ship took ground to air fire at XT564236. There were no injuries although the pilot was hit in the protective vest. On 27 August a UH-1H wreckage was spotted at XT566233, but it appeared to be a very old wreckage and nothing more could be reported. On 28 and 29 August Task Force 46 was supported in an area bounded by XT32 grid line, 63 grid line and the Saigon River. Unusual activity was spotted in the vicinity of XT655288. Rice in a field was harvested between two over flights of the area and carried off between two other flights. This area is not inhabited. On 28 August a command and control

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

ship and a scout received ground to air fire in this area. The command and control ship took one hit, however the scout received negative hits. Artillery was called in, but a BDA revealed negative important results.

(n) 30 August thru 31 August 1971. The Air Cav Troop supported Task Force 49 and the 6th Rangers in four small areas of operations north and east of Trek Klok and east of French Fort. Movements through these areas appeared light with no activity observed.

(c) 1 September thru 2 September 1971. Support was rendered to the 49th Regiment west of the Razor Backs on 1 and 2 September. This area was laced with trail activity moving generally to the south-west, however, negative contact was made and the mission ended on 3 September.

(p) 4 September thru 7 September 1971. On 4 September while supporting Task Force 46 at XT652221 a scout took three hits in the underside of the aircraft. Three Cobras and artillery from Trung Lap engaged the area with unknown results. The second contact was made on 5 September when five males with weapons were observed running at XT573233 from XT576230. The latter grid was in an area which contained one fifteen by fifteen bunker. The Air Cav Troop reported three KDH's and two WEH's with one Cobra being hit in the tail section. Ground forces found two AK-47's, one Chicom K-54 Pistol, and one RPG-2 launcher. The WEH's became POW's and were evacuated for interrogation. ARVN ground forces killed an additional four enemy soldiers. Information from the POW's disclosed they were part of a small local force Viet Cong squad from that area. On 6 September at XT662247 a scout received ground to air fire resulting in one hit and negative injuries. Cobras entered the area and two structures, one six foot section of a tunnel, and two large bags of rice were destroyed. A command and control ship stayed in the area and spotted fifteen males with weapons. The door-gunnery engaged, but the males evaded into the woodline. Six OV-10's with CBU-55 and three Cobras engaged this area as well as artillery. Troops were inserted by boat at XT667244 to check out the area, but reported negative findings. Another scout received two hits at XT658247, wounding the observer and forcing the aircraft to abort the mission.

(q) 8 September thru 11 September 1971. During this period the Air Cav Troop supported the 6th ARVN Ranger Group. On 8 September at FSB Jamie (XT487722) a command and control ship, while sitting on the ground coordinating with the Rangers, received fire of unknown caliber with negative hits. A CH-47 coming into the resupply also received fire resulting in two hits. The source was located by a scout aircraft at XT509728. The scout received AK-47 and RPG rounds resulting in one AK-47 hit in the tail section. Aircraft in the area of operations continually received ground to air fire. It appeared that the fire was directed to cover up movement. At XT523744 and XT542738 a scout aircraft took fire on 10 September receiving 60 to 80 rounds with negative hits.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

Two Cobras expended on this area, but due to approaching darkness a BDA was not performed.

(r) 12 September thru 16 September 1971. The 49th Regiment was supported on a four day mission by the Air Cav Troop in an area encompassing the Razor Backs and an area to the northwest. Activity was very light in the area. On 14 September a special mission was received for a command and control ship and one Pink Team to VA a block north of Menut, Cambodia. Moderate activity was observed and appeared to be 6 to 12 hours old. Due to bad weather the mission was cut short. At 1730 hours the Air Cav Troop supported a troop in contact southeast of Dau Tieng. Gunships and a command and control ship went into the area and supplied air support to include medical evacuation until 2200 hours.

