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1st Battalion, 44th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 1ST BATTALION (AW) (SP) 44TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96269

AVGLB-CO

12 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery
for the Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (12)

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1. (C) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities:

a. Administration/Personnel:

(1) The following awards and decorations were made to assigned and attached personnel:

<u>AWARDS</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Silver Star	3
Bronze Star for Valor	6
Bronze Star for Achievement	6
Bronze Star for Service	23
Army Commendation Medal for Valor	21
Army Commendation Medal for Achievement	25
Army Commendation Medal for Service	90
Air Medal	1
Purple Heart	12
Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry	4
Certificates of Achievement	89

(2) There were no administrative or tactical movements of Headquarters, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery during this reporting period.

(3) The battalion personnel statistics as of 30 April 1970 were:

(a) Current Strength:

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	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Arty:	37	2	653	43	2	634
G Btry (MG) 65th Arty:	2	0	140	4	0	128
G Btry (SLT) 29th Arty:	6	0	111	6	0	93

(b) Casualties: 1 February 1970 - 30 April 1970.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
KIA	3
WIA	20
MIA	0
Died of Wounds	0
Non-battle Deaths	1

(c) R&R Experiences:

	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	<u>MARCH</u>	<u>APRIL</u>
Hawaii	7	15	5
Bangkok	7	-	7
Hong Kong	8	6	8
Sidney	8	11	16
Manila	1	1	2
Taipei	8	2	10
Tokyo	1	2	1

(4) Current organizational structure of the 1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Arty is attached as Inclosure 1.

b. Intelligence:

(1) Primary sources of intelligence information for Hqs, A, B, C and G/65 Batteries during the reporting period were the S-2 Section, 1st Brigade, 5th Infantry Division (Mechanized); S-2 Section, 2d ARVN Regiment, 1st ARVN Division Forward. Battery D received intelligence information from the C-2 Section, 101st Airborne Division (AMBL) and from the G-2 Section, XXIV Corps. Battery G, 29th Artillery received intelligence information from the S-2 Section, 11th USMC Regiment, 1st USMC Division. Supplementary information was received from XXIV Corps in the form of intelligence summaries and periodic intelligence reports and from intelligence information and estimates from field commanders of supported units.

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(2) Temperatures during the reporting period ranged from a low of 63°F to a high of 100°F. Winds were mild during the period, averaging 3 knots and gusting up to 14 knots. Frequent low ceilings affected resupply and command and control by air to Fire Support Bases Barbara and Sarge.

(3) Enemy Activity:

(a) Mining incidents have increased significantly during the reporting period in the areas of Strong Point A-4 and FSB Barbara.

(b) Stand off attacks with rockets and mortars increased significantly during the reporting period. The highest incident rates were at Tan Lam (Camp Carroll), Commanche Hill, Khe Gio Bridge, Mai Loc Special Forces Camp, La Son (Anzio), Strong Points A-1, A-2, A-4 and C-1.

(c) There is continued evidence of infiltration from the Laotian Panhandle and from the Central DMZ area. Elements of the 1st Bn 44th Arty have fired on and illuminated numerous targets acquired by sensors and AN/TPS radar.

c. Operations:

(1) General: The mission of the 1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Arty and Battery G, 65th Arty, continues to be general support of XXIV Corps. Battery G, 29th Arty, continues the mission of providing battlefield illumination to XXIV Corps and 1st USMC Division.

(2) Areas of operation during the reporting period:

Lamson 350	2d ARVN Regt	Jan 70 - Mar 70	(C, G/65)
Lamson 353	7th ARVN Cav	Jan 70 - Mar 70	(A, B, G/65)
Lamson 352	54th ARVN Regt	Jan 70 - Mar 70	(D)
Lamson 355	1st ARVN Regt	Jan 70 - Present	(B, G/65)
Lamson 356	2d ARVN Regt	Apr 70 - Present	(C, G/65)
Lamson 357	3d ARVN Regt	Apr 70 - Present	(B)
Lamson 358	54th ARVN Regt	Apr 70 - Present	(D)
Lamson 359	7th ARVN Cav	Apr 70 - Present	(A, G/65)
Randolph Glenn	101st Abn Div (Ambl)	Feb 70 - Mar 70	(D, B, G/65)
Texas Star	101st Abn Div (Ambl)	Apr 70 - Present	(D, B, G/65)
Green River	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)	Jan 70 - Present	(A, B, G/65)
Dakota Clint	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)	Jan 70 - Apr 70	(C)

(3) Significant events:

(a) On 6 February 1970 at 1900 hours, FSB Bastogne came under an RPG attack. There were 30 rounds of incoming from a ridgeline SSW of the fire base at a distance of 1100 meters. D 141 began firing at the flashes immediately, INCL

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and after the first rounds, the incoming ceased. Final enemy results were unknown and there were no friendly casualties or damage.

