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



IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (21 June 68) FOR OT RD 682073

26 June 1968

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d
Battalion, 6th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)**

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance 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 appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

C. A. Stanfiel
C. A. STANFIEL
Colonel, AGC

Acting The Adjutant General

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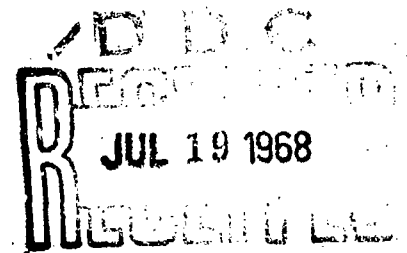
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2

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 3D BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY
APO 96318

2 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

See Distribution

Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

1. (U) General: The 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (105MM SP) consists of a headquarters and headquarters battery, service battery and three howitzer batteries. (Incl 1).

2. (C) Intelligence: a. During the period 1 February through 30 April, enemy activity in the western highlands remained at a high level. Battery A, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery responded to the threat of the 5th Battalion, 95B Regiment in the Mang Yang Pass (BR2252) area. This NVA unit has been making a concentrated effort to harass convoys on highway 19E and take out this vital supply line since December of 1967. To provide surveillance over the critical pass area, an FO party was employed on the northern side of the Mang Yang Pass from 10 March to 30 April. During the latter part of the reporting period enemy activity in this area has markedly increased. Battery B, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery remained in the Pleiku area, moving between Plei Mrong and highway 509. They provided fire support against elements of the 174th NVA Regiment which had been active in the mountains near highway 14 north of Pleiku. Battery B, in direct support of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry appeared to force this unit to move from the Highway 14 to a base area to the west.

b. Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, in direct support of Task Force 1/12 operated in AO Wainwright from 3 March to 22 April to search out and destroy the 32nd and 33rd NVA Regiments. Reliable intelligence reports indicated that these units had been planning to attack and take control of the provincial capital of Ban Me Thuot. The imposing threat of US artillery more than likely arrested these plans. Other than a brief, but heavy contact on 20 March, the enemy in this AO has not chosen to stand and fight. They have consistently moved beyond the artillery range fans.

c. Target Information Center: Due to the great distances among units of the battalion, one Target Information Center could not effectively handle all batteries. An S2 element consisting of the assistant S2 sergeant and the S2 clerk operated at the Oasis (ZAL127) constructing and operating a Target Information Center for that area of the highlands until the Ban Me Thuot operation began on 3 March. At this time the battalion liaison officer at the Oasis assumed targeting duties at that location while the assistant S2 moved to Ban Me Thuot to construct another Target Information Center and to coordinate aerial reconnaissance for the task force.

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4

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period ending 30 April 1968, ROE CSFOR-35 (F1)

It would have been extremely difficult for one battalion Target Information Center to provide targeting for units scattered in three provinces. For the period when the battalion was operating in such a wide area, the two Target Information Centers were most effective.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities:

a. Operations:

(1) References:

- (a) Artillery ITRIP 1 February to 30 April.
- (b) Daily Staff Journal (Operations).

(2) Attachments: Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was temporarily attached to the battalion during the period 1 March to 23 April 1968. The 242d Radar Detachment, 6th Battalion, 26th Artillery, was attached to the battalion during the period 16 March to 23 April 1968. Metro Section #2, headquarters battery 6th Target Acquisition Battalion, 26th Artillery, was attached to the battalion during the period 6 March to 23 April 1968. Detachments: Battery A, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery was detached from the battalion and temporarily attached to the 2d Battalion, 17th Artillery during the period 9 March to 30 April 1968.

