

## **ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

**(RCS CSHIS—6 (R2))**

### **3rd Squadron 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment**

**1 January 1967 - 31 December 1967**

#### **3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Commanders**

**Lt. Col. Palmer A. Peterson, September-December 1966; Lt. Col. Arthur F. Cochran, December 1966-July 1967; Lt. Col. Hillman Dickinson, July 1967 January 1968; Lt. Col. Neal Creighton, January-July 1968; Lt. Col. John W. McEnery, July 1968-June 1969; Lt. Col. David K. Doyle, June-December 1969; Lt. Col. George C. Hoffmaster, Jr., December 1969-March 1970; Lt. Col. Bobby F. Griffin, March-October 1970; Lt. Col. Frank E. Varljen, October 1970-March 1971.**

##### **Summary of Year's Activities.**

Early 1967 found the "Workhorse of the Blackhorse" involved in several operations in Central Long Khanh Province, III Corps Tactical Zone, to include War Zone D. The impetus created by the troopers of the "Workhorse" continued in the traditional cavalry spirit as the effects of mobility, firepower and shock effect drove the Viet Cong from his rest and supply areas. By the late months of 67, the Workhorse had traversed the entire length and width of Long Khanh Province, and they completed the year with security and reconnaissance operations in the northern sector of the III Corps Tactical Zone.

##### **Breakdown of Monthly Activities**

During the initial weeks of 1967, the 3d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, commanded by LTC Arthur Cochran, participated in 3 different operations.

Operation GLEN BURNIE was conducted during the first part of January. Intelligence reports indicated that BINH LOC hamlet, LONG KHANH Province, was a Viet Cong dominated supply center as well as a safe haven for Viet Cong political personnel. Thus, it was decided to cordon and search the hamlet. Prior to completing the seal at 030710 January 1967, elements of the 52nd ARVN Ranger Battalion were airlifted east of the hamlet to establish a blocking position. A systematic search and interrogation of the villagers followed without significant results. Operation GLEN BURNIE was a success in that it removed the village from Viet Cong domination and opened it for Revolutionary

Development. To facilitate movement the Squadron used a CH-47 Chinook to airlift and emplace a section of bulk bridging at a critical crossing site.

On 8 January, 1967, the Squadron road marched from Blackhorse into BINH DUONG Province where the Squadron became OPCON to the 173d Airborne Brigade and initiated Operation CEDAR FALLS. CEDAR FALLS was a reconnaissance in force operation intended not only to seek out Viet Cong locations and equipment, but also to deny the Viet Cong further refuge in the Iron Triangle area. The Iron Triangle was sealed by the 25th Infantry Division to the west and south along the SAIGON River, by the 1st Infantry Division along Route 13, and by the 173d Airborne Brigade to the north. After Searching Route 13, elements of the Squadron traveled southwest from BEN CAT and entered the northern sector of the Triangle on the road from BEN CAT to Route 14. For the remainder of the operation the Squadron secured convoys on these routes and assisted in route clearing operations. In addition, elements of the Squadron made trails into the southwest sector of the Iron Triangle and uncovered several bunkers, trenches, and tunnels, and captured assorted weapons, food, documents and equipment. Night ambush patrols and daylight sniper patrols accounted for ten (10) enemy dead. Some friendly casualties resulted from anti-personnel and anti-tank mines as well as from sniper fire. Operation CEDAR FALLS terminated on 24 January.

Three days later the Squadron, minus Troop I, became OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division to participate in Operation COLBY. The CP and Howitzer Battery road marched to an area south of the ONG QUE rubber plantation to establish a fire support base. On the same day Troop I became attached to the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry and established a blocking position north of PHU MY, Teams K, L, and M laagered in an area northwest of PHU MY. During the next three days elements of the Squadron discovered 340 bunkers, 12 huts, and captured some documents and medical supplies. Operation COLBY terminated on 30 January. On 31 January the Squadron still OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division, initiated Operation IOLA by securing a portion of Route 15 from BA RIA to PHY MY, The purpose of Operation IOLA was to secure the move of the main body of the newly arrived 9th Infantry Division from VUNG TAU to their base camp at BEARCAT.

4 February marked the beginning of Operation MUNCIE in which the Squadron (minus Troop I) conducted a road march south on Route 15 to BA RIA and then north on Route 2. That night the Squadron laagered at DUC THANH. This was the first time that any allied force had traveled north on Route 2 from BA RIA to DUC THANH. The Squadron conducted reconnaissance-in-Force operations east and west of Route 2 from DUC THANH north to CAM MY. The Squadron continued to maintain responsibility for a section of the perimeter of the regimental base camp. Troops were periodically rotated to Blackhorse to assume the base camp security mission and the security of Route 2 from Blackhorse south to CAM MY.