(b) On 9 February 1970 at 1845 hours, FSB Birmingham received 54 122mm rockets with negative casualties or damage. D 111 fired 30 rounds at the suspected launch site prior to receiving a cease fire.

(c) At 0230 hours on 10 February 1970, the searchlight in conjunction with a NOD at Los Banos, spotted 7 VC/NVA. Machine gun (.50 cal) fire was placed on the enemy with 1 KIA confirmed.

(d) On 10 February 1970 at 0300 hours, the searchlight at Namo Bridge was used in support of a killer team that was receiving small arms fire. Results were 3 NVA/VC KIA confirmed.

(e) On 11 February 1970 at 0130 hours, the searchlight at Camp Evans spotted 1 NVA/VC in the wire at bunker 32. The enemy was engaged with M-16 fire. A check at first light revealed a pair of black pajamas with bullet holes in the legs.

(f) During the period 12 to 16 February 1970, elements of B Battery supported A Battery, 2d Bn, 94th Arty on an artillery raid. The Dusters provided convoy security, perimeter defense and suppressive and protective fire at FSB Anne.

(g) On 15 February 1970, A Battery supported B Company, 1st Battalion, 61st Infantry with reconnaissance by fire and preparatory fires against a suspected enemy squad.

(h) At FSB Bastogne on 16 February 1970, searchlight personnel spotted enemy movement in front of bunker 14. The enemy was engaged with 81mm mortar fire resulting in numerous blood trails.

(i) On 19 February 1970 at 0400 hours, the searchlight at FSB Bastogne spotted movement in front of bunker 10. Duster and 81mm mortar fire was placed on the target resulting in numerous blood trails.

(j) At 0215 hours on 22 February 1970, searchlights at Name Bridge used visible light on suspected movement. The movement was confirmed and fired upon. A survey of the area resulted in numerous documents and rice being found.

(k) During the period 24 to 26 February 1970, elements of C Battery supported the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry on an artillery raid in the vicinity of the Rockpile. Two Dusters provided convoy security, perimeter defense and suppressive and protective fires.

(l) On 9 March 1970, the searchlight on Hill 190 received small arms fire from an area at coordinates ZC 880829. The searchlight was used to direct return fire by 106mm RR, which resulted in 2 enemy KIA.

(m) At 0200 hours on 12 March 1970, Khe Gio Bridge came under a heavy barrage of mortar and RPG fire, followed by a ground attack with an estimated strength of 50 sappers and 50 infantrymen. The wire was breached in many areas and the outpost sustained heavy damage. The Dusters fired 450 40mm rounds and small arms fire. The enemy activity resulted in one Duster from C Battery being damaged, two Duster crewmen KIA and 7 WIA. There were 30 enemy KIA. In the same action, G Battery, 29th Artillery, lost a searchlight and vehicle and had 2 crewmen WIA.