(3) The battalion was assigned the following missions for the periods indicated:

<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>MISSION</u>
1 Feb to 30 Apr 68	Battalion GS 4th Infantry Division
1 Feb to 19 Feb 68	Battery A GS 4th Infantry Division
1 Feb to 3 Mar 68	Battery C GSR 4th Bn, 42nd Arty, 4th Inf Div
1 Feb to 12 Mar 68	Battery B GSR 4th Bn, 42nd Arty, 4th Inf Div
19 Feb to 7 Mar 68	Battery A GSR 4th Bn, 42nd Arty, 4th Inf Div
4 Mar to 22 Apr 68	Battalion (-) DS Task Force 1/12, 4th Inf Div
4 Mar to 22 Apr 68	Battery C DS Task Force 1/12, 4th Inf Div
9 Mar to 30 Apr 68	Battery A temporarily attached to 2nd Bn, 17th Arty
12 Mar to 30 Apr 68	Battery B DS 1st Bn, 10th Cav, 4th Inf Div
22 Apr to 30 Apr 68	Battery C GSR 4th Bn, 42nd Arty, 4th Inf Div

(4) From 1 to 19 February. Battery A occupied a position at

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5
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
ending 30 April 1968, RGS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Artillery Hill (ZA2253). Mission: US 4th Inf Div, supporting Pleiku defense activities. During this period, the battery conducted twelve one-day hip shoot operations from positions north of Pleiku as road security for resupply convoys moving on Highway 14 from Pleiku to Kontum. While displaced on 1 February to grid ZA20257145, Battery A fired at an estimated NVA platoon in the open and was credited with two enemy KIA. During this period, the battery fired a number of countermortar and counterrocket missions, and fired from hip shoot positions at a number of intelligence targets, destroying many bunkers and foxholes and causing secondary explosions. The battery expended a total of 2305 rounds during this period.

(a) On 3 February, Battery A occupied a position at grid ZA198698. While approximately 400 meters from this hip shoot position, the battery received sporadic small arms fire. The battery fired 11 HE rounds and the sniper fire ceased. The battery also fired at an estimated company size enemy base camp and was credited with three enemy KIA in addition to five foxholes and four bunkers destroyed. On 4 February, Battery A received small arms fire at grid ZA195618 while proceeding to a hip shoot location at grid ZA235765. A battalion air observer adjusted artillery fire and the sniper fire ceased.

(b) On 5 February, Battery A moved to a hip shoot/convoy security position at grid ZA19145230. One of the battery 108 howitzers hit a mine 50 meters south of this position. One road wheel was damaged and the right track was broken. At the same time the battery received small arms fire from the side of the road and returned the fire with all organic weapons, less the 105mm howitzers. No personnel were injured, and the battery moved to a new position at grid ZA19336663 before returning to Artillery Hill (ZA2253).

(c) On 14 February, Battery A moved six howitzers to a hip shoot/convoy security location at grid ZA184408. A battalion air observer directed 35 rounds onto one enemy in the open, and the battery was credited with one NVA KIA.

(d) At 180015H February, Battery A fired the 150,000th round expended by the battalion since its arrival in the Republic of Vietnam. The round was fired by LTC Marvin K. Chase, battalion commander.

(5) On 6 February, Battery C moved from Duc Co (YA840249) to grid ZA05903115. Mission US 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. Three howitzers then proceeded to the Oasis (ZA10832726) to support heavy US contact at grid ZA155355. On 7 February the remaining three howitzers joined the battery at the Oasis. The battery moved on 8 February to a hip shoot position at grid ZA16203352 to support a 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry sweep east of the Catecka tea plantation and then returned to the Oasis. The battery remained at the Oasis until 24 February supporting the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry and 7th Battalion, 17th Cavalry. During this period Battery C fired a total of 1633 rounds. On 24 February, Battery C moved from grid ZA10832726 to grid ZA228791.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS C-FOR-65 (R1)

(6) On 7 February Battery B moved from grid YA964439 to a new position at grid ZA151609. From 8 to 12 February, the battery occupied a position at grid ZA05903115. Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. From 12 to 29 February, Battery B occupied a position at grid YA96284399. Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. On 18 February, the battery moved five howitzers to a position at grid YA855365 for a one day operation in support of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry elements returning to their base camp at grid YA96284399. During this period, the battery fired Red Haze missions, destruction missions, propaganda missions for leaflet dispersion, intelligence missions and interdiction fires. From 29 February to 12 March, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA123483. Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. On 6 March, a helicopter received ground fire in the vicinity of grid ZA135440. Battery B fired in support, and the ground fire ceased, three unconfirmed NVA KIA resulted. The battery also fired at an enemy base camp and one secondary explosion was reported during this mission.

