

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER

AD390026

CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

TO: UNCLASSIFIED

FROM: CONFIDENTIAL

LIMITATION CHANGES

TO:

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited. Document partially illegible.

FROM:

Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors;  
Administrative/Operational Use; 01 FEB 1968.  
Other requests shall be referred to Office of the Adjutant General (Army), Washington, DC 20310. Document partially illegible.

AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED  
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE  
UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND  
NO PESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON  
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE,

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;  
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED,

# **SECURITY**

---

# **MARKING**

**The classified or limited status of this report applies to each page, unless otherwise marked.**

**Separate page printouts MUST be marked accordingly.**

---

**THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE LAWS, TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTIONS 793 AND 794. THE TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS IN ANY MANNER TO AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW.**

**NOTICE: When government or other drawings, specifications or other data are used for any purpose other than in connection with a definitely related government procurement operation, the U. S. Government thereby incurs no responsibility, nor any obligation whatsoever; and the fact that the Government may have formulated, furnished, or in any way supplied the said drawings, specifications, or other data is not to be regarded by implication or otherwise as in any manner licensing the holder or any other person or corporation, or conveying any rights or permission to manufacture, use or sell any patented invention that may in any way be related thereto.**

**Best  
Available  
Copy**



**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M)(18 Apr 68) FOR OT RD 681255

25 April 1968

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st  
Battalion, 44th Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)**

AD390026

**SEE DISTRIBUTION** This document contains information affecting the National  
Defense of the United States within the meaning of the  
Espionage Laws, Title 18, U. S. C., Section 793 and 794.  
Its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any  
manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accord-  
ance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions  
should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within  
90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appro-  
priate 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*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

**DISTRIBUTION**

- Commanding Generals
  - US Continental Army Command
  - US Army Combat Developments Command
- Commandants
  - US Army War College
  - US Army Command and General Staff College
  - US Army Adjutant General School
  - US Army Air Defense School
  - US Army Armor School
  - US Army Artillery and Missile School
  - US Army Aviation School
  - US Army Chemical School
  - US Army Civil Affairs School
  - US Army Engineer School
  - US Army Infantry School
  - US Army Intelligence School

D D C  
RECEIVED  
MAY 23 1968  
RECEIVED

Regraded unclassified when separated  
from classified inclosure.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**DISTRIBUTION (Cont'd)**

- US Army Medical Field Service School
- US Army Military Police School
- US Army Missile and Munitions School
- US Army Ordnance School
- US Army Quartermaster School
- US Army Security Agency School
- US Army Signal School
- US Army Southeastern Signal School
- US Army Special Warfare School
- US Army Transportation School

**Copies furnished:**

- Office, Chief of Staff, US Army
- Deputy Chiefs of Staff
- Chief of Engineers
- Chief of Research and Development
- Assistant Chiefs of Staff
- The Surgeon General
- The Provost Marshal General
- Research Analysis Corporation (Library)
- OSD(SA), Assistant for Southeast Asia Forces
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- Defense Documentation Center
- Planning Research Corporation
- Director, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group
- Commanding Generals
  - US Army Weapons Command
  - 5th Infantry Division (Mech)
- Commanding Officers
  - 4th Brigade, 6th Infantry Division
  - 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery
  - 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery
- Commandant of the Marine Corps

3

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORL CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

TO: See Distribution

**SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL OR UNIT ACTIVITIES**

1. (C) General:

a. The organizational structure of this Battalion is as follows:

**ASSIGNED**

HQ & HQ Battery, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery  
Battery A, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery  
Battery B, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery  
Battery C, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery  
Battery D, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery

**ATTACHED**

Battery G (Machine Gun), 65th Artillery  
Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery (Administration and  
Courts-Martial Jurisdiction)

b. III Marine Amphibious Forces delegated the operational control of the Battalion to the divisions located throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. The positions of units as reported previously remains unchanged. Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery supported UMC and U.S. Army units from Phu Bai south. A significant change in operational control was the allotment of a platoon Battery D, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery, seven machinegun squads Battery G (Machine Gun), 65th Artillery and two searchlight sections Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery to the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile).

c. The primary mission of the Battalion continues to be that of direct ground support. The Battalion maintains a limited capability to perform its air defense mission as a secondary role.

d. The ORL for Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery is attached as Inclosure 2.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

**CONFIDENTIAL**

FOR OT R D  
601055

4

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVGEB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. During the reporting period, the Battalion S2 obtained intelligence from briefings conducted by 3rd MARDIV (FWD) at Dong Ha Combat Base and from ARVN units, MACV and other U.S. Army units supported. The information obtained was disseminated to the batteries located at Dong Ha through daily battalion briefings. Battery C at Camp J.J. Carroll and Battery D at Phu Bai received intelligence data from the regimental headquarters that they supported.

b. The Battalion continued to have the responsibility for the perimeter defense in Sector II, Dong Ha Combat Base. Sector elements conducted a reconnaissance patrol south of the base on a daily basis. On one occasion a booby trapped 105MM round was found and disarmed. On 29 January, a patrol directed artillery on a suspected enemy position. This coincided with reports from Marine reconnaissance inserts that indicated an increase of enemy activity to the south of Dong Ha Combat Base.

c. During the reporting period, the weather was favorable to friendly forces. It rained heavily the first 20 days of November however, the rest of the period was unseasonably dry. Repairs on resupply routes were made and roads to Con Thien (A4) and Ton An (A3) were completed. The weather had little effect on air resupply and many tons of supplies were air lifted to outlying positions. Even though there was little rain, the terrain would not support cross-country operations by tracked or wheeled vehicles.

d. On 1 December 1967, construction of a barrier system to stop infiltration of enemy forces from North Vietnam was begun. Existing outposts and fire bases, such as Gio Linh, Con Thien, Cam Lo, Rockpile, and Ca Lu were improved. New positions, completed and occupied by the end of the reporting period were: A1, between the coast and Gio Linh (YD 281717); A3, between Gio Linh and Con Thien (YD 166724); C1, an artillery fire base at YD 215673. Battery A deployed two M42's to A3 to support a Marine battalion and Battery B deployed two M42's to C1 to support an Army field artillery battalion. No Battalion equipment was sent to A1.

e. During an intelligence briefing in early November, it was predicted that the enemy's most probable course of action would be an attack on Khe Sanh at the end of the monsoon season. The prediction appears valid as only small groups of enemy were sighted during November and December. However, during the latter part of January large enemy forces were observed along the DMZ with exceptionally large concentrations around Khe Sanh. The enemy forces continued to be predominantly NVA with a few VC reinforcements/replacements. To counter this threat, Marine elements at Khe Sanh were increased from a battalion to a reinforced regiment. A large reconnaissance screen was established and artillery was relocated so greater support could

5  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

be given to the area. In conjunction with his build-up, the enemy tried to interdict resupply routes. His first effort was in mid December between the Rockpile and Ca Lu (see Incl 1, 19 Dec 67). Subsequent ambushes grew in size and ferocity (see Incl 1, 13 Jan 68 and 24 Jan 68). Other tactics employed by the enemy to hinder resupply were destroying bridges and mining activity. Numerous vehicles hit mines and this Battalion lost two M42's to mines during January. The enemy also harrassed the efforts of mine sweep teams to clear roads (see Incl 1, 20 Jan 68 and 27 Jan 68). The enemy was partially successful in his effort to interdict resupply routes, as at the end of January, only large and well protected convoys could move over the roads.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities:

a. Plans:

Continuo direct support of combat forces in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

b. Operations:

(1) The Battalion and elements of Battery G, 65th Artillery have participated in the following operations during the reporting period:

Jeb Stuart - 28 Jan 68 to present (Batteries D, G/65)

Kentucky - 1 Nov 67 to present (Batteries A, B, G/65)

Lancaster - 1 Nov 67 to present (Batteries C, G/65)

Neosho - 1 Nov 67 to 28 Jan 68 (Batteries D, G/65)

Osceola - 1 Nov 67 to present (Battery A)

Scotland - 1 Nov 67 to present (Batteries A, G/65)

Wallawa - 1 Nov 67 to 28 Jan 68 (Battery G/65)

(2) During the reporting period, perimeter defense of Dong Ha Combat Base was provided by M42 weapons of Batteries A and B; perimeter defense of Camp J.J. Carroll was provided by Battery C; and Battery D provided perimeter defense of Phu Bai and Camp Evans. M55 weapons of Battery G, 65th Artillery were utilized daily primarily for convoy security escorts throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone.