During TET, (8—12 February), the Squadron maintained a series of troop size strong points along Route 2 in an attempt to prevent enemy re— Supply through the area. While not violating any of the truce agreements, it is felt that the Squadrons presence in the area

hampered Viet Cong resupply as well as denied the Viet Cong the opportunity to enjoy holiday visits with their families and friends. During this period the Squadron had PSYOPS speaker missions flown with the intention of inducing the Viet Cong to rally to the government.

The TET truce period ended on 12 February, at which time the Squadron resumed Reconnaissance-in-Force operations along Route 2 until 15 February When Operation MUNCIE Terminated. While on Operation MUNCIE, the Squadron conducted six (6) MEDCAPS, treating a total of 500 people.

On 19 February the Squadron commenced a road march from Blackhorse to TAY NINH Province in order to participate in Operation JUNCTION CITY The Squadron arrived at a laager position south of TAY NINH city on the following day. On 21 February the Squadron moved north to a forward assembly area in preparation for an attack further north. On 22 and 23 February the Squadron attacked north, making no significant contact during the attack nor during subsequent reconnaissance operations. In early March Team L commanded by CPT Mengal, captured a Chinese radio complete with generator and antenna, This radio was only the second of it's kind to be captured by US Forces, and the only one to be in operational condition. On the morning of 7 March the Squadron attacked west in sector as part of a regimental attack just south of the Cambodian border. The Squadron then provided a blocking force south of the border. The Squadron returned to base camp on 15 March, thus terminating its participation in Operation JUNCTION CITY. During the operation, three PSYOP missions were flown in TAY NINH Province.

Upon termination of JUNCTION CITY, the Squadron immediately resumed Operation KITTY HAWK, the continuing mission of securing the Blackhorse base camp and surrounding area. The mission required a troop size force at GIA RAY rock quarry and another troop to secure the base camp perimeter and provide convoy escorts. The Howitzer Battery provided fire support for the base camp.

On the morning of 21 March, Troop I dispatched a platoon to reinforce an ARVN unit which had been overrun by an estimated Viet Cong battalion south of GIA RAY. The Squadron spent the remainder of the month alternating it's troops between base camp security, convoy escort, and securing GIA RAY rock quarry. The Squadron was relieved of the KITTY HAWK mission on 31 March,

On 1 April the Squadron initiated participation in Operation JUNCTION CITY II by marching from Blackhorse to LAI KHE; The Squadron assumed the mission of securing Route 13 from LAI KHE to CHON THANH, and escorting convoys to QUAN LOI. After the convoys had passed each day, the Squadron managed to conduct local reconnaissance operations. Throughout the entire operation there were no incidents of enemy interference with the convoys in the Squadron's sector along Hwy 13. On 6 April, Team L became OPCON to the 2nd Squadron for operations west of Hwy 13. While OFCON to the 2nd Squadron, Team L had minor enemy contact and captured several tons of rice, On 10 April, Team M, commanded by CPT Gerald Warner, conducted a Cordon and Search of a Viet Cong controlled hamlet northeast of CHON THANH in

conjunction with an RF Company from CHON THANH District. The following day Team I sprung a Viet Cong ambush as a result of their reconnaissance by fire. In the ensuing combat the troop killed four enemy and captured several weapons as well as a quantity of ammunition, Operation JUNCTION CITY II terminated on 18 April.

On 19 April 1967, the Squadron moved to an assembly area in LAI KHE, in order to prepare for Operation MANHATTEN. The Squadron initiated. MANHATTEN with an attack north, astride Hwy 13. Only token Viet Cong resistance was encountered during this move. During the period 24 April-11 May the Squadron conducted Reconnaissance-in-Force operations with each team making extensive use of stay-behind patrols. Enemy contact during this phase was light, however the operation did uncover 18 small base camps, all of which were destroyed., On 28 April Team L made contact with the enemy and in a short fire-fight the L Troop Commander, CPT James Stephens, was killed. Operation MANHATTEN terminated on 12 May; and the Squadron returned to Blackhorse Base Camp south of XUAN LOC.

Upon its return to Blackhorse, the Squadron resumed Operation KITTY HAWK. On 21 May the 1st platoon of K Troop, commanded by LT Michael Boyd, was escorting an engineer resupply convoy along Hwy 1 from GIA RAY to Blackhorse. At 0850 hours, approximately 300 meters west of SOUI CAT, the platoon was ambushed by a reinforced battalion from the 274th Viet Cong Regiment. Several hours of heavy fighting ensued before the Viet Cong broke contact and fled from the battle field. A sweep of the ambush site turned up 30 Viet Cong bodies as well as numerous blood trails. The Squadron had 16 men killed and 26 wounded during this encounter.

