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HEADQUARTERS  
1ST SQUADRON, 9TH CAVALRY  
1ST CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)  
APO US FORCES 96490

AVCDrs-3

29 July 1966

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report (RCS: MACV J-3-32)

TO: Commanding General  
1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)  
APO US Forces 96490

1. OPERATION: HOOKE I
2. PERIOD COVERED: 10 June 1966 through 21 June 1966
3. LOCATION: Kontum Province and Pleiku Province, Republic of Vietnam
4. CONTROLLING HEADQUARTERS: Headquarters, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), APO 96490.
5. REPORTING OFFICER: Lt Col James C. Smith, Commanding Officer, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).
6. TASK ORGANIZATION:
  - a. Headquarters, 1/9th Cavalry, OCA, 2nd Brigade
  - b. 1/9th Cavalry Task Organization:
    - (1) B, C, and D Troops: 10 June, 1966
    - (2) A, B, C, and D Troops: 11-21 June, 1966
  - c. Attachments:
    - (1) 1st Squad, C Company, 8th Engineer Battalion: 12-21 June, 1966
    - (2) 1st Platoon, C Company, 2/12th Cavalry: 15 June, 1966
    - (3) 3rd Platoon, C Company, 2/12 Cavalry: 16 June, 1966
    - (4) C Company, 2/12th Cavalry: 17-18 June, 1966
    - (5) C Btry, 2/17th Artillery: 17-18 June, 1966
7. SUPPORTING FORCES:
  - a. Artillery: The following artillery units were in support of the 2nd Brigade:
    - (1) 1/77th Artillery (-) (reinf) (20)
    - (2) C Battery 1/30th Artillery (155)
    - (3) 3/28 Artillery (8)
    - (4) D 3/18th Artillery (175)

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## 8. INTELLIGENCE:

a. General: During HOOKER I every effort was made to obtain a complete intelligence picture for the large AO assigned. This was accomplished by direct coordination between 2nd Brigade PLEIKU Sector, KONTUM Sector, II Corps Hqs, 24th Special Tactical Zone and USSF. Intelligence gained indicated that no Main or NVA forces were confirmed in the area; however, the contact to the north with the 24th NVA Regt by 101st Airborne Bde and the contact in the south with the 33rd NVA Regt by the 3rd Bde 25th Division indicated that the HOOKER I AO could be utilized by supporting NVA units suspected of operating with these regiments. In addition, intelligence indicated that the USSF Camps of PLEI DJERONG, PLEI MUONG, and PLEI KLANG were suspected targets of the anticipated Monsoon Offensive. Further, the AO had long been suspected as a VC zone containing secret bases, and reported caches, rest areas, and confirmed north/south infiltration routes. One reported secret base east of PLEI DJERONG allegedly was occupied by 3000 VC who used forced labor from the local Montagnard villages; a search of this area and the others disproved the reports for the time being.

b. Terrain: The large AO, consisting of approx 45,000 square km, was made up of three main terrain features. These main features were high mountains in the central portion, rolling hills and lower mountains in the west and the river plains east of the DAK BA river. The mountains were covered with multi-canopied forests and dense underbrush which restricted ground movement and severely limited ground and air to ground observation. In the west, the relief was less exaggerated and slopes were more gentle. The area was heavy with tall bamboo thickets and dense vegetation which often limited observation to only a few feet. The river plain was speckled with cultivated fields and flooded rice paddies which restricted movement off trails and roads. The lowlands were well populated within the AO and offered the local VC forces an excellent sanctuary by melting in with the local populace. Heavily forested mountains, to include the border areas, severely restricted LZ selection. Conversely, numerous landing areas were available on the plains contiguous to some of the rivers.

c. The following significant enemy contacts were made:

- (1) 121155 Jun 66 YA923798 aircraft received unknown type ground fire. Adjusted artillery.
- (2) 131502 Jun 66 YA962496 aircraft received three rounds small arms fire from huts and sleeping platforms. Adjusted artillery.
- (3) 140905 Jun 66 LA173774 D Troop observed booby trap with trip wire across trail and punji stakes nearby. Booby trap blown in place.
- (4) 141105 Jun 66 YA045882 aircraft received ten to fifteen rounds automatic weapons fire. Returned fire - no damage observed.
- (5) 141305 Jun 66 LA063908 aircraft received three rounds small arms fire, hit by one round. Returned fire into area, no visual contact with enemy.
- (6) 150915 Jun 66 ZV035897 aircraft reconnaissance by fire resulted in small secondary explosion. Adjusted artillery.
- (7) 151015 Jun 66 YB899189 rifle platoon found two thousand pounds of rice. Scattered rice in stream.
- (8) 171258 Jun 66 YA793593 aircraft received five to fifteen rounds automatic weapons fire, aircraft not hit. Unable to locate target.
- (9) 171725 Jun 66 YA 937576 aircraft observed triangular shaped camp with trenches in three corners, concertina wire, and bunkers at corners. NOTE: PLEI Djerong USSF Camp (YA857533) had reported this camp site several months before and on 11 Jun 66 C Troop received the location during an intelligence gathering visit.

d. Intelligence Findings:

- (1) There were numerous evidences of local-type enemy presence during extensive and deliberate patrolling conducted by the 2nd Brigade and supporting USSF elements. However, there were no indications of Main Force VC or NVA units. In the mountainous area east of PLEI DJERONG the 2/12 Cav discovered an arms cache consisting of 2-60mm mortars, 3 shotguns, 2 French

Air's, 4 French sub-machinoguns and various types ammunition. The cache is believed to be the major weaponry from a local force unit that disbanded during occupation of the area. In the same general area eight bunkers with overhead cover and spider holes were found. Examination and analysis of incidents and sightings clearly indicated the presence of VC and VNC local forces, but no substantiating evidence of a large enemy build-up of forces was found. Debriefing of Air Cav recon units, ground patrols, and questioning of other available intelligence sources, provided no indication that the AO was being occupied or used by hard core VC or NVA during Operation HOOKER I.