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- (n) On 13 March 1970, FSB Bastogne received 20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire, all landing outside the wire. D 122 and D 141 fired 400 and 230 rounds respectively. All incoming ceased.
- (o) On 15 March 1970, B Battery deployed two Dusters to FSB Barbara (YD 327337) in support of 1st ARVN Division.
- (p) On 1 April 1970, G/29 redeployed one searchlight from Los Banos to FSB Birmingham in support of the 101st Abn Div (AmBL).
- (q) On 2 April 1970, D Battery redeployed one Duster from Banco Bridge to Phu Loc (ZD 100007) in support of 101st Abn Div (AmBL).
- (r) On 3 April 1970, two Dusters from D Battery and a reinforced infantry squad from Company A, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry, participated in a one-day operation in the vicinity of FSB Birmingham. The operation was directed against enemy units of unknown strengths detected both visually and by sensors. The Dusters fired 1000 rounds, flushing out the enemy. A short time later, an infantry element was inserted into the area. Results of this action were unknown.
- (s) On 5 April 1970, G Battery, 65th Artillery redeployed one Quad 50 from Pohl Bridge to FSB Birmingham (YD 706102) in support of 101st Abn Div (AmBL).
- (t) At 0100 hours on 7 April 1970, FSB Anzio received 75 to 100 B-40 rockets and mortar rounds, followed by a ground attack with an estimated strength of 8 sappers and 35 infantrymen. The Duster crew prevented an attempt to breach the wire in their sector. Damage was negligible. The Duster crew fired 750 40mm rounds and small arms fire. The action resulted in 22 enemy KIA on the perimeter with 21 KIA and 6 POW's in infantry contact. There was one Duster crewman KIA.
- (u) On 12 April 1970 at 0225 hours, the Mai Loc Special Forces Camp received a barrage of mortars and RPG's. The stand off attack was followed by a sapper attack with a company size unit. The Duster crews thwarted the enemy's attempt to breach the wire in their sector; however, other areas were breached which resulted in the Duster personnel receiving RPG's and small arms fire from behind their positions. The enemy activity resulted in one Duster from C Battery being damaged, one Duster crewman KIA and 9 WIA. There were 18 enemy KIA.
- (v) On 13 April 1970, G Battery, 65th Artillery deployed one Quad 50 from Dong Ha to FSB Nancy (YD 142394), in support of the 1st ARVN Div.
- (w) On 16 April 1970 at 1045 hours, B Battery moved two Dusters from Dong Ha to FSB Sally (YD 638274), in support of the 1st ARVN Division. On the same day at 1420 hours, G Battery moved one Duster from Dong Ha to Camp Carroll in support of the 1st ARVN Division.
- (x) On 18 April 1970, two Dusters from A Battery supported ARVN forces conducting counter mortar/counter sniper operations west of A-2. The Dusters fired 110 rounds counter mortar fire after receiving incoming rounds. The operation resulted in negative damage or casualties.
- (y) On 19 April 1970, G Battery, 65th Artillery deployed one Quad 50 into C-2 (YD 135645) in support of the 1st Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech).

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(z) On 20 April 1970, B Battery redeployed its elements from Eagle to Long. B Battery deployed 3 Dusters and G/65 deployed one additional Quad 50 into Eagle. Elements of Batteries D and G/65 are in support of Base Defense at Camp Eagle.

(aa) On 21 April 1970, D Battery deployed two Dusters in support of a platoon from 2/327 Infantry and a Chieu Hoi. The operation was intended to get additional enemy to rally. Friendly forces employed AFA, flame drop and Dusters. The Dusters fired 600 rounds. The area was swept by Infantry with negative results.

(bb) On 22 April 1970, D Battery deployed two Dusters to FSB Nancy (YD 442394) in support of the 1st ARVN Division.

(cc) At 1041 hours on 29 April 1970, C Battery deployed one additional Duster to Khe Gio Bridge, making a total of 3 Dusters in support of the 1st ARVN Division elements at that location.

(dd) On 29 April 1970 at 1400 hours, G Battery, 65th Artillery deployed two Quad 50's to Khe Loc (YD 091510) in support of the Special Forces CLOS camp.

(ee) During the reporting period, elements of this Battalion supported 24 convoy security missions and 180 minesweep operations.

(4) Fire unit locations: At the end of the reporting period, 30 April 1970, the Battalion was tactically deployed as follows:

<u>UNIT ELEMENT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>SUPPORTED UNIT</u>
(a) <u>IMB</u>	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	
(b) <u>Battery A (-)</u>	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(1) 6 Dusters	Dong Ha Combat Base* (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(2) 2 Dusters	A-1 (YD 270734)	1st ARVN Div
(3) 2 Dusters	A-2 (YD 213743)	1st ARVN Div
(4) 2 Dusters	C-1 (YD 213674)	1st ARVN Div
(5) 4 Dusters	A-4 (YD 118701)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(c) <u>Battery B (-)</u>	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(1) 2 Dusters	Dong Ha Combat Base*	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(2) 4 Dusters	Quang Tri Combat Base (YD 311557)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(3) 2 Dusters	FSB Nancy (YD 442394)	1st ARVN Div

