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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (15 Apr 70) FOR OT UT 701170 21 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, 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
as

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Regraded unclassified when separated from classified inclosure.

CONFIDENTIAL
AVDF-ATCO 15 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Americal Division Artillery
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Section I: Operations
   a. (U) Command:
      (1) Colonel Leslie B. Hardy commanded Americal Division Artillery during this report.
      (2) The following units were assigned, attached or under operational control of Americal Division Artillery:
         (b) 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery remained assigned. LTC Oscar L. Faulkner assumed command on 21 November 1969, replacing LTC Herbert E. Knight who commanded through 20 November 1969.
         (c) 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery remained assigned, LTC Paul R. Gleave commanded during the period of this report.
         (d) 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery remained assigned. LTC Elisco J. Garcia assumed command on 15 December 1969, replacing LTC James M. Compton who commanded through 14 December 1969.
         (e) 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery remained attached. LTC Grover A. Dubose assumed command on 15 December 1969, replacing LTC Andrew R. Foster Jr., who commanded through 14 December 1969.
         (f) 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery remained attached, LTC William F. Sifford commanded during the period of this report.
         (g) Battery G. 55th Artillery (MG) remained attached. CPT Dennis R. Blanton commanded during the period of this report.
(h) 3d Platoon, Battery G, 29th Artillery (SLT) attached to the Americal Division remained further attached to Battery G, 55th Artillery (M.). LTL Jon Corey commanded during the period of this report.

(i) 231st Countermortar Radar Detachment remained attached. CW2 Windell L. Grout commanded during the period of this report.


b. (C) Operations: At the beginning of the period four main operations were being conducted within the Americal Division TAOI. These were Operations FREDERICK HILL, GENEVA PARK, IRON MOUNTAIN, and NANTUCKET BEACH. Operations in the above AO's consisted primarily of preemptive operations against enemy base camps and staging areas. Primary emphasis was placed on the 1969 Accelerated Pacification Program. ARCLIGHT strikes were conducted followed by multi-battalion sized exploitation of the bombed area. Whenever feasible joint operations were conducted between ARVN Regiments and US Brigades with US Battalions operating in conjunction with ARVN Battalion. Artillery moves were made consistent with the above operations. During the period 1800 hours 24 December - 1800 hours 25 December 1969 and 1800 hours 31 December - 1800 hours 1 January 1970, a cease fire was in effect.

Specific operations in the Americal TAOI were as follows:

The 196th Inf Bde, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav and the 5th ARVN Regt continued operations in FREDERICK HILL AO. Light contact throughout the AO with the following significant contacts. On 14 November 1969, B/3-21 made moderate contact. Significant contact was made by R/3-21, A/1-1 Cav and C/3-21 on 11 January 1970. A & B Trp/1-1 Cav were in moderate to heavy contact on 12, 13 January 1970.

The 198th Inf Bde with the 6th ARVN Regt continued operations in GENEVA PARK AO. Light contact continued throughout the AO with the following significant contacts. On 13 December 1969, D/1-1, C/1-1 and 1st Plt of Aero-Rifle Scouts made moderate contact with estimated NVA Company.

The 5th Bn, 46th Inf with two battalions of the 6th ARVN continued operations in NANTUCKET BEACH AO. Light contact continued in the AO during the entire period.

The 11th Inf Bde with the 4th ARVN Regt continued operations in IRON MOUNTAIN AO. Light contact continued in the AO with the following significant contacts. On 13 November 1969, moderate contact was made by 174th gunship.
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During the period the 196th, 198th, 11th Brigades and the 1/1 Cav utilized Naval Gunfire for preparations, interdiction fire and observed fire against confirmed targets.

c. (C) Artillery Support

(1) The 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery provided direct support for the 198th Bde in the GENEVA PARK AO during the entire period. Other FWMIAF elements, such as USMC Combined Action Platoons, also received fire support during the period.

(a) Initially, A/1-14 was at LZ GATOR (BS 573965) with 4 howitzers and LZ DOTTIE (BS 631852) with 4 howitzers (2 howitzers attached from B/1-14). On 20 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from LZ GATOR to HA THANH (BS 381701) to support an operation by 1-52 Inf and D/1-1 Cav. On 21 December 1969, 1 howitzer was moved from LZ DOTTIE to HA THANH to replace one brought back for support maintenance. On 22 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned by air to LZ GATOR and 1 howitzer continued by road to LZ DOTTIE. On 30 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved by road to SON TINH (BS 643762) from LZ DOTTIE to support infantry elements securing MY LAI (4). On 31 December 1969, 3 howitzers moved from LZ GATOR to OP GEORGE (BS 468877). On 6 January 1970, the 2 howitzers returned to LZ DOTTIE by road from SON TINH. On 10 January 1970, the 3 howitzers returned from OP GEORGE to LZ GATOR. In addition, A/1-14 provided interdiction fires for the CHU LAI rocket pocket.

