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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAH-P (H) (4 Mar 68) FOR OT RD-T674263 7 March 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl

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MAR 28 1968

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US Army Weapons Command
5th Infantry Division (Mech)
Commanding Officers
1st Battalion, 82d Artillery
Americal Division Artillery
AVIF-AT

SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned (RCS-CFFOR-65)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

SECTION I

Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

1. Present Organization.

a. Assigned or attached elements.

   Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery.

   2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (155mm Howitzer) (Towed).

   3d Battalion, 16th Artillery, (155mm Howitzer) (Towed).

   3d Battalion, 18th Artillery, (8" Howitzer/175mm Gun) (Self-Propelled).

   OPCON

   5th Marine Battery (Provisional).

      1st Platoon 155 Gun Battery (Self-Propelled).

      3d Platoon, 8" Howitzer Battery (Self-Propelled).

   Battery A, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (155mm Howitzer) (Towed)

   3d Platoon, Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery

   1st Platoon, Battery G (50 Caliber), 65th Artillery (Automatic Weapons).

b. At the end of the report period, the 16 searchlights of the
3d Platoon, Battery G, 29th Artillery were deployed in support of Americal
Division units as follows:

   For OT RD

   T674263

   CONFIDENTIAL

   Downgraded at 8 year Intervals
   Declassified after 12 years
   DOD DIR 5200.10
2. Summary of Events.

b. Command inspections of the three artillery battalions comprising the division artillery were conducted by Division Artillery Headquarters in preparation for impending AGI's. General format and checklists for the AGI were used for these inspections.

3d Battalion, 16th Artillery - 19 October 1967.
3d Battalion, 18th Artillery - 12 September 1967.

c. Annual General Inspections of the following units were conducted by the Americal Division Inspector General during the report period. Both battalions successfully passed their Annual General Inspections and were commended for the outstanding manner they were performing their primary mission and are in the process of correcting any deficiencies noted.


d. All artillery units with Americal Division received the Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer (FADAC) and associated equipment in August 1967. A team from Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer/Tactical Imagery Interpretation Facility Assistance Team, Pacific
conducted operator and maintenance courses for personnel of all artillery battalions during the period 21-23 August 1967. The equipment was issued on 23 August 1967, following completion of the course of instruction. Field artillery data computer has proven to be a reliable, effective time saving gunnery device, when operational. However, a deadline rate of 33% was experienced.

e. The Americal Division Artillery conducted a Fire Direction Course in August 1967, for Fire Direction Officers and Chief computer at both Battery and Battalion. The purpose of the course was to acquaint supervisory personnel with their responsibilities and to stress those gunnery techniques which are particularly applicable to Vietnam. The course has proven to be extremely beneficial. A second course will be conducted in December.

f. In August, Division Artillery requested survey support from Third Marine Amphibious Force to establish third order survey control within the division Tactical Area of Responsibility. Division Artillery has no survey capability. This request was forwarded to Military Assistance Command Vietnam which tasked the 509th Engineer Company to accomplish the survey. On 4 October a 27-man team commenced surveying 10 third order control points along Highway 1 from Chu Lai to Hill 63. Upon completion of the project a total of 13 third order survey points will have been established along Highway 1 in the Americal Division Tactical Area of Responsibility.

3. Operations.

a. The Americal Division Artillery in addition to exercising full command over the units listed paragraph d, supervises artillery techniques and coordinates the fires of 5 direct support artillery battalions and two separate batteries. This artillery is spread laterally a distance of some 150 Kilometers. In addition to its primary mission of providing artillery fires for the Americal Division, the Division Artillery provides supporting fires, on a coordination and cooperation basis for the 2d Army Republic of Vietnam, the 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, and for Special Forces Teams and United States Marine units operating in or adjacent to the Division Tactical Area of Responsibility.

b. During the report period Division Artillery provided supporting artillery fires for the following major operations of the Division:

   Operation HOOD RIVER 2-13 August 1967
   Operation BENTON 14-31 August 1967
   Operation COOK 2-10 September 1967
   Operation WHEELER 11 September 1967 (continuing)
   Operation WALLOWA 4 October 1967 (continuing)

