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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

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:

[Signature]

C. A. STANFIELD
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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Commanding Officers
US Army Limited War Laboratory
3d Battalion, 197th Artillery
2d Battalion, 138th Artillery
1st Battalion, 92d Artillery
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for Period ending 30 April 1968 (CSFON-65 (RL))

See Distribution

Section I - Operations

1. (c) General

a. The 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery remains attached to the 92d Artillery Group, operating primarily in a general support/reinforcing role throughout the Central Highlands. Support was provided to all Brigades of the 4th Inf Div, the 173d Abn Bde, the 3d ARVN Cavalry Squadron and the Pleiku and Kontum defense.

b. During this period all units were engaged daily in combat operations, moving by road into 12 firing positions and by air (CH47 and CH54 helicopters) into 5 firing positions.

c. The K-18 Field Artillery Digital Automatic Computer (KIDAC) was introduced into the battalion fire direction operations upon issue on 13 March 1968. To date, the computer has proven reliable and relatively maintenance free. The skill level of the operators within this organization has not reached the desired level. Therefore, the manual system of fire direction, with dual checks, remains the primary means of control. It is anticipated that with the arrival of stateside school trained operators and continual organizational on-the-job training the desired level of operator proficiency will be attained during the next report period.

d. Shell H449 was fired for the first time by this organization on 26 March 1968. Twenty four rounds were fired at a range of 9400 meters. The forward observer who requested the rounds reported that they were on target with excellent coverage and effect. They were fired in defense of Fire Support Base 14, coordinates Y, 939912 where Company A, 3d Battalion, 6th Infantry and Battery A, 6th Battalion, 29th Artillery were being assaulted by two battalions of enemy forces, supported by flame throwers, rockets and mortars. 135 enemy dead were counted on the battlefield in
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S/LG-RJ-C

5 May 1968

SALJAC: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for Period ending 30 April 1968 REO C/BN 43 (CL)

the target area. No distribution of kills has been made for the various weapons systems and munitions employed in the battle.

e. The meteorological section continues to provide the Dak To area with complete meteorological data and air weather service and visual meteorological service in the Dak To area.

f. Battery C fired the 1500,000th round in Viat Nam for the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery on 12 April 1968.

2. (C) Intelligence

e. In preparation for the forthcoming wet monsoon season, base area studies were requested from the Combined Intelligence Center Vietnam (CICV) to provide an information base. Upon receipt of these studies, a terrain analysis of the battalion areas of operations was conducted to determine avenues of enemy movement based upon trafficability, concealment and base areas suitable for use during the wet season. Additional inputs in form of pattern analysis of enemy troop movements during the months of May to September 1967 were requested from CICV so further identify probable enemy methods of operation and courses of action for this period.

b. Base area studies were also used to determine the duration and availability of weather suitable for target acquisition flights by C-1 fixed wing aircraft. It is significant that although weather conditions during the wet monsoon will reduce the flying time available for aerial target acquisition, only a few areas are inaccessible during the monsoon. Weather conditions will be extremely variable over the entire general area. Detailed planning for quick and flexible response to changing weather conditions is necessary to maximize the target acquisition effort. Observers will be assigned and briefed on a primary and two alternate missions in three separate areas to insure that target acquisition missions are not charted.

3. (C) Operations

c. The Battalion is presently deployed in the 6th Inf Div area of operations as follows:

- 3/4/CY: Grid Z. 226535
- Btry A(-): Grid Z. 227-5455 - General Support of Pleiku Defense
- Btry C (FWD): Grid YB 966-6849 - CP OGN 6/29 xty
- Btry A: Grid Y. 95909123 - GS/R 2/9 xty
- Btry C: Grid Z. 02580352 - GS/R 2/9 xty

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b. The firing batteries continue to be highly mobile because of the support of the CH47 Chinook and CH54 Skykrafs. A new Skyrafs unit, the 355th IVN Co, is now located nearby in Pleiku, which increases the responsiveness of aviation support.

4. (c) Operations and training activities.

