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Authority	NND 927622
By	AT NARA Date 12/11/03

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USARV

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS, 3RD BRIGADE (SEPARATE)
 1ST AIR CAVALRY DIVISION (AIRMOBILE)
 APO San Francisco 96490

AVDAGT-DOT

20 June 1972

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 3rd Brigade (Separate)
 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Period Ending 20 June 1972,
 RCS CS FOR - 65 (R3)

THRU: Commanding General
 Third Regional Assistance Command
 ATTN: MACTR - G3
 APO San Francisco 96490

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

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities:

a. General: This is a special Operations Report-Lessons Learned covering the period from 1 May 1972 to the Increment XII standdown of the 3rd Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) on 20 June 1972. The reporting period saw no significant changes in the brigade area of operations or the alignment of forces within it. The most significant changes resulted from the impact of Increment XII of the USARV drawdown and of the continued North Vietnamese offensive. Throughout the entire reporting period the Brigade continued to emphasize the conduct of combined operations with both ARVN divisional and territorial forces.

b. Mission: The Brigade's missions remained the same during the reporting period. Missions included:

- (1) Conducting dynamic defense of the Saigon-Long Binh complex in coordination with RVNAF.
- (2) Assisting in the training of territorial forces.
- (3) Being prepared to move battalions to other military regions for security missions.
- (4) Being prepared to execute assigned contingency plans.

c. Areas of Operation: 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry continued operations in the area north of the Dong Nai River, encompassing sections of Tan Uyen and Phu Giao districts south of the Song Be River. The battalion was targeted against the K-1 and K-2 Dong Nai Battalions, headquarters and subordinate units of Thu Bien sub-region, the D-9 Sapper Battalion, and local VC forces. 1/7 continued to operate a command post

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at FSB Grunt II while maintaining a minibase, FSB Scudis. 2d Battalion, 6th Cavalry continued to dominate the rocket belt around Long Binh and orient on the 274th Main Force VC Regiment and sever their lines of communication and destroy their cache sites. 2/8 operated from its main base, FSB Malanie while maintaining a minibase, FSB Ennis. 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry conducted operations in southern War Zone D from its major fire support base of Bunker Hill. 1/12 also operated from FSB Drinnon until 10 May 1972. They used FSB Gibraltar from 6 May thru 13 May and again from 22 May thru 28 May, occupied FSB Mrs from 27 May until 3 June 1972, then moved to minibase FSB Charger II on 4 June 1972. D/1-12 which had been providing a security mission in IR II at Pleiku returned to 1/12's control on 18 May 1972.

d. Significant Events for the Reporting Period: Activity in the AO remained at a very low level with only infrequent contacts with enemy elements usually no larger than 5 individuals. The major activity for the period was the North Vietnamese offensive. Aviation assets supporting ARVN operations were an Air Cavalry troop and a heavy gunship team each day; they were used to provide bomb damage assessment, area reconnaissance, medical evacuation of US wounded, and cover escort for combat assaults. The requirement that the Brigade support TRAC throughout IR III with air cavalry troops, aerial field artillery and other aviation elements required the Brigade S-2 to extend his area of interest to the entire region. Extensive use was made of liaison visits to divisional and provisional advisory teams in order to gather the intelligence required to advise the Commanding General of the enemy threat and to provide intelligence briefings to the air cavalry troop and aerial field artillery pilots. Renewed emphasis was placed upon intelligence briefings for and the reporting system used by the aviators with the result that there was a significant increase in the amount of intelligence information provided by the pilots. The frequency with which Cav pilots successfully completed air missions in a high density anti-aircraft environment attests to the survivability of helicopters in mid-intensity warfare. Two other major events occurred during the reporting period. These were the addition of the TOW missile system to the Brigade assets (see inclosure 1) and the Increment XII drawdown of much of the 3d Brigade (Sep). The drawdown is in progress at this time and a complete task organization and after action report will be forwarded under separate cover.