   1) HOOD RIVER

   a) In coordination with the 2d Army Republic of Vietnam Division and the 2d Republic of Korea Marine Brigade, the Americal Division (then Task Force OREGON) conducted assaults in zone to destroy enemy forces and installations in the vicinity of Base Area 121.
b) Division Artillery supported the operation with two 155mm howitzer batteries and one 8"/175mm gun battery in addition to direct support artillery. C Battery, 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (155mm How) was moved by helicopter to a firing position in vicinity of Base Area THU NGU VNG (BS 393703) on 31 July 1967 to reinforce the fires of the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery. On 2 August 1967, B Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (8"/175mm gun) and C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (155mm How) moved to firing positions in the vicinity of BS 467870 to provide general support for the operation and to reinforce the fires of the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery. C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery provided direct support for the 2d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The artillery organization for combat was as follows:

2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (-)  Direct Support - 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

3d Battalion, 82d Artillery (+)  Direct Support - 196th Light Infantry Brigade

2d Battalion, 320th Artillery

2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (-)  General Support/Reinforcing
C Battery (OPCON to 2/320)  2d Battalion, 9th Artillery

3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (-)  Reinforcing - 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery
C Battery (OPCON to 3/16)  Direct Support - 2d Squadron (-), 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (-)  General Support Reinforcing -
2d Battalion, 320th Artillery

2. BENTON

a) Americal Division (then Task Force OREGON) conducted offensive operations to locate and destroy enemy forces, installations and facilities in and around Base Area 117.

b) Division Artillery supported the operation with three 155mm howitzer batteries and one 8"/175mm gun battery in addition to direct support artillery. On 11 August 1967, C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery moved to the TIEN PHOUC CING Camp (BT 104149) and on 14 August 1967 was relieved under OPCON of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division. The artillery organization for combat was as follows:

2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (-)  Direct Support - 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division
3d Battalion, 82d Artillery (+) Direct Support - 196th
Light Infantry Brigade

2d Battalion, 320th Artillery Direct Support - 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division

2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (+) Reinforcing - 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery

3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (-) General Support Reinforcing

A Battery Reinforcing - 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery

Howitzer Battery 2d Battalion, Reinforcing - 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment

B Battery Reinforce 3d Bn, 16th Arty

3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (-) General Support Reinforcing

B Battery Reinforce 3d Bn, 16th Arty

3) COOK

a) The Division supported Vietnamese elections by: (1) Conducting aggressive cordon and search operations within assigned TACR's, (2) Providing distant security by search and destroy and screening tactics for polling sites established within areas of responsibility, (3) Providing logistical air support to Republic of Vietnam Air Force, when necessary, within restrictions required by US policy, (4) Providing ground or heliborne company size ready reaction forces, on order, to areas deemed inappropriate due to displacement of Government Vietnam forces during election period.

b) Division Artillery conducted an accelerated H/LI program on areas containing enemy infiltration routes and likely areas for rocket/mortar firing sites. The operation was supported from the normal (permanent) artillery positions except for a provisional 4-howitzer battery from the 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery which on 6 September 1967 was moved to H THAH (BT 130201) to reinforce the 2d Battalion, 320th Arty. Organization for combat was as follows:

2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (-) Direct Support - 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

3d Battalion, 82d Artillery (+) Direct Support - 196th
Light Infantry Brigade

2d Battalion, 320th Artillery Direct Support - 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division
4) WHEELER

a) On 10 September 1967, Americal Division commenced a 5 battalion offensive and security operation, in three phases, to destroy enemy base camps, fortifications and enemy forces operating in terrain west of TAM KY and along Route 1 between TAM KY and Hill 63. Operation continues.

b) Division Artillery supported the operation as follows:

C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery displaced to the TNF PHOUC Special Forces Camp (BT 105141) on 10 September 1967 to provide reinforcing fires for the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery. The battery moved again on 26 September 1967 to MT981630 to continue its mission of reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery, returning to TNF PHOUC on 19 October 1967. Artillery organization for combat was as follows:

- 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (−)
- 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery (+)
- 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery
- 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (+)
- 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery
- C Battery
- 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (−)

5) WALLOW.

