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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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(11) 2 Feb 67

(19) OT-RD-670007

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP
APO 96318

VFA-AT-52-00

2 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational report of Lessons Learned for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967 LCS (CSFOR-65)

AD 3399 (6) Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52d Artillery Group [UJ.]

See Distribution

Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jan 67.

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Section I. Significant Unit Activities

1. (C) General:

(10) 7 p. 1

a. 52d Artillery Group units continued to provide artillery support to the major maneuver elements in the II CTZ.

b. The 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery, Headquarters and C Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery, and C Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery continued support of the 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, 2d Brigade, 1st Cav Division (AM) and the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division in the Paul Revere IV AO. B Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery and B Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery continued support of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division in Adams AO.

c. The 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery completed off-loading in Qui Nhon on 10 November 1966 and was supporting the CAP FOR Infantry Division in Mang Ho 7 effective 13 November 1966. On 6 December 1966, B Battery was attached to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery in support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor on route security of Highway 19. On 15 December A Battery replaced B Battery in this mission.

d. C Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery reverted to control of parent battalion for subsequent employment with elements of the 1st Cav Division (AM) in the Thayer AO effective 30 November 1966.

e. During the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's employment in Operation Pickett in Kontum Province, B Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery provided general support fires until 18 January 1967 when the unit returned to Qui Nhon. Upon deployment of 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division from Adams AO to Pickett AO, B Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery continued attachment to the 5th Battalion, 27th Artillery providing GS fires to 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division in Operation Adams.

f. On 31 December 1966 the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery (-) with C Battery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery attached became OPCON of 1st Cav Division (AM) in support of Operation Thayer II. At the same time, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery (-) with B and C Battery, 7th Battalion, 13th

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Artillery attached assumed the mission of GSR of CAP ROK Infantry Division in Mang Ho 8.

g. On 5 January 1967, the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery, 1st Battalion, 30th Artillery and B Battery, 29th Artillery (SLT) were detached from 52d Artillery Group and attached to I FFORCEV Arty. The remaining battalions (3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery) of the 52d Artillery Group continued to support 4th Infantry Division elements engaged in Operations Paul Revere IV; Sam Houston, and route security of Hiway 19.

h. On 14 January 1967, the 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery was re-attached to 52d Artillery Group, continuing its support mission to the 1st Cav Division (AM) in Binh Dinh Province. B Battery, 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery continued support of 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

i. Other minor changes in unit missions will be reflected in attached battalions' reports.

2. (U) Civil Affairs:

a. 52d Artillery Group continues to implement I FFORCEV Reg 10-1 in coordination with district chiefs, province chief, and the USAID representative. During the reporting period two concrete spillways and a one km dirt road have been completed and one hamlet has been surrounded by a barbed wire fence.

b. Medical assistance to the villages in proximity to Artillery Hill is provided by the Group and Battalion surgeons and their staff.

Section II. Commanders Observations and Recommendations

Part I. Observation (Lessons Learned)

1. (U) Personnel - omitted.

2. (C) Operations:

Item: Lieutenants are not receiving sufficient training in aerial observation procedures.

Discussion: Registrations and most adjustments of fire are conducted by aerial observers. The POI at Fort Sill coupled with the non-availability of aircraft and pilots, precludes adequate training prior to arrival in Vietnam. As a result, experienced NCO's are often used as aerial observers to insure valid registrations.

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Observation: The officers basic course should insure that practical instruction on the conduct of aerial observation is conducted.

Item: Reliable power source for the AN/MPQ-4 set.

Discussion: Radars used for base camp defense usually have commercial type power available. Provision of a rectifier or converter will permit continuous operation using commercial power.

Observation: A rectifier or converter should be provided for the AN/MPQ-4 radar for those radars assigned to a base camp defense role.

Item: The mortar attack on Holloway AB on 7 January 1967 pointed up several problems involving implementation of an effective countermortar program.