6

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGLB-C 1 February 1968  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RC3 CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U).

(3) The Battalion and attached units were engaged in tactical operations daily throughout the reporting period (92 days). Inclosure 1 lists significant missions performed by the Battalion and Battery G, 65th Artillery. At the end of the quarterly period 31 January 1968, the Battalion was tactically deployed in direct support as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u>
HEB/1/44	Dong Ha YD 235585	1st Battalion, 44th Artillery
A/1/44 (-)	Dong Ha YD 235585	3D Marine Division
B/1/44 (-)	Dong Ha YD 235585	3D Marine Division
C/1/44 (-)	J.J. Carroll YD 065551	4th Marine Regiment
D/1/44 (-)	Phu Bai YD 875148	1st Marine Division
G/65 (-)	Dong Ha YD 235585	3D Marine Division
A/1/44 Two Sections	Gio Linh (A-2) YD 215747	12th Marine Regiment
A/1/44 One Section	Khe Sanh XD 848419	26th Marine Regiment
A/1/44 One Section	Tan An (A-3) YD 166724	3D Battalion, 3D Marines
A/1/44 Three Squads	Quang Tri Airfield YD 311557	3D Marine Regiment
B/1/44 One Squad	Quang Tri YD 359543	U.S. Army Advisory Group
B/1/44 Two Sections	Can Lo (C-3) YD 145615	2D Battalion, 9th Marines
B/1/44 One Section	Con Thien (A-4) YD 113700	2D Battalion, 1st Marines

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u>
B/1/44 One Section	My Hoa (C-1) YD 215673	8th Battalion, 4th Artillery U.S. Army
C/1/44 One Squad	Khe Gio Bridge YD 026561	4th Marine Regiment
C/1/44 One Section	Ca Lu YD 013454	3D Battalion, 9th Marines
C/1/44 Two Sections	Rockpile XD 983545	3D Battalion, 9th Marines
D/1/44 Two Sections	Camp Evans YD 535318	1st Air Cavalry Division
D/1/44 One Section	Cumberland YD 751136	1st Marine Division
D/1/44 Two Sections	LZ El Paso YD 808163	1st Air Cavalry Division
G/65 Two Squads	Khe Sanh XD 848419	26th Marine Regiment
G/65 Three Squads	Con Thien (A-4) YD 113700	2D Battalion, 1st Marines
G/65 Three Squads	Camp J.J. Carroll YD 063551	Battery C, 1st Battalion 44th Artillery
G/65 Two Squads	Phu Bai YD 976148	Battery D, 1st Battalion 44th Artillery
G/65 Seven Squads	Camp Evans YD 535318	1st Air Cavalry Division

c. Training:

(1) The Battalion established a noncommissioned officer training program. The course covers 12 hours of instruction and aims at familiarizing young squad leaders with leadership principles and pertinent data of the M42 and M55 weapon systems. The program will be conducted each quarter.

8

CONFIDENTIAL

AVCEB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

(2) The Battalion has lost a great many trained personnel due to rotation and combat casualties. Trained replacements are not being received; therefore, the Battalion must continue to stress training. The majority of the daily training program (92 days) was concentrated on OJT at the section and squad level. The wide dispersion of elements of the batteries makes centralized instruction impracticable.

d. Chemical: None.

e. Psy War:

During the reporting period, numerous reward leaflets were passed out by battalion elements on road nets in the Dong Ha area. Two grenades were turned in by children to a crew providing road security. On another occasion a French grenade and a magazine with ammunition were turned in to the Battalion Liaison Officer. Rewards were given to the indigenous personnel who turned in these articles.

4. (C) Logistics:

(1) The DX facility mentioned in last quarter's OPLI has been set up at the supporting task force. They have not achieved a complete fill level yet to permit direct exchange of all the items included on their DX list. However, the availability of the parts they do have on hand has helped to reduce the deadline rate within the Battalion. Timely maintenance of signal equipment continues to present problems as the maintenance support activities are not able to obtain required repair parts. To further reduce deadline time, this Battalion has recommended to the 560th DSSA in Da Nang that a partial ASL of approximately 800 line items, based upon heavy demand from the four artillery units at Dong Ha, be maintained at the task force facility here at Dong Ha. The administrative work load would be handled by the addition of two ordnance repair parts specialists to the task force organization.

(2) Adequate controls of the 40MM ammunition by lot number cannot be implemented due to the many different lot numbers issued by the ASP. The supporting activity's Ammunition Control Officer has researched this problem area and offers no immediate solution.

5. (U) Civil Affairs:

a. Dai An Hamlet (YD 270590): A modern type shelter of cement blocks was completed by the residents of the Hamlet to house eight pigs that had been previously given them by the unit. Battalion elements at Dong Ha continue to supply edible waste daily from the mess halls to feed the pigs. The village personnel have provided exceptional care for the pigs which now

9

**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVGLED-C

1 February 1968

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

average approximately 150 pounds each in weight. The residents of the Hamlet have also started building a dispensary with materials supplied by the Battalion. For TET the Battalion prepared a gift box for each family in the village which was well received.

b. On 24 December 1967 the Battalion sponsored a Christmas party for the children at the Dong Ha Catholic Orphanage. Approximately 150 children attended. A dinner was prepared by the Battalion's mess halls. Movies were also shown, and small favors were given to the children.

c. Battery D continues to aid the Vien Duc-Anh Orphanage home in Hue. Over the past three months, the average contribution has been 70 cents per man. A total of \$240.00 has been contributed during this period.

d. The Battalion Surgeon and the Medical Section treated 3,938 patients in connection with MEDCAP during the reporting period. The patients were visited and treated at the following locations: Catholic Orphanage at Dong Ha (YD 236608), and at Dai An (YD 270590). When any serious pathology was discovered during the Battalion MEDCAP program the Vietnamese national was transported by the Battalion Medical Section to the civilian hospital at Quang Tri for further evaluation and treatment.

6. (C) Personnel:

a. Awards and Decorations: During the period 1 November 1967 to 31 January 1968, the Battalion and Battery G, 65th Artillery sustained 56 battle casualties, two of whom were killed in action. A total of 66 awards were presented during the reporting period:

(1) Bronze Star w/"V" device	- 11 (3 posthumously)
(2) Bronze Star	- 10
(3) Army Commendation w/"V" device	- 12
(4) Army Commendation Medal	- 13
(5) Purple Heart	- 20 (2 Posthumously)

b. Religious Activities:

(1) Regular Sunday Services were held in the Battalion Chapel at Dong Ha with Protestant services at 0930 hours and Catholic services at 1115 hours. Protestant services were conducted by the Battalion Chaplain while Catholic coverage was provided by Chaplain (Major) MacElroy from the

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGLEB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

11th Engineer Battalion, USMC, 22nd Sunday the Battalion Chaplain traveled to Camp J.J. Carroll for a service at Battery C mess hall at 1315 hours.

(2) Temporary religious coverage was provided by the Battalion Chaplain in this quarter for the 9th Motor Transport Battalion, USMC and the 9th Marine Regiment during the absence of their Navy Chaplains.

(3) Other elements of the Battalion were provided religious coverage in their area by Navy Chaplains who conducted services for the Marines. The nature of the Battalion Chaplain's ministry to these units was limited to personal visits during the month.

(4) Special Christmas services for our Battalion included a midnight mass held at 11th Engineer Battalion Chapel, and a Christmas Eve candlelight communion service for Protestants in our chapel. Services were conducted on Christmas Day at the same time that Sunday Services are held. A New Years Eve watchnight service was held for Protestants and a New Year's Day service was conducted for Catholics in the Battalion Chapel.

(5) Memorial services were held for the three men of the Battalion who died during this quarter as a result of enemy action.

