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AD NUMBER	
AD508726	
CLASSIFICATION CHANGES	
TO:	unclassified
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OAG, D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980; OAG, D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980	

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



IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (15 Apr 70)

FOR OT UT 701170

21 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Americal
Division Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, 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:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS AMERICAL DIVISION ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96374

AVDF-ATCO

15 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Americal Division Artillery
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

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1. (C) Section I: Operations

a. (U) Command:

(1) Colonel Leslie B. Hardy commanded Americal Division Artillery during this report.

(2) The following units were assigned, attached or under operational control of Americal Division Artillery:

(a) 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery remained assigned. LTC Boris Pogoloff assumed command on 15 January 1970, replacing LTC Clifford J. Phifer who commanded through 14 January 1970.

(b) 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery remained assigned. LTC Oscar L. Faulkner assumed command on 21 November 1969, replacing LTC Herbert E. Knight who commanded through 20 November 1969.

(c) 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery remained assigned, LTC Paul R. Gleave commanded during the period of this report.

(d) 1st Battalion, 82d Artillery remained assigned. LTC Elisco J. Garcia assumed command on 15 December 1969, replacing LTC James M. Compton who commanded through 14 December 1969.

(e) 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery remained attached. LTC Grover A. Dubose assumed command on 15 December 1969, replacing LTC Andrew R. Foster Jr., who commanded through 14 December 1969.

(f) 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery remained attached, LTC William F. Sifford commanded during the period of this report.

(g) Battery G, 55th Artillery (MG) remained attached. CPT Dennis R. Blanton commanded during the period of this report.

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(h) 3d Platoon, Battery G, 29th Artillery (SLT) attached to the Americal Division remained further attached to Battery G, 55th Artillery (M.). 1LT Jon Corey commanded during the period of this report.

(i) 251st Countermortar Radar Detachment remained attached. CW2 Windell L. Grout commanded during the period of this report.

(j) 252d Countermortar Radar Detachment remained attached. WO1 Lee F. Jernigen assumed command on 10 January 1970 replacing CW2 Thomas M. Roper who commanded through 9 January 1970.

(k) 271st Field Artillery Detachment (Surveillance Radar) remained attached. LT. William Wilson assumed command on 26 December 1969 replacing 2LT Garold M. Johnson who commanded through 27 December 1969.

b. (C) Operations: At the beginning of the period four main operations were being conducted within the Americal Division TAOI. These were Operations FREDERICK HILL, GENEVA PARK, IRON MOUNTAIN, and NANTUCKET BEACH. Operations in the above AO's consisted primarily of preemptive operations against enemy base camps and staging areas. Primary emphasis was placed on the 1969 Accelerated Pacification Program. ARCLIGHT strikes were conducted followed by multi-battalion sized exploitation of the bombed area. Whenever feasible joint operations were conducted between ARVN Regiments and US Brigades with US Battalions operating in conjunction with ARVN Battalion. Artillery moves were made consistent with the above operations. During the period 1800 hours 24 December - 1800 hours 25 December 1969 and 1800 hours 31 December - 1800 hours 1 January 1970, a cease fire was in effect.

Specific operations in the Americal TAOI were as follows:

The 196th Inf Bde, 1st Sqdn, 1st Cav and the 5th ARVN Regt continued operations in FREDERICK HILL AO. Light contact throughout the AO with the following significant contacts. On 14 November 1969, B/3-21 made moderate contact. Significant contact was made by R/3-21, A/1-1 Cav and C/3-21 on 11 January 1970. A & B Trp/1-1 Cav were in moderate to heavy contact on 12, 13 January 1970.

The 198th Inf Bde with the 6th ARVN Regt continued operations in GENEVA PARK AO. Light contact continued throughout the AO with the following significant contacts. On 13 December 1969, D/1-1, C/1-1 and 1st Plt of Aero-Rifle Scouts made moderate contact with estimated NVA Company.

The 5th Bn, 46th Inf with two battalions of the 6th ARVN continued operations in NANTUCKET BEACH AO. Light contact continued in the AO during the entire period.