There were many acts of individual heroism,, the most notable being that of PSG Homer Pittman. PSG Pittman's ACAV was hit in the initial burst of RPG fire and was set on fire, He immediately dismounted the weapons and ammunition and continued to engage the enemy until he could get to another ACAV. He then moved up and down the road, through the ambush, evacuating the wounded. PSG Pittman was later awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Vice-President Humphrey for his actions

The Squadron initiated Operation TULSA on 30 May, deploying along Hwy 1 in the vicinity of SOUI CAT. Its mission was to conduct local Reconnaissance-in-Force operations and to secure the GIA RAY rock quarry and engineer work parties along the highway. On the 2nd and 4th of June the Squadron cordoned and searched SOUI CAT and AP BAO MY respectively, neither search having any significant results. Operation TULSA was terminated on 6 June. The Squadron returned to Blackhorse and began to prepare for Operation AKRON I.

On the morning of 9 June the Squadron initiated Operation AKRON I with an attack south along Hwy 2. The Squadrons mission included local Reconnaissance in Force operations in the HAT DICH area, as well as providing engineer security along Hwy 2. Many of the civilians in the vicinity expressed a desire to resettle in a more secure area but had been prohibited from moving out by the Viet Cong. The Squadron's presence

reduced the effectiveness of the enemy's intimidation and many of these civilians took advantage of the opportunity to move to the "new life" hamlet of NGAI GIAO.

Three hamlets within the Squadron's area of operations - LANG LOM, XA BANG, and HOUNG LA - were cordoned and searched with the assistance of local officials without significant results.

At 1900115 June, two vehicles on the Squadron CP perimeter were hit by anti-tank fire. Immediately following came an attack by the first and second battalions of the 274th Viet Cong Regiment, reinforced by the regimental heavy weapons company and the 5th Viet Cong Division anti-aircraft weapons company. The attackers were armed with small arms, machine guns, mortars, recoilless rifles, M79 grenade launchers, and RPG-2 anti-tank weapons. The perimeter was attacked from three sides and subjected to an intense volume of fire. Team K and Headquarters Troop, who were manning the perimeter, reacted quickly and laid down a heavy volume of suppressive fire. Mortar fire from the provisional mortar battery laagered with Team M, and 175 MM and 8" artillery from NUI DAT were requested and fired within 100 meters of the perimeter. By 0145H Light Fire Teams from Blackhorse had arrived on station and were providing suppressive rocket fire. A flare ship and two armed CH-47's also supported the defense. At 0200 hours the enemy fires subsided and the attackers began to withdraw. Prior to the attack, the ambush patrols and listening posts, which were approximately 400 meters and 75 meters outside the perimeter respectively, reported enemy movement in their vicinity. These patrols remained in position and continued to inform Squadron Hq's of the direction and scope of the attack. A sweep of the battle field at first light revealed 56 Viet Cong Bodies. In addition 2 wounded prisoners were taken, Nine (9) troopers in the Squadron were killed and 32 were wounded. This battle was known as the battle of "Slope 30".

Aside from the platoon from the 919th Engineer Company destroying 15 mines along Hwy 2, and the discovery of numerous base camps, the Squadron had no significant activity throughout the remainder of the operation, which concluded on 27 June.

Between Operations AKRON I and EMPORIA I, the Squadron resumed Operation KITTY HAWK. During this period the Squadron continued to improve its relations with the village of CAM MY, especially with the day school operated by Father John.

The Squadron commenced Operation EMPORIA I on 21 July 67. EMPORIA was designed as a land clearing operation along Route 20 from GIA TAN to the LA NGA river bridge. The 3d Squadron's mission was to provide security for the engineer land clearing teams and to conduct local reconnaissance operations.

At 0936 hours the lead troop, Troop L, was ambushed along Highway 20 approximately 4.5 km north of the hamlet of IA BINU HOA, The ambush was staged by elements of the 275th Viet Cong Regiment and the 1st Bn of the DONG NAI Regiment reinforced. The L Troop commander CPT William Abernathy was killed in the initial volume of fire and LT George W. Powers the 3d Platoon Leader assumed temporary command. LT Powers

reported that there was numerous casualties and requested all available support. Light fire teams had been dispatched on initial notification of the ambush and were soon placing suppressive rocket fire into the ambush area. One gunship was subsequently shot down and four others received hits, The Squadron Commander, LTC Hillman Dickinson, ordered Teams I and H to flank the ambush and to sweep thru the ambush site. They were deployed on the flanks at 1100 hours, Team I on the east and Team M on the west. Team K was moved into the killing zone to relieve the pressure on Team L. Enemy resistance finally ceased at approximately 1400 hours. Sweeps of the ambush sites revealed that 96 Viet Cong had been killed; in addition numerous crew-served and individual weapons were captured. The squadron had 14 men killed and 57 wounded. There was no other enemy contact on Operation EMPORIA I. Operation EMPORIA I terminated on 2 August with the completion of a class 60 engineer float bridge.