(b) B/1-14 remained OPCON to 3-82 Artillery with priority of fires to the 1-66 Inf. Four howitzers remained at LZ PROFESSIONAL (BS 177077) and 2 howitzers remained at LZ DOTTIE, attached to A/1-14.

(c) C/1-14 provided support to the 1-6 Inf during the entire period. On 3 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from FSB FAT CITY (BS 439075) to OP GEORGE in support of an operation by 1-6 Inf. On 5 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to FSB FAT CITY. On 31 December 1969, 1 howitzer moved by road to LZ GATOR and was attached to A/1-14. On 2 January 1970, 1 howitzer went to LZ GATOR to support A/1-14 and returned to FSB FAT CITY the same day. On 10 January 1970, 1 howitzer returned to FSB FAT CITY from LZ GATOR. On 21 January 1970, 2 howitzers were air-lifted from FSB FAT CITY to HILL 497 (BT 187050) and placed OPCON to B/1-14 to support a company from 1-66 Inf. In addition, they provided interdiction fires for the CHU LAI rocket pocket.

(d) D/1-14 provided support to 1-52 Inf during the entire period. On 12 November 1969, 2 howitzers moved from LZ STINSON (BS 539824) to OP GEORGE (BS 470867) to support D/1-52 Inf CA. On 16 November 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to LZ STINSON. From LZ STINSON, the battery fired many HE and ICM missions in the Horseshoe Area (Tra Khuc River) against targets acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and GVQ-10 Integrated Observation System on OP 1 (BS 516778).

(2) The 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery remained in direct support of the 196th Inf Bde in the FREDERICK HILL AO.
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(a) A/3-82 Artillery provided direct support from FSB HAWK (BS 3012) for the 2-1 Inf during the entire period. On 30 November 1969, 3 howitzers moved to NSF HAU DUC (BS 071061) to provide direct support for the 1-46 Inf, which conducted a reconnaissance in force operation in the vicinity of BUI HAU DUC. On 7 December 1969, the 3 howitzers returned to FSB HAWK. On 3 January 1970, 2 howitzers moved to TA N HAU KY (BS 292231) to provide direct support to the 1-1 Cav which is conducting a reconnaissance in force operation west of TA N HAU KY. The 2 howitzers are currently at TA N HAU KY.

(b) B/3-82 Artillery remained at FSB CENTER (BS 051247) in direct support of the 3-21 Inf during the entire period.

(c) C/3-82 Artillery remained at FSB SIKIRIA (BS 903232) in direct support of the 4-31 Inf during the entire period.

(3) The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery remained in direct support of the 11th Inf 3rd and supported operations in the I SH MIN WC.

(a) A/6-11 gave priority of fires to the 3-1 and 4-21 Inf in the southern portion of the AO. On 4 January 1970, 4 howitzers moved from LZ DELUXE (BS 569319) to ILL 295 (BS 820235) to support a multi-battalion, US and RVN operation.

(b) B/6-11 remained on LZ SAIN JUAN (BS 634130) during the entire period with priority of fires to the 4-3 Inf. The battery also had the mission of interdicting high speed approaches into the SOKW VE VALLEY.

(c) C/6-11 provided priority of fires to 1-20, 3-1 and 4-21 Inf during the period. On 3 November 1969, 4 howitzers returned to LZ BROMOC (BS 332370) and LZ JAX (BS 761471) to support exploitation of an ARCLIGHT strike. On 16 December 1969, the 3 howitzers returned to LZ 900/01. The battery attacked numerous personnel targets in the 11th Inf 3rd's coastal lowlands which were acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and I/O located on OP 3 (BS 754241).

(d) D/6-11 gave priority of fires to the 3-1 Inf during the period. On 27 November 1969, 4 howitzers moved from FSB 411 (BS 547730) to NH THANH Special Forces Camp (BS 382801) in support of 3-1 Inf operations south and southeast of HA THANH. On 4 December 1969, the 4 howitzers returned to FSB 411. On 7 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from FSB 411 to NG/LA DUNG (BS 615672) to support combined US and RVN exploitation of an ARCLIGHT strike. On 19 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to FSB 411. The battery attacked numerous personnel targets south of the SOKW TRA HOC JIVER which were acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and I/O located on OP 3 (BS 516779).

(4) The 1st Battalion, 32d Artillery provided general support reinforcing fires for GUEHKA HILL, ANTRACETE MACH and INCH MOUNTAIN 0's.

(a) A/1-82 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 1-14 Artillery with 4 howitzers at LZ DOTTIE (BS 431833) and 2 howitzers at LZ GITAM (BS 572962).

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(b) B/1-32 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery with four howitzers at LZ DUHHY (BS 795609) and two howitzers at LZ STINSON (BS 559324).