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(h) 2 Dusters	FSB Barbara (YD 327337)	1st ARVN Div
(5) 2 Dusters	Camp Evans (YD 535314)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(6) 2 Dusters	LZ Sally (YD 638274)	1st ARVN Div
(7) 2 Dusters	T-None (YD 659903)	1st ARVN Div
(d) <u>Battery C (-)</u>	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(1) 6 Dusters	Dong Ha Combat Base* (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(2) 2 Dusters	Cam Lo Bridge (YD 128671)	RF/PF
(3) 3 Dusters	Khe Gio Bridge (YD 026562)	1st ARVN Div
(h) 1 Duster	Camp Carroll (YD 063547)	1st ARVN Div
(5) 2 Dusters	Comanche Hill (OP 250) (YD 064547)	1st ARVN Div
(6) 2 Dusters	Mai Loc (YD 095515)	CIDG
(e) <u>Battery D (-)</u>	Phu Bai (YD 880140)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(1) 5 Dusters	Phu Bai (YD 880140)*	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(2) 2 Dusters	FSB Bastogne (YD 620095)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(3) 2 Dusters	FSB Birmingham (YD 706102)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(4) 3 Dusters	Camp Eagle (YD 806163)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(5) 1 Duster	Anzio (YD 934072)	1st ARVN Div
(6) 1 Duster	Phu Loc (YD 100007)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(7) 2 Dusters	Hai Van Pass (YD 939918)	1st Mar Div
(f) G/65 (-)	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(1) 4 M55's	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(2) 2 M55's	Camp Carroll (YD 063547)	1st ARVN Div
(3) 2 M55's	FSB Bastogne (YD 620095)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(4) 2 M55's	Camp Eagle (YD 806163)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(5) 2 M55's	Phu Bai (YD 880140)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(6) 1 M55	A-1 (YD 270734)	1st ARVN Div

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(7)	1 M55	A-2 (YD 213743)	1st ARVN Div
(8)	1 M55	C-2 (YD 135645)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(9)	1 M55	Sargo (YD 029478)	1st ARVN Div
(10)	1 M55	FSB Nancy (YD 442394)	1st ARVN Div
(11)	1 M55	Camp Evans (YD 535314)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(12)	1 M55	FSB Birmingham (YD 706102)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(13)	2 M55's	Mai Loc (YD 095515)	CIDG
(14)	<u>C/29 (-)</u>	Da Nang (AT 957757)	1st Mar Div
(1)	1 SLT	Phu Bai (YD 879144)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(2)	1 SLT	FSB Birmingham (YD 706102)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(3)	1 SLT	FSB Bastogne (YD 620095)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(4)	1 SLT	Camp Evans (YD 535314)	101st Abn Div (Ambl)
(5)	1 SLT	Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 233583)	1st Bde 5th Inf Div (Mech)
(6)	1 SLT	Khe Gio Bridge (YD 031563)	1st ARVN Div
(7)	2 SLT's	Namo Bridge (AT 927042)	26th Mar Reg't
(8)	1 SLT	Cau Do Bridge (AT 999705)	1st Mar Reg't
(9)	1 SLT	Liberty Bridge (AT 928513)	1st Bn 5th Mar Reg't
(10)	1 SLT	Roving Light (AT 957757)	Northern Sector Defense Command
(11)	1 SLT	Hill 10 (AT 924691)	26th Mar Reg't
(12)	1 SLT	Hill 41 (AT 934663)	1st Mar Reg't
(13)	1 SLT	Hill 55 (AT 920615)	11th Mar Reg't
(14)	1 SLT	Hill 65 (AT 879577)	5th Mar Reg't
(15)	1 SLT	Hill 327 (AT 971737)	Southern Sector Defense Command
(16)	1 SLT	Hill 190 (AT 892823)	26th Mar Regt
(17)	1 SLT	LZ Ross (BT 024342)	7th Mar Regt
(18)	1 SLT	LZ Baldy (BT 132453)	7th Mar Regt

*M42s and M55s reported at Dong Ha and Phu Bai are committed to Base Defense, Reaction Force, Minesweep Security, Convoy Security and Artillery Raids.

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(5) Ammunition expenditures:

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<u>TYPE</u>	<u>REPORTING PERIOD</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
40mm	208,574	1,962,698
50 cal	541,100	3,661,300

(6) Days spent for training, movement, operations were as follows:

(a) Training (OJT): 90 days

(b) Training (Replacement): 24 days (Instruction given to newly assigned personnel for 3 full days 8 times during the quarter).

(c) Movement: N/A

(d) Operations: 90 days

d. Logistics:

(1) Property Books:

(a) Property books remain established within this organization as follows:

(1) 1st Bn, 44th Arty for HMB, A, B and C.

(2) Btry D, 1st Bn, 44th Arty.

(3) Btry G (MG), 65th Arty.

(4) Btry G (SLT), 29th Arty.