On the 3d of August the squadron crossed the bridge thus initiating OPERATION EMPORIA II. The purpose of this phase was to clear the jungle away from both sides of Highway 20 north to the northern boundary of LONG KHANH Province. The operation included joint operations with the 52nd ARVN Ranger Battalion. The cooperation and efficiency of the Squadron, Engineers, and the 52nd Ranger Bn was outstanding and the operation was completed in less than half the time originally estimated. During Phase II, the attached engineer platoon from the 919th Engineer Company continued to evaluate and upgrade the RF/PF compounds. In addition, a new outpost was constructed in the vicinity of the LONG KHANH Province boundary. EMPORIA II terminated on 18 August. The Squadron returned to Blackhorse and again resumed Operation KITTY HAWK.

Operation VALDOSTA I was initiated on 1 September to preclude Viet Cong interference with the Vietnamese National Elections on 3 September. During the initial phase of the operation Troop K found and removed several roadblocks along Route 1. It later provided security for an engineer work party while repairs were made on a culvert destroyed by the Viet Cong in an attempt to disrupt traffic along Hwy 1.

On 3 September the 2nd platoon of Troop K established contact with a small force of Viet Cong just south of HUNG NGHIA, killing two of the enemy and discovering food, weapons, and the local finance center. The following day Troop K, lead by CPT William Boice, engaged a 40 man Viet Cong force in the same area, resulting in 8 Viet Cong killed. Two troopers from K Troop were killed in this action. Operation VALDOSTA I terminated on 6 September.

Operation EMPORIA IV was also initiated on 1 September and did not terminate until 15 September. The Squadron's mission was to secure engineer work parties along Highway 2 south of Blackhorse. During the operation the Squadron had several light contacts in the BA BIEN region east of base camp. In addition five supply caches were discovered, the most significant containing an ARVN jeep and trailer which had been stolen by the Viet Cong.

On 15 September the Squadron commenced Operation ARKANSAS CITY I, which was a reconnaissance-in-force in an attempt to locate and destroy elements of the 274th Viet Cong Regiment. The squadron established blocking positions along Highway 2 from Blackhorse to DUC THANH. From these locations patrols, both mounted and dismounted, were dispatched in an attempt to locate enemy base areas. Several base camps were discovered and destroyed. Operation ARKANSAS CITY I terminated on 21 September.

During the period 13-20 September Troop K was OPCON to the 11th ACR and secured an ARVN fire support base 10 kilometers east of GIA RAY on Operation Quicksilver III.

Operation RICHMOND was a 6 day engineer security operation during the period 22-28 September. The Squadron secured engineer road repair efforts north of DINH QUAN along Highway 20. The Squadron also conducted Reconnaissance-in-Force operations in close cooperation and coordination with the 52nd ARVN Ranger Bn. There was no enemy contact during Operation RICHMOND. Upon the termination of Operation RICHMOND the Squadron returned to Blackhorse and resumed Operation KITTY HAWK. Each troop also conducted a 5 day refresher training program.

During the period 20-23 October the Squadron participated in Operation VALDOSTA II. Operation VALDOSTA II was designed to prevent Viet Cong attempts to disrupt the Vietnamese lower house elections on 23 October. To accomplish this mission the squadron positioned reaction forces throughout the central portion of LONG KNANH Province.

From 23 October to 28 October the Squadron resumed Operation KITTY HAWK. Extremely successful Reconnaissance-in-Force operations were conducted in the KIEM TAM District. Over 500 bunkers were found and destroyed; in addition several pounds of documents pertaining to a Viet Cong village headquarters were captured.

During the period 1 November - 3 December the squadron participated in Operation SANTA FE. Operation SANTA FE was designed to open highway 1 from GIA RAY TO HAM TAN on the South China Sea. Phase I was the deception plan. During this phase the squadron moved two troops and its headquarters to a FSPB in the vicinity of GIA TAN. The purpose of the deception plan was to lead the Viet Cong into thinking the major operation would be conducted along highway 24 south of the DONG NAI River. The squadron initiated Phase II on 3 November as it attacked with troop M along Highway 1 to establish a fire support base 20 km southeast of GIA RAY. The Howitzer Battery followed Troop K., The remainder of the Squadron joined K Troop on the afternoon of 3 November. No enemy contact was made during the attack..

During Phase II the squadron established blocking positions along Highway 1 and conducted reconnaissance operations both east and west of the route in attempt to locate elements of the 5th Viet Cong Division.

On 16 November Team M, commanded by CPT Ivan Magee, found a Viet Cong base camp at the base of the MAY TAO mountain. At this location Team M captured a Viet Cong who stated that there had been a reinforced Viet Cong company in the area. On the following morning the Squadron directed its major effort toward the mountain. For the next five days the squadron, in conjunction with the 2nd Bn, 43d Inf Regt - (ARVN), conducted detailed dismounted reconnaissance operations on the mountain. Sporadic contact was made, resulting in 8 Viet Cong killed. Two helicopter landing zones were cleared on top of the MAY TAO for use in future operations.

