

ANNUAL HISTORICAL SUPPLEMENT

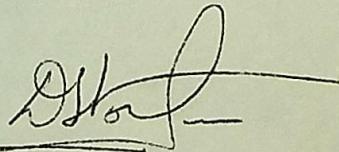
CALENDAR YEAR 1968

1ST SQUADRON 18TH ARMORED CAVALRY

Fort Lewis, Washington 98433

Submitted by:

Headquarters, 1st Squadron
18th Armored Cavalry
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433



DUNBAR S. NORTON
LTC Armor
Commanding

228-08

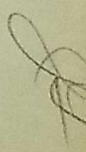


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FORWARD

The Annual Historical Supplement of the 1st Squadron 18th Armored Cavalry is provided as a record of activities and accomplishments during the calendar year 1968. This supplement also contains information pertaining to the individual units within the 1st Squadron 18th Armored Cavalry. The 1st Squadron 18th Armored Cavalry was federally activated on 13 May 1968. The unit was attached to the California Army National Guard with headquarters located at 3800 Vahalla Drive, Burbank, California; prior to activation.

CHAPTER 1 -- ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

SECTION I - Mission

1. Currently there are three missions assigned to the 1/18 th Armd Cav.
 - a. Designated as a unit for possible use in civil disturbance operations.
 - b. Utilized with Fort Lewis Rapid Deployment Plan.
 - c. Maintaining a high degree of readiness for deployment anywhere in the world in support and defense of the USA and its Allies.
2. As of 13 May 68 the 1/18th Armd Cav had but one mission; to train the unit for combat in defense of the Republic of Vietnam.

SECTION II - ORGANIZATION

1. 11 April 1968 - Announcement is made that by direction of the President of the United States pursuant to orders contained in LETTER ORDERS 4-387, Headquarters 6th US Army, dated 12 April 1968, 1st Squadron 18th Armored Cavalry, California Army National Guard had been ordered to active duty effective 13 May 1968 for a period of twenty-four months unless sooner released or later extended.
2. 18 April 1968 - An advanced party of all staff officers and approximately 150 EM were assigned to active duty status.
3. 13 May 1968 - The unit was called to active duty to be trained for RVN at Fort Lewis, Washington.
4. 13 May 1968 - The unit TOE and permanent change of station was effected by Letter Order number 5-2 from 17-55E to 17-105G modified.
5. 12 Dec 1968 - The TOE was changed from 17-105G modified to 17-55G.
6. In June the 1/18 AC was attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment.

SECTION III - Personnel

1. The unit arrived at Fort Lewis with approximately 800 men. Personnel shortages were made up through the Army Personnel Replacement System.
2. 8 July 1968 - The 1/18th Armored Cavalry acquired its first casualty through a training accident, PFC John E. Klapack, NG 28299846, Troop B, deceased.
3. Starting in October personnel from the unit were being levied on an individual basis to RVN.

CHAPTER 2 - MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SECTION I - Training

During the first months of activation training was primarily directed toward familiarization of new equipment. During May, personnel were sent to service and on post schools for technical and general training. During the early part of June, training was directed toward proficiency of individual and crew served weapons. General subjects and make-up classes were continued as required. Tactical operations at troop, platoon and squadron level were initiated. Later in June the squadron deployed to Yakima Firing Center, Yakima, Washington; to conduct live fire exercises and tactical operations. In July and August most tactical deficiencies were corrected by continued tactical training. Classes, exercises, and practical work with weapons and equipment made up the training program to include offensive and defense operations, with specialized training in assault and ambush technique. Preparation for Overseas Replacement qualification of individuals were completed at this time. During July and August the squadron conducted Army Training Test in and around the Rainier Training Areas of Fort Lewis, Washington. The operation covered the following: Armored Cavalry Troop night defense, tank company defense, strike operation (day & night); route security exercise (Armored Cavalry Troop); tank company route security exercise, reconnaissance operations, Armored Cavalry Troop as a reaction force, maintenance on organizational vehicles and equipment, and offensive operations. This Army Training Test was conducted by the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment. Two field grade officers attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment from the 11th Armored Cavalry (RVN) also assisted in training the squadron.

Major Accomplishments - Training (Con't)

The Army Training Test was acceptable, but some levels of individual training needed more emphasis. On 9 September 1968, the 1/18th Armd Cav again moved to Yakima Firing Center, Yakima, Washington, to conduct field training exercises and an Operational Readiness Test. During the two week period the squadron conducted various military operations and moves directly associated with RVN tactics. These include: Occupation of patrol base and fire support bases; area sweeps and reconnaissance in force missions; direct fire 155 Howitzers; route security and convoy escort missions; night tactical road march; cordon and search operations; construction of field fortification and daytime road marches. Every phase of these operations was successful. Several days later the squadron learned that a Department of the Army message had been dispatched, stating that another US Armored Cavalry Squadron was not needed in RVN and the 1/18th Armd Cav would become a replacement unit for RVN units.