(s) 17 September thru 18 September 1971. On 17 September the Air Cav Troop continued to support the ARVN's in contact at Binh Dung Province southeast of Dau Tieng. Enemy contact was heavy until noon, however, after that only occasional light contact was made. On 18 September, the Air Cav Troop was in the same area until mid-morning, when a special mission with the 50th Regiment southwest of Thien Ngon was performed. One concrete bunker and two bunkers reinforced with sandbags were spotted and light activity was noted.

(t) 19 September thru 22 September 1971. 19 September to 22 September the Air Cav Troop supported the 3d Armored Brigade around the Phum Krok Rubber Plantation in Cambodia. This area showed signs of being used by troops passing through, rather than a permanent type activity.

(u) 23 September thru 25 September 1971. On 23 September the Air Cav Troop supported the 5th ARVN Rangers in an area east of the Phum Krok Rubber Plantation along Highway 7 with operations both north and south. Numerous trails, rest areas, lean-tos and fish nets were sighted, but there were no permanent structures and it appeared the enemy had only passed through this area.

(v) 26 September thru 21 October 1971. On 26 September while supporting the 6th ARVN Rangers, the Air Cav Troop was diverted to support troops in contact near Thien Ngon. At XT075832 one scout ship took fire and received one hit. A Cobra from another supporting unit was shot down at XT110760 and the Air Cav Troop's command and control aircraft picked up the crew. Five Cobras expended on the area and numerous secondary explosions were observed. An Air Force FAC took fire at XU053028 and a Cobra from the Air Cav Troop engaged and destroyed one .30 caliber position. On 27 September due to heavy enemy activity in the area two Cobras were used to cover one scout. At XT042045. At XT042045 one Cobra received ground to air fire and the Cobras expended on the area.

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AVBAUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. NCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

At XT053052 recent enemy activity was observed and a scout aircraft took ground to air fire, but received negative hits. On 28 September at XT060880 two Cobras took ground to air fire at XT075025, however, negative hits were received. At XU074058 two Cobras expended on a 12mm site and the ground forces verified the destruction of the site. During the week 1 October to 7 October general VR missions, support of troops in contact and escort of CH-47's, CH-54's and medivacs into different fire support bases and troop locations were conducted by the Air Cav Troop. The area east of Krek, Cambodia appeared to have a high concentration of enemy and this was where most of the contact was encountered. On 1 October one Cobra was shot down and burned on landing, however, the crew was extracted with negative injuries. On 5 October a command and control ship from the Air Cav Troop was hit by two .51 caliber rounds with the American LNO being hit in the leg and stomach. On 6 October the area north and northeast of the Dog's Head was still being worked with only light trail activity and no contact reported. On 7 October adverse weather conditions limited operations which could be performed, so the Air Cav Troop was diverted to work for the 16th ARVN Division. A BDA and VR of the Straight Edge Woods area showed little activity with movement mostly to the north. On 9 October one scout aircraft took ground to air fire at XU070015 and one Cobra took ground to air fire at XU044040. Neither aircraft sustained any hits. Air Cav Troop Cobras supported troops in contact at XU044041. Approximately 150 enemy were killed and numerous weapons were captured. On 10 October a command and control ship took ground to air fire at XU062033 however, receiving negative hits. On 12 October the Air Cav Troop supported troops in contact around Krek, Cambodia. Due to inclement weather missions could not be started until 1145 hours on 13 October. On 14 October an airstrike (CEU-55) was put in at XU062042 to clean the area of booby traps for ground forces of the 3d Aired Brigade. Ground forces reported 52 enemy KIL's at XU072038. A total of eight VMLF A-1E sorties were used from 15 October to 19 October. From 15 to 17 October the Air Cav Troop continued to support the 3d Aired Brigade around Krek, Cambodia with negative significant sightings and negative contact reported. On 18 October the Air Cav Troop worked in an area bordered by grid line XU07 west, XU15 south, XU23 north, and XU13 east. The entire area was heavily laced with trails and movement estimated to be within the last 24 hours. Also within the area a 1200 gallon tanker truck was spotted. Ten Cobras expended on the target with unknown results. On 19 October the Air Cav Troop worked the same area as the day before. Activity was light with only one significant spot. The tanker truck spotted on 18 October was gone on the 19th. On 21 October the Air Cav Troop worked three areas located at XU9119, XT1595, and XU2218. Three new .51 caliber pits were sighted by the command and control aircraft at XU223150. A scout aircraft engaged this area resulting in one enemy KIL.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