On 21 November the Squadron and the 2/43 ARVN Inf extracted from the MAY TAO and continued to search the base for the remainder of the operation. A Viet Cong uniform factory, a small arms cache, as well as several small base camps and rest areas were located.

On 3 December the Squadron ended its participation in Operation SANTA FE and returned to Blackhorse. The Squadron resumed Operation KITTY HAWK and continued this mission until 28 December.

On 6 December the squadron was placed under direct control of the 9th Infantry Division with no change in its mission. To provide further security for Highway 1 the squadron established a troop sized patrol base in the vicinity of HUNG NGHIA

On 24 December a vehicle from K Troop was struck by an RPG anti-tank round, touching off three days of sporadic fire fights. During one engagement an OH-23 was shot down. WO James Carlton's skillful maneuvering precluded any injuries to himself or to his passenger, 1LT Richard Maloy, the acting K Troop Commander. During these engagements, the squadron had one man killed and six wounded. One Viet Cong body was found in subsequent sweeps.

The Squadron was relieved of the KITTY HAWK mission on 28 December. It departed Blackhorse on 30 December to rejoin the regiment on Operation FARGO. The Squadron marched from Blackhorse to LOC NINH, a distance of approximately 140 miles, was accomplished in about 12 hours. The move was made without enemy contact,

31 December 1967 found the squadron occupying a squadron laager position approximately 14 km northeast of LOC NINH in BINH LONG Province.

<http://www.itrp3-11acr.com/history67.html>

# **ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

**(RCS CSHIS-6 (R2))**

## **3D SQUADRON, 11 TH ARMORED CAVALRY REGIMENT**

**1 January 1968 - 31 December 1968**

### **Summary of Year's Activities.**

During January 1968, 3d Squadron participated in Operation FARGO, YELLOWSTONE, and CASEY in TAY NINH and BINH LONG Province.

### **Breakdown of Monthly Activities**

Operation FARGO was a regimental search and destroy operation designed to destroy the 271, 272, and 273 NVA Regiments, open Highway 13 between AN LOC and LOC NINH, and halt enemy infiltration from Cambodia. From 1-5 January 3/11 operated from FSB 5 km east of LOC NINH along Highway 14 in Northern LONG BINH Province. During this period there were light US casualties resulted from 4 light contacts. Displacing to a FSB in northeastern TAY NINH Province on 6 January, the Squadron encountered 15 AT mines considered to have been in place for over a year.

On 8 January Troops I, L, and M Company moved to northeast TAY NINH Province south of the "Fishhook" area. VC tank hunter-killer teams armed with AK-47's and RPG's were immediately encountered. The Squadron conducted one operation in coordination with one company of CIDG from the TONG LE CHON Special Forces Compound. This first encounter with CIDG support added increased flexibility to the Squadron. The Squadron established defensive positions on 14 January along Highway 13 and in the LOC NINH area. For the remainder of the month, the Squadron secured the Regimental FSA/CP Complex and provided escort for Log convoys between AN LOC and LOC NINH along Highway 13.

Operation FARGO terminated on 22 January with 2 US KIA, 12 US WIA, 2 VC KIA, 8 captured VC ~mines, 50 VC bicycles, 1 AK-47 with 400 rounds of ammunition, 6 grenades, and 31 gas mask. Numerous enemy fortifications were destroyed, 9 of the Squadron's ACAV's and 2 M48A3 tanks were destroyed by mines and RPG's.

On 10 January Operation YELLOWSTONE commenced with 3/11 OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division and operating with the 2/22 Mech on search and destroy missions along the Cambodian border. Several contacts were made with tank-hunter teams, resulting in 4

and 1 USAF KIA, 12 and 2 CIDG WIA, 2 enemies KIA probably resulted. 3 ACAV's were destroyed due to enemy action in Operation YELLOWSTONE.

Operation CASEY began on 23 January with the Squadron (minus I Troop) OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division continuing its security mission in the LOC NINH area along Highway 13 from LOC NINH to AN LOC. I Troop became OPCON to the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and moved from LOC NINH to DI AN and finally north of TAN UYEN in northern BIEN HOA Province. I Troop's mission was to secure jungle clearing teams in the TAN UYEN area until 20 February 1968.

From 31 January to 29 February the 3d Squadron participated in Operation ADAIRSVILLE, UNIONTOWN III, and SARATOGA. The most significant action occurred between 311400H January and 011600H February. During this period the Squadron (minus I and K Troops) moved from LOC NINH to BIEN HOA and fought a major battle to secure the compound of the III Corps (ARVN) headquarters. Towards the latter part of the month the Squadron moved to an area west of SAIGON to provide security for the TAN SON NHUT complex.

