

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Troop A, 4th Squadron, 12th Cavalry
APO San Francisco 96477

19 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Period July-September 1969

Commanding Officer
1st Battalion, 77th Armor
ATTN: S-3
APO San Francisco 96477

SECTION I

a. Operations in July 1969 consisted of reconnaissance operations which were classified as search and destroy missions. In reality, they were zone recon missions within the area of operations. During July, ambushes were set up each night in the AO with mounted and dismounted operations in the day. There was no contact with enemy forces during the period. The Troop operated out of LZ Sharon in July.

b. Operations in August: At the beginning of August, the Troop was operating out of LZ Sharon on search and destroy operations. On 3 August 1969, an ACAV vehicle from the 3rd platoon was hit from ambush by an RPG round. As a result, the vehicle was destroyed by fire and eight men were wounded in action. Artillery and air strikes were called in on the enemy and the other two armored cavalry platoons searched the area. However, the enemy was not located. It is felt that one or more enemy troops fired from the ambush, then moved out of the area rapidly. The area involved was rugged terrain with many defiles and heavy jungle vegetation.

In the middle of August the Troop shifted operations to A-4 and was under operational control of 1st Bn, 61st Inf. With good weather resulting in excellent cross-country mobility, the Troop utilized its capabilities in extended operations using armored cavalry tactics in area, route, zone, recon and security missions to include screening and in a short time the enemy left the area or hid in unknown areas. The enemy laid extensive mines in the area, and as a result, three ACAV vehicles were combat losses and one tank was damaged by mines. On 30 August the Troop had 2 NVA KIA's, two NVA WIA's, and one NVA captured.

c. Operations in September: On 7 September the Troop closed in LZ Nancy at 1700 hrs from A-4. The next day the Troop assumed perimeter defense of eleven bunkers, sent out mounted and dismounted ambushes at night, provided mine sweep security, and had a ready reaction force. During the period 8-20 September the armored cavalry platoons were in the field at night providing blocking positions, ready reaction force, and normally a total of fifteen ambushes a night. During the day hours the Troop returned to LZ Nancy for rest, maintenance, and then returned to the field by mid-afternoon. On 21 September the 3rd platoon moved to PB Sandy, the rest of the Troop moving to LZ Sharon on 24 September. On 25 September the 2nd platoon moved to C-2 OPCON to 1st Bn, 11th Inf, while the rest of the Troop moved back to LZ Nancy. The remainder of the Troop continued perimeter security of LZ Nancy, nightly ambushes, and pro-

John
11