(w) 22 October - 31 October. The Air Cav Troop supported the 25th ARVN Division in several VR Blocks; one to the southeast and one to the east-northeast of Krek. A BDA of a B52 strike in the vicinity of WT981930 was performed with no damage to any structures indicated. Later, seven huts were spotted at XU234119 and a FAC (Sundog 14) engaged the area destroying four huts. No ground to air fire was received from this area but between the two VR's a scout bird noticed that straw mats which were covering crates had been moved. On 24 October, while enroute from XU233083 to the vicinity of XU255071 a scout ship received 10-15 rounds of AK-47 fire without taking any hits or damage. A VR of an NVN Base Camp area where he received fire, prior to departing to refuel, he received approximately 100 rounds from 10-15 individuals who appeared to be harvesting some type of crop. One round was taken through the fuel cell of the aircraft. Two light fire teams and one airstrike was expended in this area (XU255073) but no casualties were revealed from the BDA performed later. On 26 and 27 October 1971 weather played a primary role in that it limited VR missions which could be performed. A general VR was performed east of the Keyhole Rubber Plantation revealing light trail activity on 26 October. North of Krek a general VR revealed old bunkers and no recent activity in the area. A new base camp, at least regimental size, was spotted at vicinity of XU2716 on 27 October, but due to limited TAC air assets and closing weather the area was unable to be worked completely. A request was made to return to the area on 28 October, but instead of a VR mission between Krek and Keyhole Rubber Plantations was received. This area yielded only light trail activity. On 29 October 1971 the Air Cav Troop started to support the 25th ARVN Division but were assigned to the 50th Regiment in the area in the southern portion of the Boi Loi Woods. Two VR's were performed, one in the southern Boi Loi's and one in the Ho Bo Woods. Fresh activity was noted and could be classified as light to medium. At XT642299 one White Bird took fire. The aircraft sustained major damage and pilot and observer were both injured slightly. One of the Air Cav Troop's Cobras and one Playboy (334th) Heavy fire Team expended on the area with negative results spotted. On 30 October, while supporting the 50th Regiment in the Ho Bo Woods, a scout ship was hit at XT636300 by a suspected RPG round. The aircraft went down in a ball of fire and crashed. The command and control ship attempted twice to land at the crash site to locate the crew but because of heavy enemy fire a landing was not executed. On the third try the command and control ship picked up the pilot but the observer remained missing. Upon leaving the site the C & C ship took intense enemy fire sustaining one hit in the FM antenna. ARVN's were inserted in the area northeast of the crash site (XT6355307) to try to locate the missing observer. Within a short time the observer was found KIA, strapped in the seat of the charred helicopter. While extracting the ARVN's at XT630298 the trail ship received heavy fire while departing the pick up area again and was forced to land at XT592292. Another ship picked up the crew and ARVN's were inserted to secure the aircraft until maintenance personnel extracted the aircraft. The Air Cav Troop requested an Air Strike at

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AVIAUY-GC

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XT638298 but negative T/C assets were available. On 31 October 1971 while supporting the 25th Division in the area of the "Trapezoid", a scout ship spotted five VC moving along a trail at XT604455 towards the west. The scout engaged the VC and killed two. The area was engaged by a Cobra and artillery from FSB Andrews. A EDA revealed two VC killed by the scout and one additional VC probably killed by the eight inch artillery from FSB Andrews.

(6) 334th Aviation Company (Attack Helicopter):

(a) 1 May thru 31 May 1971.