At 300300H January 1968, the enemy's TET Offensive was launched. On 31 January the Squadron (minus I and K Troops) moved from LOC NINH to BIEN HOA city, closing into ARVN III Corps Headquarters at 2315 hours. On 1 February Troop L and B Company 2/502 Airborne Infantry made contact with elements of the Viet Cong U-4 Battalion, while conducting search and clear house-to-house operation just outside III Corps Headquarters. An Air Cav LFT supported L Troop. At 011630 February, when contact was broken, there were 36 VC KIA (BC), 2 US KIA, and 9 US WIA. Only 1 US KIA and 7 US WIA was from L Troop.

The Squadron, now including I Troop, moved to a FSB 6 km south of LONG BINH Complex. I Troop was OPCON to the 2d Brigade, 1st Infantry Division on 5 February and moved to PHU LOI-TAN UYEN area. During the following 12 days I Troop had contact with the Viet Cong on 7, 12, and 14 February north of PHU LOI, resulting in 31 VC KIA. 1 VCC, 3 US KIA 6 US WIA and 1 ACAV destroyed. I Troop rejoined the Squadron on 17 February at LONG BINH.

From 7 February the Squadron was placed OPCON to the 199th Light Infantry Brigade (SEP), established a CP in the 199th LONG BINH Compound, and took part in Operation UNIONTOWN III. With infantry OPCON units, 3d Squadron had the mission of preventing VC ground attacks on the LONG BINH Complex. The Squadron conducted RIF operations in conjunction with Air Mobile assaults to sanitize the LONG BINH rocket belt. UNIONTOWN III netted 40 VC KIA and 8 VCC.

On 12 February Howitzer Battery supported by fire a 1st Infantry Division Air Mobile operation, receiving credit for 4 VC KIA (BC) 8 VCC, destruction of 8 VC weapons, 2 RPG rounds, and the capturing of 5,000 lbs of rice.

On 19 February the Squadron extracted from jungle NDP's 12 km east of LONG BINH and established 2 fords across the heretofore unfordable LA BUONG River. On 22 February, aided by A Troop 3/17 Air Cavalry, M Company located a local force supply company staging area. 100 lbs of TNT, 10 RPG-2 rounds, and 3 sniper rifles were included in material evacuated from the base camp area.

On 17 February L Troop was placed OPCON to the 2d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and moved to a laager position west of SAIGON. That same evening L Troop's perimeter was attacked by the U-1 VC Battalion. 24 VC KIA and 1 VCC with only 3 US WIA. L Troop nearly daily contact until 24 February, resulting in an additional 20 VC KIA (BC), 2 US KIA and 12 US WIA.

On 24 February the Squadron was OPCON to the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division and moved to occupy a FSB west of SIAGON. The mission was to provide distant security for TAN SON NHUT Air Base and the SIAGON Complex. RIF's were conducted along with aggressive patrol plan. During sweep operations conducted by I Troop, K Troop, and M Company on 26 February, 3 AK-47 rifles and 27 RPG rounds were Located.

I Troop received 22 rounds of 82mm mortar fire on 29 April, resulting in 20 US WIA. During the month of April the total combined Squadron effort resulted in 725 enemy bunkers destroyed, 49 VC KIA, and 5 VCC, Significant weapons caches were confiscated along with numerous documents, utensils, food, and medical supplies.

During the period 1-31 May the Squadron conducted security operations in the vicinity of the SIAGON-LONG BINH-BIEN HOA military complex. The Squadron or elements of the Squadron were OPCON to the 1st, 9th, and 25th Infantry Divisions, the 199th Light Infantry Brigade, and the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. Combat operations were conducted in BIEN HOA, GIA DINH, LONG AN, HAU NGHIA, and BINH DUONG Provinces.

The Squadron participated in Operation TOAN THANG from 1-13 May supporting 3rd Brigade units in contact in the CU CHI-PHU LOI area, and also conducted security operations south of SIAGON. On 6 May the Squadron was assigned the mission of clearing CU CHI City. Working with C Company, 2/22 Infantry, M Company moved into the village establishing contact with an estimated 2 Platoons of Viet Cong. During the intense street fighting which lasted 8 hours, Captain Wilson, M Company Commander was killed and 7 men were wounded. There were 14 VC KIA (BC) and 2 weapons captured. On 7 May contact was re-established southeast of CU CHI City and M Company, supported by the 22d Infantry, was credited with 6 VC KIA (BC). One tank was destroyed by enemy anti-tank fire and one trooper was wounded.

On 9 May I Troop (OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division US) re-acted to the NDP of the 4/23 Infantry, 5 km north of DUC HOA to counterattack and re-secure the NDP which had been penetrated by an unknown size enemy force. Three 155mm self propelled howitzers of the 25th Division were destroyed. I Troop killed 109 enemy and captured 7 more, suffering 5 KIA and 38 WIA. One ACAV was destroyed by an AT mine.

Troop L remained OPCON to the 1st Infantry Division from 1-12 May, Occupying an NDP 10 km northeast of PHU LOI. On 5 May and again on 11 May, L Troop made contact with VU Companies northeast of TAN UYEN, resulting in 106 VC KIA (BC), 9 VCC, and 24 weapons captured in the two engagements.

