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<td>GDS, DoD 5200.1-r; AGO D/A ltr, 11 Jun 1980</td>
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</tbody>
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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED
GENERAL
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IN ACCORDANCE WITH
DOD 5200.1-R & EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
SECURITY MARKING

The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked. Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1970 (U)

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Information of actions initiated as a result of subject report should be forwarded to ACSFOR OT UT 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]

ROBERT E. LYNCH
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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Army Mobility Equipment Research & Development Center

Operations, 4th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 8th BATTALION (175MM/8 INCH)(SP), 4TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96269

AVLDD-C 5 May 1970


SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.
   a. General
      (2) This is the eleventh Operational Report submitted by this organization.
      (3) Organizational list and structure are attached as Inclosure 1.
   b. Historical Data
      (1) Deployment and status of the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery and its subordinate elements at the beginning of the reporting period (1 Feb 70) were as follows:


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>MISSION AND STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td>HHH/8/4</td>
<td>GS-Rein 5th Battalion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SVC/8/4</td>
<td>4th Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A/8/4</td>
<td>YD223587 (Dong Ha)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B/8/4</td>
<td>YD062545 (Camp Carroll)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C/8/4</td>
<td>YD119699 (FSB A-4)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) On 5 February 1970 Battery B retubed one platoon from 8" to 175MM after having changed to 8" on 29 and 30 January 1970.

(3) On 5 February 1970 this unit began a TET cease fire at 1800 hours. The cease fire terminated 061800H February 1970 without incident.

(4) On 12 February 1970 Battery A retubed one howitzer from 8" to 175MM.

(5) On 13 February 1970 Battery A retubed one other howitzer from 8" to 175MM.

FOR OFFUT
702028

Inclosure

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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(6) On 14 February 1970 LTC Isaac R. Denson assumed command of the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery from LTC Issac B. Smith.

(7) On 17 February 1970 OGL Key, CO, 108th Artillery Group fired the 14th 14th round for C/2/3 in combat operations in Vietnam.

(8) On 18 February 1970 OGL Key, CO, 108th Gp, was briefed concerning the RVN Heavy Artillery Training curriculum provided by this battalion.

(9) On 22 February 1970 this unit received a change in mission from 4th Arty Gp. The mission was changed to general support of XXIV Corps, supporting 101st Airborne Division (Mech) Artillery, 1st ARVN Division Artillery, 15th Battalion, 4th Artillery.

(10) On 23 February 1970 this unit began its first XXIV Corps Fire Direction Officers School. Five students were graduated on 28 February.


(12) On 26 February 1970 Task Force Bradberry terminated. The raid was highly successful and a complete after action report was forwarded to higher headquarters.

(13) On 3 March 1970 this unit's fire channels were revised to provide communications between 5/4 Arty and this unit. This unit remains responsive to 108th Arty Gp for general support missions.

(14) On 16 March 1970 XXIV Corps Fire Direction Officer Course 2-70 began. On 21 March four students were graduated.

(15) On 6 April 1970 XXIV Corps Forward Observer School 1-70 began. On 15 April seven students were graduated.

(16) On 15 April 1970 Battery A returned two howitzers from 3" to 175MM.

(17) On 20 April 1970 XXIV Corps Fire Direction Officer School 3-70 began. Eight students were graduated on 25 April 1970.

(18) During the reporting period, Headquarters, A, and B Batteries received satisfactory ratings from the XXIV Corps Command Maintenance Management Inspection team.

(19) During the reporting period this battalion administered the FM6-94 gunner's test to all gunners and assistant gunners.

(20) During the reporting period this battalion and its units came under enemy attacks by fire 46 times.

(21) During the reporting period this battalion destroyed 140 bunkers credited with 101 enemy KIA confirmed.

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(22) During the reporting period this battalion continued its progress in development of the ARVN Heavy Artillery Training Program. The training program itself, lesson plans, and a prepared briefing have been translated into Vietnamese.