(2) Apache teams and long range patrols from the PLEI KJANG, PLEI HRONG and POLI KIENG USBF Camps supplemented by 2nd Brigade personnel and the operations conducted by the 2nd Bde maneuver battalions covered on the ground the main trails, approaches, and likely assembly areas available to the enemy. Three Apache Patrols operated near the Cambodian border checking for signs of VC movement and build up. One team reported contact with 15 armed VNC believed to be locals; two teams discovered signs of activity on NVA trails. However, no indications were found to suspect existence of NVA units or VC main force activities or build ups. One Apache team operating in the central portion of the AO detected movement and noises; however, no actual visual or physical contact was made; the CIDG planned subsequent operations in the general area.

#### 9. MISSIONS:

a. FRAG O 63-66-63 (HOOKER) 092000 Jun 66, 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile):

- (1) 1/9th Cavalry deploys to KONTUM 10 Jun 66
- (2) Supports Infantry Battalions as required
- (3) Conducts screen along mid-range patrol line

b. FRAG O 66-66-66, 121700 Jun 66, 2d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile):

(1) 1/9th Cavalry continues visual reconnaissance with primary area of interest north of 10 EW grid line in AO and between Cambodian border and NS 90 grid line in AO to locate EW trails.

(2) Conducts ground route reconnaissance of trails from SAMBUT to GAWNT to UNION on 13 Jun 66, 1 squad, C Company, 8th Engineer Battalion attached effective 12 Jun 66.

c. FRAG O 67-66-67, 141600 Jun 66, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile):

(1) 1/9th Cavalry emphasized reconnaissance of avenues of approach from W to E in northern area of AO. Locates EW trails and landing zone.

(2) Continues to reconnoiter trail networks west of 90 NS grid line in AO.

(3) Prepares to show force vic PLEI DJERENG on order. Task force can include an infantry rifle company, artillery battery minus, and 1/9th Cavalry elements.

d. FRAG O 68-66-68 (HOOKER 1A), 162000 Jun 66, 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile):

(1) Task Force 1/9th Cavalry conducts COGIB type operation in assigned sector (vic PLEI DJERENG).

(2) Provides reconnaissance and surveillance as required.

(3) Provides ground escort for convoy on Highway 14 and PLEIKUL-PLEI DJERENG road as required.

(4) Task Force 1/9th Cavalry

(a) C Company 2/12th Cavalry OCA

(b) C Battery (-) 2/17th Artillery OCA

(c) 1 squad C Company 8th Engineer Battalion

10. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS: 1st Cavalry Division OPO&D 6618 (HOOKER I) 091300 Jun 66 established task organizations for each of the three brigades. 2nd Brigade with 1/9th Cavalry (-) and other support elements attached was given a mission to conduct surveillance and spoiling operations in southwestern KONTUM Province on or about 11 Jun 66 in coordination with II M&V Corps and CIDG troops, attacking to destroy lucrative enemy targets as they developed, securing Highway 19, and conducting offensive operations in the assigned TAOR.

11. EXECUTION:

10 Jun 66 - 12 Jun 66: The Squadron, minus A Troop, which remained under OCA of 3d Bde, 25th Inf Div, moved by organic transportation to KONTUM (AR772897) on 10 Jun. During the afternoon of 10 Jun, B and C Trps conducted area recon of the initial AO assigned to the 2/5th Cav and 2/12 Cav (see Overlay 1). On 11 Jun the two troops screened initially along the border and conducted area reconnaissance west to the YB80 NS grid line and south of the YB10 EW grid line. A Trp reverted to Squadron control and initiated reconnaissance in vicinity of several Special Forces Camps in DANLAC province in response to a continuing division requirement. On 12 Jun the Squadron extended its area reconnaissance west of the YB80 NS grid line, and north of the YB10 EW grid line, remaining south of the YB21 grid line. D Troop began route reconnaissance of roads and trails leading from KONTUM into the TAOR. ON 12 Jun Special Forces Apache Teams were introduced into the western part of the AO by squadron elements.

Apache team operations consisted of a 6 man (4 CIDG and 2 USAF) patrol. During Hooker I the supporting air cav troop took on most of the responsibilities required, to include aerial recon for LZ's, weapons escort for the landing, lift ships, and establishment of FM radio contacts at predesignated times. The air cav troop was prepared to execute an immediate extraction on call. The Apache team was a covert reconnaissance patrol which remained in an area of operations for two or three days or until it had been observed by enemy forces.