On 12 May, the Squadron moved into BIEN HOA and assumed the LONG BINH-BIEN HOA security mission. While performing this mission, Troops I, K, and L were at various times placed OPCON to the 3rd Brigade, 101st airborne division, and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

During the period 13-26 May there was no contact with the enemy. On May 28 the Squadron was placed OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division (US), moving and establishing a FSB west of SAIGON. Security operations were conducted for the remainder of the month.

Total results for May by all elements of the Squadron were 240 VC/NVA KIA (BC), 13 VC captured and 41 weapons (8 crew served) captured. US losses were 7 KIA and 43 WIA 2 tanks and 3 ACAV's destroyed.

From 1-10 June the Squadron conducted combat operations OPCON to the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division along Highway 1 between TAY NINH and CU CUI, From 11-30 June the Squadron secured Blackhorse Base Camp under Regimental control. The Squadron had no major contact with the enemy during this period.

On 5 June the Squadron CP at TRANG BANG received 60 rounds of 60mm, 82mm, and RP fire, followed by a ground attack. A fire team from the 25th Aviation Battalion was on station within 15 minutes, immediately receiving fire from 3 well placed 50 caliber machine guns. At first light, a sweep of the area resulted in the location of 7 VC/NVA bodies, 1 VC/NVA POW, and the capture of 4 weapons, 3 Chicon claymores, 2 bangalore torpedoes, and 30 RPG rounds. Seven troopers were wounded but none seriously. On 7 June the Squadron CP moved to FSB KOOKADURA and on 9 June received 20-25 rounds of 82mm mortar fire resulting in 1 US KIA and 3 US WIA. Counter mortar fire produced unknown results.

On 11 June the Squadron was released OPCON to the 25th Infantry Division and reverted to Regimental control, returning to Blackhorse Base Camp that same day. I Troop moved on 11 June to LONG BINH to secure the DONG NAI River Bridge and to provide RRF to II FFV. K Troop relieved I Troop of the LONG BINH security mission on 20 June. L Troop relieved K Troop of the mission on 20 June.

Operating in direct support of the 43rd Infantry Regiment (ARVN) from 12-17 June, L Troop secured a fire support base in the BAO BINH area and conducted local reconnaissance-in-Force operations. These operations resulted in 2 VC KIA and 5 POW detainees. L Troop had 1 US KIA and 2 US WIA, and 1 ACAV destroyed. From 23-26 June I Troop secured a FSB in the vicinity of the LA NGA Bridge. There was no enemy contact during this mission.

From 12-30 June the Squadron was charged with the security of Blackhorse Base Camp, the security of the LONG BINH-Blackhorse resupply convoys, and was directed to support the 18th ARVN Division with a minimum of one Troop/team. The Squadron had no major contact during this period. 55 enemy bunkers were destroyed during the month and 800 pounds of food supplies, 27 mines, 17 handgrenades and several 82mm mortar rounds, RPG rounds, and bangalore torpedoes were confiscated.

From 1-31 July the Squadron secured Blackhorse Base Camp under Regimental control, receiving no major contact during this period. The Squadron was also charged with the security of the LONG BINH-Blackhorse resupply convoys, with the clearance of route 1 to GIA RAY to permit the 31st Engineer Battalion to secure gravel from GIA RAY gravel pit, with the conduct of MEDCAP operations, and with the support of the 18th ARVN Division. The Squadron conducted 3 to 4 ambush patrols nightly, occasionally taking groups of 3-5 VC under fire, and successfully preventing VC mining activity along Route 2.

During the period 1-2 August the Squadron secured Blackhorse Base Camp, under Regimental control. On 3 August the Squadron displaced to field locations to continue Operation TANG THANG Phase II, under Regimental control. In conjunction with ARVN forces from 9-13 August, the Squadron conducted cordon and search operations in the BINH DONG Province villages of CHANH LUU, CHANH LONG, CAU DAT. On 14 August L Troop, with M Company reinforcing engaged an unknown size force and called in artillery and TAC air. 2 VC KIA resulted from this action and there were no US casualties. In the early morning hours of 15 August, Blackhorse Base Camp received 18 rounds of 122mm rocket fire. Three US casualties were sustained. On 19 August at fire support base Normandy II, Howitzer Battery received 20-30 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Counter mortar fire produced unknown results. There were no US casualties. On 24 August the joint cordon and search operation of CAU DAT with the RF/PF unit from BINH DUONG Province took place. In addition, from 21-31 August, the Squadron provided security for resource control points with the VN National Police.