The 11th Inf Bde with the 4th ARVN Regt continued operations in IRON MOUNTAIN AO. Light contact continued in the AO with the following significant contacts. On 13 November 1969, moderate contact was made by 174th gunship.

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During the period the 196th, 198th, 11th Brigades and the 1/1 Cav utilized Naval Gunfire for preparations, interdiction fire and observed fire against confirmed targets.

c. (C) Artillery Support:

(1) The 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery provided direct support for the 198th Bde in the GENEVA PARK AO during the entire period. Other FWMAF elements, such as USMC Combined Action Platoons, also received fire support during the period.

(a) Initially, A/1-14 was at LZ GATOR (BS 573965) with 4 howitzers and LZ DOTTIE (BS 631852) with 4 howitzers (2 howitzers attached from B/1-14). On 20 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from LZ GATOR to HA THANH (BS 381701) to support an operation by 1-52 Inf and D/1-1 Cav. On 21 December 1969, 1 howitzer was moved from LZ DOTTIE to HA THANH to replace one brought back for support maintenance. On 22 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned by air to LZ GATOR and 1 howitzer continued by road to LZ DOTTIE. On 30 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved by road to SON TINH (BS 643762) from LZ DOTTIE to support infantry elements securing MY LAI (4). On 31 December 1969, 3 howitzers moved from LZ GATOR to OP GEORGE (BS 468877). On 6 January 1970, the 2 howitzers returned to LZ DOTTIE by road from SON TINH. On 10 January 1970, the 3 howitzers returned from OP GEORGE to LZ GATOR. In addition, A/1-14 provided interdiction fires for the CHU LAI rocket pocket.

(b) B/1-14 remained OPCON to 3-82 Artillery with priority of fires to the 1-46 Inf. Four howitzers remained at LZ PROFESSIONAL (BS 177077) and 2 howitzers remained at LZ DOTTIE, attached to A/1-14.

(c) C/1-14 provided support to the 1-6 Inf during the entire period. On 3 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from FSB FAT CITY (BS 439075) to OP GEORGE in support of an operation by 1-6 Inf. On 5 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to FSB FAT CITY. On 31 December 1969, 1 howitzer moved by road to LZ GATOR and was attached to A/1-14. On 2 January 1970 1 howitzer went to LZ GATOR to support A/1-14 and returned to FSB FAT CITY the same day. On 10 January 1970, 1 howitzer returned to FSB FAT CITY from LZ GATOR. On 21 January 1970, 2 howitzers were air-lifted from FSB FAT CITY to HILL 497 (BT 187050) and placed OPCON to B/1-14 to support a company from 1-46 Inf. In addition, they provided interdiction fires for the CHU LAI rocket pocket.

(d) D/1-14 provided support to 1-52 Inf during the entire period. On 12 November 1969, 2 howitzers moved from LZ STINSON (BS 539824) to OP GEORGE (BS 470867) to support D/1-52 Inf CA. On 16 November 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to LZ STINSON. On 12 January 1970, the 2 howitzers returned to LZ STINSON. From LZ STINSON, the battery fired many HE and ICM missions in the Horseshoe Area (Tra Khuc River) against targets acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and GVQ-10 Integrated Observation System on OP 1 (BS 516778).

(2) The 3d Battalion, 82d Artillery remained in direct support of the 196th Inf Bde in the FREDERICK HILL AO.

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(a) A/3-82 Arty provided direct support from FSB HAWK HILL (BT 225319) for the 2-1 Inf during the entire period. On 30 November 1969, 3 howitzers moved to NEW HAU DUC (BT 071061) to provide direct support for the 1-46 Inf, which conducted a reconnaissance in force operation in the vicinity of OLD HAU DUC. On 7 December 1969, the 3 howitzers returned to FSB HAWK HILL. On 3 January 1970, 2 howitzers moved to TAM KY (BT 242230) to provide direct support to the 1-1 Cav which is conducting a reconnaissance in force operation west of TAM KY. The 2 howitzers are currently at TAM KY.

(b) B/3-82 Arty remained at FSB CENTER (BT 051249) in direct support of the 3-21 Inf during the entire period.