(a) C/1-32 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery with four howitzers at LZ L77 (BS 75932) and two howitzers at LZ DABBE (BS 969319).

(d) D/1-32 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 1-14 Artillery from LZ DOTTIE. On 7 December 1969, two howitzers moved to LZ ANGCO (BS 912391) and provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery.

(5) The 3d Battalion, 15th Artillery provided general support reinforcing support in the FREDERICK HILL AO.

(a) A/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 3-32 Artillery with three howitzers at HILL JILL (BT 224311) and three howitzers at LZ WEST (BT 700290).

(b) B/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 3-32 Artillery from FSB PUC (ST 114135). On 30 November 1969, two howitzers moved from TAI PULUC (ST 14135) to HAU DUC (ST 071061). On 10 December 1969, the two howitzers returned to FSB PUC. During the period 13 thru 20 November 1969, provided direct support for the USASP Detachment at FSB PUC.

(e) C/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 1-14 Artillery from FSB PAT CITY (BT 477075). On 7 January 1970, two howitzers moved from PAT CITY to TAU AY (BT 292230).

(6) The 3d Battalion, 19th Artillery provided general support fires for the American TAQI.

(a) A/3-18 supported operations in the HILL JILL AO from LZ CINDY (BS 302393) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces operations around TUA BONG (BS 302393), and gave defensive support to MA TAQI Special Forces Camp (BS 392761).

(b) B/3-18 supported operations in the FREDERICK HILL AO from FSB PUC (ST 114135) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces operations around FSB HUDUC and gave defensive support to DUC Special Forces Camp (BT 071061).

(a) C/3-18 supported operations in the IRON COUNTRY AO from LZ CINDI (BS 534515) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces Operations around MINH LONG and gave defensive support to 3 TO and GIA VUC Special Forces Camps.

d. Ammunition expenditures by caliber for the period 1 November 1969 to 31 January 1970:

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105mm 170,938
155mm 33,938
8 in. 16,235
175mm 4,193

a. Countermortar Radar Detachment

(1) The 251st FA Detachment (C1: Radar) remained at OP 1 (BS 519779) where it covered LZ STI-LUN and "SB 411 (BS 540730). The Detachment also participated in registrations for artillery units that were within range.

(2) The 252d FA Detachment (C1: Radar) was located at ARILLEX ILL (ET 511040) with primary sector of scan to the west into the northern sector pocket. This unit assisted artillery units located at LZ FAT CITY and LZ GATOR to fire precision registrations.

f. Ground Surveillance Radar Detachments

(1) The organic AN/TPS 25 radar remained at OP 1 (BS 516779). The center of sector was west over the SONG TRA and JC River. Large groups of enemy were consistently detected, even when activity was at a low level in the Division TAOI.

(2) The 271st FA Detachment (Radar) remained at OP 3 (BS 754021). Large groups of enemy were consistently detected, even when activity was at a low level in the Division TAOI.

g. 3rd 50 Machine Guns

Battery G, 35th Artillery (NG) has been deployed throughout the American Division TAOI with the primary mission of supporting the ground forces plans of the division fire bases. The unit assists in fire base, installation, convoy and road security.

h. Searchlights

During the period the 34 Flt, Battery G, 29th Artillery (SLT) was deployed throughout the Division TAOI. The platoon enhanced the security of isolated fire bases by providing battlefield illumination and assisting in target acquisition. The platoon was also used to provide navigational assistance to the supported units. When possible, the searchlights were co-located with multiple caliber .50 machine gun mounts to assist in target acquisition and immediate engagement of the targets during the period of reduced illumination. The searchlights can be used in either the visible light or infra-red mode.

i. Meteorological Stations

(1) During the period the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division meteorological station remained at LZ ZAO:CO (BS 912770). This station remained
OPCON to the 6-11 Artillery Battalion where it provided metro data to those units located in the southern part of the Americal Division TAOI.

(2) During the period the 3-18 Artillery Battalion metrological station remained at ARTY HILL (BS 515042) where it provided metro data to those units in the central part of the Americal Division TAOI.

(3) During the period the Artillery Battalion metrological station remained at HAWK HILL (BT 224313) where it provided metro data to those units in the northern part of the Americal Division TAOI. On 19 November 1969, the metrological station moved from HAWK HILL to TIEN PHUOC (BT114135) where it provided metro data to those units in the northern part of the Americal Division TAOI.

2. (U) Section 2: Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations:

a. Personnel: Omitted

b. Intelligence: Omitted

c. Operations:

(1) Subject: Use of VT fuzes on defensive targets.

(a) Observation: The use of 8-inch VT fuzes on defensive targets were found to be more effective than time fuzes.