(6) The Battalion Chaplain visited troops in the following positions: Gio Linh, Con Thien, Khe Sanh, Cam Lo, Rockpile, D-5, Camp J.J. Carroll, Khe Gio Bridge, Quang Tri Airfield, Ca Lu, Da Nang (including Hill 190, Hill 55, Anti-tanks, 8" Positions and Namu Bridge), Phu Bai, Camp Evans, Cumberland, Gia Le, Quang Tri, Chu Lai, Duc Pho (including LZ Thunder, LZ Baldy, LZ Colt, LZ Ross, and LZ Leslie). On visits just prior to Christmas, boxes, gifts, cards, and letters from both individuals and groups in CONUS were distributed to those units which were considered to be the most isolated.

(7) Members of the Battalion erected a new permanent cross in front of the chapel. Made from the salvaged barrels of caliber .50 and 40MM guns, the cross is distinctly artillery. Dedication services were conducted on 4 December 1967 with the Commanding Officers of all Artillery Units located in Dong Ha present. Other improvements were made on the interior of the chapel. Two distinguished guests in our chapel were Senator John Tower (Texas) on 24 November and Chaplain (MG) Francis Sampson, Chief of Chaplains on 28 December 1967.

c. Education:

Since 1 November 1967, 21 individuals have taken the High School CED test and 5 individuals have taken the College General Examinations. Two persons enrolled in correspondence courses offered through USAFI.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AV: B-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

7. (C) Artillery:

a. Ammunition expended 1 November 1967 - 31 January 1968:

40MM - 124,786  
Caliber .50 - 187,412

b. Ammunition expended to date:

40MM - 509,895  
Caliber .50 - 1,311,237

SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. (U) Personnel: None.

2. (C) Operations:

a. Item: Perimeter defense test of the M42.

Discussion: Firing tests were conducted to ascertain the most effective means of employing the M42 against a ground assault from a perimeter defensive position. For the test, 25 cardboard targets were placed at a range of 220 meters. The targets were positioned so that they covered an area 50 meters in width and 15 meters in depth. The tests were conducted by: (a) firing at pre-piled rocks and metal scraps, (b) firing at five-gallon cans of fougasse, (c) firing at the ground in front of the targets, and (d) firing at the center of the target area. The dual guns were bore sighted on the target before each test and 12 rounds were fired during each of the 4 tests.

Observation: Results of these tests indicate that firing at the ground in front of an assaulting force produces the greatest number of casualties and is the most effective way of stopping that force.

b. Item: Employment of the M42 and M55.

Discussion: When automatic weapons are committed to combat operations, a minimum of two should be employed. If only one automatic weapon is used, it is the obvious target for the enemy's antitank weapons. If two or more automatic weapons are employed, the enemy must divide his antitank weapons accordingly which increases the probability of one of the automatic weapons getting into action. This is of prime importance as the

12

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

true defense of the automatic weapon is its offensive fire power. Further, once in action one automatic weapon can defend and support the other.

c. Item: Firing the M42 from a sandbagged position.

Discussion: If there is a space left between the M42 and a sandbagged position, the muzzle blast of the guns will gradually destroy the sandbag wall. However, if the M42 is driven into the position so that it just touches the wall the muzzle blast will be extended beyond the sandbag wall and the wall will not be destroyed.

Observation: M42's should be driven into a sandbagged position so that the vehicle is touching the wall facing the primary field of fire.

d. Item: Computation of firing data.

Discussion: The rapid and accurate computation of firing data is essential to the effectiveness of the M42 when used as an indirect fire weapon. If there is a difference in altitude between the M42 and target, the use of the mil formula to compute angle of site is a time consuming process.

Observation: A chart can be constructed indicating the angle of site for different ranges and vertical intervals. This will accelerate the computation of firing data.

e. Item: Mobility of the M55.

Discussion: The M55 crew at LZ Leslie, near Chu Lai, frequently moved their M55 throughout the perimeter in order to confuse the enemy to its exact location. On 3 January 1968, the enemy launched a mortar and ground attack on the LZ. The first six mortar rounds hit a position that the M55 crew had just vacated. Therefore, on this occasion, the tactic of keeping the M55 mobile prevented the enemy from pin pointing its location and probably kept the LZ from being penetrated or captured. (See Incl 1, 3 Jan 68).

Observation: The M55 should remain mobile and frequently change perimeter positions so that the enemy can not pin point its position.

f. Item: Locking the dual guns in azimuth when moving.

Discussion: Experience has shown that the azimuth operator can hold the dual guns when the M42 is moving less than 10 mph. When the

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Report Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

M42 is traveling at a speed greater than 10 mph, the azimuth operator cannot hold the dual guns and they will swing out of control. On one occasion the three bolts on top of the traversing mechanism were sheared off rendering the guns ineffective.

Observation: When traveling less than 10 mph, the dual guns do not have to be locked in azimuth. When traveling at a speed greater than 10 mph, the dual guns must be locked in azimuth.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

Item: Training of mess personnel.

Discussion: Mess personnel received from CONUS have little knowledge of the M59 Field Range and how to prepare appetizing "B" ration meals. Field ranges are used throughout Vietnam and "B" rations comprise many of the meals here.

Observation: Mess personnel, before coming to Vietnam, should receive extensive training on the M59 Field Range and the preparation of "B" ration meals.

4. (U) Intelligence: None.

5. (C) Logistics:

a. Item: Vest, fragmentation.

Discussion: As personnel rotate to CONUS they turn in their fragmentation vests to the Battalion's central issue facility. The condition of the satin outer cover of the vest often classifies it unserviceable. Such vests are turned in to be burned. Examination of the layers of nylon armor which go into the production of these vests has shown that; due to a plastic shell sewn around the nylon armor, it is only the green satin outer cover which is unserviceable.

Observation: Canvas repair shops presently in operation at most direct support maintenance facilities should be equipped with cloth similar to that used on the outer cover of fragmentation vests and unserviceable armored vests should be turned in for repair and reissue.

b. Item: Food containers.

Discussion: The present food container FSM 7330-238-24411 does not stand up well when used to transport food daily to the personnel occupying positions away from their base camp. The snap down fasteners are

CONFIDENTIAL

1 February 1968

AVCIB-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

attached by rivets to a very light and soft aluminum sheath. When the lid is closed, the pressure that the rubber washer applies to the fasteners pulls the rivets through the aluminum.

Observation: A reinforcing band of metal brazed around the top circumference would provide a stronger anchor for the snap down fasteners and would prevent the rivets that hold the fasteners from pulling through.

c. Item: Armored seat cushions.

Discussion: The NVA/VC continue to place emphasis on mining roads. Seat cushions made of nylon armor, such as is presently used in fragmentation vests, would provide personnel far greater protection from mine fragments than do present seat cushions. Also, under similar wear and tear conditions, nylon cushions would last longer.

Observation: Seat cushions made out of nylon armor would provide more protection from mine fragments than do present seat cushions. As a field expedient and in addition to placing sandbags on the floor, nylon armor from unserviceable fragmentation vests can be attached to seats for protection.

6. (C) Others:

a. Communications:

Item: Radio Set AN/VRC-46 mounted in M42.

Discussion: The placement of the radio set in the M42 is such that the radio receives heavy abuse by personnel entering the vehicle commander's hatch and personnel removing ammunition from behind the vehicle commander's seat.

Observation: A protective cage, made of 1/4 inch square steel, can be constructed to protect the radio. The cage can be bolted to the radio mount.

Item: Care of the electrical wiring system of the M42 during the monsoon season.

Discussion: During periods of heavy rain, water must not be allowed to collect in the driver's compartment or the engine compartment of the M42. If water is allowed to collect in these compartments, it will run into the master and starter relays when the M42 is parked on an incline with the engine compartment on the down hill slope. This will cause a short in the electrical system rendering the M42 inoperative.

CONFIDENTIAL

15  
CONFIDENTIAL

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

Observation: All hatches, covers, and doors should be kept closed as much as possible when it is raining. Any water that collects in the driver's compartment or the engine compartment should be drained immediately.

Part II, Recommendations:

1. (U) Personnel: None.
2. (U) Operations:

Recommend the observations made under operations in Part II be incorporated in the program of instruction for M59's and M74's at the USLADS.

3. (U) Training and Organization:

Recommend that mess personnel be trained on the M59 Field Range and in preparation of "B" ration meals before coming to Vietnam.

4. (U) Intelligence: None.