(1) Mission V-34-5 (Falcon). There were no significant activities during the month of May. The mission continues to be the most non-productive mission and termination has been requested.

(2) Mission V-34-1. (5 minute ESB) During the period, 27 May to 1 June 1971, the 5 minute team flew in support of the 5th ARVN Division's withdrawal operation from the area around Snoul, Cambodia. In addition to the 5 minute team, one team from the V-33-1 mission and one extra light fire team were provided to support this operation.

(a) On 27 May 1971, a light fire team from this unit attacked and destroyed one mortar position and two .51 caliber positions.

(b) On 28 May 1971, a light fire team destroyed one .51 caliber position.

(c) Through the period of 30 - 31 May, elements of this unit destroyed seven huts at XU5933; one abandoned tank, coordinated artillery at XU6131; three abandoned tanks at XU6329; one .51 caliber position at XU6330; eight RPG positions at XU6330; and three secondary explosions at coordinates XU5534.

(3) Last Light Reconnaissance (LLVR)

(a) On 9 May, aircraft from this unit destroyed, one 122mm rocket and killing one person manning it, coordinates XT908239.

(b) On 18 May, destroyed one 107mm rocket at XT896235.

(b) 1 June thru 30 June 1971.

(1) V-34-5 (FALCON), no significant activities, cancelled 22 June 1971.

(2) V-34-1 (5 minute ESB).

(a) On 2 June 1971, aircraft from this unit attacked and destroyed one .51 caliber position at XU580320.

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(b) On 8 June 1971, the team engaged an estimated VC platoon at coordinates XT778238, estimated 4 KBH's.

(c) On 10 June 1971, the team engaged two sampans and an unknown size VC force at coordinates XS355907. Team was credited with two sampans destroyed and two confirmed KBH's.

(d) On 17 June 1971, aircraft engaged estimated VC Platoon at XT765350. Two confirmed kills were reported.

(e) On 21 June 1971, aircraft destroyed three bunkers at coordinates XS322905.

(f) On 26 June 1971, aircraft destroyed two military structures at YT069885, estimating one KBH.

(g) On 18 June 1971, the 334th Avn Co was assigned the additional mission of providing two AH-1G's for the 11th ACT to fly as high birds on Pink Teams. These aircraft were provided for three days and total results from this mission were; two military structures destroyed and one bunker destroyed with three estimated KBH's. All results were obtained on 20 June 1971 at coordinates XT553339.

(4) Last Light Reconnaissance (LLVR)

(a) On 5 June 1971, destroyed two 107mm rocket sites at coordinates XT845277 and XT890245. Also destroyed two bunkers and estimated four KBH's at XT894287.

(b) On 15 June 1971, aircraft destroyed two 107mm rockets at coordinates XT901237.

(c) On 20 June 1971, estimated three KBH's at coordinates XT902238.

(d) On 27 June 1971, one 107mm rocket was destroyed at coordinates XT903238.

(c) V-34-1 (5 minute ESB) 1 July thru 31 July 1971.

(1) On 5 July 1971, destroyed two military structures and two bunkers at coordinates XS4272.

(2) On 8 July 1971, aircraft engaged an unknown size VC force at coordinates XT390852, estimating 5 KBH's.

(3) On 9 July 1971, aircraft destroyed four bunkers and an estimated three KBH's at XT372855.

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. VBNUY-GC

Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

- (4) On 12 July, estimated 5 KBH's at coordinates XT588922.
- (5) On 19 July, estimated 10 KBH's at coordinates XT281565.
- (6) On 21 July, aircraft destroyed one bunker and had three confirmed KBH's at coordinates XS528984.