4: Plans

(1) After a detailed study of operational problems encountered by this battalion during July to September 1967, Operations Plan Soggy Socken was prepared and implemented. Soggy Socken is a three phased operation designed to reduce the effects of heavy rains upon medium artillery and tactical operations. Particular attention is given to mobility, training and maintenance. Phase I, the preparation phase, has now completed. A copy of this plan is at inclosure one.

(2) In order to implement an effective battery program, wherein this unit works with Btry A, 37th ARVN arty, the following is being developed:

(a) The establishment of a common US/ARN flash base to facilitate registration of any US/ARN artillery in the Pleiku area.

(b) The firing in of defensive concentrations for mutual support.

(c) The establishment of a surveyed target area to support the ARVN forward observer training program.

(d) Co-located with a 60mm artillery platoon, complete with fire direction, mess and communications support with an ARVN platoon for a one week combined artillery battery operation.

(e) Maintenance classes on ARVN peculiar vehicles.

(f) Daily dissemination of meteorological messages to Btry A, 37th ARVN arty.

(g) Combined training of air observers.

(h) The verification of survey control at all Btry A, 37th Arty firing points.

(i) The borescoping and calibration of all howitzers of Btry A, 37th Arty.

5. (c) Recapitulation of significant operations:

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Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1968

16 Feb - HQ/1/92 helped coordinate, equip and man the fire support coordination center at Kontum. During the Tet offensive it appeared that there was not an adequate system available to coordinate and control fire support in the area and to post the air advisories. A liaison party HQ/1/92 assisted in resolving the problem, finding a home for both the ARVN and US controllers. Two men and radios were lent to the effort and they remained until the center was self-sustaining.

24 Feb - A/1/92 conducted a one day artillery raid from coordinates ZA 2167755. Four missions were fired in support of Btry A, 4th Bn, 42d Art, with no significant results.

24 - 27 Feb - HQ/1/92 conducted Operation DaI - Sec (Cannon) I, a working assistance visit to ARVN artillery in Kontum. The results of this mutually rewarding operation are at inclosure 2.

1 Mar - B/1/92 was airlifted from LZ Hambone to Dak To and then returned to Artillery Hill by road to augment the Pleiku defense.

2 Mar - A/1/92 moved by road to Plei Nrong, coords ZA 1116765, GS/R 4th Bn, 42d Art with secondary mission of GS/R to the 3d ARVN Cav Sq in defense of route G14 between Pleiku and Kontum.

2 Mar - B/1/92 relieved A/1/92 in place at coords ... 22745555 to support the Pleiku defense. HQ/1/92 conducted an evaluation of B/1/92 to assist them in identifying the areas that needed attention first after their extended stay on a fire base.

11 Mar - HQ/1/92 re-evaluated B/1/92 and found them fit to undertake any mission.

15 Mar - C/1/92 moved by road to Kontum, unroute to Poloi Klang, spending the night at coords AR 784904, GS/R 3d Bn, 319th Art.

16 Mar - C/1/92 moved by air to Poloi Klang, coords ZA 0259352, GS/R 2d Bn, 9th Art as part of the enlargement of the fire base. Concurrently the 175th Abn Bde moved eastward out of the 4th Inf Div...

27 Mar - Initiated an associate battery program with Btry M, 37th AHW Art.

11 Apr - A/1/92 detached one platoon to Artillery Hill, coords ZA 2274 5555 to support the Pleiku defense.

B/1/92 moved by road to Poloi Klang, enroute to fire base Bunker Hill. They spent the night at coords ZA 0279355, GS/R 2d Bn, 9th Art.
12 - 13 Apr - B/1/92 moved by air to Bunker Hill fire base, coords YA 997829, GS/R 6th Bn, 29th Arty. Movement of howitzers suspended o/a 1130 hours due to engine trouble. Skycrane jettisoned the second howitzer which was recovered and reemplaced. All six howitzers were in place on the morning of 13 April permitting additional support of the fire base at Polei Klang, and interdiction of the MSR to the west and avenues of approach to Kontum/Pleiku to the south.

15 - 16 Apr - B/1/92 moved by air to fire support base 14, coords Y, 93909123, GS/R 2d Bn, 9th Arty. The movement of all supporting equipment was not completed until 16 April.