(7) From 19 to 29 February, Battery A occupied a position at grid YA92282706 (Cav Hill). Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. During this period the battery covered the Duc Co (YA8424) Special Forces camp and fired at bunker complexes, intelligence targets, and known and suspected enemy locations. From 29 February to 2 March, Battery A occupied a position at grid ZA12046286. Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. During this period the battery fired destruction missions, known enemy location missions, and interdiction fires. From 2 to 9 March, Battery A occupied a position at grid ZA05913116, relieving Battery A, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery in place. Mission: GSR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. During this period the battery fired in support of US elements in contact, intelligence missions, and interdiction missions.

(8) On 28 February, the battalion was alerted to establish a Battalion Forward Tactical Operations Center in the vicinity of Ban Me Thuot to provide a tactical and technical fire direction center for an organic 105 SP battery (Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery), a 155 SP battery (Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery) and an 8 inch SP battery (Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery).

(a) On 1 March, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, was temporarily attached to the battalion. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery moved from An Khe (BR458436) to Artillery Hill (ZA2253). Mission: GSR Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, to support Task Force 1/12.

(b) On 2 March Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and battalion (-) elements departed Artillery Hill and arrived at Camp Enari, 4th Inf Div base camp (ZA030654), in preparation for convoy move to the Ban Me Thuot area.

(c) On 3 March, elements of Headquarters and Service Batteries 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery and Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery departed locations at Artillery Hill and Camp Enari (ZA0365), by convoy and moved to a fire base location north of Ban Me Thuot (AQ933287). The fire

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

base was collocated with elements of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry. The missions of the elements were Headquarters 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (-) (DS 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry), Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (DS 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry), Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery (GSR Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery) and Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery (GSR Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery). The Fire Support Base remained at this location until 13 March. On 7 and 9 March, Battery C moved on one-day operations to grids AQ883120 and AQ896253 respectively. During this period, Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery fired contact missions in support of 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry elements in contact, destruction missions and a large number of intelligence missions. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was credited with 1 NVA KIA on 7 March, in a mission fired at several enemy in a bunker complex. On 6 March, a battalion air observer in an O1 aircraft received ground fire while out of artillery range at AQ812135. The pilot attacked with rockets which resulted in 1 NVA KIA confirmed and 4 NVA KIA unconfirmed.

(d) On 5 March, a battalion liaison team departed Artillery Hill (2A2253) to establish liaison with artillery elements of the 23d ARVN Division in Ban Me Thuot City.

(e) On 6 March, Metro Section #2, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 8th Target Acquisition Battery, 26th Artillery was designated OPCON to the battalion at Ban Me Thuot City to support elements of the battalion in the area.

(f) On 10 March, the Fire Support Base occupied by Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, Headquarters 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (-), Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery and Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery received an unknown caliber mortar attack from 0055H to 0110H. No rounds landed inside the perimeter at grid AQ896253. Task Force artillery immediately located the mortar flashes with aiming circles and brought artillery fire on target. The mortar fire ceased. At 102337H March, a battalion liaison officer reported incoming 82mm mortars and 75mm recoilless fire in Ban Me Thuot City and Ban Me Thuot East (AQ877018). Approximately 24 rounds landed at Ban Me Thuot East where the battalion trains and Ammunition Supply Point were located. Negative casualties or damage to the battalion were reported from both locations.

(g) On 13 March, the battalion Forward Headquarters, Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery moved from grid AQ932287 to establish a new fire support base at grid A825109, to support a combined US-ARVN operation north of Ban Me Thuot. The battalion Forward Tactical Operations Center remained at this location until 6 April. Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery fired in support of Task Force elements in contact and was credited with 1 VC KIA on 2 April. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery remained at this location until 30 March, and fired during this period in support of US and ARVN elements in contact, a Vietnamese village under mortar attack (mortars silenced), and numerous intelligence missions.