(2) Significant equipment fills: The following major end items have been received over the past quarter:

(a) 1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Arty:

(1) Trailer, Ammo - 11 ea

(2) Truck, Cargo, 3/4 Ton - 7 ea

(3) Truck, Cargo, 2 1/2 Ton - 2 ea

(4) Truck, Utility, 1/4 Ton - 4 ea

(5) Recovery Vehicle - 1 ea

(b) Btry G (MG), 65th Arty:

(1) Generator Set, 1.5 KW - 1 ea

(2) Mount, machinegun M55 - 3 ea

(3) Significant equipment shortages: The following items are now on requisition and are considered critical for this unit's mission:

(a) 1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Arty:

(1) Generator Set, 1.5 KW, DC - 16 ea

(2) Generator Set, 3 KW, AC - 1 ea

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- (3) Mount Vision Lights (Crew Served) - 04 ea
- (4) Radio Set AN/GRC 106 - 17 ea
- (5) Radio Set AN/VRC 46 - 1 ea
- (6) Radio Set AN/VRC 47 - 4 ea
- (7) Recovery Vehicle FT M578 - 1 ea
- (8) Trailer, Armo M32 - 26 ea
- (9) Truck, Utility, 1/2 Ton M151A1 - 3 ea
- (10) Night Observation Device - 55 ea
- (c) Btry G (MG), 65th Arty:
 - (1) Mount, Machinegun, M55 - 3 ea
 - (2) Machinegun, Cal .50, M2 - 13 ea
 - (3) Radio Set, AN/GRC 125 - 12 ea
 - (4) Radio Set, AN/PRC 77 - 6 ea
 - (5) Signal Equipment Set #1 Common - 1 ea
 - (6) Tool Kit, Auto Mechanic, Light - 2 ea
 - (7) Truck, Cargo, 5 Ton - 5 ea
 - (8) Truck, Wrecker, 5 Ton - 1 ea
- (d) Btry G (SLT), 29th Arty:
 - (1) Searchlight (Visual/Infra), AN/M55-3 - 4 ea
 - (2) Switchboard, SB-22/PT - 1 ea
 - (3) Truck, Utility, 1/2 Ton - 1 ea
- (e) Religious Activities:

(1) During the quarter, three memorial services were held. On 16 March 1970, services were held for SPT Mitchell Stout and SPl Terry Moser, both of the 1st ABCT. On 18 April, services were held for PFC Phillip Long, also of the 1st ABCT. The third service was on 22 April 1970 for PFC Freddie Thompson of the 1st ABCT.

(2) During the reporting period, the Battalion Chaplain conducted 94 worship services as follows:

- (a) Base Camp - 14
- (b) Field locations - 50
- (c) Memorial - 3
- (d) Special Holidays - 2

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(3) The Battalion Chaplain, in cooperation with the office of the Group Chaplain, taught character guidance classes for the month of February for units on Dong Ha Combat Base.

f. Medical:

(1) During the reporting period, there have been 485 out-patient visits to the Aid Station.

(2) Information has been distributed to battery commanders on the prevention of heat exhaustion.

(3) Sanitary inspections were conducted by the battalion surgeon and other medical personnel twice monthly.

g. Civil Affairs:

(1) Twice weekly, the Battalion Surgeon conducts a Medcap at the Dong Ha Village Hospital. Treatment is provided for an average of 55 to 60 out-patients and 20 to 25 in-patients weekly. Recent information received by this battalion has revealed that administrators of the hospital have been advised and directed to institute the self-help method of treatment.

(2) SP4 Kellen, a medic attached to C Battery at Cam Lo, has instituted his own Medcap in Cam Lo and surrounding villages. This program has developed to the point where he now treats 150 to 200 patients weekly.

h. Education:

(1) 1st Bde, 5th Inf Div (Mech) Education Center, Quang Tri Combat Base, administers all courses and tests for personnel stationed in the Dong Ha area.

(2) The 26th General Support Group, Phu Bai Combat Base, administers all courses and tests for Battery D.

(3) The 80th Support Group, Da Nang, administers all courses and tests for Battery G (SLT), 29th Aty.

2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commanders Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Intelligence: None

c. Operations:

(1) Fighting Trenches:

(a) Observation: The trench lines at Mai Loc Special Forces Camp were invaluable during the sapper attack on that position. Initially, the trench lines located near the two AW positions provided cover while moving from one position to another. As the attack progressed, the seriously wounded personnel were placed in the trenches which provided cover for them until they were medivaced. Also, when the 40mm guns malfunctioned, the crews moved to the trenches, which served as excellent fighting positions. Lives were saved because of the excellent protection the trenches offered from enemy small arms, mortars and RPGs.