SECTION II - Logistics

1. Upon activation, many of the TOE items were obsolete according to active Army standards. All substandard and obsolete items were replaced through the United States Property Fiscal Officer of California by 13 May 68.
2. 14 May thru 17 May 68 - All TOE equipment (minus tracks) and 205 enlisted men and 4 officers convoyed 1100 miles from Burbank, California to Fort Lewis Washington. With only seven days preparation, the squadron successfully transported 199 vehicles with Fort MacArthur, California providing excellent logistical support needed for the movement.
3. The entire burden of turning in old equipment and drawing new equipment was the responsibility of the S-4 Section which successfully completed the majority of the task in a few weeks prior to activation.

CHAPTER 3 - MAJOR PROBLEMS

SECTION I - Training

One of the early problems with training was the inconsistency in which vitally needed equipment for training would arrive at Fort Lewis. Training sometimes was altered until the vitally needed equipment would arrive. Training was started immediately upon arrival at Fort Lewis before the troops had time for processing, thus many missed initial training while processing. At first the 1/18th Armored Cavalry was the primary source of instructors and supervisors for their own training. This was not successful. However, in late June the 3rd Squadron, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment came to the aid and remedied the problem, furnishing highly qualified instructors.

SECTION II - Personnel

1. During phases of training for the RVN mission, the personnel in the Squadron were restricted from transferring out of the unit. This led to a unique situation; there were no personnel replacements during training for this specific mission. After notification that the Squadron would not deploy to RVN, individuals were levied at such an astounding rate that training became ineffective.
2. Approximately 150 congressional inquiries were investigated during the first 5 months of activation. Most of the inquiries proved to be invalid.
3. Early in September 352 enlisted men filed a complaint. In the action, Secretary of Defense, Clark Clifford, General Beverly (Post Commander), LTC Brainard (CO, 1/18th Armd Cav) were the named defendants in an alleged illegal call-up of the California Army National Guard. However, the United States Supreme Court refused to grant an injunction which would restrict the Unit of potential overseas duty. The case was dropped at this point.

SECTION III - Logistics

1. The California Army National Guard had unit commanding officers as the Property Book Custodian. During the first few weeks of activation the Property Book Custodian mission reverted to an organizational custodian's responsibility. This change in custodians plus the change in the TOE structure made distribution and accountability difficult.
2. Because of the constant changing of commanders and key personnel at the unit level, the unit's hand receipted property was not always audited properly and the disposition of property was not always accounted for.
3. Inability of Post to support armored cavalry operations during the first few months led to problems in acquiring PLL and lack of adequate depot maintenance.
4. While training was being conducted at Yakima Firing Center, the S-4 Section and Support Platoon split its components so that it could simultaneously support 1/18th Armd Cav training at Yakima and Fort Lewis, Washington. This was a major accomplishment, however it produced some major logistical problems.

MILITARY HISTORY OF CO, 1/18 AC

LTC ROBERT F. BRAINARD

NOT AVAILABLE.

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST SQUADRON 18TH ARMORED CAVALRY
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433

31 December 1968

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUTY TITLE</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SN</u>
BRAINARD, Robert F	CO	LTC	0986813
CICCARELLI, John E.	XO	MAJ	091188
CHARISSE, Nickolas F.	S-1	1LT	02318756
FAGAN, John C.	S-2	1LT	02325261
HAUCK, William A.	S-3	CPT	05709878
WILKENS, David	S-4	CPT	05241087
KARMEN, William N.	SUP PLT LDR	1LT	05261436
ROWLAND, Richard	MOTOR OFF	CPT	02268639
NONE ASSIGNED	MEDICAL OFF		
NONE ASSIGNED	PERS OFF		
BEPLER, Peter T. II	PROPERTY BOOK OFF	1LT	05261111
McPHERSON, Donald G.	COMMO OFF	CPT	05333231

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST SQUADRON 18TH ARMORED CAVALRY
Fort Lewis, Washington 98433

13 May 1968

<u>NAME</u>	<u>DUTY TITLE</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>SN</u>
BRAINARD, Robert F.	CO	LTC	0986813
MASTERSON, Lennart D.	XO	MAJ	0970004
McLURKIN, William J.	S-1	CPT	0991473
DURGIN, George A.	S-2	CPT	02279297
JACKSON, Victor L.	S-3	MAJ	04014488
CARTER, Donald R.	S-4	CPT	02776555
CARPENTER, Samuel P.	SUP PLT LDR	1LT	02318253
ROWLAND, Richard	MOTOR OFF	CPT	02268639
WOODSON, Loren D.	MED OFF	1LT	02333065
SOBKOWSKI, Sylvester V.	PERS OFF	CW-3	W2007360
CROSS, Orlin E.	PROPERTY BOOK OFF	CW-3	W2009979
CARDON, Marvin B.	COMMO OFF	CPT	02306809