(23) Missions and rounds fired during the reporting period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BATTERY</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
<th>MARCH</th>
<th>APRIL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A/8/4</td>
<td>1326 men</td>
<td>1036 men</td>
<td>1099 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4902 rds</td>
<td>3722 rds</td>
<td>3994 rds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/8/4</td>
<td>922 men</td>
<td>820 men</td>
<td>940 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3305 rds</td>
<td>2106 rds</td>
<td>3763 rds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/8/4</td>
<td>270 men</td>
<td>1011 men</td>
<td>1411 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1468 rds</td>
<td>4748 rds</td>
<td>6913 rds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>3218 men</td>
<td>2867 men</td>
<td>3450 men</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12675 rds</td>
<td>10576 rds</td>
<td>14560 rds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(24) The cumulative total of rounds fired by this battalion since arrival in country through 30 April 1970 is 289,760.

(25) Deployment and status of the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery and its subordinate units at the end of the reporting period (30 April 1970) were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>MISSION AND STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/4</td>
<td></td>
<td>GS-XXIV Corps, Rein 101st Airborne Division (AMDL) Artillery, 1st ARVN Division</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Artillery, and 5th Battalion, 4th Artillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HNB/8/4</td>
<td>YD223587 (Dong Ha)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SVC/8/4</td>
<td>YD223587 (Dong Ha)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A/8/4</td>
<td>YD62345 (Camp Carroll)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B/8/4</td>
<td>YD132641 (FSB C-2)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C/8/4</td>
<td>YD19699 (FSB A-4)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Training: In addition to continuing its normal 24 hour operational capability, this battalion conducted a total of 156 hours of scheduled training for all personnel. Emphasis was placed on automatic weapons training, replacement training, and training for gunners and assistant gunners. A battalion firing battery inspection team continued its operations.

d. Observation: During this reporting period this battalion provided eight forward observer teams to ground forces in Northern I Corps. These teams, consisting of a forward observer, a recon sergeant, and a radio telephone operator, included assignments to Special Forces elements, 2nd ARVN Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (AMDL), and three permanent assignments to 3/5th Cavalry Squadron.

e. Logistics:

(1) During the reporting period this battalion was engaged in extensive area improvement and a building program at Camp Carroll. Personnel bunkers and a large unit mess hall were completed. Battalion headquarters moved into a new bunker.

INCL

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(2) Average Daily Deadline Rate for the reporting period were computed using the number of vehicles on hand, with the exception of wheeled vehicles. The deadline rate for wheeled vehicles was computed utilizing the number of vehicles authorized. The average daily deadline rates were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE</th>
<th>PER CENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artillery, 175MM and 8 INCH</td>
<td>10.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Tracked Vehicles</td>
<td>31.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armored Vehicles</td>
<td>14.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMIC Generators</td>
<td>11.6 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

f. Civic Action: This battalion maintained four MEDCAPS at Duong Luong, Dai Do, and Dong Ha City and added one during the reporting period at Linh. The first four MEDCAPS were established in August and November 1968, and two in March 1969. During the reporting period, a total of 2500 patients were treated. In addition to treating the patients, the MEDCAPS included distribution of clothing, soap, and candy to the Vietnamese people.

g. Personnel and Administration:

(1) Strength at the end of period (30 April 1970)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AUTHORIZED</th>
<th>ASSIGNED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Off</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Med</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>521</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) Significant Shortages at the end of period (30 April 1970)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>AUTH</th>
<th>ASG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cannoneers</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>182</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooks</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chief of Section &amp; Gunners</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) Casualties: Two WIA in Battery A, two WIA in Battery B, and two WIA in Battery C as a result of enemy action.

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

a. Personnel. None.

b. Intelligence. None.

c. Operations.

(1) Marking Perimeters at Fire Bases

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(a) OBSERVATION: During enemy ground attacks at night on fire support bases it is many times very difficult for air support elements to accurately determine the edge of the friendly perimeter from the air.

