

AVDARS-B

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the month of September 1969

TO: Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 9th Cavalry
1st Cavalry Division (AM)
ATTN: S-3

1. Significant Organization and Unit Activities

a. Principle Operations

(1) From 1 September to 3 September, Bravo Troop supported the 1st Squadron, 11 ACR and the 3rd Bde, 1st ACD. From 4 September to 30 September, Bravo Troop supported the 3rd Bde, 1 ACD in Operation Kentucky Racer.

(2) Activity in Operation Kentucky Racer was moderate. Working with the 11 ACR, activity was also moderate.

(3) Aircraft firings during September were heavy. There were 32 aircraft firings and 1 aircraft hit.

(4) During the month of September, Bravo Troop performed 7 L.R.R.P. insertions and 10 extractions.

(5) Sabre Blues were inserted 10 times during the month of September. The Blues captured web gear, ponchos, poncho liners, canned fish, 60 lbs. of rice, clothing, fishing nets, documents, and an AK-47 magazine. On the 16th of September, the Blues were gassed with CS by an NVA force. On the 21st of September, the Blues made contact with an estimated company size enemy force while helping a L.R.R.P. element. During the action of 21 September there were 4 Blue WIA's, 1 L.R.R.P. WIA, and 6 enemy KIA's.

(6) Bravo Troop marked targets for 29 air strikes and performed 25 BDA's of air strikes. Bravo Troop also performed 5 BDA's of heavy artillery. These air strikes and BDA's accounted for 59 structures destroyed, 141 bunkers destroyed, 80 meters of trench line destroyed, and 8 KBA's.

b. Other Activities

(1) During the month of September, Bravo Troop expanded its living facilities to an area just across from Saabhard Flight Line. (Reference in section c. this report, Base Development)

(2) During the month of September, safety meetings were held weekly on Thursday at 2030 hours. The topics discussed included:

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- (a) Danger of loose objects/equipment in the rear of OH-6A.
- (b) Unsafe conditions at or below zero "g" in AH-1G.
- (c) Importance of using extreme caution when hovering in revetment areas.
- (d) Safety wiring on the UH-1H.
- (e) Proper refueling procedures for all aircraft in the Troop.
- (f) Importance of knowing who has command of an aircraft at all time.
- (g) Insuring that passengers have seat belts and that seat belts function properly in non-combat mission.
- (h) General discussion of recent aircraft accidents and incidents.

c. Base Defense

(1) Work continues on the Red Sector of the Green Line, a portion of which partially encompasses Scabbard Strip.

(2) Bravo Troop and 1 platoon of D Troop continued to man 7 bunkers on the Green Line with 4 men per bunker.

d. Base Development

(1) During the period of 1 September 1969 to 30 September 1969, Bravo Troop erected 5 metal prefabricated buildings for the purpose of housing the recently organized KD team and the Bravo Troop Blues. This was accomplished by the division engineers.

(2) Also the building of 6 maintenance revetments in the maintenance area on Scabbard Strip has been completed.

(3) Self-help projects continue at a slow rate due to restrictions on materials.

e. Administrations and Logistics

(1) Troop Strength

Authorized			Assigned			Present for Duty		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
18	30	127	21	33	151	19	30	138

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DS Detachment

Authorized			Assigned			Present for Duty		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
1	1	61	1	0	40	1	0	40

(2) Organization for Combat

Commanding Officer-----Major George L. O'Grady
 Executive Officer-----Cpt. William O. Martin
 Operations Officer-----Cpt. William S. Huff II
 Weapons Platoon Leader-----Cpt. Thomas N. Almojuella
 Scout Platoon Leader-----Cpt. Louis B. Niles
 Infantry Platoon Leader-----1LT. Maurice E. Murphy
 Lift Platoon Leader-----1LT. William F. Gill III
 Maintenance Officer-----Cpt. Charles R. Bielinski

(3) Awards and Decorations

BSM	AM	VCG	AM"V"	DFC	SM	SS	PH	ARCM"V"
15	1	0	3	6	0	2	22	1

(4) Losses

Programmed			Unprogrammed		
OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
0	0	2	3	5	6