5. (C) Logistics:

a. Recommend that combat vehicle seat cushions be made of nylon armor.

b. Recommend canvas repair shops be outfitted to repair the skin covers of fragmentation vests.

c. Recommend that food containers, FSN 7330-238-2421, be modified to prevent the rivets holding the snap fasteners from pulling out when the lids are closed.

2 Incl

1. Missions Performed
  2. ORLL, Btry G (SLT), 29th Arty
- John M. House III*  
JOHN M. HOUSE III  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - CINCUSARPAC
- 3 - CG, USARV
- 6 - CO, 108th Arty Gp
- Info Copy
- 1 - CG, USLADS

*CONFIDENTIAL*

16

AVGLB-C

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

- 2 - FAW Dept, USAADS
- 2 - C/S Dept, USAADS
- 2 - CG, 3d MARDIV
- 1 - CO, 4th Marines
- 1 - CO, 9th Marines
- 1 - CO, 12th Marines
- 1 - CO, 26th Marines

*CONFIDENTIAL*

17  
AVGL-CO (1 Feb 68)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for Quarterly  
Period Ending 31 January 1968, Unit Identification Code: WDDITO  
(U)

HQ, 108TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO San Francisco 96269

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

1. Forwarded herewith is the Operational Report of the 1st Battalion  
(AW) (SP), 44th Artillery for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968.

2. Concur in the recommendations made in Part II of Section II of the  
report.

*David L. Jones*  
DAVID L. JONES  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

18

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVHGC-DST (1 Feb 68)

2d Ind (C)

8 MAR 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) for  
Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, US 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 January 1968 from Headquarters, 1st Battalion (AW) (SP), 44th Artillery (DD1A) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning fragmentation vest, page 11, paragraph 5a; and page 13, paragraph 5b: Concur. 1st Logistical Command has been instructed to investigate the recovering of the vest in conjunction with the theater-wide clothing and equipment maintenance program.

b. Reference item concerning food containers, page 11, paragraph 5b; and page 13, paragraph 5c: Concur. The unit should submit an Equipment Improvement Report (EIR) as outlined in TM 38-750.

c. Reference item concerning armored seat cushions, page 12, paragraph 5c; and page 13, paragraph 5a: Concur. This item should be studied by the appropriate CONUS agency to determine the merit of the proposal. Unit should submit a request for an ENSURE item if actual requirement exists.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*C. S. Nakatsukasa*  
C. S. NAKATSUKASA  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:

HQ 1st Bn, 44th Arty  
HQ 108th Arty Gp

16

*Downgraded at 8 year Intervals  
Declassified after 12 years  
DOD DIR 5200.10*

CONFIDENTIAL

19  
GPOP-DT (1 Feb 68) 3d Ind (U)


SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January  
1968 from HQ, 1st Bn (AW)(SP), 44th Arty (UIC: WDDLAA)  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 26 MAR 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-  
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



K. F. OSBOURN  
MAJ, AGC  
Asst AG

20

**CONFIDENTIAL**

MISSIONS PERFORMED (C)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
311800H Oct 67 to 011800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 21 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
011015H Nov 67 to 011615H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
012015H Nov 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 20 40MM rounds at lights outside perimeter. Lights extinguished.
012155H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements at Con Thien fired 337 rounds 40MM at suspected NV mortar, recoilless rifle and bunker positions. Results unknown.
011300H Nov 67 to 021800H Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Linh received three artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
011300H Nov 67 to 021800H Nov 67	One sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 6 artillery and 15 mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
021105H Nov 67 to 021530H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
020001H Nov 67 to 020100H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Sector II reaction force Dong Ha Combat Base committed to Sector I. Negative contact.
030700H Nov 67 to 051400H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Da Nang and return.
031110H Nov 67 to 031600H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
021800H Nov 67 to 031800H Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Linh received seven artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.

Inclosure 1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

13

**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
021800H Nov 67 to 031800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 three Sgd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received four rounds artillery and mortar fire. No casualties or equipment damage.
041330L Nov 67 to 041630L Nov 67	MCB 11, USM	Elements from MCB 11, Sector II, Dong Ha Combat Base, conducted daylight recon patrol outside Sector II. Received four rounds mortar fire. No casualties or equipment damage.
040900L Nov 67 to 041200L Nov 67	C/1/44	At Camp J.J. Carroll, LSG House, Bn CO, 1/44, fired 200,000th round 40MM expended tactically by Battery C 1/44 since entry into Vietnam. CPT Lewis, Bn Chaplin, served as azimuth pointer.
041900L Nov 67 to 051800L Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Linh received 28 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
041800L Nov 67 to 051800L Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 three Sgd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received four rounds artillery. No casualties or equipment damage.
051800L Nov 67 to 061800L Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sgd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 33 rounds artillery. No equipment damage. One KIA B/1/44, three KIA (SERVAC) one B/1/44 & two G/65, two WIA (minor) G/65. (Ref: 1/44 SERREP 061800L Nov 67).
060900L Nov 67 to 061700L Nov 67	One Sect A/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
060900L Nov 67 to 071630L Nov 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
061800L Nov 67 to 071800L Nov 67	One Sgd G/65	Elements at LZ Leslie, Loc AT 985303, destroyed seven enemy structures. One VC KIA (confirmed), four VC KIA (probable). No casualties or equipment damage.
061800L Nov 67 to 071800L Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Linh received 24 rounds artillery. No casualties or equipment damage.
061800L Nov 67 to 071800L Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sgd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 37 rounds artillery. No casualties or equipment damage.

Inclusion 1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

22

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
061000H Nov 67	One Sqd G/65	Element at LZ Leslie, AT 983703, expended unknown number rounds of .50 caliber at enemy village. Destroyed seven enemy structures. Four enemy killed (probable). OIG killed enemy sniper (confirmed).
071020H Nov 67 to 071700H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements at Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
071230H Nov 67 67	H&B 1/44 B Btry 1/44	Bn CO wounded by unknown caliber artillery or mortar round while inspecting elements at Con Thien; MEDEVAC'd to Phu Bai. Battery 3 CO and Bn SGI also wounded (minor) by same round. Also one OIG KIA (MEDEVAC). On duty of Bn CO 10 Nov 67. Major Peterson, on SF, advised command 1/44. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 071300H Nov 67).
071800H Nov 67 to 081800H Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Lich received four rounds artillery. No casualties or equipment damage.
080900H Nov 67 to 081700H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
081800H Nov 67 to 091800H Nov 67	One Sect L/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received unknown number rounds artillery. No equipment damage. Four KIA (minor) 8/65. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 081800H Nov 67).
090735H Nov 67 to 102100H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Da Nang and return.
091800H Nov 67 to 101 00H Nov 67	Two Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Lich received one round artillery. No casualties or equipment damage.
100920H Nov 67 to 101745H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
091600H Nov 67 to 092000H Nov 67	A/1/44	Four men (one A/1/44; two 9th Mtr Trang Bn, one ACB 11) from Sector II Trang La Combat Base participated in ambush patrol NW

Inclosure 1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

23

73

**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
		of Quang Tri vic YD 265550 conducted by 9th Marines Patrolling School. Patrol contact resulted in four VC KIA (confirmed), two VC KIA (probable).
101600Z Nov 67	AMB 1/44	LTC House assumed command 1/44.
110700Z Nov 67 to 121930Z Nov 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and Cam Lo and return.
110906Z Nov 67	One Sect A/1/44	Elements from Dong Ha providing security for 11th Engineer sweep team from Dong Ha to Gio Linh attacked by snipers vic YD 221644. One command detonated mine exploded prior to sniper fire. Two command detonated claymore mines placed in front of and behind one M42 failed to explode. One M42 fired five rounds 40MM at snipers. Patrol dispatched, negative results. No USA casualties or equipment damage. Two civilians killed, one civilian wounded (MEDIEVAC). (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 111000Z Nov 67).
112200Z Nov 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements at the Rockpile fired 80 rounds 40MM at lights outside perimeter. Lights extinguished, other results unknown.
121030Z Nov 67 to 121517Z Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
130630Z Nov 67 to 141200Z Nov 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Da Nang and return.
130615Z Nov 67 to 131230Z Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
131445Z Nov 67 to 131615Z Nov 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for M107 gun convoy from Camp Carroll to the Rockpile and return.
140615Z Nov 67 to 141230Z Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.