(b) Evaluation: One battery experienced excellent results firing fuse VT at short ranges. Defensive targets were fired in using fuse VT with a fuse setting of 2 seconds. Ranges from 700 meters to 2000 meters were used with excellent low air bursts at all ranges. Time fuzes were used at the same ranges with satisfactory results, however, several early bursts occurred. The area between the battery and the target was open and dry, thus giving the VT fuse little chance to activate early.

(c) Recommendation: That fuse VT be considered for use with defensive fires.

(2) Subject: 50 Caliber Machinegun Defensive Positions.

(a) Observation: 50 Caliber Machineguns can be employed most effective outside a bunker complex.

(b) Evaluation: One battery placed their 50 Caliber Machineguns on tripods in 6 prefab bunkers along the perimeter. The fields of fire were good and interlocking fires from bunker to bunker was achieved, however, the noise created by the firing proved to be almost unbearable. An attempt to bolt the tripod to the bunker proved fruitless. M-6 Machinegun jeep mounts were finally used and proved most effective, however, there was still a noise problem. A solution to the problem was to build a secondary
position behind the bunker. A 4 to 6 foot platform was constructed without overhead cover, thus employing the weapon similar to Quad 50's with infantry capabilities.

(c) Recommendations: That 50 Caliber Machinegun defensive positions be built without overhead cover.

d. Organization: Omitted

e. Training:

(1) Subject: USMC Combined Action Platoon (CAP) Training

(a) Observation: Few artillery fire missions were requested by CAPs because team members were inexperienced and lacked confidence in the capability of artillery to support them.

(b) Evaluation: US Army forward observers conducted training in the adjustment of artillery fire for CAP teams. The observers remained overnight with the CAP teams and demonstrated with live fire the capabilities and limitations of artillery. Typical instruction consisted of a 2 hour lecture, 4 hours of service practice and continuous examples of ways to use artillery. The instructors emphasized rapid response against fleeting targets of opportunity, planning of defensive fires and the importance of reporting surveillance. Forward observers returned to each CAP element monthly to conduct additional classes and service practice. The results have been fruitful. Artillery units are now attacking enemy targets more frequently and with significant results. USMC CAPs are ideally located to detect and attack with artillery those targets otherwise too large to engage, or too fleeting to justify air strikes or gunships.

(c) Recommendations: That artillery units employ USMC CAP training assistance programs whenever possible.

f. Logistics: Omitted

g. Communications:

(1) Subject: Wire Communications

(a) Observation: Wire communication to the gun pits of a 8"/175mm gun battery normally work better on separate lines.

(b) Evaluation: One battery set up their "hot loops" by platoon. One loop to the 8" platoon and one to the 175mm platoon. The aiming circle was on both lines. Since 60% of the battery targets were attacked by one gun, the platoon hot loop was found to be impractical. By simply running separate lines to each gun and to the aiming circle, both sections were not alerted on all fire missions.
(c) Recommendation: The 8"/175mm units use separate land lines to their gun pits.

1. Material: Omitted

2. Other: Omitted

[Signature]

LESLIE J. HARDY
Colonel, FA
Commanding

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4-5
Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOPLDT, APO 96558

6-8

9-10
Commanding General, Americal Division, ATTN: AVDF-SC, APO 96374

11-24
Commanding General, Americal Division, ATTN: AVDF-SC, APO 96374

25
CO, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, APO 96217

26
CO, 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery, APO 96219

27
CO, 3d Battalion, 11th Artillery, APO 96374

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CO, 3d Battalion, 13th Artillery, APO 96374

29
CO, 1st Battalion, 3rd Artillery, APO 96374

30
CO, 3d Battalion, 3rd Artillery, APO 96256

31-35
File, Div Arty S-3

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AVDF-HL (15 Feb 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (Americial Division Artillery) (C)

DA, Headquarters, American Division, APO 96374 6 MAR 70

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AITN: AVHQ-UJT,
APO 96375

1. (U) Forwarded herewith is the subject report of the American Division
Artillery for the period 1 Nov 69 - 31 Jan 70.

2. (C) This Headquarters concurs with observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication with one exception. The statement found in the first sentence of paragraph b, page 2, should read four main operations rather than five main operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER

K. M. Wolak, CPT, PGU
for: JOE JOYCE
GUT, GC
Asst AG

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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AVHGC-DST (15 Feb 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Americal Division Artillery
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 15 MAR 70

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for
the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970, from Headquarters, Americal
Division Artillery and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

L. D. MURRAN
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy fmr:
Americal Div ARTY
HQ Americal Div
GPOP-DT (15 Feb 70) 3d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, Americal Division Artillery for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558  31 MAR '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:

[Signature]

C. L. Short
CPT, AGC
Ant AG
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, Americal Division Artillery

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.

CO, Americal Division Artillery

15 February 1970

15

N/A

701170

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

Abstract