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(b) Evaluation: Use of fighting trenches contributed significantly to effective perimeter defense in the situation described above. The trenches at Mai Loc are approximately 3 feet deep by 3 feet wide and the sides are supported by corrugated sheet metal and short engineer stakes. Erosion with this construction is negligible.

(c) Recommendation: That commanders of AW units with elements supporting in the perimeter defense role consider construction of fighting trenches as described above.

(2) Ground Attacks:

(a) Observation: During this reporting period, elements of this battalion sustained ground attacks at Khe Gio Bridge, Mai Loc and FOB Anzio (ref. para 1 c (2), m, t and u above). All three attacks were initiated by a heavy barrage of rockets, mortars and RPG's.

(b) Evaluation: During the Khe Gio attack, all personnel immediately took cover at the first indication of incoming. They were subsequently trapped in their bunkers as the intensity of the attack increased. When the intensity of the incoming decreased, the AW crewmen moved out of the bunkers and returned fire; however, this delay in manning the guns allowed the enemy to gain the advantage and inflict heavy casualties and damage. In the other two attacks, the AW crewmen immediately went to their guns at the first indication of incoming. By directing a large volume of fire against the enemy, the perimeter was not penetrated in the areas where the Dusters were located.

(c) Recommendations:

1 That all commanders reemphasize the fact that a large scale standoff attack is often followed by a ground attack.

2 That firing positions on the perimeter must immediately be manned and prepared to direct a large volume of fire against the enemy.

(3) False NDP's using Sensors:

(a) Observations: On 19 April 1970 at Strong Point A-4, a mechanized infantry company established an NDP in the late afternoon. The position was approximately 1200 meters from A-4. Supplies were brought in and the company prepared for the night. Instead of emplacing trip flares and other warning devices, they installed sensors around the perimeter. Dusters, artillery and mortars were given the coordinates of the NDP. After darkness, the company moved back into A-4.

(b) Evaluation: This employment of sensors capitalized on the following known enemy tactics:

(1) The reconnaissance of recently established positions.

(2) The search of recently abandoned positions.

This case worked extremely well as later in the evening, the sensors were actuated. Within 30 seconds of activation, the Dusters, using predetermined data, directed a large volume of accurate fire on the target. Approximately 2 - 3 minutes later, the artillery and mortars were fired.

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(c) **Recommendations:** That this and other ruses be used to obtain short term, quick and significant results from sensor strings within the range of automatic weapons.

d. **Organizations:** None

e. **Training:** None

f. **Logistics:** None

g. **Communications:**

(1) **AM Radio Communication:**

(a) **Observation:** During this reporting period, an AM radio net was established, using the AN/CRC-106 radio. The stations operating in this net were in Dong Ha and Da Nang, a straight-line distance of approximately 70 miles. Initially, the assigned frequency was near 4 megahertz, and signals between the two stations were observed to be strong and reliable. Recently, due to an SOI change, the net was assigned a frequency near 25 megahertz. Signals between the two stations at this frequency were observed to be weak and unreliable. In an effort to improve the signals, the AN/GRA-50 antennas then being used were replaced by a more elaborate directional antenna at both stations. The resulting signals were improved but still of marginal reliability. It was also realized that each time the assigned frequency would be changed significantly (more than a few tenths of a megahertz), the antennas at each station would have to be rebuilt to correspondingly new dimensions.

(b) **Evaluation:** Since SOI items are changed frequently, the possibility of constructing still more elaborate directional antennas was considered an inefficient solution. The AN/GRA-50 antenna can be effectively used at frequencies on the order of 5 megahertz. This requires only simple adjustments for subsequent frequency changes; therefore, the use of the lower frequencies is considered the most practical solution.

(c) **Recommendation:** That the battalion be assigned an AM frequency between 3 and 5 megahertz for communication between Dong Ha and Da Nang.

h. **Material:** None

i. **Other:** None



RICHARD L. MYERS
LTC, ADA
Commanding

- 3 Incl
1. Battalion Organizational Structure
2. Map of Battalion Deployment
3. Map to Map

2-1-68

2-1-68

2-1-68

1. 100th Military Group
2. Battalion HQ

13

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AVIID-C (12 May 1970) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion (AW) (SP), 44th Artillery
for the Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, 108th Artillery Group, APO San Francisco 96289, 18 May 1970

TO: Commanding General, XXIV Corps Artillery, AFM: AVII-ACC, APO San
Francisco 96349

1. The ORLL of the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery is forwarded in accordance
with AR 525-15.

2. Concur with recommendations made in paragraph 2.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WILLIAM A. SPIN
MAJ, FA
Adjutant