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8

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFE-65 (R1)

(h) On 16 March, the 242d Radar Detachment, 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery, was made OPCOM to the battalion and arrived at Ban Me Thuot airfield (AQ805039) from Qui Nhon.

(i) On 18 March Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery fired in defense of the village of Buon Sa Fur (AQ942014). Intelligence reports indicated 2 VC were KIA and 4 WIA.

(j) On 20 March, Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery displaced to AQ762129. At approximately 1100H Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry made contact with enemy units at 2V226193, as both units were moving down a trail. Artillery was called in and the contact continued as Company B, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry and Company D, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry moved up to support, while the NVA attacked the companies. Continuous artillery fire was brought to bear on the enemy from Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery and Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery. Contact was broken approximately 201330H March when the enemy withdrew, although sporadic contact continued throughout the day. On 21 March, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry received a short mortar and B/40 rocket attack. All units fired in support and final police of the battlefield found 41 NVA KIA and 2 NVA WIA CIA with numerous equipment found on the battlefield. The Commanding Officer, Company A, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry attributed a minimum of 12 KIA to artillery; indications are that 20 or more NVA were killed by artillery.

(k) On 30 March, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery moved two howitzers to Ban Me Thuot East (AQ877018). On 31 March, conversion of these two 8 inch howitzers to 175mm was completed and the howitzers returned to the battalion fire base at grid AQ829101.

(l) On 5 April, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery occupied a position at Ban Me Thuot East (AQ877018) with the mission of GSR Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (Fire Support Base), and support of Special Forces operations south of Ban Me Thuot. From 6 to 22 April, the battery occupied a position at grid AQ8180147. During this period, the battery fired numerous intelligence targets in addition to moving two 8 inch howitzers on a two day operation at AQ780037 to support move of Task Force 12 elements to new fire base at grid AQ783177. On 16 April the battery fired 80 rounds in a preparation for Special Forces personnel. A sweep of the area found 9 VC bodies killed by artillery.

(m) From 6 to 11 April, the battalion forward headquarters and Battery C occupied a position at grid AQ835288, mission D8 Task Force 12. On 8 April, 10-15 82mm mortar rounds were received. A forward observer from Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery observed flashes and Battery C fired countermortar fires. Results: negative casualties or damage to the battalion. Enemy casualties unknown.

(n) On several occasions between 30 March and 21 April Battery C, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, Battery B, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery and Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery fired in defense of the new life hamlet of Quang Thieu. Known results are 1 KIA. Two Chieu Hoi turned themselves in to authorities in the area because they feared the artillery.

CONFIDENTIAL 6

9

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFO-65 (R1)

(o) From 11 to 22 April, the battalion (-) and Battery C occupied a position at grid AQ783177. Mission: DS Task Force 1/12. On 19 April, Battery C moved back to the fire base at grid AQ835288 and fired a large number of intelligence missions. From 21 to 22 April, Battery C occupied a position at grid DQ033287, where the battery fired additional intelligence targets.

(p) On 22 April, Task Force 1/12 departed Ban Me Thuot and all battalion artillery supporting the operation closed at Artillery Hill (2A2253). Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was detached from the battalion and departed Artillery Hill to Binh Khe. The Metro and Radar from 8th Battalion, 26th Artillery were detached at this time and attached to Battery B, 5th Battalion, 22nd Artillery.

(9) An Artillery After Action Report for Task Force 1/12 was submitted to Commanding General I F^{ORV} Artillery on 5 May 1968.