(c) C/3-82 Arty remained at FSB SIERIA (AT 903232) in direct support of the 4-31 Inf during the entire period.

(3) The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery remained in direct support of the 11th Inf Bde and supported operations in the Iron Mountain AO.

(a) A/6-11 gave priority of fires to the 3-1 and 4-21 Inf in the southern portion of the AO. On 4 January 1970, 4 howitzers moved from LZ DEBIE (BS 869319) to HILL 285 (BS 820235) to support a multi-battalion, US and ARVN operation.

(b) B/6-11 remained on LZ SAN JUAN (BS 634330) during the entire period with priority of fires to the 4-3 Inf. The battery also had the mission of interdicting high speed approaches into the SONG VE VALLEY.

(c) C/6-11 provided priority of fires to 1-20, 3-1 and 4-21 Inf during the period. On 8 November 1969, 4 howitzers returned to LZ BROCC (BS 312370) to LZ MAX (BS 761471) to support exploitation of an ARCLIGHT strike. On 16 December 1969, the 3 howitzers returned to LZ BROCC. The battery attacked numerous personnel targets in the 11th Inf Bde's coastal low lands which were acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and IOS located on OP 3 (BS 754421).

(d) D/6-11 gave priority of fires to the 3-1 Inf during the period. On 27 November 1969, 4 howitzers moved from FSB 411 (BS 547730) to HA THANH Special Forces Camp (BS 332701) in support of 3-1 Inf operation south and southeast of HA THANH. On 4 December 1969, the 4 howitzers returned to FSB 411. On 7 December 1969, 2 howitzers moved from FSB 411 to NG LA MUH (BS 615642) to support combined US and ARVN exploitation of an ARCLIGHT strike. On 19 December 1969, the 2 howitzers returned to FSB 411. The battery attacked numerous personnel targets south of the SONG TRA MUOC RIVER which were acquired by the TPS-25 Ground Surveillance Radar and IOS located on OP 1 (BS 516778).

(4) The 1st Battalion, 32d Artillery provided general support reinforcing fires for GENEVA PARK, MANTUCKET BEACH and IRON MOUNTAIN AO's.

(a) A/1-82 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 1-14 Artillery with four howitzers at LZ DOTTIE (BS 631953) and two howitzers at LZ GATOR (BS 572962).

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(b) B/1-82 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery with four howitzers at LZ DUDPY (BS 705609) and two howitzers at LZ STILSON (BS 539324).

(c) C/1-82 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery with four howitzers at LZ LIZ (BS 753432) and two howitzers at LZ DEBBIE (BS 969319).

(d) D/1-82 provided general support reinforcing fires for the 1-14 Artillery from LZ DOTTIE. On 7 December 1969, two howitzers moved to LZ BHOACO (BS 912391) and provided general support reinforcing fires for the 6-11 Artillery.

(5) The 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery provided general support reinforcing support in the FREDERICK HILL AO.

(a) A/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 3-82 Artillery with three howitzers at HAWK HILL (BT 224311) and three howitzers at LZ WEST (BT 70250).

(b) B/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 3-82 Artillery from TIEN PHUOC (BT 114135). On 30 November 1969, two howitzers moved from TIEN PHUOC (BT 14135) to HAU DUC (BT 071061). On 10 December 1969, the two howitzers returned to TIEN PHUOC. During the period 13 thru 20 November 1969, provided direct support for the USASF Detachment at TIEN PHUOC.

(c) C/3-16 provided general support reinforcing fires to 1-14 Artillery from FSB FAT CITY (BT 437075). On 7 January 1970, two howitzers moved from FAT CITY to TAM AY (BT 292230).

(6) The 3d Battalion, 18th Artillery provided general support fires for the American TAOI.

(a) A/3-18 supported operations in the GENEVA PARK AO from LZ CINDY (BS 342983) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces operations around TRA BONG (BS 342383), and gave defensive support to HA TIAM Special Forces Camp (BS 392761).

(b) B/3-18 supported operations in the FREDERICK HILL AO from FSB TIEN PHUOC (BT 114135) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces operations around TIEN PHUOC and gave defensive support to HAU DUC Special Forces Camp (BT 072061).

