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BRAZIL

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22 November 1966

3. (C) CADRETS. At the time of my visit on 17 Nov 1966, the unit was commanded by (U) 1st Mechanized Reconnaissance Cavalry officer of the Cavalry Regiment. The Regiment was Major General.

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4. (C) TRAINING. This unit has a training program and 30 enlisted men. On the day of my visit the unit was releasing draftsmen finishing their year of military service. New recruits are arriving shortly after New Years.

5. (C) LOCATION. November 1966. The unit is located in the immediate area. (This includes many Portuguese). Post officers (as in most cavalry units) Santo Angelo, Brazil, Nov 66. de Sal or Guanhara.

VERNON A. WALTERS, BRIG GEN, USA
U.S. Defense Attache

6. (C) ORGANIZATION. This unit is organized into 1 Bn and 3 Squadrons. Each Squadron is divided into 4 Pls. Each Platoon has 30 men and is armed with 30 machine guns (U.S. 30 cal., water cooled, and Russian 7mm machine guns manufactured in Brazil).

7. (C) VEHICLES. The unit is equipped with the following vehicles:

(U) This report forwards information on the 1st Mechanized Reconnaissance Regiment located at SANTO ANGELO (27523-5429W), State of Rio Grande do Sul. I was accompanied on this visit by AARMA Major Schuler.

- 30 Light and Scout Cars
- 3 Four wheeled Scout Cars
- 2 Half trucks

8. (C) TRAINING. The observed tactical goal. Col. INTERMEDI is a first class, well trained, hard and driving officer, with the ability to inspire his subordinates.

9. (C) COMMUNICATIONS. Four within the unit. 2 Brazilian radio provide voice and communications with Division Hqs and Army Hqs as well as other units of the 1st Cav. Division.

10. (C) RECON. Provide ground reconnaissance for the 1st Cav. Division and be available to support success by using armor in pursuit of the enemy, as well as reconnaissance support in front of the Division. Maintain law and order in area.

11. (C) LOCATION. This unit is located in the town of SANTO ANGELO in northwestern part of the State of Rio Grande do Sul. It occupies the northern half of the military area, at the northern end of Av. Venancio Aires, and is on the northern edge of the town.

12. (C) SUBORDINATION. This unit is directly subordinate to the 1st Cav. Division with Hqs at SANTIAGO DO BOQUEIRAO (29113-5453W), State of Rio Grande do Sul and through it to the 3rd Army.

13. PROBLEMS. As in this unit are described because of lack of parts and trucks. Principal problems with tanks are from tracks, fuses, and gears. General stockpiling made efforts to keep 25 year old vehicles a continuous problem. Armored vehicles of any age are very effective in delaying the enemy.

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OUSARMA RIO DE JANEIRO BRAZ

3. (C) COMMAND. At the time of my visit on 17 Nov 1966, this unit was commanded to Lt. Col. LEO ETCHEGOVEN, a well known Cavalry officer of the Brazilian Army. His Executive Officer was Major HUGO BLEICKER.

4. (C) STRENGTH. This unit has a strength of some 16 officers and 388 enlisted men. On the day of my visit the unit was releasing draftees who were finishing their year of military service. New conscripts will arrive in the unit shortly after New Years.

5. (C) RECRUITMENT. All of the enlisted men of this unit are recruited in the immediate area. (This includes many Sergeants). Most officers (as in most cavalry units) come either from Rio Grande do Sul or Guanabara.

6. (C) ORGANIZATION. This unit is organized into 1 Hqs and Service Squadron and 3 Reconnaissance Squadrons. Each Squadron is divided into a Hqs Platoon and three "Fuzileiro" or Rifle Platoons. Each Squadron has slightly under 100 men and is armed with 10 machine guns (U.S. 30 cal., water cooled, and Madsen 7mm Machine guns manufactured in Brazil).

7. (C) VEHICLES. The unit is equipped with the following vehicles:

- 36 M-3 A1 U.S. built tanks (continental motors). These tanks have SCR-425 radios, nearly all of which are inoperative because of lack of parts and crystals. Tank intercoms, however, are operational.
- 2 Amphibious Jeeps
- 32 Chev. and Studebaker 1 1/2 ton trucks
- 3 Four wheeled Scout cars.
- 2 Half tracks

8. (C) TRAINING. Men observed looked good. Col. ETCHEGOVEN is a first class, brilliant, hard and driving officer, with the ability to inspire his subordinates.

9. (C) COMMUNICATIONS. Poor within the unit. 2 Brazilian made B-300 radios provide voice and CW communications with Division Hqs and Army Hqs as well as other units of the 1st Cav. Division.

10. (C) MISSION. Provide armored reconnaissance for the 1st Cav. Division and be available to exploit success by using armor in pursuit of the enemy, as well as reconnaissance screen in front of the Division. Maintain law and order in area along with other Federal Army units in the area.

11. (C) WEAPONS. The basic weapon is the 1934 Mosquetao 7mm. Non-commissioned officers carry INA submachine guns and officers carry personal side arms. The unit also has US Light Machine guns and 2.34 Bazookas as well as Madsen 7mm automatic rifles.

12. (C) EFFECTIVENESS. Something like half of the vehicles in this unit are deadlined because of lack of parts and tracks. Principal problems with tanks are from tracks, magnetos, and gaskets. General obsolescence made efforts to keep 25 year old vehicles a continuous problem. Armored vehicles of any age are very effective in deterring insurgency.

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