16 Apr - B/1/92 received 16 rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle fire which killed one man and damaged one howitzer. Hits were scored at a range of 1600 meters.

B/1/92 fired 48 rounds of direct fire and C/1/92 fired 26 rounds of counter rocket fire against the recoilless rifle.

17 Apr - B/1/92 received 2 rounds 75mm recoilless rifle fire, taking a second hit on the same howitzer (25).

18 Apr - A/1/92 detached one platoon to the control of the 41st Arty Group, moving by road to Binh Khe, coords BR 685489, GS/R 3d Bn 319th Arty.

19 Apr - Platoon A/1/92 moved to Coords BR 633649 to replace heavy artillery that was being repositioned. Platoon OP COP 41st Arty Gp, attached to C/3/319 in support of the 1st Bn, 503d Inf.

23 Apr - A(-) 1/92 moved by road to Artillery Hill, coords 2a 2274 5555, to support Pleiku defense.

24 Apr - Platoon A/1/92 begun return trip by road, spending the night at Jn Khe, as guests of the 5th Bn, 22d Arty but co-located w/3d the 2d Bn, 17th Arty, coords BR 457488, OP COP 41st Arty Gp.

25 Apr - Platoon A/1/92 returned by road to Artillery Hill rejoining battery in defense of Pleiku, having fired 569 rounds in support of C/3/319. Platoon A/1/92 moved by road to Kontum then by air to Dak Fek. Self - sustaining platoon, augmented by M class radio and riflemen from HQ and SVO btrys, occupied coords YB 94566849, OP COP 6th Bn, 29th Arty.

B/1/92 inspected by representative of HQ IFORCO during practice alert. Reaction force and fire direction center found satisfactory.

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27 Apr - 191/92 and A/1/92 evaluated by 52d Arty Gp, results unknown. A/1/92 received the 'Doorfol' panoramic telescope ring modification for field testing.

29 Apr - H0/1/92 attached 2 man visual meteorological section to A/1/92 platoon at Pak Puk. 3/1/92 fired 15 Shells H449 at coords 24° 629°07 at request of 1st Bn, 22d Inf. Shell performed as expected with no battlefield surveillance rendered as yet.

30 Apr - A/1/92 TDY to HQ, IFForceV Arty to support training of 9th ROK Div in air movement of 155mm howitzers.

6. (c) Training
   a. Replacement training has been expanded to place more emphasis on weapons familiarization, communications security and the use of chapel and dental facilities.
   b. Fire direction training has been provided to Special Forces units at Pak, Bu Trang and Pak Tok. Each unit is capable of setting up its own charts, conducting registrations and adjusting fire.
   c. Lack of replacements for radio - teletype operators (NCS/03) caused an on-the-job training program to be initiated. Three operators currently in training but facilities are lacking to produce a fully qualified operator.

7. (c) Chemical - Two reports have been received on chemical munitions being captured in this area during the quarter. All personnel include their protective mask with their field gear.

8. (b) Medicine - none.

9. (c) Logistics
   a. To better support remote fire bases, each firing battery placed a man in training with support maintenance for qualification as an artillery mechanic. It is expected that this will result in considerably less down time for howitzers.
   b. To combat restriction of monsoon rains, high demand items have been pre-positioned at the fire bases, and class V items are standing by rigged, at base camp, for immediate aerial resupply when needed.
   c. To overcome what appeared to be excessive "Not In Stock" replies to valid requisitions, staff visits to support depots proved invaluable. Many items peculiar to 155mm towed units were located that had been mis-labelled, mis-placed or un-identified.
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AVGG-BJ-C
5 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for Period ending 30 April 1968 ROS CSFOR-65 (RL)

10. Civil Affairs - Continue to contribute to local leprosarium and the TET recovery program.

11. Personnel:
   a. Casualties - 2 KIA, 12 WIA
   b. Losses - 190
   c. Gains - 177
   d. Present for duty - 564
   e. Promotion allocations:
      
      14 - 31
      55 - 9
      16 - 1
   f. Pay: adequate support
   g. R&R quotas: 76
   h. Pay: adequate support

12. Artillery:
   a. Rounds expended this quarter:

     | WAPON       | SHELL | FUSE |
     |-------------|-------|------|
     | 155mm HOW (T) | 40,433 | 39,741 |
     | 105mm (T)    | 723   | 487  |
     | 105mm (T)    | 2,897 | 1,280 |
     | OTHERS       | 39    | 2,584 |

   b. Total rounds expended in country:

     155mm - 144,008
     105mm - 13,663

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Section II - Lessons Learned

1. (U) Personnel - None

2. (C) Operations

   a. Astronomical and simultaneous observation.