(c) C/3-18 supported operations in the IRON MOUNTAIN AO from LZ CRUNCH (BS 534515) during the entire period. The battery also supported the Special Forces operations around MINH LONG and gave defensive support to BATO and GIA VUC Special Forces Camps.

d. Ammunition expenditures by caliber for the period 1 November 1969 to 31 January 1970:

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105mm 170,938

155mm 33,938

8 in 16,235

175mm 4,435

e. Countermortar Radar Detachment

(1) The 251st FA Detachment (CM Radar) remained at OP 1 (BS 519778) where it covered LZ STILSON and PSB 411 (BS 540730). The Detachment also participated in registrations for artillery units that were within range.

(2) The 252d FA Detachment (CM Radar) was located at ARTILLERY HILL (BT 511040) with primary sector of scan to the west into the northern rocket pocket. This unit assisted artillery units located at LZ FAT CITY and LZ GATOR to fire precision registrations.

f. Ground Surveillance Radar Detachments

(1) The organic AN/TPS 25 radar remained at OP 1 (BS 516778). The center of sector was west over the SONG TRA KUC River. Large groups of enemy were consistently detected, even when activity was at a low level in the Division TAOI.

(2) The 271st FA Detachment (Radar) remained at OP 3 (BS 754021). Large groups of enemy were consistently detected, even when activity was at a low level in the Division TAOI.

g. Quad 50 Machine Guns

Battery G, 55th Artillery (MG) has been deployed throughout the Americal Division TAOI with the primary mission of supporting the ground defensive plans of the division fire bases. The unit assists in fire base, installation, convoy and road security.

h. Searchlights

During the period the 3d Plt, Battery G, 29th Artillery (SLT) was deployed throughout the Division TAOI. The platoon enhanced the security of isolated fire bases by providing battlefield illumination and assisting in target acquisition. The platoon was also used to provide navigational assistance to the supported units. When possible, the searchlights were co-located with multiple caliber .50 machinegun mounts to assist in target acquisition and immediate engagement of the targets during the period of reduced illumination. The searchlights can be used in either the visible light or infra red mode.

i. Meteorological Stations

(1) During the period the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division meteorological station remained at LZ BRONCO (BS 812330). This station remained

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OPCON to the 6-11 Artillery Battalion where it provided metro data to those units located in the southern part of the Americal Division TAOI.

(2) During the period the 3-18 Artillery Battalion metrological station remained at ARTY HILL (BS 515042) where it provided metro data to those units in the central part of the Americal Division TAOI.

(3) During the period the Artillery Battalion metrological station remained at HAWK HILL (BT 224313) where it provided metro data to those units in the northern part of the Americal Division TAOI. On 19 November 1969, the meteorological station moved from HAWK HILL to TIEN PHUOC (BT114135) where it provided metro data to those units in the northern part of the Americal Division TAOI.

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

a. Personnel: Omitted

b. Intelligence: Omitted

c. Operations:

(1) Subject: Use of VT fuzes on defensive targets.

(a) Observation: The use of 8-inch VT fuzes on defensive targets were found to be more effective than time fuzes.

(b) Evaluation: One battery experienced excellent results firing fuze VT at short ranges. Defensive targets were fired in using fuze VT with a fuze setting of 2 seconds. Ranges from 700 meters to 2000 meters were used with excellent low air bursts at all ranges. Time fuzes were used at the same ranges with satisfactory results, however, several early bursts occurred. The area between the battery and the target was open and dry, thus giving the VT fuze little chance to activate early.

(c) Recommendation: That fuze VT be considered for use with defensive fires.

(2) Subject: 50 Caliber Machinegun Defensive Positions.

(a) Observation: 50 Caliber Machineguns can be employed most effective outside a bunker complex.