Inclosure 1

+ 2/

**CONFIDENTIAL**

24

**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
150630H Nov 67 to 161820H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
151400H Nov 67 to 151600H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Carroll to Ca Lu and return. Expended 3,000 rounds caliber .50 recon by fire.
171800H Nov 67 to 181300H Nov 67	Liaison Team HQ/1/44	Dong Ha Combat Base received 32 rounds artillery. Hutment at Airforce Compound housing 1/44 Liaison Team (two EM) was destroyed. No casualties, one M-16 rifle destroyed. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 171800H Nov 67).
180900H Nov 67 to 221330H Nov 67	2 Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Phu Bai and return.
191130H Nov 67 to 211800H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Da Nang and return.
191430H Nov 67 to 201500H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Camp Evans and return.
201630H Nov 67 to 221330H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Camp Evans and return.
201800H Nov 67 to 211800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 40 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
211800H Nov 67 to 221800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 30 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
220740H Nov 67 to 231300H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Camp Carroll and return.
250740H Nov 67 to 251830H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.

5 22

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Inclosure 1

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
251215H Nov 67 to 251830H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Carroll to Ca Lu and return.
260715H Nov 67 to 271930H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
270900H Nov 67 to 271630H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Carroll to Ca Lu and return.
280001H Nov 67	1/44	Battalion celebrated completion of one year at the Demilitarized Zone.
281130H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements escorting Engineer sweep team along Route 9 received sniper fire at YD 191589. No casualties or equipment damage.
281800H Nov 67 to 291800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqds G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 100 mixed artillery, rocket, and mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
290001H Nov 67 to 292400H Nov 67	One Sqd G/65	Element at LZ Colt assisted in repulsing an attempt to breach the perimeter. Credited with one enemy KIA (Confirmed). No casualties or equipment damage.
290700H Nov 67 to 301700H Nov 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Da Nang and return.
291800H Nov 67 to 301800H Nov 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 20 mortar rounds. No equipment damage. Two WIA (minor) G/65. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 291800H Nov 67).
300800H Nov 67 to 301130H Nov 67	9th Mtrs Trans Bn USMC	Elements from 9th Mtrs, Sector II, Dong Ha Combat Base, conducted daylight recon patrol outside Sector II. Received automatic weapons fire at YD 235564. Did not return fire. No casualties or equipment damage.

← 23

CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

26

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
301800Z Nov 67 to 011800Z Dec 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received ten mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
010830Z Dec 67 to 0111 0Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security for convoy from Phu Bai to Camp Evans and return.
021030Z Dec 67 to 031400Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
021530Z Dec 67 to 021800Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for ML07 convoy from Dong Ha to Camp Carroll and return.
021800Z Dec 67 to 031800Z Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44 Two Sqd	Elements at Camp Carroll fired 950 rounds 40mm and 2200 rounds cal .50 at suspected battalion size enemy force. Results unknown.
040730Z Dec 67 to 041800Z Dec 67	Two Sqd B/1/44	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
041100Z Dec 67 to 041400Z Dec 67	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Cam Lo furnished security escort for convoy from Cam Lo to Con Thien and return.
052300Z Dec 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Elements at Dong Ha fired three rounds 40mm at enemy sniper position. Results Unknown.
070600Z Dec 67 to 081900Z Dec 67	A/1/44, B/1/44, D/1/44, G/65	Elements at Dong Ha and Phu Bai assumed primary mission of Air Defense during this period.
080730Z Dec 67 to 091500Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
100900Z Dec 67 to 101300Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Evans furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Evans to Dong Ha and return.
100800Z Dec 67 to 101600Z Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Camp Evans and return.

24

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Inclosure 1

27

CONFIDENTIAL

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
110858E Dec 67 to 111400E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Evans furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Evans to Dong Ha and return. One 5 ton truck hit mine YD 445415. One M55 escorted retriever and truck back to Camp Evans.
111800E Dec 67 to 121000E Dec 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 26 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
111800E Dec 67 to 121800E Dec 67	Dong Ha Combat Base	Elements at Dong Ha received unknown number artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
130640E Dec 67 to 13115E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnishing security escort for mine sweep team from Dong Ha to Gio Linh detained two suspected Viet Cong at YD 214715. Turned over to base Military Police.
130900E Dec 67 to 141645E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Evans to Dong Ha and return.
141500E Dec 67 to 151330E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
161240E Dec 67 to 161500E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for M107 convoy from Dong Ha to Cam Lo and return.
170930E Dec 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Elements at Cam Lo fired 21 rounds 40mm at suspected sniper position. Results unknown.
161245E Dec 67 to 161530E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Phu Loc and return.
180730E Dec 67 to 191200E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
181015E Dec 67 to 181300E Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for M107 convoy from Camp Carroll to Rockpile and return.

- 25 -

Inlosure 1

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

28

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
181800L Dec 67 to 191800L Dec 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sgd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received ten artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
191230L Dec 67	One individual C/1/44	Mail courier from C/1/44 riding Marine convey from the Rockpile to Ca Lu was ambushed vic XD 982509. One MIA (MIA/VAC). (Ref: 1/44 Sitrep 181800L Dec 67).
191230L Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements at Rockpile fired 400 rounds 40mm in support of ambushed Marine convey vic XD 982509. Observed two secondary explosions.
200700L Dec 67 to 200905L Dec 67	One Sgd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 30 rounds 40mm at suspected sniper position. Results unknown.
200700L Dec 67 to 211300L Dec 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convey from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
211110L Dec 67 to 211300L Dec 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convey from Phu Bai to Camp Evans and return.
231130L Dec 67 to 231545L Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements from Rockpile furnished security escort for convey from Rockpile to Ca Lu and return.
231545L Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements at Ca Lu received seven artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
231545L Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements at Ca Lu fired 80 rounds 40mm at suspected enemy positions vic YD 001448. Results unknown.
241000L Dec 67 to 241305L Dec 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for convey from Camp Carroll to Rockpile and return.
230000L Dec 67 to 241545L Dec 67	Two Sgd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convey from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.

26

CONFIDENTIAL

Inclosure 1

29  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
240745H Dec 67 to 241530H Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Camp Evans, Cumberland and return.
261155H Dec 67 to 261455H Dec 67	One Sect C/1/44	Elements from Rockpile furnished security for convoy from Rockpile to Ca Lu and return.
260700H Dec 67 to 281900H Dec 67	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Quang Tri and return.
280915H Dec 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 300 rounds 40mm at enemy sniper position. Results unknown.
281415H Dec 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 568 rounds at enemy sniper, FO, and mortar position. Two enemy KIA (probable).
271630H Dec 67 to 272330H Dec 67	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 10 artillery and rocket rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
281035H Dec 67 to 281300H Dec 67	MCB 11, USN	Elements of MCB 11, Dong Ho Combat Base conducted daylight recon patrol outside Sector II. Found one 105mm round booby-trapped via YD 255564. Turned in to EOD.
301800H Dec 67 to 311800H Dec 67	One Sect A/1/44	Elements at Gio Linh fired 190 rounds 40mm at suspected troop concentration. Results unknown.
301800H Dec 67 to 311800H Dec 67	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 1,260 rounds 40mm at suspected sniper positions. Results unknown.
311500H Dec 67	One Sqd D/1/44	Squad Leader working at 142 position on Phu Bai perimeter captured two confirmed VC via YD 903159. VC were reconnoitering perimeter positions.
030220H Jan 68	One Sqd G/65	Element at LZ Leslie (AF 983503) underwent mortar and ground attack. The perimeter was penetrated and battle was fought inside for 30 minutes. Two MIA (NON-RELEVAC). No equipment damage.

to 27

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

30

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
		M55 squad credited with keeping one half of the perimeter secure. Expended over 8,000 rounds caliber .50 ammunition. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 031800H Jan 68).
030220Z Jan 68	One Sqd G/65	Element at LZ Ross (BT 026342) underwent ground and mortar attack. The perimeter was not penetrated. No casualties or equipment damage. M55 squad expended 2,000 rounds caliber .50 and was credited with 60 NVA/VC KIA.
041300Z Jan 68 to 041340Z Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44 Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security for M107 convoy from Dong Ha to C-1 and return.
051800Z Jan 68 to 061800Z Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44 Three Sqd G/65	Elements at Con Thien received 50 artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
051800Z Jan 68 to 061800Z Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44	Elements at Con Thien fired 600 rounds 40MM at suspected enemy positions. Results unknown.
061130Z Jan 68 to 081130Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
031800Z Jan 68 to 091800Z Jan 68	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 175 rounds 40MM at suspected enemy mortar positions. Results unknown.
081212Z Jan 68 to 081430Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
090745Z Jan 68 to 091830Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
101900Z Jan 68	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Con Thien fired 108 rounds 40MM at suspected enemy position. One enemy KIA (confirmed).
111010Z Jan 68 to 111235Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for M107 convoy from Dong Ha to Camp J.J. Carroll and return.

