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AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980 AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980

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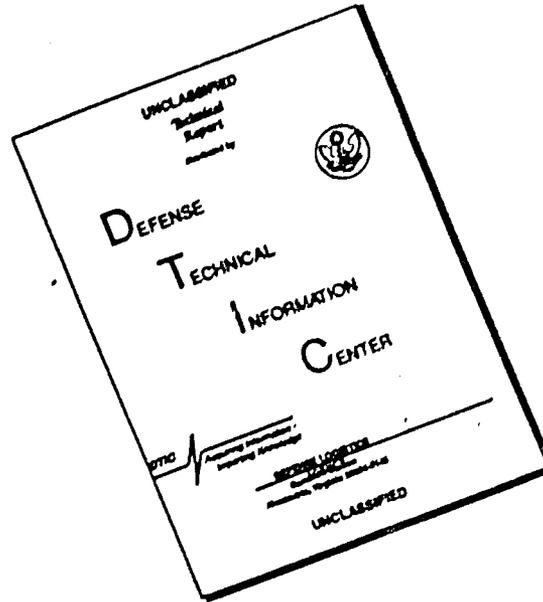
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
**WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (27 Jan 70) FOR OT UT 694290

2 February 1970

SUBJECT. Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, I Field  
Force Vietnam Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1969 (U)

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AD  
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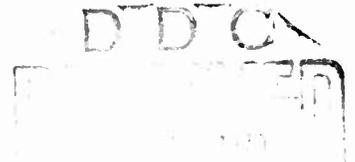
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    1 Field Force Vietnam Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
APO San Francisco 96350

AVFA-AT-D

31 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. SECTION I: (C) Significant organization or unit activities.

a. General: During the reporting period, I FFORCEV Arty continued support of ARVN, RF/PF, ROK, US and USSF/CIDG forces in II CTZ. The I FFORCEV Arty organization as of the close of the period is as outlined in inclosure 1. Three groups, one separate battalion, one separate battery and thirteen radar detachments supported operations conducted by allied maneuver units in areas of operations (AO)<sup>1</sup> indicated below:

<u>I FFORCEV ARTY</u>	<u>MANEUVER UNIT</u>	<u>AO</u>
41st Arty Gp (7/13) (7/15) (6/32)	22d ARVN Div Cap ROK Inf Div 9th ROK Inf	Dan Cuong/Lee
52d Arty Gp (3/6) (6/14) (2/17) (1/92)	24th ARVN STZ 4th Inf Div	Dan Quyen/Hines
Provisional Arty Gp (5/22) (5/27)	23d ARVN Div Task Force South	Dan An/Sheridan

The 4th Bn, 60th Arty (AW)(SP), with attached Btry B, 29th (SLT) and Btry E, 41st Arty (MG), and HHB, 8th Bn, 26th Arty (TAB) with eleven attached counter-mortar radar detachments continued operation in support of allied forces throughout II CTZ.

b. Intelligence:

(1) Hostile artillery attacks during the period reached a high point on 12 August when the enemy conducted 60 attacks and expended 457 rounds in conjunction with the reported initiation of the autumn offensive. However, the

<sup>1</sup> See Incl 2

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October 1969 (U)

offensive did not materialize and activity returned to a low level shortly thereafter. Enemy activity was not concentrated in any one area during the period and the vast majority of the attacks were of low intensity. The Highland Provinces received the largest percentages of activity with attacks occurring primarily in the vicinity of Kontum City, Pleiku City, and Ban Me Thuot City. The 28th, 56th, and 40th NVA Regiments remained unlocated in Cambodia; however, they are believed to have moved to Southern II CTZ with intentions unknown. The majority of enemy activity in the Coastal Provinces occurred in Binh Dinh Province, where attacks were scattered throughout the Province and were directed primarily against the Allied Pacification Program. Several of the enemy units in the Coastal Provinces have reportedly broken down into smaller size elements to operate with and as guerrilla forces. The Phan Thiet area of Binh Thuan Province continued to witness a cyclical pattern of activity as enemy attacks increased during the last two weeks of August and the first two weeks of October. Blackhorse in the Southern Provinces, Dalat received considerable activity, particularly during the month of August, with activity being scattered and of low intensity in the remaining provinces. Enemy artillery activity increased sharply in the Bu Prang area (Quang Duc Province) during the last week of October which was targeted against US firebases. There was no sustained offensive and activity was spread throughout II CTZ.

(2) The enemy artillery capability remained the same as the previous quarter. No new enemy artillery units were identified.