(10) On 9 March, Battery A, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery was placed OPCON to the 3d Battalion, 17th Artillery, and moved to a new location at grid BR12115372. At approximately 1100H, a M548 ammunition track vehicle caught fire at grid ZA190338. The M548 was destroyed along with 111 rounds M414, 63 rounds WP, 3 rounds Beehive and 400 PD fuzes. Cause of the explosion was a fire in the engine compartment. No personnel were injured. On 10 March, Headquarters Battery and Service Battery personnel made a ground sweep of the location of the destroyed M548 with SOD personnel to mark locations of unexploded ammunition. On 10 March, Battery A moved from grid BR12115322 to grid BR26204721 (Mang Yang Pass). The necessary security was not accomplished at the new location and Battery A returned to grid BR12115322 before dark. From 12 March to 30 April, Battery A occupied a position at grid BR262472, mission of GSR 2nd Battalion, 17th Artillery. During this period Battery A fired in support of US forces in contact, intelligence missions, destruction and neutralization fires, and interdiction missions. On 11 April the battery received 10-20 82mm mortars with 6-8 rounds landing inside the perimeter. Three rounds landed within 5 meters of the base piece with one round impacting directly on top of the self-propelled howitzer. No KIA resulted on the base piece and all howitzers continued to fire during the mortar attack. Results: Five battery personnel lightly KIA, 3 of which were evacuated, and 1 pantol sight damaged.

(11) From 12 to 14 March, Battery B occupied a position at grid AR955396, mission of DS 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. During this period the battery fired intelligence and interdiction fires. From 14 to 21 March, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA183607, with no change of mission. During this period the battery fired in support of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry elements in contact, intelligence and interdiction missions. From 21 to 24 March, Battery B, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery occupied a position at grid ZA095702. On 25 March, the battery departed with A Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry and B Troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry to a new position at grid YA998363. From 29 March to 7 April, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA095705. During this period the battery fired at lights and movement believed to be an advance party trying to ford a river where the battery had destroyed a bridge. From 7 to 21 April, Battery B occupied

CONFIDENTIAL

7

10

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

a position at grid ZA124480. From 18 to 24 April, two of the battery howitzers occupied a position at Artillery Hill (ZA2253) to support Pleiku area defense elements. From 21 to 25 April, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA178222. From 25 to 27 April Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA181182. From 27 thru 30 April, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZA112672.

(12) From 23 to 25 April, Battery C occupied a position at grid ZA059311. Mission: GJR 4th Battalion, 42nd Artillery. From 25 to 27 April, Battery C occupied a position at grid ZA078222. No change in mission, however, priority of fires to the 1st Battalion, 42nd Infantry (ARVN), conducting an operation to return villages to Edap Enang. From 29 thru 30 April Battery C occupied a position at grid ZA059311. During this period the battery fired intelligence, contact and interdiction missions.

(13) On 5 February, all the battalion's FADAG computers were re-programmed and registrations were fired. Also, FLC classes were conducted for firing M44 ammunition (classes given by Operations Officer).

(14) From 7 to 10 February, all battalion F108 howitzers were calibrated with the exception of two Battery B howitzers which were deadlined at the battalion base camp (ZA2253) and scheduled for tube change within 30 days.

(15) From 12 February to 14 February, the Battery Test and Evaluation Team conducted a test of all firing battery sections of Battery B, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery.

(16) From 15 February to 18 February, the Battery Test and Evaluation Team conducted a test of all firing battery sections of C Battery, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery.

(17) On 17 February, elements of Headquarters Battery and Service Battery moved to the Oasis (ZA1127) to begin construction of a battalion Forward Tactical Operations Center.

(18) On 20 February, a Service Battery tanker vehicle with trailer was traveling west on Highway 509 to resupply Battery B when it came under small arms fire in the vicinity of grid YA995416. The driver lost control and the vehicle hit a ditch and overturned. The driver and assistant driver walked to Battery B fire base and the vehicle and trailer were recovered. Results: no friendly casualties, no enemy casualties, heavy damage to vehicle and trailer, two M-14 rifles missing. Five bullet holes were found in the POL vehicle.

(19) From 20 February to 22 February, the Battery Test and Evaluation Team conducted a test of all firing battery sections of Battery A, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery.