(d) 1 August thru 31 August 1971. V-34-1 (5 minute ESB)

- (1) On 2 August, aircraft destroyed seven military structures at coordinates WT695200.
- (2) On 16 August, aircraft destroyed two mortars and an unknown number of 107mm rockets, at coordinates XT443105. Aircraft from this unit destroyed one sampan, while the C and C estimated killing two personnel.
- (3) On 21 August 1971, aircraft engaged an unknown size enemy VC force at coordinates XT936234, estimating 5 KBH's.
- (4) On 25 August, the UH-1H C and C ship medivaced five wounded ARVN troops.

(e) Mission V-34-1 (5 minute ESB):

- (1) On 4 September 1971, the 5 minute ESB team attacked an unknown size force at XT400150, team estimated 5 KBH's.
- (2) On 8 September 1971, destroyed one 60mm mortar tube.
- (3) On 13 September 1971, the 5 minute team destroyed two military structures at XT4052.
- (4) On 15 September 1971, team achieved five confirmed kills and three bunkers destroyed at YT560104.
- (5) On 21 September 1971, the 5 minute team estimated 20 KBH's and four bunkers destroyed at XT915300.
- (6) On 26 September 1971, the 5 minute team at Tay Ninh destroyed one .51 caliber at XU058864. Later that day the team flew for the 25th ARVN Division and achieved two kills.
- (7) On 27 September 1971, at XT265365 the 5 minute team were able to confirm two KBH's.
- (8) On 30 September 1971, one .51 caliber position was destroyed.

(f) On 1 October 1971 the 334th Aviation Company (Attack Helicopter) was reassigned to the 145th Aviation Battalion.

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Subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 3d Squadron, 17th Air Cavalry, Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3)(U)

SECTION II

Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations

1. Personnel: None
2. Intelligence: Expedition of intelligence.
 - a. OBSERVATION: Many agent reports were being received on secure teletype 2 to 3 days after they were reported to US agent handlers. This, added to the time between an agent making an observation and his reporting to his handler, made much of the information 5-7 days old before it was in the hands of 3/17 ACS elements operating in the field who could exploit the information.
 - b. EVALUATION: With the constantly changing situation in a combat zone, many of these agent reports were useless because the reported enemy unit had moved out of the area before 3/17 ACS elements received the information. A closer liason with intelligence units operating within the 3/17 ACS area of operation was necessary.
 - c. RECOMMENDATION: Both field offices and user units should take it upon themselves to establish a liason system.
 - d. COMMAND ACTION: Liason has been established between the 3/17 ACS and a field team operating out of Phu Loi. As they receive the information typewritten copies are forwarded directly to 3/17 ACS. Using this system, it has been possible to cut the time span from the agent making an observation until the user unit receives it to as little as 12 hours.
3. Operations:
 - a. Utilization of Brown Platoons
 - (1) OBSERVATION: The location of the Brown Platoons restricts the capability of the Air Cavalry to operate anywhere in Military Region III.
 - (2) EVALUATION: The Brown Platoons are presently located in border areas mostly with the Border Ranger Battalions. In order to work the central portion of MR3 a Troop must pick up their Brown Platoon and then return. To work in the Phu Loi area a Troop wastes 12 blade hours (3 UH-1's x 1 hr x 4) during the day. The problem is magnified when working the Xuan Loc area.

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(3) **RECOMMENDATION:** That a Brown Company, consisting of 4 platoons, be established at Phu Loi or in close proximity to Phu Loi.

(4) **COMMAND ACTION:** This recommendation will be forwarded through command channels.

b. Training of New Aviators - AH-1G

(1) **OBSERVATION:** The transition of an aviator from the front seat to the back seat of an AH-1G presents problems unique to this type of aircraft due to the difference in the flight controls, instruments, and visibility. Often when a pilot begins his transition from the front to the back seat, he has not flown in the back seat for several months, therefore his tactical training must be delayed until he becomes proficient in flying from the back seat.