(3) Enemy artillery attacks and expenditures (Daily Average) throughout II CTZ for the reporting period are indicated below:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>ATTACKS/DAY</u>	<u>ROUNDS/DAY</u>
August	8	80
September	5	54
October	6	52

(4) The enemy did not employ any field gun or howitzer fire within II CTZ during the reporting period.

(5) During the quarter, there were 53 rounds of 107mm rocket and 79 rounds of 122mm rocket fired at friendly installations in 26 separate attacks. There were no new weapons nor variations of the standard enemy munitions employed in II CTZ.

(6) During the period, there were 3 attacks in which 7 rounds of 140mm rocket were employed in the Highland Provinces.

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## (7) Radar Operations:

(a) During the month of August 1969, the radar section and the survey information center of First Field Force Artillery were formed into a combined operation. This office is designated the Target Acquisition Information Center and is the coordination and information agency for radar, survey, crater analysis, and duffle bag operations for First Field Force Vietnam Artillery. The rationale for combining these two offices was to consolidate and expedite the accumulation and analysis of all target acquisition information and recommend procedures that would insure optimum utilization of all target acquisition assets in I FFORCEV Artillery area of operations.

(b) During the quarter, six radar moves were conducted, a total of 47 enemy weapons locations were made and 637 ground surveillance sightings were made. Fifty-seven percent of all ground surveillance sightings were engaged representing total artillery expenditures of 7,669 rounds.

(8) Survey: Extension of survey control to all fire support bases in II CTZ continued during this quarter. To date, 483,857 meters of fourth order survey have been completed, to include the establishment of 77 fourth order SCPs. The most recent survey was the completion of the Kontum to Ben Het survey which extended 173,000 meters into a previously unsurveyed area and added 21 SCPs to the list of I FFORCEV Artillery SCPs.

## c. Operations and Training Activities:

### (1) Operations:

(a) During the reporting period, artillery units with I FFORCEV continued support of ARVN, ROK, US, RF/PF, RD Teams and USSF/CIDG forces in II CTZ. I FFORCEV Artillery units continued support of I FFORCEV maneuver forces in providing maximum participation in pacification, fire planning, and artillery protection for the greatest number of villages and hamlets in the II CTZ.

(b) Areas of responsibilities remained unchanged with the groups continuing to operate in their AOs.

### (2) Fire Support Coordination Element:

(a) Naval Gunfire Support for II CTZ was provided by an average of two ships each day. In all a total of 21 different ships, representing two countries, saw action in II CTZ during the three month period. The following is a summary of Naval Gunfire Support:

<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>
463	1983	16,867

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(b) During the reporting period, a daily average of 62 immediate reaction and hangfire targets were developed. Of these, a daily average of 42 were fired. Of those that were not fired, most could not be cleared or had been pretargeted. The following is a summary of targets developed and fired:

	<u>IMMEDIATE REACTION</u>	<u>HANGFIRE</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
DEVELOPED	5006	564	1391
FIRED	3416	394	988

(c) The Area Harassment program continues to be an effective means of harassing the enemy in those sanctuaries and base areas which are out of range of friendly artillery. Thirteen areas which change as the enemy moves within the Corps are constantly monitored. Every five days the best seven areas are selected in priority and targeted twice daily for tactical air, spooky and shadow missions. This provides current, lucrative targets throughout the Corps that can be struck as aircraft become available. Summary of missions in support of the area harassment program:

<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>A/C SORTIES</u>	<u>TGTS</u>	<u>SPOOKY/SHADOW (RDS)</u>
64	107	19	129,200

(d) A daily average of 6 suppression orders were issued to 175mm guns throughout the Corps.

(e) A total of 127 Arc Light targets were struck during the period by a total of 470 aircraft. The following is a breakdown of ARC LIGHT support:

### PRIMARY ARC LIGHT

<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>
BINH DINH	21	74
BINH THUAN	5	27
KONTUM	13	65
PHU BON	2	6
PHU YEN	2	11
PLEIKU	16	61
QUANG DUC	21	105
QUANG NGAI	2	9
TOTAL	82	356

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## SECONDARY ARC LIGHT

<u>PROVINCE</u>	<u>TARGETS</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>
BINH DINH	3	4
DARLAC	7	18
KONTUM	25	68
PLEIKU	<u>10</u>	<u>24</u>
TOTAL	<u>45</u>	<u>114</u>

(f) In order to implement uniform ARC LIGHT procedures throughout II CTZ which are compatible with current MACV requirements, a comprehensive regulation covering all aspects of the ARC LIGHT program was published in September. FSCE personnel also made frequent field trips to assist new personnel in the ARC LIGHT program. These visits included a detailed security inspection to insure that all units are complying with proper security requirements. During the latter part of October, an ARC LIGHT conference was sponsored by the FSCE to discuss planning and requesting techniques contained in the new regulation. Results of the security inspection were also reviewed at the conference.