2. (c) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

- a. Personnel: None
- b. Intelligence: None
- c. Operations: None
- d. Organization: None
- e. Training: None

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- f. Logistics: None
- g. Communications: None
- h. Material: None
- i. Other: None

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as

Herbert E. Moody
HERBERT E. MOODY
LTC, IN
Chief of Staff

DISTRIBUTION:
Special

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1-CG, 1st Cavalry Division (TRICAP), Ft. Hood, Texas
1-CG, 3D BDE (SEP)
1-DCO-A
1-DCO-B
1-C of S
1-CO BHAG
1-ea Primary and Special Staff Section
2-CO, 1/7
2-CO, 2/8
2-CO, 1/12
5-CO, 215th CS Bn
3-CO, 1/21 Arty
1-CO, 501st Engr
1-CO, 525th Sig
1-CO, 191st LID
4-CO, 229th AHB
1-CO, CTC
1-CO, F/79th AFA
1-CO, H/75th Rangers
1-CO HHC 3D BDE (SEP)

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SUBJECT: After Action Report - Task Force Salvo (TOW Missile Systems)

1. (C) Organization of Task Force Salvo:

- a. TOW Company - D/2/8 Cav
- b. Rifle Company - D/1/12 Cav
- c. Brigade Anti-tank Platoon - TDY Personnel
- d. Ground Surveillance Radar Section - HHS/1/21 Arty

2. (C) Mission: The mission of Task Force (TF) Salvo was based upon the threat to US personnel and related installations in the PLEIKU area of operations (AO) by enemy armor.

- a. The mission of TF Salvo was to provide timely anti-mechanized defense for the safety and evacuation of US personnel.
- b. Upon specific approval by COMUSMACV, four TOW teams were dispatched to KONTUM as an exception to policy and employed in conjunction with the 23rd Inf Div (ARVN) defense of their AO under US advisory supervision.

3. (C) Organization, Training and Initial Commitment:

a. As a stop-gap measure against the increased armor threat and pressure against the PLEIKU-KONTUM AO, a tube launched, optically-tracked, wire guided (TOW) anti-tank missile platoon (designated Bde AT Plt) was attached to this brigade, along with maintenance contact teams, a Department of the Army missile maintenance technician (DAC-IMT) and TOW instructors from CONUS.

b. Immediately after limited refresher training upon their arrival from CONUS, the Bde AT Plt, along with a contact team, was airlifted into the PLEIKU-KONTUM AO.

c. The Bde AT Plt, consisting of 12 TOW systems was initially committed as follows:

- (1) KONTUM - ZA225905 (two each); AR775890 (one each)
- (2) Artillery Hill - ZA229534 (two each).
- (3) Engineer Hill - AR795524 (two each).
- (4) Advisory Team 36 - AR764498 (one each).
- (5) Camp Holloway - AR798467 (four each).

d. The rifle company (R/Co) from 1/12 Cav was present in the PLEIKU AO prior to the introduction of TOW teams from a previous OPCON commitment to SRG in mid-January 1972. The Bde AT Plt was attached to the R/Co.

e. The TOW Company (TO/Co) from 2/8 Cav was composed of selected personnel from the Brigade's maneuver battalions.

(1) Such personnel underwent a four-day training program conducted by CONUS instructors at Bien Hoa in three increments until the entire TO/Co was trained.

(2) A total of 26 TOW teams were trained.

f. Upon notification of his mission, the TF Commander received an orientation on the TO/Co in training. On 14 May 1972, the TF Commander departed for PLEIKU.

g. An AN/TPS-58 Ground Surveillance Radar Section (Radar Sec) from HHS/1-21 Arty was sent to PLEIKU on 13 May 1972 and attached to TO/Co upon their arrival on 19 May 1972.

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mitted on Artillery Hill until 17

(1) May 1972.

(2) Delay was based upon the determination by the Director, SRAG, who felt that the introduction of the Radar Sec might cause ARVN to rely heavily upon it for early warning against enemy approach and, as a result, curtail active patrolling.

h. On 17 May 1972, the R/Co departed PLEIKU for BIEN HOA and reverted to 1-12 Cav control.

i. On 18 May 1972, the TOW Co (-) arrived at PLEIKU with three additional TOWs and on 22 May 1972 the rest of the TOW Co from BIEN HOA closed in and brought three more TOWs.