Discussion: In addition to friendly artillery and mortar, gunships were available. The countermortar radar at New Pleiku AB picked up the second incoming round and provided an accurate 10 digit plot. The VC made several diversionary feints in other parts of the Pleiku Defense Complex. Since the strike was against an airfield complex, several gunships were able to quickly lift off and were able to launch attacks against apparent mortar positions. With ARA and gunships in the area, employment of artillery became restrictive due to aircraft proximity to mortar targets. Procedures are now established which give this headquarters responsibility to control available US artillery fires within the defense complex. These procedures provide that initially, artillery has priority in engaging enemy mortar locations during hours of darkness when based on CMR fix. Gunships may be used to engage mortar targets initially if practicable until CMR has a fix and artillery is ready to fire. During the night time, units are instructed to refrain from delivering countermortar fire (if location is uncertain), or illuminating with organic mortars until CTOC gives authorization in order to obtain a rapid CMR fix without interference on the radar scope. Once artillery is ready to fire countermortar program, gunships will orbit in predetermined location as directed by CSCC and will be prepared to attack other targets as directed or to observe artillery fire.

Observation: The judicious use of flareships and artillery illumination as opposed to mortar illumination and hand flares, to prevent unnecessary illumination of friendly units and to permit CMR use, is mandatory. One headquarters must be responsible for control and allocation of US artillery fires.

Item: Vulnerability of fixed installations to attack by VC/NVA sapper elements.

Discussion: The 7 January 1967 attack on Holloway emphasized the need for equipment to detect and identify moving ground targets. At present only visual devices such as searchlights and flares are available and their use is

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limited because of the risk of exposing friendly elements to enemy observation

Observation: Radar set AN/TPS-25 should be employed for critical base camp defense. A request for this radar will be included in a subsequent submission of a MTOE for this headquarters.

3. (U) Training and Organization - omitted.
4. (U) Intelligence - omitted.
5. (C) Logistics:

Item: Artillery tube condemnation criteria.

Discussion: Recent instructions reduced artillery tube life to a fraction of that contained in appropriate technical manuals. Under the new criteria tube life is limited to approximately six months for 105mm howitzers and two to three months for the 175mm gun. The supply system was not equipped to handle the increased demand for replacement tubes when the revised criteria was implemented.

Observation: During combat, when drastic revisions to criteria are established, the logistical system must be capable of absorbing the demand before implementation is ordered.

Item: Ration issue.

Discussion: Supply of Class I to widely dispersed field locations is extremely difficult for battalions when supply point distribution for garrison is used. Forward support activities operation Class I points can accomplish the supply tasks and are preferred. The next best solution is for the artillery group to operate a ration breakdown point similar to the one currently operating in the Pleiku area. Subsistence specialists are not authorized in the artillery TOE at group or battalion level. This headquarters has submitted a MTOE which includes these spaces.

Observation: Subsistence specialists have been requested in the MTOE, working under the supervision of the Food Service Supervisor.

Part II. Recommendations.

1. (C) Operations:
 - a. That the officers basic course emphasize requirement of proficiency in aerial observation for Lts scheduled for eventual assignment to Vietnam.
 - b. That a rectifier or converter be issued to units possessing

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countermortar radars semi-permanently emplaced for base camp security. This headquarters will submit a MTOE to reflect the needed change.

c. That the radar set AN/TPS-25 be employed for detection of moving ground targets in the vicinity of critical base camp areas.

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O. L. Tobiason

O. L. TOBIASON
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

52D ARTILLERY GROUP

1. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 52d Artillery Group
 - 77th Countermortar Radar Detachment - attached.
 - 235th Countermortar Radar Detachment - attached.
 - 237th Countermortar Radar Detachment - attached.
 - 6 sections of the 1st Plat, Battery B, 29th Artillery (SIT) - OPCON
2. Following battalion size units are attached:
 - 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (105 SP)
 - 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery (8"/175 SP)
 - 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery (8"/175 SP)

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AVFA-AT-D (2 Feb 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)(52d Arty Gp)(U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350 17 Feb 67

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,
Washington, DC 20310

1. (U) Concur in observations and recommendations contained in basic communication.

2. (C) The following additional comments are submitted:

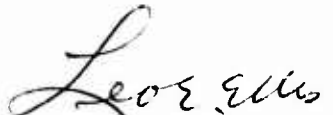
a. Reference para 1a, Part II, Section II;

Recommendation has been made to Director of Gunnery, US Army Artillery and Missile School.

b. Reference para 1c, Part II, Section II:

52d Arty Gp has submitted a request for Radar Set AN/TPS-25 by USARV Form 47R, "Request for Equipment in Excess of Authorized Allowance."

FOR THE COMMANDER:



LEO E. ELLIS
LTC, Arty
Adjutant

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