(2) **EVALUATION:** Before actually becoming an Aircraft Commander (AC) or pilot - in - command (PIC) of an AH-1G, a pilot should be given as much time as possible in the back seat to become familiar with the instruments, flight controls, and other aspects of flying the AH-1G from the rear seat. By doing this, he is better prepared to concentrate on the tactical aspects rather than having to concentrate on flying the aircraft when he is becoming a PIC or AC. He should know how the aircraft is going to react during dives, pull-outs, and high-G maneuvers before being placed in a situation where he must concentrate on controlling the aircraft and the tactical situation at the same time. This becomes extremely important when escorting un-armed aircraft into LZ's where they may receive hostile fire from any direction and a tactical decision must immediately be made.

(3) **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That new AH-1G aviators fly as much back seat time as possible after their initial orientation in country. Flights to staging areas, test fires, and other non tactical flights provide excellent training opportunities for new AH-1G aviators. Practice rocket runs and fire team attacks on simulated targets will aid in a smoother more effective transition when the pilot is preparing to fly tactical missions from the back seat.

(4) **COMMAND ACTION:** This information is being distributed to all subordinate units in a Lessons Learned bulletin.

c. Use of Ground Guides While Positioning Aircraft in Revetments:

(1) **OBSERVATION:** Recent policy dictates that all aircraft being positioned in and out of revetments will have ground guides. This policy has caused several near accidents and/or incidents.

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(2) EVALUATION: It has been found that it is not possible to divide one's attention between a ground guide and the rotortent while positioning the aircraft, especially in an AH-1G that is normally near its maximum gross weight. If the pilot attempts to concentrate on signals from the ground guide, he loses the feeling of motion of the aircraft that is most critical during this maneuver. Hovering in a confined space is a critical maneuver for a helicopter and it is very dangerous for the pilot to divert his attention away from control of the aircraft. The ground guides only communication with the pilot is visual (rather than audio), therefore the pilot must look at the ground guide if he is to be used. If the aircraft is cleared from inside the aircraft by a member of the crew, the pilot has audio communication with his guide, leaving his other senses to control the aircraft. In addition to the danger to the crew and aircraft, the ground guide himself is exposed to serious or fatal injury should the aircraft have a rotortent strike. The ground guide must position himself somewhere forward of the aircraft where he can be seen by the pilot, thereby exposing himself to a rotor strike or other injury should an accident occur.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS:

(a) That the use of ground guides be discontinued immediately before a serious accident occurs.

(b) That the unit's initiate a program of training new aviators in positioning aircraft in and out of rotortents, to include briefing crew members on what is required.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: A change in policy has been requested through command channels.

d. Turret Weapons System Training - AH-1G.

(1) OBSERVATIONS: New AH-1G aviators are not effectively trained in the operation, maintenance, and employment aspects of the AH-1G XM28E1 turret weapons system.

(2) EVALUATION: Lack of training on the turret weapons system has been the cause of several recent accidental firings and turret weapon malfunctions. We have found that this can be prevented by instructing the new aviators in the operation of the turret systems, including practical demonstrations, actually loading, aiming, and clearing the systems. Emphasis is being placed on the pilots themselves rearming and checking the operation of the turret weapons systems after a mission, because of the lack of training of the crew chiefs and other maintenance personnel on the systems. After implementing a policy of pilots themselves rearming (or at least carefully supervising the rearming) we have experienced an immediate, large decrease in turret malfunctions.

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(3) RECOMMENDATIONS: That new AH-1G pilots receive a detailed class on the operation, maintenance, and employment of the XM28E1 weapons system upon their arrival at the unit. The class should be given at the platoon/section level to allow for as much practical instruction as possible. Other aviators in the platoon/section should present the class, thereby constantly increasing their knowledge of the system.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: Subordinate units have been directed to insure that all AH-1G pilots have a thorough knowledge of rearming procedures. All units are encouraged to have their pilots take an active part in the rearming of AH-1G's.

e. .51 Caliber Environment:

(1) OBSERVATION: During the recent operation near Snoul, Cambodia, numerous enemy .51 cal positions were encountered, placing aviators in an environment and situation that most were unfamiliar with.