(1) The TOW Co was placed OFCON to SRAG.

(2) A total of 23 TOW teams with 18 TOW systems are located in the PLEIKU-KONTUM AO. Three TOW teams remained at BIEN HOA.

j. On 19 May 1972, the Lde AT Plt was relieved in place by the TOW Co (-).

k. On 21 May 1972, the Lde AT Plt, along with the contact team, departed PLEIKU for BIEN HOA and subsequent out-processing for return to CONUS.

4. (C) Security of TOW Teams:

a. Prior to their departure from PLEIKU, the R/Co provided security and evacuation support while a plt (-) had a second mission of rapid reaction against Engineer Hill. The R/Co (-) had a second mission of rapid reaction against enemy actions against US installations in the PLEIKU AO (less Camp Holloway).

b. An ARVN rifle company under the supervision of an US Advisor provided security on Artillery Hill for the TOW teams, Radar Sec, and Det D, 330th Radio Research Bn. Subsequently, upon rotation of the ARVN rifle company, a replacement company (-) without a US advisor, required commitment of a TOW Plt Leader.

c. The Advisory Team 36, along with Nung Guards, provided security for the TOW teams at the Team 36 compound.

d. At KONTUM, the teams were committed in vicinity of an ARVN Regt and the Advisory Team 23 TOC with protection provided by ARVN under supervision of US Advisors.

e. The teams at Camp Holloway received its security from a rifle company, D/1-17 Inf (17th Inf), a unit formerly from CAMP HANG BAY, now attached to SRAG and OFCON to 17th Avn GP (CET) (17th CAG).

f. Upon the departure of the R/Co from PLEIKU on 17 May 1972, 17 Inf provided a platoon (-) on Engineer Hill for TOW team security.

g. All TOW teams were issued sufficient thermite grenades to destroy the systems to prevent them from falling into enemy hands.

5. (C) Coordination and Control.

a. Radar Sec attached to TOW Co.

b. TF Salvo placed under OFCON TO Director, SRAG, and further OFCON to CO, Advisory Team 21, PLEIKU.

c. 17th Inf placed under OFCON to 17th CAG at Camp Holloway.

d. Due to an unwieldy geographic separation between Camp Holloway and Engineer Hill, a rifle platoon (-) from the 17th Inf on Engineer Hill was placed under OFCON to the TOW Co for security and evacuation support.

e. The TOW Plt at Camp Holloway remained under direct OFCON of CO, Advisory Team 21 until actual anti-tank employment vicinity Camp Holloway; then OFCON to 17th CAG.

f. TOW platoon leaders were committed with teams located at KONTUM, Artillery Hill, and Camp Holloway.

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- g. An FM communications net existed tying-in all TOV teams from KONTUM to Camp Holloway, with the Team 21 Internal Defense Coordination Center (IDCC).
- h. The TOV Co established a TOC and had both secure and non-secure voice communications.
- i. The Radar Sec reported sightings directly to a Corps Tactical CO/TOC and to IDCC.
- j. All ARVN-TOV Co coordination was effected by IDCC, initially, then continued by CO, TOV Co.

6. (C) Employment and Location of TOV Teams:

- a. TOV's were employed only during hours of darkness.
- b. The employment of TOV's in the Camp Holloway AO, was somewhat restricted due to SRAG guidance of requiring TOV security and simultaneously conducting active patrolling outside the perimeter by the 17th Inf.
- (1) Thus, TOV's were kept inside the perimeter due to insufficient infantry security.
- (2) In the event of an attack, the TOV's along with an infantry plt in 17th CAG reserve, would be dispatched to pre-selected and prepared TOV positions dependent upon the direction of the armor threat.
- c. All other locations covered avenues of armor approach.
- d. Locations of 18 TOV Teams:
- (1) KONTUM - AR773889 (4 each)
 - (2) Artillery Hill - ZA229536 (2 each)
 - (3) Engineer Hill - AR79524 (2 each)
 - (4) Team 36 - AR762499 (2 each)
 - (5) Camp Holloway - (6 each)
 - (6) D/2-8 Cav Reserve - AR766508 (2 each)