AVII-ATC (12 May 1970) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (1st Battalion, 44th Artillery) Period ending 30 April 1970 RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

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

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

1. The ORLL of 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters concurs with the report.
3. Action is being taken through the Corps Artillery signal section to assign an AM frequency between 3 and 5 megahertz for communication between Dong Ha and Da Nang, as recommended in paragraph 2g(1), communications.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


CHARLES S. HEVERLY
MAJ, PA
Adjutant

AVII-GCT (12 May 1970) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of 1st Battalion (AM) (SP),
44th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, BCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA. HQ, XXIV Corps, APO San Francisco 96349

#5

TO: Commanding General, USAF, APO San Francisco 96375

1. (U) The ORLL for 1st Battalion (AM) (SP), 44th Artillery has been reviewed by this headquarters in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. (U) This headquarters concurs with the report except as noted below:

In reference to AM radio communication, paragraph 2g(1): Contrary to the stated evaluation, the AM/GRA-50 antenna, if constructed properly, can be utilized effectively on all frequencies within the range of the AM/GRC-106. However, at the distance specified, communication is achieved through utilization of sky wave propagation rather than ground wave and consequently is affected by changes in the ionosphere. More detailed information reference propagation and antenna construction is available in TM 11-666, Antennas and Radio Propagation. Unlike FM tactical frequencies, XXIV Corps does not have direct control of HF/SSB frequencies. These frequencies are centrally controlled by COMUSMACV J-6, and therefore a formal request for each individual frequency must be submitted through communications channels in accordance with XXIV Corps SSI Item 51-().

FOR THE COMMANDER:



PAUL H. TRAKLER
CPT AGC
ASST AG

AVHSC-DST (12 May 70) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 1st Battalion (AW)(SP) 44th Artillery
for the Period ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375

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

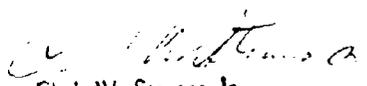
1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 1st Battalion (AW)(SP) 44th Artillery and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Fighting Trenches", page 11, paragraph 2c(1): concur. The value of trenches and simple foxholes is often overlooked when designing defenses. Depending upon terrain, these can be of more value than complex, and many times, ill designed bunkers that provide only a sense of security and do little to foster the needed offensive spirit for adequate defense. This item will be included in the next USARV Tips for Commanders.

b. Reference item concerning "Ground Attacks", page 12, paragraph 2c(1): concur. Not all stand-off attacks are coincidental with sapper attacks. However, most sapper attacks are coincidental with heavy stand-off attacks. This rudimentary form of combined arms attack has proven successful all too frequently. An aggressive, offensive reaction on the part of defenders will do much to thwart these well coordinated, short duration, violent attacks. This item will be included in the next USARV Tips for Commanders.

FOR THE COMMANDER



Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Major General
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn
XXIV Corps
1st Bn, 44th Arty

GPOP-DT (12 May 70) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery
for period ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 JUL 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:

D.D. Cline

D.D. CLINE
2LT, AGC
Asst AG

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. (C) Assigned:

- a. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP)

44th Artillery.