(2) EVALUATION: The major problem in dealing with .51 cal positions was knowing their positive location. On a number of occasions during an attack on a particular target, an aircraft would receive heavy fire from all sides. The biggest danger was not so much known .51 cal positions as it was the other .51 cal's located in the vicinity of the target area. A number of aircraft received hits; most of these were taken from enemy positions not in the target area, but located in the immediate vicinity. Once a .51 cal position was positively located, it could be destroyed. The turret proved very effective as an initial suppressive weapon. During the attack, the co-pilot/gunner should never direct his attention solely at the target area, but keep a constant watch to the sides and rear to detect enemy fire and positions and to place suppressive fire on these during the break. A constant change in the direction of attack and break (friendly situation allowing) also proved effective. Altitude had certain advantages, one of which was, it afforded a smaller and more difficult target. The disadvantage of high altitude is the reduced accuracy of the AH-1G weapons systems. It was found that the best defense against a .51 cal position was not always altitude, but an intense, accurate attack on the position itself.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS: Aviators flying in a .51 cal environment should stay constantly abreast of enemy .51 cal positions as they are reported. While attacking targets, the co-pilot/gunner's attention should be directed to the sides and rear of the aircraft to detect enemy fire as soon as possible. Pilots should limit their altitude to that which still affords them the capability of delivering immediate, accurate fire on enemy positions.

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(4) **COMMAND ACTION:** This information is being distributed to all subordinate units in a Lessons Learned Bulletin.

f. Use of Heavy Fire Teams, .51 Caliber Environment:

(1) **OBSERVATION:** During the recent operation, light fire teams were not found to be highly effective against numerous .51 cal positions.

(2) **EVALUATION:** While attacking known enemy locations, the fire teams came under fire from enemy .51 cal positions scattered throughout the enemy area. Usually the .51 cal positions were at a location other than the target being attacked by the fire team. These .51 cal positions were able to place effective fire on the fire team while the aircraft were going outbound or preparing to turn inbound. The fire team was usually not in a good position to attack the newly discovered enemy locations. The 7.62 minigun proved to be an effective defense against these positions, when altitude was such that it permitted effective engagement. The altitudes used to attack the targets varied from 2500 to 4500 feet AGL. At higher altitudes, the fire could not be placed on the target with the degree of accuracy needed to neutralize the .51 cal position, although the higher altitudes did place the aircraft beyond maximum effective range of the .51 cal. Most of the aircraft sustaining hits did so at the lower altitudes. However, with an aggressive attack from around 3500 feet AGL, accurate fire could be placed on the target and the target destroyed. Additional advantages were obtained by using heavy and heavy-heavy fire teams (3 and 4 AH-1G) to engage known .51 cal positions; once it is located, it can be destroyed.

(3) **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That a heavy fire team or more be used to engage known heavy caliber enemy positions. The altitude used to engage known heavy caliber enemy anti-aircraft positions should be that which will allow accurate and intense fire to be placed on the target (3000-3500 feet AGL).

(4) **COMMAND ACTION:** This information is being disseminated for consideration by subordinate unit commanders.

g. .51 Caliber Configurations.

(1) **OBSERVATION:** Twice in the past six months one Air Cav Troop observed extensive .51 caliber configurations. In both instances there were far more gun positions observed than there were anti-aircraft weapons. In both instances the positions were in the open, but located within 50 meters of a woodline or densely vegetated area. In each case the positions were arranged in groups of three in a triangular pattern with the distance between positions ranging from 25 to 30 meters apart. Where one group of three was observed, another group along an

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adjacent woodline was also observed. This second group would be secondary positions in case the first group was sighted or given away by firing. The second group of positions would be located from 200 to 400 meters from the first group and would cover the same fields of fire. If active positions were observed and not destroyed, and observation on the area was not continuous, subsequent attacks on the first positions would be engaged from the secondary positions. In all cases where the initial positions were destroyed, no fire was ever received from the secondary positions. It is significant to note that the majority of enemy initiated firings came from the aircraft's 6 O'clock position, thereby decreasing enemy vulnerability to detection and destruction.