(20) On 23 February, a revised battalion Tactical SOP was distributed to all elements within the battalion. The Battery Test and Evaluation Team conducted a test of sections in headquarters and Service Batteries.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

(21) On 4 March, battalion Change of Command ceremonies took place and LTC Alonzo S. Kretzer assumed command of the battalion from LTC Marvin K. Chase.

(22) From 20 to 22 March, the battalion received its Annual General Inspection. The inspection team inspected Headquarters Battery and Service Battery, the Battalion forward elements and all firing batteries which were inspected in the field. The battalion received a rating of satisfactory.

(23) On 29 March, the battalion patrol was returning from a night location and were loading into a vehicle at grid ZA217545 when a fragmentation grenade detonated on the belt of one of the patrol members climbing into the vehicle. Results: 3 US KIA, 4 light WIA, minor damage to the vehicle.

(24) The battalion operated in MacArthur AO for 90 days, and in Mainwright AO (Operation Task Force 1/12) for 50 days. A total of 55 days of troop movement occurred during the reporting period. Training was conducted by elements of the battalion each day, 90 days of training was completed. 25,888 rounds were expended during the reporting period (See Incl 2).

b. Training:

(1) A total of ten newly assigned officers attended the I FFORCEV Artillery Fire Direction School.

(2) A total of five newly assigned officers attended the I FFORCEV Artillery Forward Observer School.

(3) A three-man instructor team conducted classes for Special Forces personnel on the 105mm howitzer. This training was for a period of three days.

(4) Direct fire exercises were conducted by the howitzer batteries using both HE and Beehive ammunition during the reporting period.

(5) All sections in the battalion were evaluated during the reporting period.

(6) The battalion published a weekly training schedule during the reporting period.

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

1. (U) Personnel: None

2. (C) Operations:

a. OBSERVATION. During the conduct of operations with Task Force 1/12, Headquarters 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery exchanged liaison officers with the 23rd ARVN Division at DTOC in Ban Me Thuot.

b. EVALUATION. On 5 March 1968, a liaison officer was placed with the ARVN headquarters to coordinate US and ARVN artillery fires in the Ban Me

12

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Thuot area. He was responsible for clearing US artillery fires through ARVN headquarters, and province and district personnel. He had the added responsibility of arranging for ARVN artillery to fire in support of US units and the clearance of fires for US artillery to fire for ARVN units and installations. He coordinated the activities of the US artillery with local representatives to fire in defense of many of the villages in the Ban Me Thuot area. Defensive targets for ten villages were preplanned and fired in by US artillery. On three occasions during attacks on villages, the firing of their preplanned defensive targets helped the defenders ward off the attacks. The 23rd ARVN Division supplied a liaison officer to Task Force 1/12 artillery. He cleared fires in the task force AO and coordinated directly with ARVN FO's on the ground to support ARVN forces, thereby facilitating the clearance of all fires in support of US ground operations. Defensive targets in support of the Fire Support Base were fired using ARVN artillery.

c. **RECOMMENDATION.** On all subsequent operations a liaison officer should be provided to the supported ARVN artillery headquarters. For combined operations, an English speaking ARVN liaison officer should be requested to join the US artillery.

3. (U) Training: None

4. (U) Intelligence: None

5. (C) Logistics:

a. Use of Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge.

(1) **OBSERVATION.** Task Force 1/12, whose artillery support was self-propelled artillery, was not augmented by an AVLB.

(2) **EVALUATION.** On several occasions during conduct of operations with Task Force 1/12, the courses of action available to the commander were limited because the artillery was unable to traverse the steep banked streams in the area. This restricted plans to move artillery closer to the enemy in the area. The task force commander could have moved without restriction in the Ban Me Thuot area with self-propelled artillery if he had had one AVLB.

(3) **RECOMMENDATIONS.** Any task force, which has self-propelled howitzers as its primary artillery support should be augmented with an AVLB. AVLB's are available at Division level and the request should be submitted to the Division G4 as soon as possible upon receipt of an alert order.

b. Use of Bulldozer.

(1) **OBSERVATION.** A bulldozer can be used effectively by an artillery unit to prepare positions.