      (1) Observation - Conventional survey operations such as taping distances, connecting and target area survey and establishment of flash bases are normally of little value in this unconventional environment.

      (2) Evaluation - If the full weight of the survey effort is given to astronomical observation and simultaneous observation, timely and accurate data can be available even before a fire base is completely occupied.

      (3) Recommendation - The training effort of survey operations be weighted toward astronomical and simultaneous observation and the highest priority be given to the maintenance of survey equipment.

   b. Declination of azimuth measuring instruments.

      (1) Observation - The declination constant of azimuth measuring devices varies with the position and the proximity of the pieces to the instrument on cramped fire bases.

      (2) Evaluation - The establishment of a declination station within the firing battery provides the means to double check the survey operation.

      (3) Recommendation - All survey parties should establish a declination station at each fire base as well as the orienting station, far end of the orienting line and the battery center. Obviously one point can serve as more than one station.

   c. Common flash bases.

      (1) Observation - The establishment of a secure flash base to control registrations and yield a limited target area base is normally quite difficult for one unit.

      (2) Evaluation - By pooling the resources, and positions, of neighboring US or ARVN units, it is possible to adequately secure a flash base, and in some cases reduce the manpower required to operate it by one unit running one position and the other unit a second position.
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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1968

5 May 1968

(3) Recommendation - Rather than depend on aerial observers and radar, more artillery units should look toward combining forces with neighboring units to improve the registration and target collection effort.

   d. Improved radio performance.

   (1) Observation - The new series of FM radios are adversely affected by prolonged exposure to direct sunlight.

   (2) Evaluation - By placing radios in the shade or under cover, with the canvas radio covers on, intermittent transmission and reception due to overheating can be eliminated or effectively reduced.

   (3) Recommendation - That radios be mounted out of direct sunlight for better performance.

3. (c) Training

   a. Mobility in mud.

   (1) Observation - Monsoon rains pose a formidable challenge for all drivers. Experience has shown that a unit may cover only one km an hour during the monsoon, with considerable time and effort going into recovering vehicles and towing others with track vehicles.

   (2) Evaluation - The problem is not insurmountable with proper planning. An intensive and extensive driver training program is the basic step. Secondly, demonstrations and practical exercises in vehicle recovery operations contribute to more successful moves. Utilization of unserviceable cargo slings as towing devices for each vehicle in another remedy. The attachment of track vehicles to wheel vehicle convoys is also another must in the program. These steps, plus plans to shoot from any position inclining on the road way, should reduce the hazards of mud.

   (3) Recommendation - That by the training and planning outlined above, towed artillery units prepare to minimize the effect of mud on mobility.

4. (c) Intelligence

   a. Ambush Tip - Off

   (1) Observations - Unexpected and unexplainable mass exodus of the population from villages on both sides of a road, away from the road, may indicate impending trouble.

   (2) Evaluation - On the one occasion where an event was observed, an ambush was sprung within the hour before the exodus could be checked out.

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5. (c) Logistics

a. FM indicator

(1) Observation - Excessive gap between the top and bottom carriage of the 155mm howitzer, indicating uneven wear of the pintle bolt or carriage liner, introduced an error of some 30 mils in deflection.

(2) Evaluation.

(a) Normal first and second echelon maintenance does not consider the gap between the top and bottom carriage, which should be from .003 to .005 of an inch.

(b) Adjustment of the nut on the pintle bolt is beyond first and second echelon maintenance.

(3) Recommendation.