10 Jun 66: The wheeled vehicle convoy departed Camp Radoliff (BR475475) at 101300 Jun, controlled and escorted by D Trp and a scout team from C Trp. No enemy contact was made and the convoy, routed through PLEIKU (LA1233515), closed KONTUM (Psn REBEL AR 772897) at 101635 Jun. B and C Trps moved air elements concurrently and conducted initial recon in the vicinity of the friendly troops moving into Positions UNION (2A112680) and CONFEDERATE (LA0279360 with one scout team each. All aircraft closed psn REBEL by 101928 Jun 66.

11 Jun 66: B Trp began first light recon in Area WILL (see Overlay 1) at 110600 Jun with one scout team and in Area JOE with a weapons team. C Trp employed a scout team in Area CHUCK at 110708 Jun. Subsequent reconnaissance was light along the border and became more intense within the TAOR of 2/12 Cav and 2/5 Cav (see Overlay 1). There was no enemy contact during the day and detailed reconnaissance of avenues of approach, trails, and possible landing zones was made. B Trp coordinated with the USAF team at PLEIKU (Psn UNION LA112680) establishing the location of friendly CIDG units in the AO.

At 110600 Jun A Trp reverted to control of 1/9 Cav, 1/9 Cav OPO&D 6618, issued at 111200 Jun, directed A Trp to remain at Ocala (LA105275) and to conduct reconnaissance in the vicinity of eleven USAF Camps to the south-east and to recon on the south flank of the 2d Bde TAOR as required.

At 111620 Jun a C Trp weapons ship went down at YA755538 and the rifle platoon was landed to secure the aircraft at 111655 Jun. The aircraft had experienced a power loss and had made a forced landing. The pilot received a back injury and was evacuated. The UH-1B was recovered by a CH-47 at 111750 Jun, and the rifle platoon was extracted at 111800 Jun.

D Trp secured the Squadron command post at Psn REBEL (AR772897). A boundary change at 111200 Jun added Area JOHN (see Overlay 1), and moved the eastern boundary of the ground units north to follow the Dak Bla River.

12 Jun 66: From 0610 to 0800 B Trp employed a scout team in Area JOHN and a weapons team in Area JOE. After an aerial recon for suitable L's C Trp landed Apache Team Rattlesnake at YA920786 at 120950 Jun. Shortly afterward the patrol heard voices speaking a Vietnamese dialect on three sides around them. The guides felt sure that the team was being followed so the team leader made a hasty recon of the trails and at 121120 Jun requested extraction. After the patrol had moved approximately six hundred meters to the south C Trp lift ships extracted the patrol without incident at 121145 Jun. A second Apache Team, Cobra, was employed at YA723875 at 121845 Jun by C Trp. B Trp made aerial recon of Area QRT from 0802 to 1010. At 121225 Jun a C Trp aircraft received small arms fire at YA923798 but was not hit. Tube artillery was requested and adjusted but no assessment could be made.

A Trp continued recon of USSF camps to the southeast of the 2d Bde TAOK and also reconnoitered Area AL.

D Trp was ordered to conduct a route reconnaissance from Psn REBEL to Psn CONFEDERATE. Commencing at 121015 Jun, two platoons with an attached engineer squad from C Co 8th Engr Bn progressed as far as the KRONG PO'KO River at ZA101914. One 4 ton truck was floated across but required an hour. Since D Trp had a primary mission of securing the Squadron laager area at Psn REBEL, the CO, 1/9th Cav directed the troop to return. D Trp closed REBEL at 121725 Jun. The attached engineer squad remained with D Troop.

The northern boundary of Area MACK was moved from the 80EW grid line to the 90EW grid line off 121800 Jun, (see Overlay 1). By verbal order of 2d Bde the northern boundary of Area JOHN was extended north to the 24 EW grid line (see Overlay 1) off 121800 Jun.

13 Jun 66 - 14 Jun 66: The Squadron, minus a scout team OCA to 1/5 Cav continued recon operations. The two battalions used air assaults with platoon size patrols coupled with ambush patrols at night. D Trp began route recon of trails and roads between Psn REBEL and Psn UNION. B and C Trps continued to lift and monitor Apache teams from USSF Camps.

13 Jun 66: A boundary change, effective 130001 Jun 66 (see Overlay 1) was made to facilitate the search and destroy mission of the 2/5 Cav and the 2/12 Cav.

The three air cav troops continued aerial reconnaissance of the AO, and A Trp continued to recon selected USSF Camps. A Trp dispatched a first light recon scout team at 130600 Jun to work in Area AL. The team reported light rain, poor visibility and one hundred foot ceiling. A Trp operations were restricted but in the northern part of the sector ceilings were higher permitting observation except on the mountain peaks. B Trp began first light recon in Areas ED and BUCK at 130608 Jun, and C Trp utilized a weapons team in Area HILL and CHUCK at 130625 Jun. C Trp also provided a scout team to support the 2/5 Cav in its search and destroy operations and made required radio contacts with the Apache Team via YA723875.

