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AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (5 Jun 68)

FOR OT RD 681068

10 June 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 8th Target Acquisition Battalion, 26th Artillery, Period Ending 31 January 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:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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This report, received at Hqs, Department of the Army without complete indorsements, is published as received to preclude further delay in benefits gained from the lessons learned herein.

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HEADQUARTERS & HEADQUARTERS BATTERY
8th TARGET ACQUISITION BATTALION, 26th ARTILLERY
APO 96238

AVGK-AC

1 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968
(WGNVTC)

TO: See Distribution

SECTION 1: SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. GENERAL. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 8th Target Acquisition Battalion, 26th Artillery, has the mission of providing survey information and control, ballistic meteorological data, counter-mortar and counter battery radar support for the II Corps Tactical Zone. To help accomplish this mission, six AN/MPQ-4A radar detachments have been attached. A list of all organic and attached sections is included as inclosure 1.

2. INTELLIGENCE. Intelligence data gathered by the organic or attached sections is disseminated to the supported units. This includes radar plots of mortar or rocket locations, information gathered by survey parties in the field, and met wind data.

3. OPERATIONS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES.

a. Plans. The deployment and movement of all organic and attached sections is controlled by CG, IIFORCEV Arty.

b. Operations. Recently there are two metro sections, six AN/MPQ-10A radar sections, three AN/MPQ-4A radar sections, and three survey sections operating throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone. During the period covered by this report, one AN/MPQ-10A radar was deployed from Dong Ha to An Khe, and one AN/MPQ-4A detachment was deployed from Qui Nhon to Phan Rang. The survey platoon established 36 4th order survey control points over approximately 250,000 meters of DME traverse.

c. Training. Mandatory training, to include section and individual, is conducted by all sections of this command as directed by this and higher headquarters. All personnel are engaged in actual operations which will keep them in a high state of training peculiar to their POS. Additional subjects stressed are safety, Geneva Convention, military justice, character guidance, and related command information subjects. Training is daily and the training cycle is continuous.

4. LOGISTICS. Support is provided by Qui Nhon Support Command, 554th Maintenance Co., 5th Maintenance Bn. Problems encountered during the reporting period were availability of expendable items for the meteorological sections (radiosondes and calcium hydride), equipment for the AN/MPQ-4A radar detachments, and failures of electronic distance measuring equipment (DME). Action has been taken by S-4, 41st Arty Gp and IIFORCEV Artillery to solve these problems.

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5. CIVIL AFFAIRS. The capabilities of this battery are limited as to civic action programs because of the wide dispersion of the organic and attached sections. Clothing and money are donated for the support of an orphanage. During the reporting period there were instances when travel to the orphanage was prohibited because of security.

6. PERSONNEL. A rotational hump caused critical personnel shortages during the month of December to the date of this report. School-trained radar operators (MOS 17B20) and radar mechanics (MOS 26B20) do not seem to be available. There is also a shortage of radar warrant officers (MOS 211A). Valid requisitions exist for these needed replacements.

7. A school was conducted for the training of ROK officers on radar sets AN/MPQ-4A, AN/FPS-4, and AN/TPS-33 during the period 18 Jan 68 - 1 Feb 68. Three students were trained on the AN/MPQ-4A counter-mortar radar and sent to the 237th FA Detachment (Radar) in the vicinity of Dak To for two weeks' on the job training. Seven students were trained on the AN/TPS-33 and AN/FPS-4 ground surveillance radars and sent to the 54th Radar Detachment at An Khe for two weeks' on the job training. As of the date of this report, the students are actively engaged in training.

SECTION 2: COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part 1, Observations (Lessons Learned)

1. Operations

a. ITM: Protection of Fourth Order (and higher) Survey Control Points (SCP)

DISCUSSION: Having to continue survey operations inland from survey control points established along the coastal areas of the II Corps Area, it has been noted that many third and fourth order SCP's were found moved, mutilated, or totally destroyed. Many of these SCP's, however, are located well within the confines of U.S., ARVN, and ROKV forces base camps. This is obviously due to a lack of information concerning the importance of using extreme care when working or driving near these monuments.

