

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENT

UNIT HISTORY

COOP, 3RD SQUADRON 5TH CAVALRY

ATTACHED TO

7TH SQUADRON, 1ST AIR CAVALRY

1ST AVIATION BRIGADE

1 JANUARY 1970 - 31 DECEMBER 1970

PREPARED BY:

FIRST LIEUTENANT LARRY E. CARMICHAEL
UNIT HISTORICAL OFFICER

APPROVED BY:

JOHNNY A. PHILLIPS, JR.
Major, Armor
Commanding

Vinh Long, Republic of Vietnam
APO 96357

FORWARD

As the concept of air mobility in ground combat operations evolved and matured, the Air Cavalry Troop has established itself as an invaluable fighting unit. Its unique organization of aero scout, lift and weapons platoons gives it the capability to accomplish all airmobile operations. It's primary mission, however, remains that of extensive air reconnaissance: finding the enemy and fixing them in combat. Officers and men of Lighthorse, from Cambodia to the U Minh Forest, from the Iron Triangle to the Seven Mountains, you have displayed the true cavalryman's fighting spirit. Your professionalism and dedication to your mission have become a standard in the delta.

JOHNNY A. PHILLIPS, JR.
Major, Armor
Commanding

HERALDRY

5th Cavalry

COAT OF ARMS

Shield: On a Cross Moline Sable, on a Chief Embattled of the last a Maltese Cross Argent.

Crest: On wreath of the colors (or and sable) a bundle of five arrows sable armed and flitted gules, tied with a rattlesnake skin having five rattles proper.

Motto: Loyalty and Courage.

Symbolism: The 5th Cavalry Regiment's Coat of Arms embodies highlights of the Regiment's history. The upper portion of the Coat of Arms consists of a bundle of five arrows tied together with a rattlesnake skin having five rattles. This is the Indian symbol of War. The arrows commemorate the five major Indian campaigns in which Regiment was engaged. The upper portion of the shield consists of a white Maltese Cross on a black field, representing the service of the Regiment in Puerto Rico November, 1898 to 1900. The five battlements symbolize the numerical designation of the unit. The lower portion of the shield is yellow to denote the color of the Cavalry. The black Cross Moline in this portion was won by the charge of the Regiment at Caine's Mill, Virginia, on 27 June 1862 against the Confederate Troops of Longstreet. In 1923 the War Department draped the shield with a yellow ribbon bearing the Motto, "Loyalty and Courage", thereby honoring the Coat of Arms with the Departments official approval.

LINEAGE

Constituted 3 March 1855 in the regular army as Company C, 2nd Cavalry.
Organized 28 May, 1855 at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Redesignated 3 August 1861 as Company C, 5th Cavalry.
(Cavalry companies officially designated troops in 1883)
5th Cavalry assigned to 1st Cavalry Division December 1900; May 1910.
Assigned 18 December 1922 to 1st Cavalry Division.
Dismounted 28 February 1943 and reorganized 4 December 1943, partly by Cavalry and partly by Infantry Tables of Organization.
Reorganized wholly as Infantry 20 July 1945 but retaining Cavalry designations.
Redesignated 25 March 1949 as Company C, 5th Cavalry.
Inactivated 15 November 1957 in Japan and relieved from assignment to 1st Cavalry Division.
Redesignated 15 April 1958 as Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3d Reconnaissance Squadron, 5th Cavalry.
Activated 1 July 1953 and assigned to 9th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.
Inactivated 31 January 1962 at Fort Carson.
Redesignated 1 February 1966 as 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry and activated at Fort Riley, Kansas.

AREA OF OPERATIONS

Under operational control of 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry, the area of operations ranged throughout IV Corps. With the mission of supporting major ARVN Divisions, D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry changed area of operations frequently. Terrain varied from the abrupt mountains near Chi Lang and the Cambodian border to the nippapalm lined paddies between the mouths of the Mekong to the heavily forested and densely shrubbed U Minh Forest. Frequently used staging areas were the Tra Vinh, Ben Tre, Dong Tam, Muc Hoa, Cao Lanh, Vi Thanh, Ca Mau, Thoi Binh, Rach Soi, Chi Lang and the Cement Plant.

TROOP D
3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry

Throughout the period 1 January 1970 to 31 December 1970, D Troop (Air), 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry was under the operational control of the 7th Squadron, 1st Air Cavalry in direct combat support of the 7th, 9th, 21st ARVN Divisions and the 44th Special Tactical Zone.

The troop's typical mission was reconnaissance-in-force using the unit's organic Scout (OH-6A), Gun (AH-16), and Lift (UH-1H) platoons. Normal mission requirements were two Scout teams, two light fire teams, three slicks and a Command and Control aircraft. The Command and Control aircraft, a Scout team and a light fire team would make visual reconnaissance of suspected enemy locations with the Aero Scouts and Cobra gunships engaging the enemy. The lift element stood by with a ready reaction force if heavy contact was made.

During March 1970, Lighthorse elements located the 1st NVA Battalion in the 9th ARVN Division's Tram area. On the second day of contact, 99 NVA KBA's were confirmed for Lighthorse along with the discovery of three 50 caliber machine guns, twenty 30 caliber machine guns, and numerous small arms weapons.

The Cambodian operation was initiated on the 29th of April with D Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry spearheading the entire operation, being the unconfirmed first unit to enter Cambodia. Throughout May and June, Lighthorse supported ARVN units working in Cambodia, and taking maximum advantage of Visual reconnaissance missions and accurate gun strikes. Lighthorse compiled a total of 229 KBA's for the operation.

"Delta" Troop, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry took an active part in the Seven Mountains operation near Chi Lang in October 1970. Lighthorse supported the 9th ARVN Division in their efforts to secure the major objectives of Nui Cau, Nui Giay, and Nui Coto. With the help of Lighthorse air support, this once safe enemy sanctuary was almost completely pacified by the 9th ARVN Division's troops.

Lighthorse continued to support the ARVN Delta units through the end of 1970. The following is a breakdown of the ARVN units supported in the "Delta" and Cambodia for the year 1970.

44th STZ

January	13-16, 19-31
February	1-3, 25-30
March	1-3
April	1-3, 23-30
May	1, 2, 13, 14, 17-21, 23, 27-30
June	1, 4-7, 21-27
August	19, 21, 22, 24, 25, 29
October	7, 20
November	25
December	6, 12, 15-17, 21-23, 28

7th ARVN Division

April 4, 22
May 7, 25
June 10-20
July 4, 15, 18
August 2, 3, 30, 31
September 9-12
October 6
November 7, 8, 10, 14, 15, 22, 24, 26-29

9th ARVN Division

January 2-6, 9, 10
February 4-8, 12-24
May 11, 24, 26
July 10, 11, 17, 30
August 4-9, 11-14
September 8, 30
October 4, 5, 8-12, 14, 15, 18, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31
November 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 13, 18, 21
December 4, 7, 19, 30

21st ARVN Division

January 7, 8, 11
February 10, 11
May 3-6, 10, 15
June 8, 9
July 1-3, 6, 21, 29, 31
August 16, 17, 28
September 1, 2, 4-7, 13, 15-28
October 1, 2, 19
November 10, 17, 20
December 1, 2, 5, 9-11, 13, 20, 25, 27, 31

Navy Seals

May 31
June 3

4th Marines

May 12
June 29, 30

The Troop totals for 1970 were as follows:

KIA - 5

KBA - 1039

SAMPANS - 1269

STRUCTURES - 1849