D Trp conducted route recon of trails from Psn REBEL (AR772897) through Psn GRANT (ZA095768) to Psn UNION (ZA112680) with two platoons (see Overlay 2). A squad of engineers from C Co 8th Engr Bn accompanied the troop and additional engineer support consisting of 15 men was flown by Hq Trp aircraft to Psn GRANT. The attached squad cleared a log barrier at ZA101770 and the additional two squads improved a stream crossing at ZA097768. B Trp aircraft returned the two squads to Psn UNION. The two platoons departed Psn REBEL at 130635 Jun on Routes KANSAS and OKLAHOMA, arrived at Psn GRANT at 131148 Jun, proceeded to Psn UNION by 1415, and returned to Psn REBEL via Highway 14, closing at 131615 Jun. No contact was made with enemy forces.

At 131615 Jun, 2d Bde requested that a weapons team be dispatched to help an ARVN unit that had been ambushed at ZB152135. A weapons team from B Trp was dispatched but it was not utilized by the ARVN advisor. At 131710 Jun an OH-13 which was OCA to 1/5 Cav, was shot down by enemy fire at ZA115303. A medevac helicopter had evacuated the observer and the pilot had been killed on impact. Heavy automatic weapons fire was reported in the area. The B Trp rifle platoon was landed to secure the wreckage at 1845 after TAC Air Strikes and artillery were around the site. The body of the pilot was recovered, and



the OH-13 was abandoned because of extensive damage. The rifle platoon was extracted without enemy contact at 131910 Jun. The observer died of injuries several days later.

14 Jun 66: The air cav troops continued reconnaissance in sector and A Trp continued to recon avenues of approach and LZ's around selected USSF camps.

B Trp extracted Apache Team A-51 at YB730057 at 140745 Jun without incident. This team had been introduced on 11 Jun by another unit. B Trp scout and weapons teams reconned in Areas ORT and BUCK (see overlay 1) and then area MILL. An Apache Team loader was taken on a recon and at 141844 Jun 66 the team, A-62, was landed at YB831150.

C Trp conducted area reconnaissance in Areas PETER and SAMI and then in Area MACK. Apache Team COBRA was extracted from YA723875 at 141155 Jun. A C Trp weapons team provided convoy cover at 141305 Jun for a logistical convoy moving from KONTUM (LR772897) to PLAIKU (ZA233515).

D Trp employed two platoons to recon two additional routes to Psn UNION (see overlay 2). Both platoons departed Psn REBEL at 140638 Jun, with one platoon reconning Route MISSOURI and KANSAS and returning to Psn REBEL. The other platoon proceeded on Route VICTORY DRIVE and encountered numerous cuts and barriers on the trail via ZA146725. Route NEW YORK was reconned as scheduled and the platoon returned to REBEL via Highway 14, closing at 141840 Jun.

15 Jun 66 - 16 Jun 66: 1/9th Cav was given the mission to recon the northern area of 2d Bde AO with emphasis on EW avenues of approach, EW trails, and LZ's. The air cav troops conducted area reconnaissance to include placing the rifle platoons on the ground for up to two hours maximum. An infantry platoon was attached to C Troop to enable maximum utilization of the air cav troops' ability to support ground recon operations and also to provide a small but immediate reaction force within the troop. An infantry company standing by with lift helicopters provided additional reaction force.

D Troop continued its route recon mission and later was employed as convoy escort.

15 Jun 66: Air cav troops continued recon in sector. A Troop continued to recon around USSF camps.

B Troop began ground recon operations in area JOHN, with the 1st Platoon C Co 2/12 landing at F1 (YB822226) (see overlay 3) at 0923. The rifle platoon of B 1/9 was landed at F2 (YB875209) at 0935 and 1st Platoon C Co 2/12 was extracted from F1 at 0940 and landed at F3 (YB894186) at 0955. 2000 pounds of old rice were found and destroyed at YB899189. The platoon was extracted at 1015 with no enemy sightings, and flown to Dak To (YB812217) which the troop used as a resupply base for that day only. At 1045 B Trp rifle platoon was extracted from F2 and flown to Dak To.

At 1120 1st Platoon C Co 2/12 was again landed in F3 and the rifle platoon of B Troop 1/9th Cav was lifted into F4 (YB869186) at 1240. 1st Platoon C Co 2/12 was extracted from F3 at 1244 and the rifle platoon B Troop 1/9th Cav was extracted at 1323 from F4. The 1st Platoon C Co 2/12 was replaced once more at F5 (YB898188) at 1353 and extracted at 1520. B Troop rifle platoon was landed at F6 (YB905186) at 1457 and moved east along the trail where they were extracted from YB920182 at 151610 Jun. There was no enemy contact during the day and it was determined that rails had not been used recently.

In addition to employing two recon platoons in the ground recon role B Trp also extracted Apache Team 62AM at 151421 Jun. The team was originally placed inside its designated AO on 14 Jun and then moved to the northeast out of their area. The team was extracted because it was near the B Trp operational area. Plans were made to replace the team into its AO, but the plans were cancelled since there were no other suitable LZ's in their AO. The team found no signs of enemy forces in the area.

C Trp concentrated on aerial reconnaissance in Areas SAMI and MACK and escorted a convoy from UNION to PLAIKU, completing the mission at 150903 Jun.

D Troop, departing Psn REBEL at 150630 Jun, conducted route recon south on Highway 14 and west to CP 21 (YA146725) (see Overlay 2). The two platoons attempted to move to Psn UNION but could not clear all of the obstacles just south of CP 21. A request was made for additional engineer support and two squads built up rice paddy dikes and constructed culverts just north of Psn UNION. After working in the vicinity of CP 21 from 0847 to 1745 D Troop (-) was ordered to return to Psn REBEL to assume perimeter defense of the squadron CP and aircraft laager area.