(b) EVALUATION: Although ARA and gunships are available for defense of fire support bases, their inability to accurately fix the friendly perimeter may decrease their effectiveness considerably. This inability may often result in accidental friendly casualties or may cause the gunships to refuse to fire close-in support.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Artillery ammunitions canisters, preferably 8" or 175MM, may be filled with diesel fuel and buried up to their rims along the edge of the defensive perimeter about 20 meters outside the interior wire and from 10 to 20 meters apart. These can then be ignited by a command fired trip flare mounted over the canister of diesel to provide an excellent perimeter marking device. These "pots" burn in excess of eight hours once ignited and may be immediately ignited at the first indication of a ground attack or probe. Once ignited, these pots will burn throughout the night outlining the fire base for supporting air as well as providing a substantial amount of ground illumination.

(2) Self-Illumination Capability at Fire Support Bases

(a) OBSERVATION: For units without an organic illumination capability in locations where there is a very limited amount of artillery with an illumination capability, difficulty sometimes arises in response time for requested illumination.

(b) EVALUATION: Units in fairly permanent fire bases not defended by an infantry unit or some force with the specific designated task of base defense many times have no self-illumination capability. When there are many small units in the field in night defensive positions and when the artillery illumination capability in that area of operations is very limited, the need for self-illumination may very easily arise. Should the artillery illumination capability be over-extended at any time by illumination requests for the NDP’s, the unit without a self-illumination capability may find itself not able to illuminate its perimeter in case of attack.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: An 81MM mortar may be procured and a crew easily trained to fire illumination only. Once a crew is trained, the individuals can be placed on stand-by during the night to provide immediate illumination should artillery illumination not be available. The addition of four mortar crews per heavy artillery battalion is also recommended as a modification of the TOE for heavy artillery units engaged in Vietnam.

d. Organization. None.

e. Training. None.

f. Logistics. None.

c. Communications. None.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report—Lessons Learned, 8th Battalion (175mm/8 INCH)(SP), 8th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U).

h. Material. None.
i. Other. None.

ROSS E. DUNCAN
LTC, FA
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
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- CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC (DST)
- CG, XXIV Corps, ATTN: AVII-GCT
- CO, 106th Arty Op., ATTN: AVIID-C
- CO, 8th Bn, 4th Arty, ATTN: AVIIDD-C

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 8th Battalion (175mm/8 inch) (SP), 4th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

TO: Commanding General, XXIV Corps Artillery, ATTN: AVII-GCT, APO San Francisco 96349

1. The ORLL of the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. Concur with recommendations made in paragraph 2.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

WILLIAM A. SPIN
Maj, FA
Adjutant

DA, Headquarters, XXIV Corps Artillery, APO San Francisco 96349, 31 May 1970

TO: Commanding General, XXIV Corps Artillery, ATTN: AVII-GCT, APO San Francisco 96349

1. The ORLL of the 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. This headquarters concurs with the report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

CHARLES S. HIEVERLY
Maj, FA
Adjutant
Best Available Copy
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 8th Battalion (175MM/8 INCH) (SP), 4th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96575

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 1970 from Headquarters, 8th Battalion (175MM/8 INCH) (SP), 4th Artillery and concurs with comments of issuing headquarters.

2. Reference item concerning "Marking Perimeters at Fire Bases", page 4, paragraph 2c(1): concur. It is essential that the perimeters of FSBs under attack be accurately identified to AAR and gunship support. Fuel containers used as mentioned are a good field expedient; however, they require daily checks to insure they are full of fuel, trip flare mountings must be checked, and they must be protected from water contamination during the monsoon season. The distress light marker (FSN 6230-067-5209) is authorized by current TOE (2 per Arty Btry and 13 per Inf Co) and can also be used for perimeter marking.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Cy furn:
XXIV Corps
8th Bn, 4th Arty
6 Jul 70

Gentlemen: Out of respect, I submit this memo. It is a matter of concern to me that I have not received an update on the activities of the 4th Battalion (122mm/8 Inchs)(SP) 4th Bde. Since your last memo, two CCFOR-60 Trks (1) have been inducted.

S. B. Cline

Lt, 4th

Asst AG

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HEADQUARTERS, 8TH BATTALION, 4TH ARTILLERY

Organic Units

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery

Service Battery

Battery A

Battery B

Battery C

No assigned or attached units.
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb 70 to 30 Apr 70.

CO, 8th Battalion, 4th Artillery

5 May 1970

702028

N/A

N/A

CAGSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310