(g) One new Artillery Warning Control Center was added to the II CTZ Artillery Warning System. There are now 24 operational centers. On 05 Aug, an AWCC conference was held at HQ, I FFORCEV to discuss the proposed changes to MACV Dir 95-13. Subsequent to this conference, an unclassified listing of II CTZ AWCC frequencies was developed and published. In October, the Assistant Chief of Staff, MACV J3, released the proposed MACV Dir 95-13, Artillery and Air Strike Warning System, for concurrence. The FSCE examined this document and forwarded it to the I FFORCEV Chief of Staff recommending several changes. The major change introduced by the proposed directive is the requirement to post air strike warnings in addition to normal artillery advisories. There are no foreseeable difficulties in complying with this major change. The FSCE is currently drafting a directive which will implement the MACV directive and establish standing procedures for the II CTZ Artillery and Air Strike Warning System.

### (3) Training:

(a) The I FFORCEV Arty Forward Observer Training Course (FOTC) and the Fire Direction Officer Training Course (FDOTC) continued to train artillery lieutenants and other US and RVNAF personnel.

### (b) RVNAF Assistance Programs:

1 RVNAF Assistance Programs continued to show progress during the reporting period. As a result of training assistance furnished by US artillery units,

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the proficiency of ARVN units has shown continual improvement. Frequently, ARVN artillery has been used in support of US maneuver units in conjunction with US artillery support.

2 Greater emphasis has been placed on the artillery assistance program for Civilian Irregular Defense Group camps. The 105mm howitzers, organic to the CIDG Camps and heretofore used in the direct fire roll for perimeter defense, can now be used in the indirect fire support roll of maneuver elements. This has been accomplished by I FFORCEV Arty units providing teams to train CIDG personnel in firing battery, fire direction and forward observer procedures.

3 Training assistance to Territorial Force (RF/PF, RD) units has shown continual improvement. Forward observer training and technical assistance for the implementation of District Fire Support Plans have been rendered by I FFORCEV Arty units.

4 As a part of the accelerate Phase II plan for RVNAF Improvement and Modernization, property of 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery, was scheduled for turnover to the ARVN 45th Arty Battalion. Approval of the turnover was granted by MACV on 2 April 1969. This action was completed during the reporting period. A complete resume follows:

<u>ACTION</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Turnover of C Btry to ARVN	18 Apr 69
Turnover of B Btry to ARVN	15 Jun 69
Turnover of A Btry to ARVN	14 Jul 69
Turnover of HQs Btry to ARVN	29 Jul 69
Turnin of Residual Property to Support Unit or Transfer to other US Units	18 Sep 69
Review of Property Book for Verification of Property Accountability	20-22 Sep 69
Destruction of Property Book by IFFV Arty 34 as directed by USARV	23 Sep 69

(4) Other:

(a) Artillery Safety. The Artillery Safety Office processed a total of seven incidents and one accident report of investigation during the three month period. The I FFORCEV Arty Firing Safety SOP was rewritten. 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery continued its unblemished artillery firing safety



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Field Force Vietnam Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October  
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(4) Enlisted personnel status has decreased during the reporting periods with the overall command strength currently at 98%. Critical shortages still exist in the following MOSs:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
13A1	FA Basic	1758	1533	-225
3B4	FA Crmn	430	396	- 34
13B4	FA Opns/Intel Asst	110	49	- 61
13Z5	Opns/Intel/ISG	74	48	- 26
16F4	Autc Wpns Sec Ch	124	53	- 71
26B2	Wpns Spt Radar Repair	16	5	- 11
36K2	Field Wireman	428	344	- 84
63C4	Gen Veh Repair	64	57	- 7
76Y4	Supply Sergeant	71	58	- 13
94B4	Mess Steward	54	46	- 8

(5) The following accidents were recorded during this period for I FFORCEV Arty units:

	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
Vehicle Fatal	2	1	1
Vehicle Non-Fatal	3	3	3
Firearms	2	1	1
Other	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
TOTAL	16	10	10

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1969 (U)

(6) The following awards and decorations were approved for I FFORCEV Arty units:

<u>TYPE OF AWARD</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEP</u>	<u>OCT</u>
DSM	0	0	0
DFC	0	0	0
LOM	2	2	5
SS	2	1	3
BSM V	2	1	3
BSM	127	69	116
ACM V	14	21	5
ACM	143	153	198
AM	31	31	25
PH	11	25	15
C of A	<u>91</u>	<u>89</u>	<u>47</u>
TOTAL	428	408	421

(7) Morale and discipline continued to be excellent throughout the period.