At 151515 Jun 66 a message from 1st Cav Div directed the 2nd Bde to conduct operations in the southern part of the AO and to be prepared to release 1/9 Cavalry on order on or about 171800 Jun but not later than 181800 Jun.

16 Jun 66: Air Cavalry troops continued aerial reconnaissance in assigned sectors.

A Troop, after a weather delay, conducted aerial reconnaissance of Area AL to select LZ's for Operation RATTLE the next day.

C Troop continued to recon in Areas OAT and JOE.

B Troop continued aerial and ground reconnaissance in area JOHN. At 161020 Jun the B Troop rifle platoon was replaced at F7 (YB865187). The platoon moved southwest along a trail which had no recent traffic. The platoon was extracted at 161217 Jun and returned to Psn REBEL. At 161110 Jun the 3d platoon C Co 2/12, attached for the day, was landed at F8 (YB917193). Squad size patrols went west, south, and east to check trails, which were overgrown. The patrols moved out approximately 1100 meters from the LZ and returned. The platoon was extracted at 161301 Jun. No enemy contact was made by either platoon.

D Troop remained at Psn REBEL and performed maintenance on its vehicles.

At 161300 Jun a forward CP group from 1/9 Cavalry closed Psn YANK (YA857533) (see Overlay 1) followed by C Co 2/17 Artillery and C 1/30 Artillery (-)(GS). C Co 2/12 Cavalry was also lifted into Psn YANK to provide security and two platoons to be OCA to A Troop on 17 - 18 Jun.

17 Jun 66 - 18 Jun 66: In compliance with a message from 1st Cavalry Division and 2d Bde FRAG O 68-66-68 (HOOKER I) the squadron planned and executed Operation RATTLE (see Overlay 4) a show of force in the vicinity of FOLAI DJEMENG (Psn YANK YA857533) while continuing to provide reconnaissance and surveillance of the 2d Bde AO, and providing ground escort for convoys. The TF 1/9 Cavalry had the following units OCA:

C Co 2/12 Cav

C Btry (-) 2/17 Arty

1 Sqd C Co 8th Engr

A Troop moved a jump CP to Psn YANK during daylight hours and continued to laager vicinity OASIS (LA105275) except for a weapons team and a UM-1D with an experimental illumination system, which was to stand by at Psn YANK.

At 170001 Jun Area AL was extended to the north and the AO for Operation RATTLE was established. At 170700 Jun new boundaries went into effect for 2nd Bde units within Area DEAL.

17 Jun 66: A Troop began operation RATTLE in area AL (see Overlay 4). The area had been thoroughly reconnoitered by air the previous day with negative contact. Twenty four landing zones had been selected within artillery range and a reaction force of two platoons was standing by at Psn YANK.

Poor flying weather prevented the first ground reconnaissance until 171104 Jun when the A Troop rifle platoon was placed into LZ 8A (YA815575) after an artillery preparation. At 171155 Jun 3d Platoon C Co 2/12 Cavalry was lifted into YA828562 (LZ 9A). Both platoons checked trails in the area but had no significant findings. They were extracted at 1240 (A Troop) and 1328 (3 C 2/12).

At 171258 Jun a C Troop aircraft received five to fifteen rounds automatic weapons fire vicinity YZ793593. No enemy could be observed in the area.

At 171514 Jun 2d Platoon C Co 2/12 was lifted into LZ 11A (LZ 1539) and moved east. The platoon was extracted at 171644 Jun without contact. At 1610 A Troop's rifle platoon was lifted into YZ80545 (LZ 10A). The platoon searched the area and was extracted at 1810 with no contact.

B Troop conducted aerial recon of area JOHN (see Overlay 1). Maintenance was performed on some aircraft.

D Troop provided ground convoy escort for the movement of the 2nd Bde CP, artillery units, and logistical vehicles from Psn UNION to Psn BANG (YZ068447). One platoon stood by at Psn BANG and another on the outskirts of PLAIKU (YZ0351) to escort logistical convoys as required.

C Troop conducted aerial reconnaissance in Areas MCK and SAM. One team was dispatched to LZ MARY (YE059475) to support 2/5 Cavalry.

The 2nd Bde CP moved from Psn UNION to Psn BANG closing at approximately 1615.

At 2030 a mission was received to conduct a ground reconnaissance of a suspected replica of a USMC camp (vic YZ938577) supposedly being used as a VC training aid. The report was to include sketches and photos and to be submitted no later than 181200 Jun. An AO was designated to provide coordination of fires (see Overlay 4).

18 Jun 66: A Troop continued Operation HATTLE (see Overlay 4). The A Troop rifle platoon was landed at LZ 17A (YZ905482) at 180910 Jun. The platoon searched the area and extracted at 181127 Jun. The 3d Plat C Co 2/12 Cavalry was lifted into LZ 6A (YZ883502) at 180944 Jun and moved east before being extracted at 181233 Jun with no contact. At 181300 Jun the 2d Platoon, C Co 2/12 Cavalry was lifted into LZ 23A (YZ861463) and moved north, searching adjacent to the trail with no findings. The platoon was extracted at 181455 Jun. The 3d Plat C Co, 2/12 Cavalry was placed into LZ 21A (YZ839474) at 181547 Jun and extracted at 181640 Jun with no contact. The last ground recon of the day was at 181610 Jun, when the rifle Platoon A Troop, 1/9th Cavalry was landed at LZ 19A. After searching the area, the platoon was extracted at 181745 with no contact.