-11- 28

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Incl: ure 1

31

**CONFIDENTIAL**

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
131100Z Jan 68 to 131630Z Jan 68	One Sect C/1/44 One EM EHB/1/44 One EM E4 108th Arty GP One EM USARV PIO	Elements from Camp Carroll with PIO and escorts while providing security for resupply convoy from the Rookpile to Ca Lu were ambushed vic XD 992469. On initial contact two C/1/44 MIA (one MEDEVAC, one NON-MEDEVAC). EM EHB/1/44 MIA (NON-MEDEVAC), EM USARV PIO MIA (MEDEVAC). M42's expended 2,943 rounds 40mm. Results unknown. The NVA attacked with reinforced company using RPG and small arms hit middle of convoy cutting it in half. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 121800H Jan 68).
120815Z Jan 68 to 131515Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
131800Z Jan 68 to 141800Z Jan 68	One Sqd B/1/44	Element from Cam Lo hit a mine vic YD 162584. Four MIA (NON-MEDEVAC). M42 combat loss.
171009Z Jan 68 to 171548Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from C-1 furnished security escort for M107 convoy from C-1 to Camp Carroll and return.
170725Z Jan 68 to 171500Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Phu Bai furnished security escort for convoy from Phu Bai to Dong Ha and return.
190915Z Jan 68 to 191730Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Carroll furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Carroll to Quang Tri and return.
200710Z Jan 68 to 201207Z Jan 68	One Sect A/1/44	Elements from Dong Ha escorting engineer sweep team to Camp Carroll were ambushed vic YD 172588. No casualties or equipment damage. M42's expended 178 rounds 40mm. One NVA KIA (confirmed). NVA attacked with a squad using small arms and RPG's.
201800Z Jan 68 to 211808Z Jan 68	C/1/44	Elements at Camp Carroll received 74 rounds rocket fire. No casualties or equipment damage.
231335Z Jan 68 to 231530Z Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security for convoy from Dong Ha to Camp Carroll and return.

29

Inclosure 1

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

32

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
241440H Jan 68 to 242000H Jan 68	Elements C/1/44	Five M42's C/1/44 from northern perimeter of Camp J.J. Carroll provided direct and indirect fire support for Marine convoy ambushed at vic YD 075571. Expended 8000 rounds 40MM at suspected NVA regiment. Target coverage was excellent; observed three secondary explosions. During engagement crews received sporadic sniper fire. Two WIA (NON-MEDEVAC); no equipment damage. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP for 241800H Jan 68).
241130H Jan 68 to 241630H Jan 68	One Sect C/1/44 Two Sqd G/65	Elements from the Rockpile and Camp J.J. Carroll escorting a convoy from the Rockpile to Ca Lu received small arms and mortar fire. At vic YD 986506 one M42 caught fire and was completely destroyed. One M55 was sprayed with mortar shrapnel. Two WIA G/65 (NON-MEDEVAC). (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 241800H Jan 68).
241530H Jan 68 to 242015H Jan 68	One Sect C/1/44	Two M42's commanded by 1LT Hardin from Camp J.J. Carroll along with two Marine M48's and reinforced platoon comprised a reaction force to extract Marine convoy ambushed at vic YD 075571. At 1615H the reaction force arrived vic YD 064571 and placed suppressing fires on the enemy forces at the ambush site. When the enemy fire subsided, one M48 and one M42 proceeded into ambush site to extract wounded. At 1645H vic YD 075571, M48 and M42 received RPG rounds and were immediately out of action. Two WIA C/1/44 (MEDEVAC); four WIA C/1/44 (NON-MEDEVAC). Both M42's sustained moderate damage. Expended 2200 rounds 40MM with unknown results. Estimated enemy regiment employed mortars, Recoilless rifles, RPG's and small arms. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 241800H Jan 68).
241700H Jan 68 to 242100H Jan 68	Elements HHB/1/44, A/1/44, B/1/44, C/1/44, G/65	C/1/44 requested assistance from HQ/1/44 to extract their elements from ambush vic YD 075571 (note above entries). In response two M55's G/65 and two M42's B/1/44 under the command of CPT Vincent

→ 30

CONFIDENTIAL

Inlosure 1

33

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE

UNIT

MISSION

Tedesco, Liaison Officer, were dispatched at 1730H from Dong Ha Combat Base to the ambush site. Three elements were deployed as a firing base vic YD 088573 with one B/1/44 M42 proceeding to the assistance of the disabled C/1/44 M42 at YD 075571. B/1/44 M42 received RPG rounds and small arms fire. One KIA B/1/44; one WIA B/1/44 (MEDEVAC); three WIA B/1/44 (NON-MEDEVAC); two WIA G/65 (NON-MEDEVAC). At 1815H a second reaction force consisting of two M42's A/1/44, two M42's B/1/44, two M55's G/65, four ammo trucks H&B/1/44, and two trucks full of 1/44 personnel acting as infantry, was dispatched from Dong Ha Combat Base to assist the first reaction force. The two forces joined at 1900H. Wounded and equipment were extracted from the ambush site with all elements breaking contact at 1930H. Elements arrived Dong Ha Combat Base 2100H Jan 68. One M42 B/1/44 moderately damaged. Elements expended 1,428 rounds 40MM and 28,000 rounds cal .50. One NVA KIA (confirmed) with other results unknown. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 241800H Jan 68).

250800H Jan 68 to  
251745H Jan 68

One Sect A/1/44  
One Sect B/1/44  
Two Sqd G/65

Elements provided security for Marine forces sweeping area of ambush that occurred 241430H Jan 68 at vic YD 075571.

250939H Jan 68

One Sqd B/1/44

Element at Con Thien expended 275 rounds 40MM at suspected mortar position. Results unknown.

251820H Jan 68 to  
252022H Jan 68

One Sect B/1/44

Elements from Con Lo provided security for two ambushed Marine trucks vic YD 132625. Expended 138 rounds 40MM. One NVA (confirmed).

252015H Jan 68

One Sect B/1/44

Elements at C-I received five mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.

CONFIDENTIAL

34

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
260145H Jan 68	D/1/44	Elements at Phu Bai received 50 rounds mortar fire. No casualties or equipment damage. Returned 150 rounds 40mm. Results unknown.
261525H Jan 68	One Sqd B/1/44	Element at Cam Lo expended 38 rounds 40mm at suspected enemy position. Results unknown.
261955H Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44	Elements at C-1 received five artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
270159H Jan 68	Three Sqd A/1/44	Elements at Quang Tri Airfield received 60 rocket rounds. No casualties or equipment damage. Returned 272 rounds 40mm. Results unknown.
270822H Jan 68 to 270916H Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44	Elements escorting engineer sweep team from Cam Lo to YD 137645 were ambushed via YD 134633. One WIA (NON-MEDEVAC), no equipment damage. Returned 370 rounds 40mm and observed one secondary explosion. Enemy utilized RPG's and small arms. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 2/1800H Jan 68).
271110H Jan 68	C/1/44	Elements from Camp J.J. Carroll fired unknown number of rounds 40mm at suspected enemy movement. Observed secondary explosion at YD 0558.
271300H Jan 68	One Sqd D/1/44	Element escorting deadlined M42 on LSU down Chu Viet River received sniper fire. One WIA (NON-MEDEVAC). Expended four rounds 40mm. Results unknown. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 261800H Jan 68).
281000H Jan 68 to 291730H Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Camp Evans furnished security escort for convoy from Camp Evans to Dong Ha and return.
281100H Jan 68	One Sect A/1/44	Elements at Khe Sanh received unknown number mortar rounds. No equipment damage. Three WIA (NON-MEDEVAC). (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 271800H Jan 68).