2. SECTION II: (C) Lessons Learned - Commander's Observations, evaluations, and recommendations:

a. Personnel: None.

b. Operations: Use of Long Range 40mm Ammunition, B558.

(1) Observation: Recently VC/NVA units have been setting up mortar, recoilless rifle and rocket positions just outside the maximum range of regular 40mm ammunition.

(2) Evaluation: An effective counter measure for targets located beyond the range of B559 is to load one gun on the M42A1 with regular range (B559) and one gun with long range 40mm ammunition (B558). Upon observing the mortar, recoilless rifle or rocket flashes, the crew adjusts on the enemy

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location by tracer observation with B559 as close as possible then switches to the other gun and delivers fire on the enemy with B558 ammunition. This method results in a savings of B558 ammunition during adjustment yet provides for instantaneous response.

(3) Recommendation: That commanders use this tactic when enemy firing locations can be located by flashes - adjusting on the target with B559, giving the enemy a false sense of security during the adjusting period, then switches to B558 for quick, positive results.

c. Training: None.

d. Intelligence: None.

e. Logistics:

(1) M60 Machine Gun Brass Catcher for M42A1s.

(a) Observation: Empty shell casings and linkages from the M60 machine gun mounted on the turret of the M42A1 can foul 40mm gun automatic loaders and main engine components.

(b) Evaluation: Two incidents have occurred in which spent casings and links from the M60 machine gun mounted on the turret of the M42A1 caused equipment failure. In one incident, an empty shell casing fouled the automatic loader on one of the 40mm guns rendering it non-operational until the gun could be torn apart. In the other incident, a spent link fell through the track grillwork into the main engine compartment and was thrown by the engine fan into the oil breather, later resulting in a fire and total loss of the M42A1.

(c) Recommendation: That a catcher bag, such as the one used on the M73 machine gun system on UH-1 gunships, be added to the BILL for the M42A1 and used on the M60 machine gun mounted on the turret of the M42A1. A slight modification, a fabricated pin, is necessary to adapt the bag, FSN 1005-903-1088, to the M60 machine gun.

(2) Heliotropes:

(a) Observations: It has been found, in survey work recently performed, that a heliotrope results in greater accuracy and less time than an ordinary mirror for pin pointing forward and rear stations.

(b) Evaluation: Before the Survey Platoon obtained the heliotropes, an ordinary vehicle mirror was used to mark stations which were too far away for the instrument operator to see a range pole. This flashing mirror was difficult to sight on and many times resulted in errors in horizontal and vertical angles. The heliotrope on the other hand sends out a small constant beam of light. It is easier to sight on and results in greater speed and accuracy.

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Field Force Vietnam Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October  
1969 (U)

(c) Recommendations: To adopt the heliotrope as a TO&E item for all  
artillery 4th order survey parties.

f. Organization: None.

g. Other: None.

*Charles M. Hall*

CHARLES M. HALL  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

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as

Incl 1 wd HQ, DA

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5-XXIV Corps

5-USAFAS

5-USAADS

3-52d Arty Gp

3-I FFORCEV Prov Arty Gp

2-4th Bn, 60th Arty

2-6th Bn, 32d Arty

2-7th Bn, 13th Arty

2-7th Bn, 15th Arty

1-HHB, 8th Bn, 26th Arty

1-FSCE

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AVFA-CC-R1ST (31 Oct 69) 1st Ind (C) 1 DEC 1969  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1  
Field Force Vietnam Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October  
1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

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

1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject OKLL and concurs, except as indicated below.
2. (C) Reference para (4) page 8: Records of this headquarters indicate the following total strengths for MOS's indicated.
  - a. 13A10 1577
  - b. 16F40 80
  - c. 13B40 416 (total FA Crewman and FA Ops/Intel Asst).
3. (U) Reference para (6) page 9: Awards for Sep 69 should reflect one DSM awarded to Sgt Sidle former CG, I FFORCSV Arty.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Paul De Keukelaere*  
PAUL DEKEUKELAERE  
1LT, AG  
ASST AG