C Troop reconnoitered its assigned AO (see Overlay 4) and selected two LZ's. The C Troop rifle platoon was landed at LZ 1 (YZ938589) at 181055 Jun, and moved northwest along an old trail. The platoon was extracted with negative contact at 181203 Jun and immediately went into LZ 2 (YZ938578) at 181220 Jun. The platoon moved south, searched the site of the suspected replica, and then continued another five hundred meters south and searched east and west along a stream. Extraction was made at 181340 Jun with no contact. Polaroid photos and an overlay of the site were submitted to the 2d Bde S2. C Troop also provided aerial escort for logistical convoys between Psn REBEL, PLAIKU and Psn BANG.

B Troop continued surveillance of area JOHN and maintained aircraft. Gun weapons team worked with the 2/12 Cavalry beginning at 181100 Jun. Two lift ships assisted A Troop in moving its ground recon elements after 181500 Jun.

The 2d Platoon D Troop escorted logistical vehicles from PLAIKU to Psn BANG, closing Psn REBEL at 181930 Jun.

At the end of the day all elements of 1/9 Cavalry were closed at Psn REBEL except A Troop which continued to laager at CAW (YZ105275). The squadron jump CP closed Psn REBEL at 181747 Jun and reverted to division control at 181940 Jun. Planning and coordination for Operation HOOKER II, which was later cancelled, was begun immediately.

19 Jun - 21 Jun: The Squadron (- A Troop) continued to laager at Psn REBEL, emphasizing training of new officer and enlisted replacements and maintenance of equipment. D Troop was provided to the 2d Bde to escort convoys between PLAIKU and MONTU. The 2d Bde continued ground search operations in the southern AO, with light contact.

19 Jun 66: A free fire area was coordinated with 2d Bde and the USF B Detachment at KONTUM. The area was used by B and C Troops for pilot and door gunner training.

D Troop escorted logistical vehicles from KONTUM to PLAIU between 1030 and 1710.

A Troop furnished a scout team to 2d Bde for the entire day.

B Troop continued support of 1/5 Cavalry in Operation AUSTIN VI with a scout team.

20 Jun 66: Maintenance of aircraft and equipment was emphasized. The 2d Bde employed an A Troop scout team, and 1/5 Cavalry employed a B Troop scout team. Both B and C Troop conducted assault landing training with their rifle platoon, lift ships and weapons ships.

21 Jun 66: The squadron concentrated on training and aircraft maintenance. A Troop provided a scout team to 3d Bde 25th Inf Div (which was also located at OMBIS (ZAI05275) and a scout team for 2d Bde. B Troop provided a scout team to 1/5 Cavalry.

A squadron awards and decorations ceremony was planned for the afternoon but was cancelled because the squadron CO nor the CG would be available.

Messages received from 1st Cavalry Division during the day alerted the squadron for displacement to DONG TRÉ (BQ9372) and TUY HOA SOUTH (CJ1943) to support a contingency requirement in support of the 3d Bde.

At 212000 Jun an A Troop UH-1D received ground fire over PLAIU. A weapons team was dispatched but could not draw fire or locate the source.

Operation HOOKER I officially terminated at 212400 Jun 66.

## 12. RESULTS:

### a. Friendly losses:

(1) WIA:	0
(2) KIA:	0
(3) MIA:	0
(4) DOW:	0
(5) Equipment Lost	None

### b. Enemy losses:

(1) WIA:	0
(2) KIA (BC):	0
(3) KIA (Est):	0
(4) VCC:	0
(5) VCS:	0
(6) Equipment Captured	None
(7) Misc Captured	2000 lbs rice

c. The aviator, observer, and OH-13 lost in action on 13 Jun were detached and were not involved in Operation HOOKER I.

## 13. COMMANDER'S ANALYSIS:

a. HOOKER I was an excellent vehicle for the training of new personnel. The extensive aerial and ground reconnaissance effort over an area approximately fifty by eighty kilometers provided an ideal opportunity for

establishment of troop procedures, scheduling of personnel and aircraft. It served to orient in detail all personnel with a critical portion of the battle area in which the division can expect future operations.

