

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
F TROOP, 17TH CAVALRY
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96349

AVDF-BBAC

19 February 1972

SUBJECT: Unit History - F Troop, 17th Cavalry

Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 1st Cavalry
APO San Francisco 96349

F Troop 17th Cavalry was activated on 15 September 1965 at Fort Devens, Massachusetts as part of the newly formed 196th Light Infantry Brigade (Separate). Initial training and organization was accomplished at Fort Devens culminating in Troop ATT's conducted at Camp Edwards, Massachusetts.

In early June 1966, the troop was alerted for overseas deployment as part of the parent unit, the 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Initially deployment was thought to be for the Dominican Republic, but on 1 July 1966 word was received that the Brigade was deploying to the Republic of Vietnam.

On 14 August 1966 the Troop arrived in Vung Tan, RVN and was attached to the 25th Infantry Division near Tay Ninh, sixty miles northeast of Saigon. F Troop commenced combat operations immediately in the Tay Ninh area with the emphasis being route and area reconnaissance, convoy security and aggressive patrolling.

In October 1966 F Troop took part in the combined US-ARVN assault on the enemy basecamp area known as the Black Virgin Mountain or "Nui Ba Din." This operation, in conjunction with RF and PF Forces was highly successful.

In late 1966 F Troop was actively engaged in "Operation Attleboro," providing valuable resupply route security and convoy escorts to forward base areas. The beginning months of 1967 saw the Troop engaged in Operation "Cedar Falls" where the troop undertook the responsibility for reconnaissance, clearing and road security south of the infamous Iron Triangle.

When Task Force Oregon was formed to move into the troubled I Corps area in April 1967, the members of F Troop packed their equipment and moved to the Chu Lai area and immediately began search operations around the base camp area. F Troop participated in operations "Malheur I" and "Malheur II", "Hood River", "Benton" and "Cook". In September 1967 the troop, as part of the 196th Light Infantry Brigade was reconstituted and redesignated as the Americal Division.

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In October 1967 the 198th Light Infantry Brigade arrived in Vietnam and moved to Chu Lai, RVN. F Troop accompanied the 196th Infantry Brigade as it assumed responsibilities for operations in the area left by the 1st Brigade 101st Airborne Division. F Troop participated in operations "Wheeler" and "Wallowa" conducted in the Quang Nam Provinces.

In March 1969 operation "Frederick Hill" was initiated in which F Troop worked hand in hand with Infantry Battalions in cleaning out the enemy around LZ Baldy. Some of F Troop's hardest fighting during the operation came when they provided a blocking force in the rugged Antenna Valley. The remainder of 1969 and the first four months of 1970 saw F Troop working on search and destroy operations around Tam Ky, LZ Baldy, and LZ Hawk Hill. On 29 June 1970 F Troop 17th Cavalry was relieved from attachment to the 196th Light Infantry Brigade and attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry.

In April 1971 F Troop moved from Chu Lai to DaNang, RVN and with the 1st Squadron 1st Cavalry assumed control of their present base camp, Camp Faulkner. During the months from May until July 1971 F Troop participated in the "Caroline Hill" operation and operated in the Que Son Valley south of DaNang. From July through September F Troop worked the Arizona Territory south of DaNang. The Troop's mission there consisted of search and clear operations with RF and PF forces, operations with the 2nd Brigade 1st Infantry Battalion, and in September they secured the 2nd Engineers as they engaged in large road and land clearing operations south of the Song Thi Ben River.

With the onset of the monsoons F Troop moved to Chu Lai in October to act as a reaction force and cover the final withdrawal phase of the 23rd Infantry Division (Americal). When they returned in November to Camp Faulkner the troop underwent a strenuous program of M551 Sheridan training and Airmobile Infantry training along with their role in the DaNang East and West Reaction Forces. In the course of training the Sheridan crews participated in a Tank Crew Qualification Course and the infantry participated in training exercises as Rifle Company elements which eventually led to infantry missions attached to the 3rd Battalion 21st Infantry Brigade working below fire support base "Linda" and fire support base "Maude". With the slackening of monsoons and the beginning of the new year F Troop again became mounted and worked south of Marble Mountain in AO's Anzio and Rome.

As the 1972 TET draws to a close in February 1972 F Troop 17th Cavalry continues to conduct its missions professionally as it plays its role in the Dynamic Defense of DaNang, RVN.



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Commanding