(a) That the gap between the top and bottom carriage be checked daily by the section with a feeler gauge, or calibrated substitute.

b. Old age insurance.

(1) Observation - That after this unit had fired its 100,000 round maintenance problems of the howitzers accelerated. Specifically, obturator spindles, split rings, gas check pads, firing locks, sight mounts, panoramic telescopes, aiming stakes and night lighting devices all became unserviceable in ever increasing numbers.

(2) Evaluation - Heavy service and remote firebases force pre-positioning and extra stockage of parts at the firing battery to prevent excessive down time. It also demands the availability of a completely serviceable float howitzer at all times.

(3) Recommendation - That there be at least one completely serviceable float howitzer available to each 155mm towed howitzer battalion in Viet Nen and that critical replacement parts be kept at the firing battery to combat inaccessibility due to weather, terrain or lack of aircraft.

6. (U) Organization.
AVGC-BJ-C

SUBJECT:

7a. (U) Other - None

3 incl

1. OP Plan - Soggy Satin - withdraw, HQ, CN
2. after motion report
3. OPR Sec (Cannon) 3
4. Organizational Chart

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52d Arty Gp
ATTN: S-3
APO 96318

5 May 1968

ALFRED J. CAIN
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

[Signature]
AVGC-CO (5 May 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for
Period Ending 30 April 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

DA, HQ, 52d Artillery Group, APO 96318 12 May 1968

TO: Commanding General, IFFV Artillery, ATTN: ANFA-AT-D, APO 96350

1. Forwarded.

2. I concur in the contents of the basic report, and the recommendations in Section 2, Lessons Learned. With regard to paragraph 5b (3), Section 2, there is one serviceable float howitzer available in Pleiku to back up the 1-92 Artillery. The list of critical replacement parts at the battery and the battalion, and at the direct support maintenance battalion will be reviewed to select those parts which should be moved forward to provide a fast repair capability.

[Signature]

COLONEL, ARTILLERY
Commanding
AVFA-AT-D  (5 May 68) 2d Ind

Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for period
ending 30 April 1968, (RGS: CSFOR-65)(R1)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTIN: AVFA-CC-OT, APO 96350


2. (C) Reference paragraph 2(b)(3), section 2, page 8, Declination of Azimuth Measuring Instruments. Non-concur. This procedure is not valid. The movement of pieces produces differences in the reaction of azimuth measuring instruments to the proximity of a metallic mass.

3. (C) Reference paragraph 2(c)(3), section 2, page 9, Common Flash Bases. Concur.


5. (C) Reference paragraph 3(a)(3), section 2, page 9, Mobility in Mud. Concur.


7. (C) Reference paragraph 5(a)(3), section 2, page 10, PM Indicator. Concur. The 6th Battalion, 92d Artillery, a new 155mm howitzer unit in IFFV ARTY will be informed of this by separate action.

8. (C) Reference paragraph 5(b)(3), section 2, page 10, Old Age Insurance. Non-concur. The Direct Support Unit has a float available for the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. The commander may stock PLL items at gun positions under the provisions of AR 735-35, Seasonal Requirements. The Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery will be informed of this system by separate action.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

Maj. Artillery

13

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DOD 81-2700.10
AVLGC-OT (5 May 68) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for
Period Ending 30 April 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

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

29 MAY 1968

Concur.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

ROBERT C. GABBARD

Copy furnished:
IFFORCEV Arty

14
AVHCG-DST (5 May 68) 4th Ind (U)  CPT Arnold/hga/IBN 4485
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery for
Period Ending 30 April 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (P1)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 3 JUN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 1st Bn
92d Artillery as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

C.S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AAC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies furnished:
HQ, I FFV
HQ, 1st Bn 92d Arty
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ 1st Bn., 92d Arty for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-63.(R)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 12 JUN 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 indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

K. F. OSBOURNE
MAJ, AG
Asst AG
FA 15511 Towed

15511 Towed

PA 15511 Towed

Firing Batteries

Service Battery

HQ & LG Battery

Incl. 3

17
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hqs, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery (U)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb - 30 April 1968

CO, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery

5 May 1968

682120

N/A

N/A

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