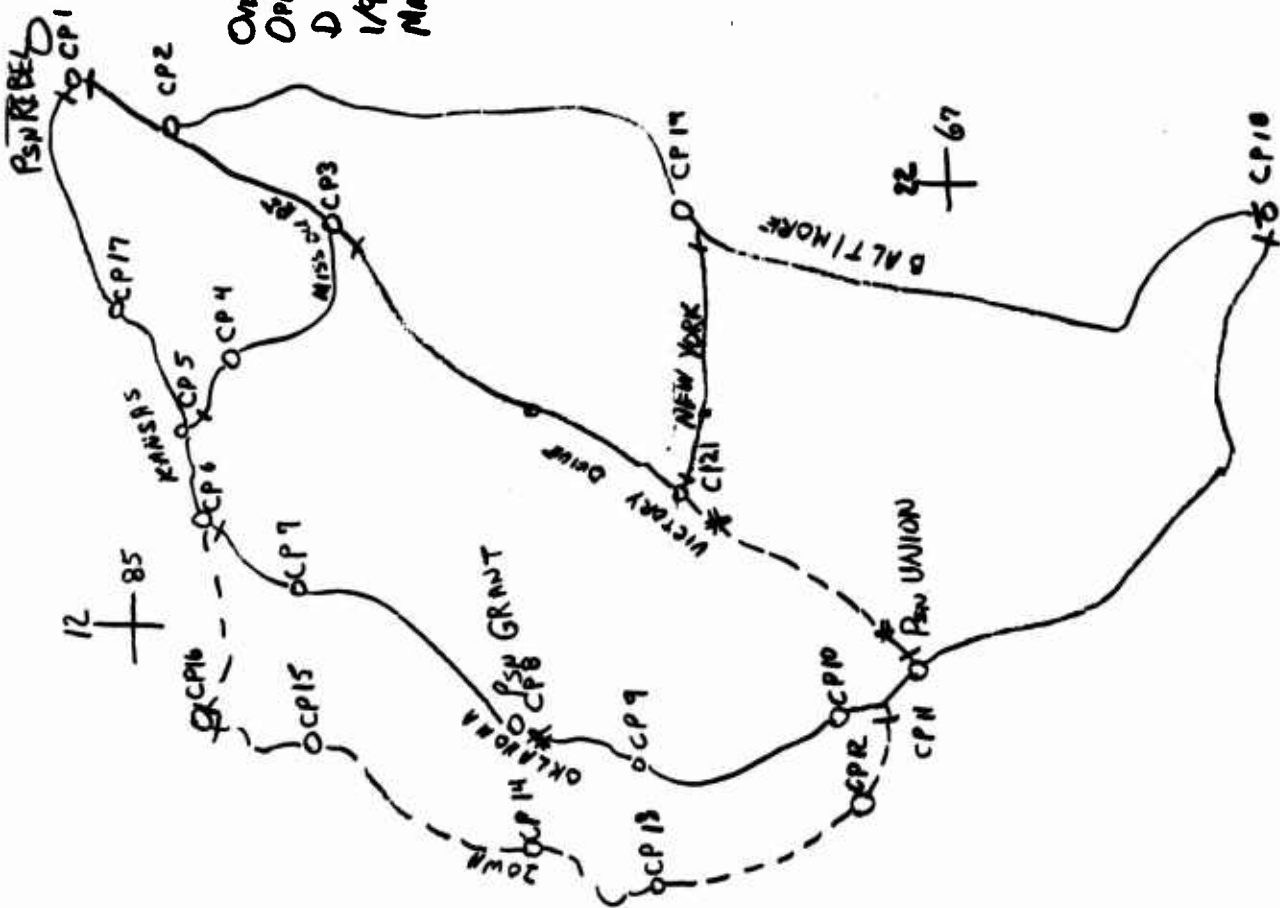
b. This operation again emphasized the need for armored personnel carriers in D Troop. A large part of the AO would have been trafficable to carrier, offering an excellent opportunity for employment of the ground cavalry troop. With wheeled vehicles, D Troop's operations were unnecessarily restricted to the major roads. Although recon operations were conducted on major trails, progress was difficult and ground coverage necessarily limited.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS: It is again recommended that armored carriers be requested for issue to D Troop. (Note: See letter, subject: Substitution of an Armored Cavalry Troop for the Ground Troop (D Troop), #4, 1st Squadron, 9th Cavalry, dated 27 April 1966).

*James C. Smith*  
JAMES C. SMITH  
LTC, Arm  
Commanding



OVERLAY 2  
 OPN HOOKER I  
 D TRP Opns 13-15 JUN 66  
 1A CPN 1st Cav Div (AM)  
 MAP: VETNAM 1:50,000  
 SERIES L701  
 6552 I  
 6553 I, II



Tab A to Overlay 2 to Operation HOOAH I

13 June

<u>OUT</u>	<u>CP</u>	<u>Time</u>
Amiens	1	0650
	17	0725
	5	0829
	6	0843
OKINAWA	7	0955
	8	1148
	085	1234
	9	1323
	10	1403
	11	1415
	18	1515
BATTLE	1	1605

14 June

1st Platoon (1st Platoon)	1	0638
	2	0643
VICTORY DIV	20	1055
	21	1450
New York	19	1700
BATTLE	2	1807
	1	1810
3rd Platoon	3	0750
	5	0903

15 June

BATTLE	2	0658
	19	0710
New YORK	21	0847
VICTORY DIV	085	1050
	21	1745
New YORK	19	1819
BATTLE	2	1852
	1	1856



OVERLAY 3  
 OPN HOOKER I  
 GROUND RECON, BTRP 15-16 JUN 66  
 1/9 CAV 1st CAV Div (AM)  
 MAP: VIETNAM 1: 50,000  
 SERIES L 701  
 6454 IV