(b) Evaluation: One battery placed their 50 Caliber Machineguns on tripods in 6 prefab bunkers along the perimeter. The fields of fire were good and interlocking fires from bunker to bunker was achieved, however, the noise created by the firing proved to be almost unbearable. An attempt to bolt the tripod to the bunker proved fruitless. M-6 Machinegun jeep mounts were finally used and proved most effective, however, there was still a noise problem. A solution to the problem was to build a secondary

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position behind the bunker. A 4 to 6 foot platform was constructed without overhead cover, thus employing the weapon similar to Quad 50's with 6400 mil capabilities.

(c) Recommendations: That 50 Caliber Machinegun defensive positions be built without overhead cover.

d. Organization: Omitted

e. Training:

(1) Subject: USMC Combined Action Platoon (CAP) Training

(a) Observation: Few artillery fire missions were requested by CAPs because team members were inexperienced and lacked confidence in the capability of artillery to support them.

(b) Evaluation: US Army forward observers conducted training in the adjustment of artillery fire for CAP teams. The observers remained overnight with the CAP teams and demonstrated with live fire the capabilities and limitations of artillery. Typical instruction consisted of a 2 hour lecture, 4 hours of service practice and continuous examples of ways to use artillery. The instructors emphasized rapid response against fleeting targets of opportunity, planning of defensive fires and the importance of reporting surveillance. Forward observers returned to each CAP element monthly to conduct additional classes and service practice. The results have been fruitful. Artillery units are now attacking enemy targets more frequently and with significant results. USMC CAPs are ideally located to detect and attack with artillery those targets otherwise too large to engage, or too fleeting to justify air strikes or gunships.

(c) Recommendations: That artillery units employ USMC CAP training assistance programs whenever possible.

f. Logistics: Omitted

g. Communications:

(1) Subject: Wire Communications

(a) Observation: Wire communication to the gun pits of a 8"/175mm gun battery normally work better on separate lines.

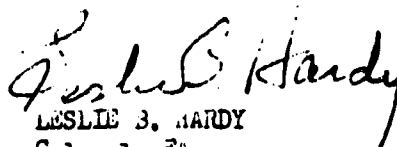
(b) Evaluation: One battery set up their "hot loops" by platoon. One loop to the 8" platoon and one to the 175mm platoon. The aiming circle was on both lines. Since 60% of the battery targets were attacked by one gun, the platoon hot loop was found to be impractical. By simply running separate lines to each gun and to the aiming circle, both sections were not alerted on all fire missions.

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(c) Recommendation: The 8"/175mm units use separate land lines to their gun pits.

h. Materiel: Omitted

i. Other: Omitted


LESLIE B. HARDY
Colonel, FA
Commanding

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4-5	Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOF-DT, APO 96558
6-8	Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVAGC-DST, APO 96374
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11-24	Commanding General, Americal Division, ATTN: AVDF-HL, APO 96374
25	CO, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, APO 96217
26	CO, 1st Battalion, 14th Artillery, APO 96219
27	CO, 3d Battalion, 16th Artillery, APO 96374
28	CO, 3d Battalion, 13th Artillery, APO 96374
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30	CO, 3d Battalion, 32d Artillery, APO 96256
31-35	File, Div Artv S-3

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AVDP-HL (15 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (Americal Division Artillery) (U)

DA, Headquarters, Americal Division, APO 96374 6 MAR 70

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

1. (U) Forwarded herewith is the subject report of the Americal Division Artillery for the period 1 Nov 69 - 31 Jan 70.

2. (C) This Headquarters concurs with observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication with one exception. The statement found in the first sentence of paragraph b, page 2, should read four main operations rather than five main operations.

FOR THE COMMANDER

R. M. Wolski CPT, AGC
for JOE JOYCE
CIT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (15 Feb 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Americal Division Artillery
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 15 MAR 1970

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970, from Headquarters, Americal Division Artillery and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



L. D. MURRAY
CPT, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
Americal Div ARTY
HQ Americal Div

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GPOP-DT (15 Feb 70) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, Americal Division Artillery for
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 MAR 1970

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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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)		4a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION
HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		CONFIDENTIAL
		5b. GROUP
		4
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, Americal Division Artillery		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)		
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, Americal Division Artillery		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
15 February 1970	15	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
a. PROJECT NO. N/A	701170	
c.	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A	OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		
13		

DD FORM 1473

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