a) The Americal Division conducted offensive operations in the "IPP DUC - QUE SON Valley to locate and destroy North Vietnamese/Viet Cong main and local force units and provide security to Province Headquarters TAM KY"
and engineer elements along Highway 1 between TAM KY and Hill 63 (BT132453). The 3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) was added to the American Division forces for the operation. The operation continues,

b) Division Artillery supported the operation as follows:
A Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery, was deployed to Hill 29 (BT224311) on 14 October 1967 to provide General Support Reinforcing fires for the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. A platoon of B Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery (2-175mm guns) was deployed to Hill 29 on 2 October 1967 and the 8\(^\text{th}\) platoon was deployed to Hill 63 (BT 139444) on 26 October 1967 to provide General Support Reinforcing fires for the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. Along with the direct support artillery of the brigades, the Division Artillery was also augmented by one 155mm Battery (A Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery), a four piece provisional Marine battery and by a section (4-81mm) of C Battery, 65th Artillery, all of which were placed under OPCON of the 1st Battalion, 21st Artillery. Artillery organization for combat was as follows:

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<th>Direct Support</th>
<th>Reinforcing</th>
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<td>2d Battalion, 9th Artillery (-)</td>
<td>3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division</td>
<td>2d Battalion, 9th Artillery</td>
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<tr>
<td>3d Battalion, 62d Artillery</td>
<td>196th Light Infantry Brigade</td>
<td>3d Battalion, 16th Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d Battalion, 320th Artillery</td>
<td>1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division</td>
<td>3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Battalion, 21st Artillery (+)</td>
<td>3d Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)</td>
<td>General Support/Reinforcing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d Battalion, 11th Artillery (+)</td>
<td>Reinforcing - 2d Battalion, 9th Artillery</td>
<td>1st Battalion, 21st Artillery, 21st Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3d Battalion, 16th Artillery</td>
<td>Reinforcing - 3d Battalion, 320th Artillery</td>
<td>with one Battery</td>
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4) Administrative and Tactical Moves: None.

1. Logistics.
   a. Item: Calibration of Artillery Tubes.

   Discussion: Due to the manner in which artillery is utilized
in Vietnam, i.e. with a 6400 mil firing capability, it is highly desirable that valid velocity errors be obtained for each piece. Artillery units at present must rely on comparative VE's obtained from several registrations made in conjunction with concurrent metros. This method requires considerable time and computation and gives only a comparative VE. In addition, the large volume of firing requires that VE's be recomputed on a continuing basis. Calibration support was requested of the 1st Logistical Command in July 1967. Calibration of the artillery weapons of the Americal Division is now scheduled to begin in late November 1967.

Observation: There is an urgent requirement for calibration of artillery tubes on a recurring basis. VE's will enable artillery units to deliver more accurate fire and preclude errors which could lead to serious accidents or incidents.

b. Item: Field Artillery Data Automatic Computer (FADAC).

Discussion: The introduction of FADAC has proven extremely beneficial. Speed and accuracy of computation has increased. The ability to compute metro and VE data, and to provide independent checks of firing data has also improved. The system has proven fairly rugged, but down time has been excessive due to lack of spare parts. ASL's and TL's computed in CONUS have not proven entirely satisfactory in this theater. Demand data is being compiled for FADAC's by the 188th Maintenance Battalion and other support organizations.

Observation: The FADAC has proven itself to be a reliable, effective, time saving and rugged device. An adequate flow of spare parts will greatly increase the number of operational FADAC's.

c. Item: Lack of Heavy Lift Capability.

Discussion: A new high percent of artillery moves and of ammunition resupply must be performed by helicopter aircraft made available to Division. To move a stripped 155mm battery to a forward fire base, Division Artillery must depend on the U.S. Marines for CH-53 aircraft or on CH-54 aircraft which are assigned to U.S. units in adjacent CCTZ. A case in point was C Battery, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery on 17 October 1967 located at a forward fire base. For two successive days all efforts to extract that battery using borrowed CH-53 aircraft failed due to limited availability of these aircraft and their limited capability to lift a 155 howitzer. The fire base was attacked for three of the last four days losing 5 killed and 17 wounded in one attack which penetrated the perimeter of Battery A, 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery. The third day, after a combat essential mission had been declared at the highest level, a CH-54 aircraft was finally provided by the 1st Air Cavalry Division to the Americal Division for the extraction of this firing battery. Extraction of other elements on the fire base had been delayed pending availability of a heavy lift helicopter, jeopardizing a sizeable force.

Observation: The Division must have immediately available a heavy lift aircraft capability to enable the proper deployment and employment of medium artillery in the counterinsurgency environment of Vietnam.
Item: Resupply of Artillery Ammunition During Heavy Rainfall Periods.