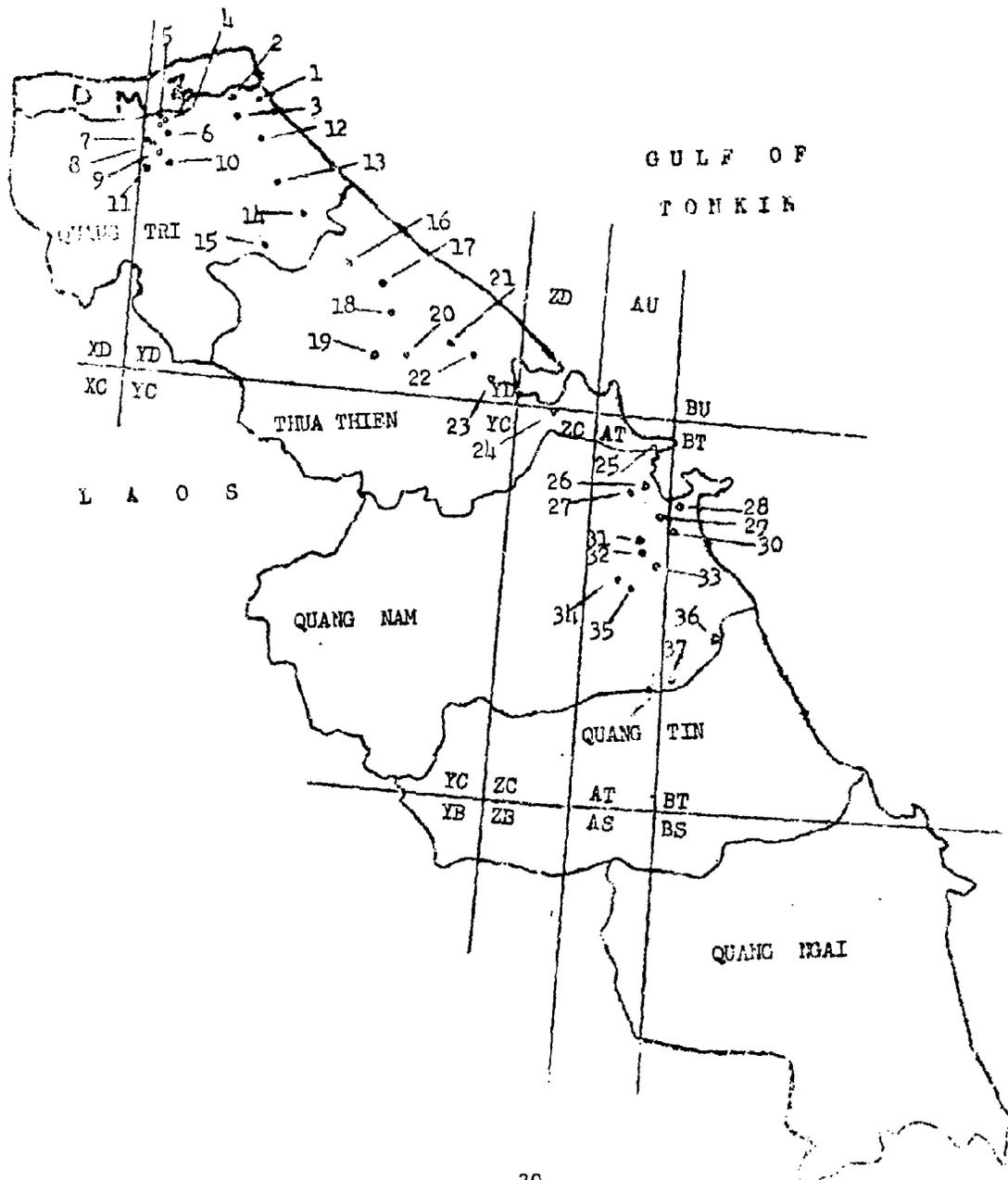
- b. Battery A.
- c. Battery B.
- d. Battery C
- e. Battery D.

2. (C) Attached:

- a. Battery G (Machinegun), 65th Artillery.
- b. Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery.

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I CORPS TACTICAL ZONE
1ST BN 44TH ARTY DEPLOYMENT (U)



Incl 2

20

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KEY TO MAP

1. A-1 (YD270734)
2. A-2 (YD213743)
3. C-1 (YD213674)
4. A-4 (YD118701)
5. C-2 (YD135645)
6. Cam Lo Bridge (YD128671)
7. Khe Gio Bridge (YD128671)
8. Tan Lam (Carroll) (YD063547)
9. Nui Kiem (Comanche Hill) (YD064547)
10. Mai Loc (YD095515)
11. Dong Toan (Sarge) (YD029478)
12. Dong Ha Combat Base (YD233583)
13. Quang Tri Combat Base (YD311557)
14. FSB Nancy (YD442394)
15. FSB Barbara (YD327337)
16. Camp Evans (YD535314)
17. LZ Sally (YD633274)
18. An Do (L-Bone) (YD659203)
19. FSB Bastogne (YD620095)
20. FSB Birmingham (YD706102)
21. Camp Eagle (YD806163)
22. Phu Bai (YD380140)
23. La Son (Anglo) (YD934072)
24. Phu Loc (YD800057)
25. Hai Van Pass (YD050010)
26. Cam Bridge (YD135645)

Incl 3

21

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27. Hill 190	(AT92823)
28. Da Nang	(AT957757)
29. Hill 327	(AT973737)
30. Caudo Bridge	(AT997703)
31. Hill 10	(AT924691)
32. Hill 41	(AT934663)
33. Hill 55	(AT970620)
34. Hill 65	(AT878577)
35. Liberty Bridge	(AT928553)
36. LZ Baldy	(BT132453)
37. LZ Ross	(BT024242)

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