CF:  
2 - CSFOR, DA  
1 - CG, I FFORCSV Arty

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AVHGC-DST (31 Oct 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery,  
I Field Force Artillery for Period 1 August to 31 October 1969,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

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 1969 from Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. (U) Reference item concerning "Personnel", page 7, paragraph 1c(4)(c)(3). A critical shortage of warrant officers qualified in MOS 211A0 does exist. I FFV is authorized 18. The 30 November AG19 report from I FFV indicates a total of 14 assigned. Six are warrant officers and eight are school trained lieutenants. Based on input projections all 211A positions will be filled with either warrant officers or school trained lieutenants by the end of January. Based on the 20 November AG19, I FFV reported the following: Field Artillery Lieutenants - Authorized 191; Assigned 189. Air Defense Lieutenants - Authorized 20; Assigned 28. These figures indicate 6 artillery lieutenants over authorized. There will be a December DEROS loss of 29 lieutenants, but ORD USARV is filling these anticipated vacancies with an average input of one artillery lieutenant per day.

b. (C) Reference item concerning "Use of Long Range 40mm Ammunition, B558", page 9, paragraph 2b; concur. Although this method is an effective countermeasure for targets beyond the range of B559(HEIT-SD), the use of B558 (HEIT-HSD) is limited by its availability. USARV G4 Ammunition Division, stated that when the present theater supply of B558(HEIT-NSD) is exhausted it will not be replenished.

c. (C) Reference item concerning "M60 machine gun brass catcher for M42A1s", page 10, paragraph 2e(1); concur. Adaption of a catcher bag (FSN 1005-903-1088) to the M60 machinegun will help to keep spent brass from damaging M42 equipment. Additionally, consideration should be given to using the machine gun brass deflector kit (FSN 1005-221-7392). This deflection curtain prevents expended brass from falling into the vehicle.

d. (C) Reference item concerning "Heliotropes", page 10, paragraph 2e(2). The recommendation that the heliotrope be adopted as a TOE item of equipment for all artillery 4th order survey parties appears to have merit. Recommended changes to TOE will be prepared by I FFV Artillery and submitted through command channels to the US Army Combat Developments Command IAW AR 310-31 and AR 310-44.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Murray*

Cy furn:  
I FFV Arty  
I FFV

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GPOP-DT (31 Oct 69) 3d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery for  
Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 14 JAN 70