Throughout the majority of the month of August, the Squadron was OPCON to the 1st Infantry Division, under Regimental control. The Squadron was charged with cordon and search operations within the Squadron's assigned area of operation, reconnaissance-in-force operations, night ambush patrols, and the security of ROME PLOW operations directed by 1st Infantry Division. During this period one troop was located in the vicinity of BEN CAT, with the mission of securing ROME PLOW operations. The Squadron tank company was deployed 13-31 August to Task Force PRIVETTE as RRF in the LONG BINH-BINH HOA complex. The remaining two troops conducted frequent reconnaissance-in-Force and cordon and search operations in the Squadron area of operations. The Squadron's Howitzer Battery was located at fire support base NORMANDY II OPCON to the 1st Division Artillery. During the month the Squadron captured 27 mines, 2 500 pound bombs, 64 rockets of various sizes, 17 rifles, 4 tons of food supplies, 2200 rounds of assorted ammunition, and 7 motorcycles. There were 11 VC/NVA KIA during the month and 1 POW. There was no US KIA during the month.

During the period 1-13 September the Squadron continues the operation TOAN THANG Phase II in the 1st Infantry Division TAOR, under Regimental control. On 14 September the Squadron displaced to the vicinity of TAN SON NHUT OPCON to the Capital Military Assistance Command under the control of the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, assuming the mission of RIF and RRF for certain key installations and areas within the Capital Military Assistance Command TAOR.

During the period 1-12 September the Squadron conducted cordon and search operations with the 5th ARVN Division in the villages of HOA LOI, CHANH LUU, and CHANH LONG. Information received by the 5th ARVN Intelligence at 041457H September, indicated the Phu Loi Battalion as located in the vicinity of HOA LOI. Troops I and K moved to seal the village through difficult, rice paddy terrain, over as much as 12 kilometers, in only one hour and 17 minutes from the initial receipt of intelligence information. L Troop made a 42 km road march from its NDP to the village from receipt of the movement order, without benefit of a warning order. Eight VC and 7 VC suspects were captured. The Squadron sealed PHU CHANH village in CHANH THANH District twice in September with the aid of 2/28th Infantry and the 1st Armored Cavalry Regiment (ARVN). The 4th Battalion, 8th Regiment, 5th ARVN Division conducted the search each time. Results were 2 VC KIA, 32 VC and 19 VC suspects captured 79 draft dodgers, and 263 detainees. Most were processed through ARVN military channels.

On 5 September the Squadron received information that a high ranking enemy soldier desired to rally to RVN forces at CHANH LUU village. The snatch operation netted the XO of the K-4 Battalion, Dong Nai Regiment. Information garnered from the rallier led to the 3d Squadron's engagement of K-4 Phu Loi Battalion elements with these results: 7 VC KIA, 3 VC POW, 1 RPG-2 launcher, and 3 RPG-2 rockets. Displacing to positions in and around TAN SON NHUT AFB on 13 September, the Squadron conducted resource control points and curfew control points north and west of TAN SON NHUT with VN Nation Police Support. The Squadron became OPCON to the Capital Assistance Command, under the control of 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. The Squadron assumed the mission of Reaction/Blocking Force for TSN/MACV. Local security for the Box Bridge and Route 1 north of HOA MON Bridge, local RIF's, cordon and search, and night ambush patrols. The Squadron was also charged with the mission of RRF for certain key installations within the Capital Assistance Military District. These installations included the American Embassy, the Ambassador's Residence, the 3rd Field Hospital, two R and R sites. TON SON NHUT AFB and the MACV compound.

During the first half of October the Squadron remained OPCON to the Capital Military Assistance Command, under the control of the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. The Squadron continued its previous Reaction/Blocking force mission for TSN/MACV, local security for the Box Bridge and Route 1 north of HOA MON Bridge, local RIF's, cordon and search, and night ambush patrols. I Troop's mission continued as RIF for BIEN HOA-LONG BINH complex OPCON to the 11th ACR. The Squadron also continued to serve as RRF for installations within the CMAC area. On 18 October the Squadron moved to the 11th ACR TAOR in the vicinity of PHU LOI, meeting sporadic contact with enemy units of 5-6 VC during RIF and night AP's. During October, elements of the

conducted a cordon of the village of THONG TAY HOI and the villages HOA LOI and CAU DAT, resulting in the capture of a number of VC suspects and draft dodgers.

The Squadron continued operating in the PHU LOI vicinity during November, meeting sporadic enemy contact from RIF's and AP's. Moving to TAN BINH (Bandit Hill) north of the BINH MY, BINH CO area of operations, the Squadron CP received 33 82mm mortar rounds in the early evening of 28 November. US casualties were light with unknown counter mortar fire results on suspected enemy firing positions.

On 3 December the Squadron returned to Blackhorse Base Camp and began preparation for the Annual General Inspection (Regimental) set for 3-8 January 1969. The Squadron was named the best in the Regiment with M Company earning the honor of best Company/Troop in the Regiment. During December the 3d Squadron conducted night AP's, RIF's in the area south and west of Base Camp, and supported with artillery the 541st MI's sensor program. An intense MEDCAP program for the Base Camp area was initiated.