(2) EVALUATION: It is apparent from the above observations that the enemy uses secondary positions to fall back to when primary anti-aircraft positions are observed or given away in the process of engaging aircraft. This method of employment is highly effective when continuous observation cannot be maintained until the primary positions are destroyed. The US Army does not yet have a helicopter mounted weapons system (20mm included) which is capable of destroying a well positioned and manned .51 caliber position without subjecting the crew of the attacking aircraft to undue risk. The US Air Force has this capability, but is for the most part not responsive enough to prevent that period of non-observation when the secondary positions are occupied.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS:

(a) That information of this type be disseminated to aviation units as soon as possible without regard to security classifications.

(b) That appropriate agencies continue to research helicopter armament systems with the intent of providing a weapons system with a high degree of reliability, a high percentage of first round hits, and destructive power roughly equivalent to a 105mm HE round.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: This information is being distributed in a Lessons Learned Bulletin.

4.(U) Organization: None

5.(U) Training: None

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6.(C) Logistics

a. Care and Turn-in of Ammunition.

(1) OBSERVATION: Small arms ammunition was not being properly cared for and unserviceable ammunition was not being turned in to 3d Ordnance Battalion.

(2) EVALUATION: 3d Ordnance policy regarding the turn-in of unserviceable ammunition was not known or adhered to. Cobra pilots were unloading their aircraft prior to periodic inspections and leaving the minigun and 40mm ammunition on the ground and disregarding it instead of restacking it in a can for future use. The Navy Seawolves were not properly caring for minigun ammunition taken from the rear point.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Check with 3d Ordnance on proper turn-in procedures for small arms ammunition and advise all ammunition handlers and users of the proper care of ammunition.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: 3d Ordnance policy regarding the turn-in of small arms ammunition is now being adhered to and all ammo handlers and users have been briefed on the proper care of ammunition. ✓

b. Shortage of Barrier Material

(1) OBSERVATION: A critical shortage of barrier material existed during the period July thru September 1971.

(2) EVALUATION: The phase down and reduction of United States strength in the 3d Military Region was expected to bring about a lessening of the demand on items such as concertina wire, sand bags, engineer stakes, and B-40 (chain link) fence. However, with fewer troops, the demand increased substantially and could not be met by depot.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That estimates be made by all units of their future needs of barrier type material to enable depot to have the material available.

(4) COMMAND ACTION: Requested estimates on barrier type material from all elements of this command, and forward the estimates to 12th C&G.

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7. (U) Communications: None

8. (U) Material: None

9. (U) Other: None

John E. Dugan
JOHN E. DUGAN
LTC IN
Commanding

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AVBAGC (10 Nov 71) 1st Ind

11 DEC 1971


SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65 (R3) (U)

DA, Headquarters, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO San Francisco 96384

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHDO-DO
APO San Francisco 96375

This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report - Lessons Learned
for the period ending 31 October 1971 and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


MATTHEW SANGER
1LT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

AVHDO-DO (10 Nov 71) 2nd Ind

16 DEC 1971

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned of 3d Squadron, 17th Air
Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1971. RCS CSFOR-65(R3)(U)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375

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

This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the period ending 31 October 1971 from Headquarters, 3d Squadron,
17th Air Cavalry and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Laurence E. Parks, Jr. 1LT
E. L. HONSOWETZ
CPT. AGC.
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
1st Avn Bde
3/17th Air Cav

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GPOP-FD (10 Nov 71) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, HQ 3d Squadron,
17th Air Cavalry for Period Ending 31 October 1971,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R3) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 21 JAN 1972

TO: HQ DA (DAFD-ZA), WASH DC 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


L.M. OZAKI
GPT. AGC
Asst AG

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13. ABSTRACT

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