Discussion: On 8 October 1967 a total of fourteen and one half inches of rain fell in a 24 hour period. Extensive damage was done to MSR's as a result flooding and washing. Consequently available ammunition stocks at certain firing positions reached an unacceptably low level. Insufficient helicopters were available to maintain the ASR's at the firing positions. For a period for three days to six days in some areas, 50 percent of all ammunition resupply of artillery units in the Americal TACR was by rotary wing aircraft, often over long distances. The problem was further complicated by a shortage of slings and associated equipment. Inclement weather on 10 October was deemed too hazardous to fly at all. While available ammunition stocks never reached a critical level, H and I fires were curtailed and should any ground unit have become heavily engaged, requiring heavy prolonged fire support, this situation could have become critical in a very short while. Difficulty and possible tragedy was averted primarily by judicious stock-piling of ammunition at the fun positions to the maximum extent possible. In addition artillery firing elements were positioned in mutually supporting positions with some in close proximity to ASP's.

Observation: During periods of heavy rainfall, which often closes MSR's and restricts flying, the demands placed on artillery are increased. It is therefore imperative that sufficient stocks of artillery ammunition are available during these critical periods. This can be accomplished in two ways: First, by stockpiling at a predetermined level, adequate quantities of ammunition to meet any foreseeable contingencies, and second, by having an immediately responsible aircraft capability during periods of favorable flying weather. This should be accomplished without having to curtail H and I fires which take on a greater significance during periods of reduced visibility.

SECTION III
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Logistics:

a. That calibration teams be made available to artillery units of a Division on a recurring basis.

b. That as soon as sufficient demand data has been determined, new ASL's and PLL's for FADAC's be authorized and placed in the maintenance flow system that float FADAC computers and test sets be made available in Vietnam, with an adequate stockage of spare parts, to enable deadline rates for computers to be held at 8% or less.

c. There must be immediately available, to the division, either organic or in support sufficient heavy lift capability to enable division artillery to properly plan for the helicopter deployment of medium artillery.
in support of infantry maneuver units. This must also include the ability to resupply these units.

MASON J. YOUNG JR.
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVWP-30 (22 Nov 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)(U)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION, APO San Francisco 96374, 5 January 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

1. (U) Forwarded herewith is subject report of the Americal Division Artillery.

2. (U) This headquarters concurs with the observations and comments contained in subject report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

KAZUTO KANABATA
Capt., AGC
Asst Adjutant General
AVHGC-DST (22 Nov 67) 2d Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 20 JAN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report—Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery (GLLA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

   a. Reference item concerning calibration of artillery tubes, page 7, paragraph 1a; and page 9, paragraph 1a: Concur. The Radar Chronograph, M36, is scheduled for issue to Division Artillery, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, during the 3d Quarter, FY 68. The chronograph will enable the unit to make timely and accurate Velocity Error (VE) measurement. Department of the Army must approve the USARV proposed Mission Plan and direct release of chronographs for issue in SEA.

   b. Reference item concerning field artillery data automatic computer, page 8, paragraph 1b; and page 9, paragraph 1b: Concur. Additional spare parts stockage and float items for FADAC are tentatively scheduled for issue to DSUs, GSUs and depots during the 3d Quarter, FY 68. When issued, responsiveness of the supply system will be greatly improved. DA must approve the revised USARV Mission Support Plan prior to release of FADAC items for issue in SEA.

   c. Reference item concerning heavy lift capability, page 8, paragraph 1c; and page 9, paragraph 1c: Concur. The desirability of having a heavy lift capability immediately available to the Division Commander is recognized. Due to the limited CH-54 assets available, heavy lift support is available only on a mission basis.

   d. Reference item concerning resupply of artillery ammunition during heavy rainfall, page 9, paragraph 1d: Concur. Additional aviation support is available upon request, based upon requirements to support the tactical effort throughout RVN.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

D. E. TUMAN
Major, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL
GFOF-DT (22 Nov 67)  3d Ed (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1967 from HQ, Americal Division Artillery (UIC: WGLAA) (RCS
CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96538  24 FEB 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
endorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG
**Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery**

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967

CO, Americal Division Artillery

Report Date: 22 November 1967

Total No. of Pages: 14

Sponsoring Military Activity: OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

Abstract: [Blank]