ZB 83  
 + 26

F1 

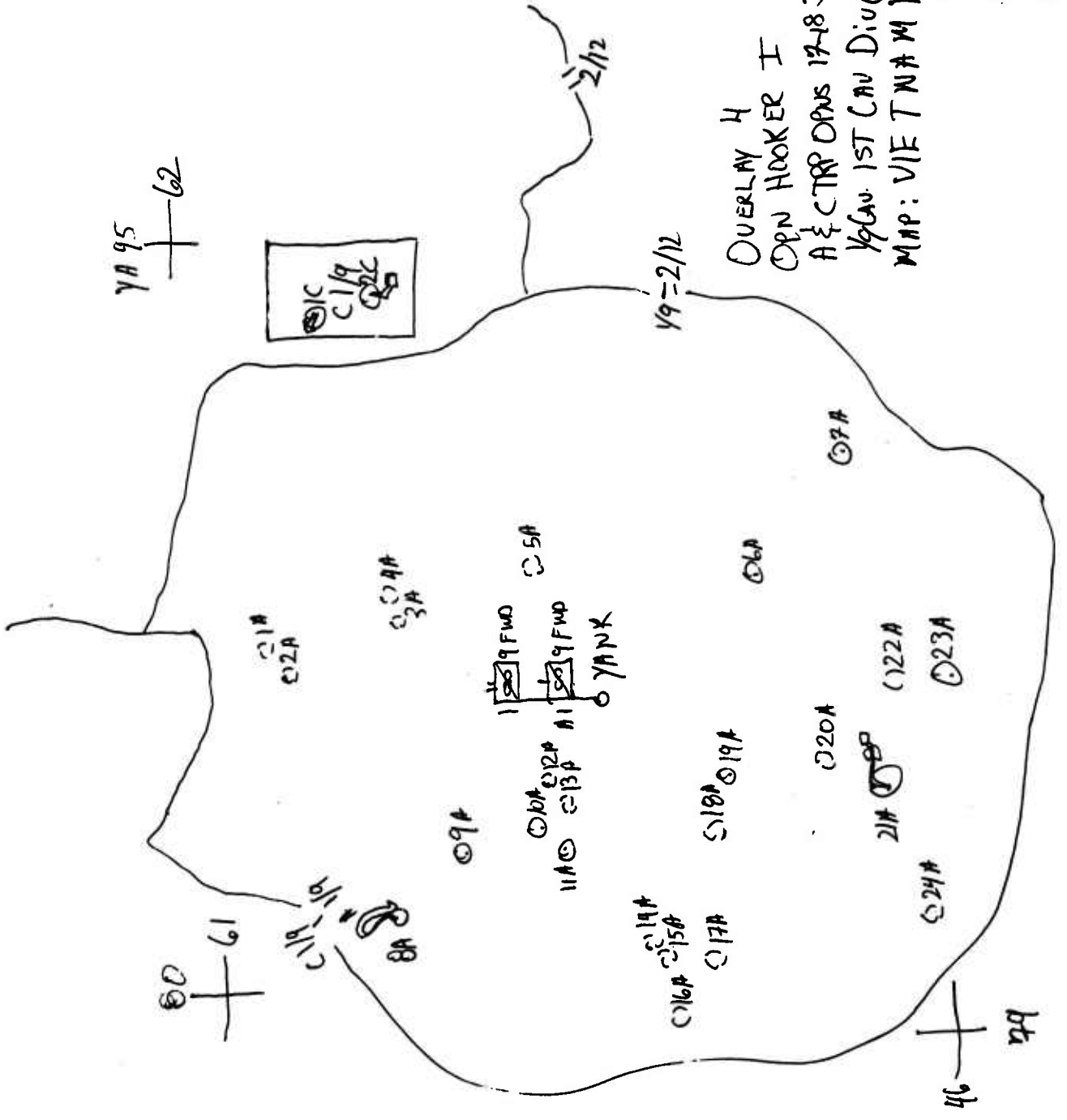
F2 

ZB 83  
 + 19



Tab A to Overlay 3 to Operation HOOK at I

<u>LC</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TIME IN</u>	<u>TIME OUT</u>
<u>15 June</u>			
F1	1 C 2/12	0823	0940
F2	B 1/9	0935	1045
F3	1 C 2/12	0945	1015
	1 C 2/12	1120	1244
F4	B 1/9	1240	1323
F5	1 C 2/12	1353	1520
F6	B 1/9	1457	1610
<u>16 June</u>			
F7	B 1/9	1020	1217
F8	3 C 2/12	1110	1301



OVERLAY 4  
 OPN HOOKER I  
 A & CTRR OPNS 17-18 JUN 66  
 1/2 CAU 1ST CAU Div (AM)  
 MAP: VIE TNAM 1:50,000  
 SER: ES1701  
 6552 IV  
 6553 III

Tab A to Overlay 4 to Operation HOOKER I

<u>IZ</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TIME IN</u>	<u>TIME OUT</u>
<u>17 June</u>			
8A	A 1/9	1104	1240
9A	3 C 2/12	1155	1328
11A	2 C 2/12	1514	1644
10A	A 1/9	1610	1810
<u>18 June</u>			
17A	A 1/9	0910	1127
6A	3 C 2/12	0944	1233
23A	2 C 2/12	1300	1455
21A	3 C 2/12	1547	1640
19A	A 1/9	1610	1745
<u>19 June</u>			
1C	C 1/9	1055	1203
2C	C 1/9	1220	1340