(5) Promotions

Cpt-----1
 CW2-----3
 E-6-----1
 E-5-----9
 E-4-----4

(6) R&R

In Country	Out Country
2	11

(7) Replacements

OFF	WO	EM
1	8	13

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(8) Logistics

(a) Class I

A-----16,331

B-----0

C-----45

(b) Class II

No longer used at troop level

(c) Class III

JP-4-----30,500

AVAGAS----NONE

MOGAS-----600

DIESEL----1800

(d) Class IV

Chairs-----40

Floor Fans-2

Desk Fans--7

(e) Class V

5.56-----14,440

7.62-----167,800

40mm-----5,986

M79-----416

60mm-----0

81mm-----0

90mm-----0

106mm-----0

2.75-----3264

Flochettes---318

WP-----1067

4.2-----0

.38-----600

.45-----1925

M18-----340

M26-----6

Claymore-----6

12 Gauge-----0

2. Losses

a. Enemy

Month

Quarter

NVA KIA -----39 ----- 184

VC KIA -----8 ----- 22

DETAINEES -----2 ----- 2

VC CAPTURED -----10 ----- 10

INDIV WPNS -----2 ----- 9

AMMUNITIONS -----50rds ----- 250rds

DOCUMENTS -----1 ----- 3

PACKS -----5 ----- 10

RICE -----120lbs ----- 295lbs

SALT -----0 ----- 5lbs

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b. Friendly	Month	Quarter
US KIA -----	0 -----	4
US WIA -----	6 -----	24
US MIA -----	0 -----	0
A/C FIRINGS -----	32 -----	63
A/C HIT (FLY) -----	0 -----	5
A/C HIT (NO FLY) -----	1 -----	2
A/C DEST (COMBAT) -----	0 -----	1
A/C DEST (NON COMBAT) -----	0 -----	1
A/C HIT -----	1 -----	8
VEH DEST (COMBAT) -----	0 -----	0
VEH DEST (NON COMBAT) -----	0 -----	0
VEH TURNED IN -----	3 -----	3

3. Commanders Comments

a. Tactical

- (1) It has been determined that the 10 lb. PD fuzed rocket is of little real value to this unit. The rocket will not clear brush, bamboo, or other obstructions to visibility when fired at enemy positions.
- (2) The 17 lb. PD fuzed rocket is of great value. One 17 lb. rocket does more damage than 1 pair of 10 lb. rockets.
- (3) The 10 lb. VT fuzed rocket does a better all around job than the 10 lb. VT rocket.
- (4) The 17 lb. VT fuzed rocket has not been fired in enough quantity to state any conclusion.
- (5) This unit would prefer to get an increase in the 17 lb. warhead ASR to 2000 17 lb. warhead per 30 day period. A total of 23 rockets will be carried on the inboard XW159C rocket pods. All but 10 rockets are fired singly. These 10 or 5 pairs plus 14 single rockets are more effective than 38 10 lb. rockets.
- (6) If 17 lb. warheads are not available the 10 lb. VT fuzed warhead is preferred over the 10 lb. PD warhead.
- (7) Nighthawk has been flown every night the weather has permitted. Varying tactics to include reconnaissance by fire have been tried. To date the enemy has refused to engage the Nighthawk team. No enemy movement has been determined. It is recommended Nighthawk, using existing lights and visual detection, be eliminated as a mission in this AO. It is recommended that a night gunship team remain on standby to attack targets detected by other means, such as IR, RADAR, and sensors, if proper preplanning is first accomplished.
- (8) Direct Support, as a Troop Mission, is not recommended. It has worked for this period only because the Brigade Commander has permitted the Troop to operate as the Troop has recommended. Personalities may change at any time. If a new Brigade Commander assumed control, the existing situation could

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be damaged. A GSR of GS role is preferred.

b. Personnel

(1) Critical shortages in MOS's continue to exist: 67V20 (2)

(2) In addition 4 more 67V20's are OJT and consequently not the most proficient at this time.

FOR THE COMMANDER

George L. O'Grady
GEORGE L. O'GRADY
MAJ, FA
Commanding

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