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

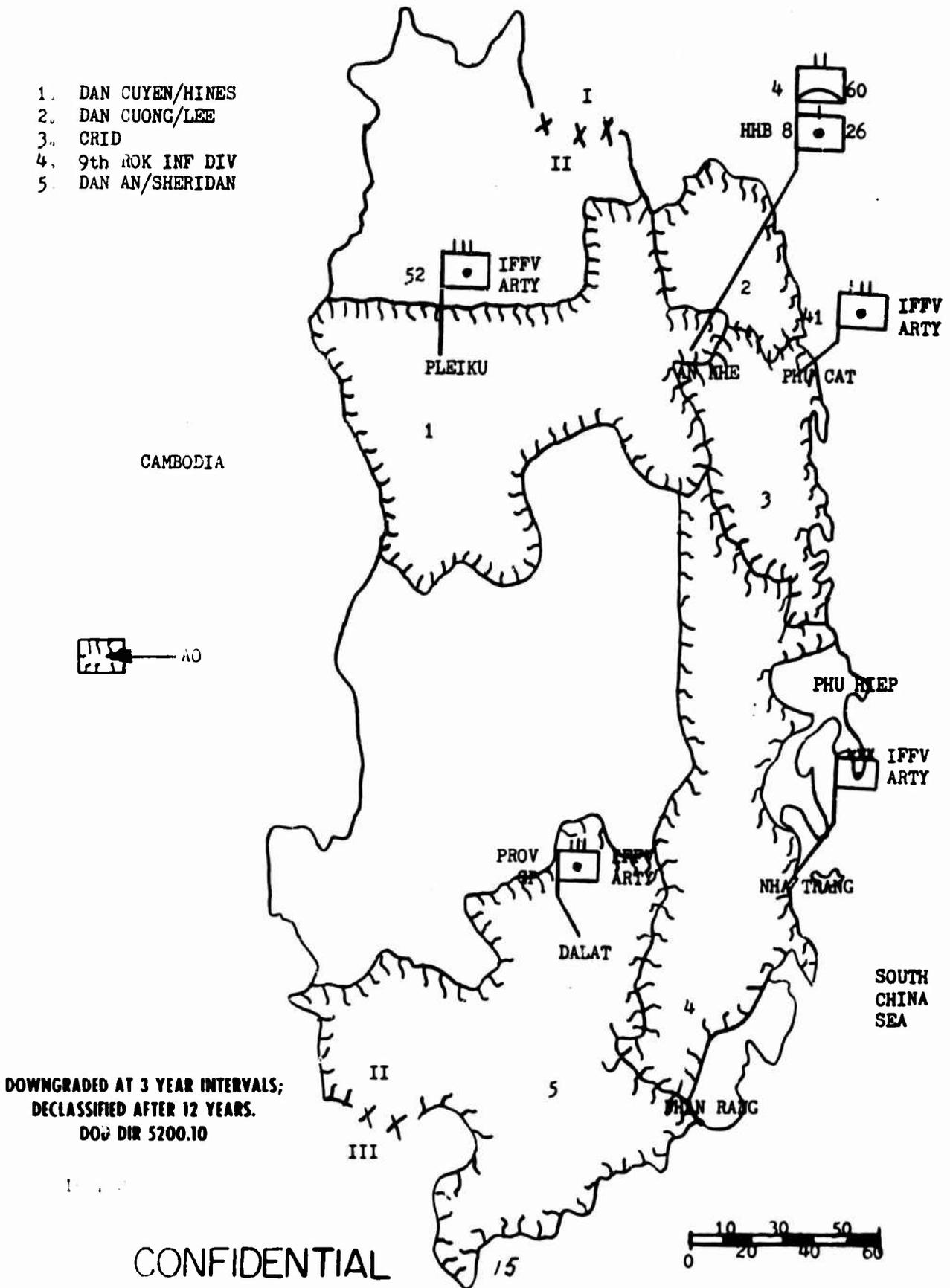
This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
C. L. SHORT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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## ARTILLERY STRENGTH AND AMMUNITION STATISTICS I FORCEV ARTILLERY

1 August 69 to 31 October 69

1. (C) Artillery strength as of 31 July 69 included 84 - 105mm howitzers, 25 - 155mm howitzers, 24 - 8 inch howitzers and 24 - 175mm guns for a total of 157 tubes.

2. (C) Ammunition expenditures by target category:

TARGET CATEGORY	AUGUST		SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER	
	<u>ROUNDS</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>	<u>MISSIONS</u>
Confirmed	16,651	837	11,210	670	11,853	685
Acquired	45,881	9,792	47,520	11,001	34,285	12,021
Counter Battery	3,842	271	1,639	79	1,334	68
Preparation	8,964	823	6,876	721	10,527	582
Interdiction	5,892	3,763	5,602	2,542	4,821	2,361
Special Purpose	12,143	1,861	9,550	1,207	10,489	1,321
Other	<u>832</u>	<u>136</u>	<u>1,396</u>	<u>148</u>	<u>2,078</u>	<u>168</u>
TOTALS	94,205	17,483	83,793	16,368	95,487	17,476

3. (C) Ammunition Expenditure by Caliber:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CALIBER</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>	<u>% TOTAL</u>	<u>RDS/TUBE/DAY</u>
AUG	105mm	63,129	67	29
	155mm	7,560	8	10
	8 inch	10,628	11	14
	<u>175mm</u>	<u>12,888</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>
SUB TOTAL		94,205	100%	21*
SEP	105mm	59,274	71	29
	155mm	7,643	9	10
	8 inch	8,049	10	11
	<u>175mm</u>	<u>8,827</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>12</u>
SUB TOTAL		83,793	100%	20*

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<u>MONTH</u>	<u>CALIBER</u>	<u>ROUNDS</u>	<u>% TOTAL</u>	<u>RDS/TUBE/DAY</u>
OCT	105mm	64,868	68	30
	155mm	10,514	10	14
	8 inch	9,822	9	13
	<u>175mm</u>	<u>10,283</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>
SUB TOTAL		95,487	100%	22*
GRAND TOTAL		273,485		

\*Prorated Average

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Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
<i>(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)</i>		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		CONFIDENTIAL
		2b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug 69 to 31 Oct 69.		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
31 October 1969	20	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
	694290	
b. PROJECT NO	8c. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
N/A		
c.		
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A	OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		

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