*CONFIDENTIAL*

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
281225H Jan 68	One Sect D/1/44	One M42 at LZ El Paso hit mine vic YD 826144. Debris and shrapnel sprayed onto the other M42. Two WIA (MEDEVAC); one WIA (NON-MEDEVAC). One track moderately damaged. (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 271800H and 281800H Jan 68).
281800H Jan 68 to 291800H Jan 68	One Sect A/1/44	Elements at Khe Sanh received unknown amount mortar rounds. One WIA (NON-MEDEVAC). (Ref: 1/44 SITREP 281800H Jan 68).
291259H Jan 68 to 291637H Jan 68	HHB/1/44	Elements from HHB/1/44 conducted daylight recon patrol outside Sector II Dong Ha Combat Base directed four rounds of artillery fire on suspected enemy position. Results unknown.
291400H Jan 68 to 291920H Jan 68	One Sect B/1/44	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Camp J.J. Carroll and return.
291414H Jan 68 to 291739H Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Con Thien and return.
291800H Jan 68 to 301800H Jan 68	One Sqd C/1/44	Element located at Khe Gio Bridge received mortar and small arms fire. Expended 32 rounds 40mm, and observed secondary explosion vic YD 019567. No casualties or equipment damage.
291800H Jan 68 to 301800H Jan 68	B/1/44	Elements at Camp J.J. Carroll received two mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.
292000H Jan 68	Three Sqd A/1/44	Elements at Quang Tri Airfield received 15 mortar rounds. No casualties or equipment damage. Returned 52 rounds 40mm and observed secondary explosion vic YD 294565.
301104H Jan 68 to 301643H Jan 68	Two Sqd G/65	Elements from Dong Ha furnished security escort for convoy from Dong Ha to Camp J.J. Carroll and return.
311535H Jan 68 to 311610H Jan 68	Dong Ha Combat Base	Elements at Dong Ha received unknown number artillery rounds. No casualties or equipment damage.

\* 33

*CONFIDENTIAL*

Inclosure 1.

CONFIDENTIAL

36

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
BATTERY G (SEARCHLIGHT) 29TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96337

AVCL-AT-1/44-BH

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (U)

TO: Commanding Officer  
1st Bn (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery  
ATTN: S-3  
APO San Francisco 96269

SECTION I (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (C) General:

a. The Battery continues to support USMC and U.S. Army units in the I Corps Tactical Zone from Camp Evans South as a part of 1st Battalion (AW) (SP) 44th Artillery.

b. The primary mission of the Battery continues to be that of providing direct and indirect illumination in support of night operations within the I Corps Tactical Zone. The Battery maintains its capacity of fighting as Infantry as a secondary role.

2. (C) Intelligence:

The Battery CO continued to attend daily briefings conducted by the 11th Marines located at Da Nang. Additional intelligence was obtained from sections in the field and their supported units. Third Platoon, located in Chu Lai, obtained its intelligence from the Americal Division.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities:

a. Plans:

Continue to support USMC and U.S. Army in the I Corps Tactical Zone.

b. Operations:

(1) The AN/MSS-3 Searchlight system of this unit has been used to augment the defense of key installations such as bridges and fire support bases. It has also been used to provide illumination for patrols and ambushes, guide MEDEVAC helicopters, mark bomb lines for tactical airstrikes, detect enemy river borne traffic, and provide long-range H and I illumination.

Inclosure 2

CONFIDENTIAL

31

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGL-AT-1/44-BH

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

Two or more searchlights have pinpointed enemy rocket launching sites with their intersecting beams to aid in the adjustment of counter-rocket artillery fire and provide a visual marking for tactical airstrikes.

(2) The Battery engaged in tactical operations daily throughout the reporting period. Inclosure 1 lists significant missions performed by Battery G (Searchlight), 29th Artillery. At the end of the Quarterly Period 31 January 1968, the Battery was tactically deployed as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u>
G(-)/29 G/29	Da Nang	11th Marines
4 lights G/29	Camp Evans	1st Air Cavalry
2 lights G/29	Phu Bai	1st Field Artillery Group
2 lights G/29	Phu Loc	1st Battalion, 5th Marines
2 lights G/29	Nam O Bridge	1st Marine Division
1 Light G/29	Hill 190	2nd Battalion, 7th Marines
1 light G/29	Crows Nest	11th Marines
1 light G/29	Hill 10	1st Battalion, 7th Marines
2 lights G/29	Hill 41	1st Battalion, 7th Marines
2 lights G/29	Hill 55	7th Marines
2 lights G/29	Hill 65	1st Battalion, 7th Marines
1 light G/29	LZ Baldy	4th Infantry Division
1 light G/29	LZ Ross	4th Infantry Division
1 light G/29	LZ Colt	4th Infantry Division
2 lights G/29	LZ Greyhound	196th Infantry Division
1 light G/29	Hill 54	Chu Lai Defense Command
1 light G/29	Hill 69	Chu Lai Defense Command
1 light	OP#4	Chu Lai Defense Command

CONFIDENTIAL

35

1 February 1968

38

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (U)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>UNIT SUPPORTED</u>
G/29 1 light	Nouc Mau	Chu Lai Defense Command
G/29 1 light	LZ Sue	Americal Division
G/29 1 light	LZ Uptight	Americal Division
G/29 1 light	LZ Liz	11th Infantry Bridge
G/29 1 light	LZ Bronco	11th Infantry Bridge
G/29 1 light	LZ Carrington	11th Infantry Bridge
G/29 1 light	LZ Thunder	11th Infantry Bridge

c. Training:

(1) The Battery established a section level training program due to the wide dispersion of the battery elements.

(2) All replacements receive a two-day orientation and familiarization training program with the searchlight and their individual weapons. The majority of the training is OJT at the section level.

d. Chemical:

The Battery conducted an inspection of all protective masks for fit, cleanliness, and serviceability during the month of January.

e. Psywar: None

4.(C) Logistics:

Logistical support from the Da Nang Sub Area Command has been generally satisfactory. Some problem areas that exist are excessive repair time for signal equipment and the lack of an ASL of searchlight major components. Signal equipment that cannot be repaired within a thirty day time frame should be turned-in and new equipment requested. Maintenance facilities should maintain signal floats to replace items in for repair. The direct support unit should maintain an ASL of major searchlight components because the present system of evacuating major components to CONUS for DX results in excessive downtime of our searchlights and is the principle reason for non-operational status.

39  
**CONFIDENTIAL**

AVL-AT-1/44-BH

1 February 1968

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)

5. (U) Civil Affairs: None.

6. (C) Personnel:

a. Awards and decorations: Seven awards were presented to personnel of this Battery during the reporting period 1 November 1967 to 31 January 1968:

(1) Bronze star	1
(2) Air Medal	2
(3) Army Commendation w/"V" device	1
(4) Purple Heart	3 (1 Posthumously)

b. Education:

Since 1 November 1967, two men have taken the High School G.E.D. test and two have enrolled in USAFI courses. There are now a total of eight men enrolled in USAFI courses in this unit.

## SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. (C) Personnel:

a. Item: Replacements.

Discussion: Replacements are arriving at this unit with training in just about every aspect of artillery except searchlights. As a result this battery must spend many man-hours in training incoming personnel.

Observation: A school for awarding personnel MOB L/E should be established in CONUS.

b. Item: Shortage of personnel.

Discussion: A searchlight section consists of four men and two searchlights. It takes two men to operate a searchlight therefore, when a man is absent from a section a replacement must be obtained from one of the support elements of the battery. This puts the battery in a constant state of turmoil and interferes with its smooth functioning.

Observation: Each searchlight section should consist of five men.

4 37

**CONFIDENTIAL**

CONFIDENTIAL

40

AVG-AT-1/44-BH

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (U)

- c. Item: Promotion within a searchlight section.

Discussion: A searchlight section is manned by one SGT E5 and three PFC E3's. As this unit is authorized no E4's within a searchlight section there is no provision for promoting within the battery. Further, when it is necessary to split (a section) it leaves a PFC E3 as the ranking man on one of the lights.

Observation: A searchlight section should be authorized one SGT E5, two SP4 E4's, and two PFC E3's.

