TO: Commanding Officer
1st Squadron 9th Cavalry
ATTN: S-3
1st Air Cavalry Division
APO US Forces 96490

SUBJECT: OPERATIONAL REPORT - NORTH OF NINH Binh

1. Significant organization and unit activities.

a. Principle Operations: The platoon continued in general support of the Division with four Combat Tracker Teams. Teams continue to operate out of Quon Loi, Song Be, Tay Ninh and the platoon rear at Phuoc Vinh.

4 Nov. Team #2 working near FSB Dao tracked the enemy that attacked the FSB for 200 meters and found 4 840 rockets, 1 75mm recoilless rifle round, and 1 handgrenade. Team #1 operating out of FSB Ellen tracked the enemy attackers 400 meters to a base area used the previous day, consisting of 4 bunkers and 8 fighting positions. They also recovered 2 241 rounds, 1 60mm mortar round, 300 yds of commo wire, 2 flashlights, 1 NVA pack and an antennae used by the enemy.

10 Nov. Team #4 while on reconing an area of suspected movement from the previous night found 66 60mm mortar rounds 20 meters from the end of the runway.

11 Nov. Team #2 while on a general ground reconaissance with A Trp 1st Sqdn 9th Cav Blues tracked 800 meters to a bunker complex complete with medical supplies and mess hall.

15 Nov. Team #2 while on a recon with B Co. 1/12 Cav near FSB Grant tracked 4 NVA to a river and found an 80 ft rope bridge hidden in the bank.

19 Nov. Team #2 working with B Co. 1/12 Cav out of FSB Grant followed the track of 1 NVA who had been spotted by radar and engaged the previous night. The team tracked the NVA body.

21 Nov. Team #1 tracked a friendly ambush party near Camp Grant. The teams dug tracked 500 meters to a village and up to one house.

Total mission 15 November 69...
b. Other Activities:
   1. This unit continues to employ kit Carson scouts with combat tracker teams and has benefited from their experience and knowledge of enemy tactics and organization.
   2. A class on track and trail sign was given to C Co, 2/7 Cav on 12 Nov by 1SG Adams. 2/7 Cav has requested addition classes as companies are rotated to FS3 Jamie.

c. Base Defense: The platoon continued to support base defense elements in AO Chief with a team located at Phuoc Vinh.

d. Base Improvements: An additional bunker has been built for the personnel of the 37th Inf Plt (Scout Dog) which now maintains a forward area at Phuoc Vinh to support 2nd Bde and AO Chief.

e. Training and Organization:
   1. The weekly training cycle is progressing well and rappelling classes will be initiated next month. Use of a new training area has been arranged with Divarty for longer, better training missions.
   2. Four dogs are currently operational but due to age it will only be a matter of time before the three Malaysian dogs become ineffective. New dogs are expected in country sometime in December but their disposition at this time is not known.

f. Administration and Logistics:
   1. Platoon Strength

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Authorized</th>
<th>Assigned</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OFF WO EM</td>
<td>1 NA 22</td>
<td>1 NA 27</td>
<td>1 NA 26</td>
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2. Organization for Combat

   CO - 1LT RICHARD E. BAUMER
   PSG - SFC RAY ADAMS
   TL - A/SGT JAMES O. JONES
   TL - SP4 MAURICE SWANSON
   TL - SP4 RUDOLPH F. PASCUCCI
   TL - A/SGT BERNARD CROSKEY

3. Awards and Decorations

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<th>ASCOY &quot;VI&quot;</th>
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CONTENTS

4. Losses for November

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5. Promotions

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6. R&R

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7. Replacements

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8. Logistics

- **a. Class I**
  - Gaines Meat: 30 lbs
  - Gaines Burgers: 125 lbs
  - Horsemeat (canned): 4 cases

- **b. Class II**
  - NONE

- **c. Class III**
  - JP4: NA
  - Mogas: 480 gal
  - Diesel: 50 gal

- **d. Class IV**
  - NONE

- **e. Class V**
  - .50 Cal: 1 case
  - Smoke: 1 case
  - Frag: 1 case

2. Losses

**a. Enemy**

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<td>WIA</td>
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<tr>
<td>POW</td>
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[Handwritten notes and stamps]
2. Losses

a. (continued)

Assesments

The following is a list of munitions, and equipment discovered by CT and does not include assessment by supported units:

- 6-840 rds, 3-841 rds, 1-75mm R7 rds, 1 Bangalore torpedo,
- 68-60mm rds, 1-31mm rd, 5 chicom grenades, 1 M79 rd, 1 CS canister
  (aerial dispersion), 3 NVA uniforms, 2 NVA packs, 1 helmet, 2 shovels,
- 2 flashlights, 5 lbs foodstuffs, 3 lbs medical supplies, 1 antenna,
- 300 yds commo wire, 11 bunkers and 1 base camp with mess hall, and
- 1 80 ft rope bridge.

b. Friendly

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<th>MIA</th>
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<th>DOG MIA</th>
<th>DOG SICK</th>
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Remarks

- TDY USARV DTD
- Off feed, Limited Duty
- Cut pad

2. Possible Days

<table>
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<th>Available days</th>
<th>Non-available days</th>
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<tr>
<td>120 (4 dogs)</td>
<td>89</td>
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3. Commander's comments:

The role of this unit has been significantly modified to utilize to the maximum the teams' capabilities as a "short range surveillance patrol". The contribution of the teams in this role has been to provide intelligence on enemy movements and intentions. Although capable of acting in this capacity, the teams most valuable asset, that of being able to follow the enemy to re-establish contact, is
3. Commander's Comments: (Continued)

being temporarily overlooked in favor of short range surveillance goals. It would seem that some brigades and battalions are utilizing the teams as a personal short range patrol, a role that in most cases experienced infantry personnel or organic reconnaissance assets are equally qualified in performing and which exist in fact for just that purpose. It should be stressed that utilizing the tracker teams solely in a reconnaissance role could result in the complete disuse of their TOE capabilities. It is hoped that commanders at all levels in the division will utilize combat tracker teams as a ready reserve, quick reaction asset, on missions where there is at least a chance of allowing the team to perform their primary mission.

In response to several missions where rappelling was required, rappelling training for all teams and dogs will be conducted. Problems still exist in devising a safe and efficient manner for delivery of the dogs. Current techniques; poncho slings, etc., are not deemed safe or efficient enough to meet these requirements.

Veterinary support in the past two months has been sporadic and completely unsatisfactory. Due to our current rotation schedule, a team is at a forward area, most often at a FSB for three weeks before returning to the platoon rear at Phuoc Vinh for one week. Since only one team at a time is at the rear it is required that a visit by a veterinarian be made once a week to this unit in order to see each dog once a month.

Lucky B383 has been off feed for as much as a week. With a change of diet he has been eating the full ration. His tracking ability has been eccentric and due to the type of missions performed this month it is not known if he will work at his previous efficiency. It is obvious that at least one new dog will be required to replace the Malaysia dogs.

4. Recommendations: Due to continued difficulties in determining daily utilization of teams, all support units should render a spot report on the teams mission and any significant findings to either 1st Squadron 9th Cavalry S-3 or Division G2.

RICHARD E. BAUMER
1Lt Infantry
Commanding