(2) **EVALUATION.** Task Force 1/12 had a bulldozer which was utilized in the construction of position areas. A bulldozer can clear fields of fire

10

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13

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for period ending 30 April 1966, RGS CSFOR-65 (R1)

rapidly, it can be used to remove site-to-mask obstacles, and it can get all weapons systems and ammunition dug in rapidly. It also can construct parapets for observation, and can speed the construction of the operations center and personnel bunkers.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS. Bulldozers are available at brigade level through the supporting engineers. Immediately upon receipt of an alert order for movement the request for a bulldozer should be submitted to the supporting engineers so that it joins the column and is immediately available upon occupation of position.

6. (U) Organization. 1 one

7. (u) Other. None

3 Incl

- 1. Organization
- 2. Ammunition Expenditure
- 3. ~~CAAR Op BAN ME THUOT~~

Withdrawn, Hqs, DA; pub sep as CAAR

DISTRIBUTION: 68X023

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- 6 - CO, 52nd Arty Group
- 5 - CO, 3d Bn, 6th Arty

ALONZO S. KRETZER
LTC, Arty
Commanding

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15
AVGG-CO (2 May 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFCR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 52d Artillery Group, APO 96318 12 May 1968

TO: Commanding General, IFFV Artillery, ATTN: ANFA-AT-D, APO 96350

1. Forwarded.
2. I concur in the contents of the basic report and the recommendations found in Section 2, Lessons Learned.

Hal E. Hallgren

HAL E. HALLGREN
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

10

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AVFA-AT-D (2 May 1968) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, (RCS: CSFOR-65) (R1)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO
96350

1. (C) Reference paragraph 2(c), section 2, page 10, Operations. Concur.
2. (C) Reference paragraph 5(a)(3), section 2, page 10, Use of Armored Vehicle Launched Bridge. Concur.
3. (C) Reference paragraph 5(b)(3), section 2, page 11, Use of Bulldozer. Concur.
4. (C) Reference paragraph 4, ANNEX F (Logistics) to Combat After Action Report. Concur. IFV G4 coordinates the establishment of a FSA. The 62d Maintenance Battalion, a unit of the 1st Logistical Command, provided the Task Force support on a top priority basis.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


GERALD G. YOUNG
Major, Artillery
Adjutant

13
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*Downgraded at 3 year Intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10*

17
AVFA-GC-OT (2 May 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 29 MAY 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96350

Concur.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ROBERT L. GALBARD

ILT, AGC

ASSF ADJUTANT GENERAL

Copy furnished:
IFFORCEV Acty

18

AVHGC-DST (2 May 68) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2 JUN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery as indorsed.
2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

for full [signature]
C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furn:
HQ I FFV
HQ 3-6 Arty

19

GPOP-DT (2 May 68) (U) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ 3d Bn, 6th Arty for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

13 JUN 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

21

ORGANIZATION

30 HOWITZER BATTALION 6TH ARTILLERY

TOE 6-465 G

FA HOW BN
105mm SP
OFF 38 WO 5 EM 462

SVC BTRY
OFF 2 WO 3 EM 82

FA HOW BTRY
OFF 7 EM 93

1 AND HQ BTRY
OFF 15 WO 2
EM 101

1 Inc/

17

AMMUNITION EXPENDITURE

1. Total ammunition expended by type:

a. HE	23,194
b. Illumination	523
c. White Phosphorous	1294
d. Smoke	855
e. Beehive	19
f. Propaganda	3

2. Ammunition expended by type mission by battery:

	<u>Battery A</u>	<u>Battery B</u>	<u>Battery C</u>
a. Confirmed	2423	586	1461
b. Acquired	1464	1347	1832
c. Counterbattery	144	41	128
d. Preparation	344	391	1169
e. Interdiction	5993	2090	1075
f. Special Purpose	1311	1213	2024
g. Others	135	112	79

3. Number of enemy killed and wounded by battery:

	<u>Confirmed</u>	<u>Probable</u>
a. Battery A	6	5
b. Battery B	3	2
c. Battery C	14	0

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13

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