2. (C) Operations:

- a. Item: Local security.

Discussion: On two occasions the enemy has overrun light positions immediately after an illumination mission was completed.

Observation: Just prior to completion of an illumination mission a sweep of the perimeter wire using infrared light should be executed. Also the searchlight crewman must be prepared to defend their searchlight with small arms, grenades, and claymore mines.

- b. Item: Searchlight as LP.

Discussion: It has been proven that enemy movement takes place after an illumination mission has been completed.

Observation: Crew members should remain on the searchlight position and listen intently immediately after completion of each mission.

- c. Item: Intersecting searchlight beams.

Discussion: Searchlights are positioned like an artillery piece. Therefore, accurate azimuth information can be obtained from or set into a searchlight. This means that when two searchlight beams intersect, the exact location of that intersection can be ascertained.

Observation: Intersecting searchlight beams can be used for guiding air strikes, pin pointing enemy locations, and adjusting artillery fires.

- d. Item: Integration of the searchlight into a perimeter defense.

Discussion: A searchlight, in order to be effective, has to be an integral part of a defensive position. Thus, when the enemy is illuminated he can be immediately brought under fire.

5 38

CONFIDENTIAL

41

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGL-AT-1/44-BH  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (U)

1 February 1968

Observation: When deployed to a perimeter position, the searchlight crew must insure that they are tied in with a quick fire channel.

- e. Item: Use of searchlight in ambushes.

Discussion: When planning an ambush, a patrol leader may coordinate the use of a searchlight to illuminate the ambush site. Illuminating the killing zone will confuse the enemy, destroy his command and control and give friendly elements a greater kill probability.

Observation: Supported units should be made aware of all searchlight capabilities.

3. (C) Training and Organization.

- a. Item: Training of searchlight crews on mandatory subjects.

Discussion: The majority of the personnel in the unit are located at field positions which are spread throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. Formal classroom instruction is not feasible.

Observation: A looseleaf training book with the mandatory classes in narrative form, can be disseminated to personnel in outlying positions.

4. (U) Intelligence: None.

5. (C) Logistics:

- a. Item: Establishment of ASL of major searchlight components.

Discussion: Under the present system, all major searchlight components are evacuated to CONUS for direct exchange or repair. The turn around time is 30 to 90 days and results in equipment being non-operational excessively.

Observation: An ASL of searchlight major components should be maintained at the DSU and direct exchange facility established for these items.

6. (U) Others: None.

PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (C) Personnel.

- a. Recommend a school to award MOS 17E be established in CONUS.

CONFIDENTIAL

42

AVGL-AT-1/44-BE

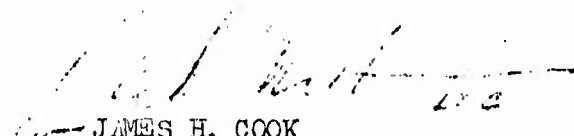
1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (U)

b. Recommend that the searchlight TO & E be modified to include five men per section with a grade breakdown as follows: One E5, Two E4's, and 2 E3's.

2. (U) Operations: None.
3. (U) Training and Organization: None.
4. (U) Intelligence: None.
5. (C) Logistics:

Recommend establishment of an ASL of searchlight major components at Da Nang DSU and a direct exchange facility established there.

  
JAMES H. COOK  
CPT Arty  
Commanding

CONFIDENTIAL

+ 40

42  
CONFIDENTIAL

MISSIONS PERFORMED (C)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
022200H to 022210H Nov 67	Two Lights G/29	Elements at Hill 65 received 15 rounds of enemy mortar fire. No casualties or equipment damage. Lights scanned perimeter but observed no enemy activity.
062030H to 062045H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Seabees west of OP Eagle called for illumination which resulted in 2VC captured.
090145H to 090154H Nov 67	One light G/29	Searchlight crew observed and illuminated an apparently empty boat in the river near Song Cau Do Bridge. Boat was taken under fire and sunk.
092130H to 092150H Nov 67	Two Lights G/29	Illumination requested by USMC ambush aided in 5 VC KIA probable after ambush engaged 12 VC in fire fight.
162230H to 162305H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Searchlight position on Hill 55 received approx. 50 small arms rounds. Crew spotted enemy muzzle flashes and illuminated enemy's positions. USMC tank fired two rounds into illuminated area resulting in 1 VC KIA confirmed.
192140H to 192215H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Illumination from searchlight on artillery Hill aided forward observer adjust naval gunfire against enemy positions and resulted in 3 structures destroyed.
202130H to 202145H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Provided illumination in support of USMC patrol. Patrol engaged small enemy force and confirmed 2 VC KIA.
202130H to 202140H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Element on Hill 190 illuminated area 2000m S.W. of hill to aid a MEDEVAC helicopter.
222100H to 222200H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Searchlight on hill 10 provided illumination in support of an ambush patrol. Patrol engaged enemy force of unknown size and resulted in 25 enemy KIA (by body count), 4 AK-47 rifles and several satchel charges captured.

Inclosure 1 to Incl 2

CONFIDENTIAL 47

**CONFIDENTIAL**

44

MISSIONS PERFORMED (C)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
292100H to 292115H Nov 67	One Light G/29	Marine patrol requested searchlight illumination on suspected VC location. Light on Hill 41 illuminated 3 VC two of which were captured by patrol.
032315H to 032330H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Searchlight at Nam O Bridge coordinated infrared illumination with anti-personnel radar to locate suspect VC movement. Area taken under fire with unknown results.
052215 to 052250 Dec 67	One Light G/29	Hill 10 received small arms fire; Searchlight supported tank fire with visible illumination which resulted in 3 VC KIA and 2 VC captured.
142230H to 142245H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Elements on Hill 10 spotted enemy movement. Enemy taken under fire by recoilless rifle which resulted in 1 VC KIA probable. Searchlight spotted 4 other VC who fled into treeline before they could be brought under fire.
202230H to 210300H Dec 67	Two Light G/29	UTMC ambush patrol spotted about 100 enemy 2000m N.W. of Hill 41. Searchlights illuminated area and enemy was fired on with artillery. Gunships were directed onto the target by the searchlights beams. Resulted in 9 enemy KIA confirmed.
210235H to 210240H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Hill 10 received 13 rounds of mortar fire. Searchlight crew spotted mortar tube flashes and illuminated the area with unknown results.
212100H to 212120H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Searchlight at Nam O Bridge illuminated two figures outside perimeter wire and took suspects under fire. A search of the area revealed one M26 grenade.
222030H to 222040H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Element at Nam O Bridge spotted a boat floating toward the bridge. Crew took boat under fire with their M-60 machine gun and sank it.
252015H to 252030H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Searchlight at Hill 55 spotted 5 VC in perimeter wire. Enemy fired 10-15 small arms rounds at light and fire was returned by 50cal MG, M-60 MG, and 20mm tank gun resulting in 5 VC KIA confirmed.

Inclusion 1.

45  
CONFIDENTIAL

MISSIONS PERFORMED (C)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
261930H to 262005H Dec 67	One Light G/29	Element on Hill 55 received about 30 rounds of small arms fire. Enemy positions were illuminated and area taken under fire resulting in 2 VC KIA confirmed
030345H to 030430H Jan 68	Three Lights G/29	Elements on Hill 55, Hill 41, and the AT Watchtower spotted enemy rockets being launched against the Da Nang airbase. All elements illuminated the area and reported the azimuths to their supported unit's COC
030345H to 030600H Jan 68	One Light G/29	Element on LZ Leslie came under attack and the searchlight position was over-run. The searchlight was destroyed by a stachel charge and one of the crewman was killed.
092240H to 092315H Jan 68	One Light G/29	Element at Novc Mau illuminated 7 enemy sampans in the river. Sampans were taken under fire and sunk.
172145H to 172200H Jan 68	One Light G/29	Element at LZ Carrington spotted enemy movement. Area was illuminated and taken under fire resulting in 2 VC probable.

43

Inclusion 1

CONFIDENTIAL

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing; annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Confidential	
		2b. GROUP 4	
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery (U)			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 67-31 Jan 1968			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 1st Battalion (AW)(SP), 44th Artillery			
6. REPORT DATE 1 February 1968		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 44	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 681255	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S): (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
c.			
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			