7. (U) Administration and Logistics:

- a. Unit administration responsibilities (i.e. personnel assignment, morning report accounting, R & R and leaves, supply, etc.) remained with TOV Co and 2/8 Cav.
- b. In-coming mail was handled by unit couriers on a 3-day basis between BIEN HOA and PLEIKU. Out-going mail was posted from PLEIKU.
- c. Travel between BIEN HOA and PLEIKU was primarily by scheduled C-130 passenger flights.
- d. POL was provided by Advisory Team 21.
- e. Basic office and house keeping supplies were provided by Advisory Team 21.
- f. Housing, messing and "hootch-maid" services were provided by the Hospital Compound Commander.

8. (C) Maintenance:

- a. Vehicular maintenance (less critical parts) was provided by Advisory Team 21.
- b. Since this is a new system demand data must be collected and a PLL maintained by 2/8 Cav.
- c. First echelon TOV systems maintenance was by TOV Co personnel.
- d. Upon departure of DAC-11T and contact team from PLEIKU, a direct exchange system was established with LONG BINH.
- e. At Camp Holloway, there was a helicopter-mounted TOV unit (HAWK's CL-3) from US RAR which had a DAC-11T and four technical representatives who could provide systems maintenance assistance.

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9. (U) Training:

- a. Motor stables and TOW systems maintenance were conducted daily.
- b. TOW Crew Drill included loading, unloading, tracking and tactics.
- c. The XM-70, a device for training gunners in tracking was being provided by HAWK'S CLAS on a joint-training agreement.
- d. Infantry training included small unit training, ambush, mines and booby traps, artillery adjustment and marksmanship.
- e. Intelligence briefings.
- f. Equal Opportunity Program.
- g. All TOW teams conducted night firing missions upon their arrival in PLEIKU.

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Adjutant General's Office.

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REFERENCE OR OFFICE SYMBOL

AVHDO-00

SUBJECT

ORLL - 3d Brigade (Separate), 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Period Ending 20 June 1972

TO DCSOPS

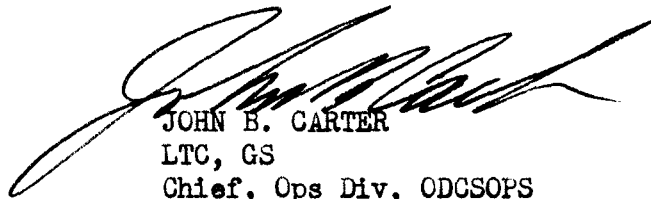
FROM C, Ops Div

DATE 5 JUL 1972
CPT Kunzman/bh/5475

CMT 1

1. This is a decision paper.
2. PURPOSE: To forward subject ORLL (TAB B) to USARPAC IAW AR 525-15.
3. DISCUSSION: a. Subject report covers the 50 day period since 30 April ^{and} is the final ORLL for the 3/1st Cav.
 b. The report has been reviewed and does not contain any new lessons learned.
4. CONCLUSION: No further staffing is required prior to forwarding the subject ORLL.
5. RECOMMENDATION: Approval of 1st Ind at TAB A.
6. ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS: Forward to AG for signature. AG sign 1st Ind at TAB A and return to DCSOPS for assembly and dispatch.

2 Incl
as


 JOHN B. CARTER
 LTC, GS
 Chief, Ops Div, ODCSOPS

7. COORDINATION: Not required.

*Approved
5 July 72
[Signature]*

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7-4-4

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AVHDC-00 (20 Jun 72) 1st Ind
 SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 3d Brigade (Separate),
 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), Period Ending 20 June 1972,
 RCS CS FOR - 65(R3)(U)


Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 8 JUN 1972

TO: Commander-In-Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-PD,
 APO 96558

This Headquarters has reviewed the subject Operational Report - Lessons Learned and concurs with the basic report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
 nc


 T. T. GOFFINHAM
 CPT, AGC
 ASST. AG

CF:
 2 - AGSFOR, DA, WASH, DC 20310

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