OBSERVATION: It is essential that commanders at all levels in all allied forces be informed that when these monuments are emplaced in secured areas of their respective areas of operation, they should be protected against damage and destruction. Descriptions of these monuments are published in the I Field Forces II Corps Trip List which is disseminated to using artillery and associated military organizations.

b. ITM: The use of steel strands found in wire, WD-I/TT as a field substitute for wire rope, FSN 4910-286-2766, used in recorder, RD-54, AN/MPQ-10A Radar.

DISCUSSION: (1) Misadjustments, defective components, and constant use through combat necessity may result in damage and consequent break to any of the wire ropes which position the stylus carriages.

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1 February 1968

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(2) Three of the steel strands found in field telephone wire, WD-I/TT, may be effectively used as an expedient replacement for the original wire.

(a) The wire, WD-I/TT, should be stripped to the approximate length desired. Remove three steel strands.

(b) The wire should be cut approximately one inch longer than the original wire. $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at either end will be used to pre-form the loop which attaches to the pulley.

(c) Carefully, maintaining a uniform twist throughout its length, fashion the three strands into one wire.

(d) Install the wire in accordance with the directions given in paragraph 104 of TM 11-5534.

OBSERVATION: This expedient produced excellent results when applied to the height servo system. In approximately two weeks of operation, height plots were produced with the same degree of fidelity as with the original wire.

2. Logistics

ITEM: Failure of power unit FU-26A/U for the AN/MTQ-10A Radar.

DISCUSSION: The frequency of the FU-26A/U power unit is determined by the engine speed. If the frequency is not correct, a governor adjustment is indicated. The engine speed governor is belt-driven from a pulley on the engine crankshaft. It is adjusted to maintain a constant engine speed of 1800 revolutions per minute. At 1800 rpm, 260 cycle output frequency is obtained.

OBSERVATION: Experience reveals that over 24 hour continuous operation of a FU-26A/U power unit with no time out for maintenance will cause the power unit to fail. This was evidenced when a radar section had to operate for 60 hours with no shut-down for maintenance, causing the spark plugs to carbonize and burn up. If a back-up power unit is not available, the section is out of action.

Part 2, Recommendations: None

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Charles B. Cochran
CHARLES B. COCHRAN
CPT, Artillery
Commanding

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AVCK-CO (1 Feb 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968
(WONYTO)

HEADQUARTERS, 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96368, 16 February 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

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1. The Operational Report, Lessons Learned from HMB, 8th TAB, 26th Artillery is approved and forwarded.

2. Reference Section 2, part 1, par 1: Elements attached to this headquarters have been advised to inform personnel of SCP monument locations and exercise care to preserve them.

MARHL L. WELCH
LTC, Artillery
Acting Commander

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ORGANIC AND ATTACHED SECTIONS

HQB, 8th TAB, 26th Arty

<u>SECTION</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>LOCATION (NEAREST TOWN)</u>
Headquarters	8/26	Qui Nhon
Metro - 1	Organic	Tuy Hoa
Metro - 2	Organic	Bong Son
<u>AN/MPQ-10A Radar:</u>		
Section - 1	Organic	An Khe
Section - 2	Organic	Nha Trang
Section - 3	Organic	Tuy Hoa
Section - 4	Organic	Pleiku
Section - 5	Organic	Phu Cat
Section - 6	Organic	Cam Ranh
<u>AN/MPQ-4A Radar:</u>		
241st FA Det	Attached	Qui Nhon
242nd FA Det	Attached	Qui Nhon
243rd FA Det	Attached	Qui Nhon
244th FA Det	Attached	Phan Rang
237th FA Det	Attached	Pleiku
77th FA Det	Attached	Dak To
Survey - 1	Organic	(Throughout
Survey - 2	Organic	II Corps Tactical
Survey - 3	Organic	Zone)

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