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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96383

30 April 1968

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AD 873668

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AVGF-VC

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RGSFOR-61(R1)

THRU: Commanding Officer
101st Division Artillery
ATTN: AVDG-DAC
APO 96383

(1)

Commanding General
101st Airborne Division
ATTN: AVDG-GC
APO 96383

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

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

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

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. During the period 31 January to 4 February, the Tet Offensive, Battery "A", working in the Song Be area, was credited with 70 confirmed KIA.

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During this same time frame, Platoon "B" of Battery "B", in support of Operation Muscatine north of Quang Ngai city, was credited with 125 confirmed enemy KIA.

b. On 5 February, two howitzers from Battery "A" were displaced by air lift from Song Be to Nha Be and were attached for operations to the 9th Infantry Division, supporting the 11th Battalion, 39th Infantry. Battery "A" (-) moved from Song Be to Phuoc Binh by road on the same date.

c. On 7 February, the 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery minus Battery "B", was attached to the 101st Airborne Division. Battery "B" remained attached to the Americal Division, operating one platoon from Fire Support Base Dragon in Mo Duc, supporting the 11th Infantry Brigade, and one platoon at FSB Dottle supporting Task Force Barker, in support of Operation Muscatine. The 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery remained assigned to the 23d Artillery Group, its mission was unchanged.

d. On 4 March, Battery "A" (-) at Phuoc Binh was air lifted to Phuoc Vinh and attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, in support of the 3d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

e. On 9 March, Battery "C" was attached to the 2d Brigade, 101st Airborne Division and displaced by road from LZ Jane to FSB Nola.

f. On 14 March, Headquarters and Service Battery began the move from Bien Hoa to the forward position area of the 101st Airborne Division Headquarters at Camp Eagle near Hue; the two batteries closed Camp Eagle on 16 March.

g. On 16 March, Battery "B" was attached to the 101st Airborne Division Artillery and began the road march to Phu Bai.

h. On 18 March, two howitzers of Battery "A" (-) at Phuoc Vinh were deployed to Loc Ninh to support the 5th Special Forces in conjunction with Operation Verdun.

i. On 18 March, Battery "C" was split and three howitzers moved by road from FSB Nola to FSB Geronimo.

j. On 19 March, Battery "B" completed the three day road march from Mo Duc to Camp Eagle.

k. On 20 March, Battery "B" moved to FSB Birmingham, reinforcing the fires of the 2d Battalion, 320th Artillery.

l. On 20 March, Battery "C" (-) moved from FSB Nola to LZ Sally.

m. On 22 March, one platoon of Battery "A" deployed from Loc Ninh to Dong Xoai to support Special Forces Operation Tamatta Shawnee.

n. On 28 March, with one hour notice, Battery "B" helilifted three

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howitzers from FSB Birmingham to FSB Bastogne in support of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division.

c. On 28 March, one howitzer from Battery "A" from Dong Xoai and two howitzers from Zha Be converged at Bunnard to support Special Forces Operation Rapid Fire VIII and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The remaining howitzers at Dong Xoai were air lifted to Phuoc Vinh.

p. On 4 April, Battery "A" (-) moved from LZ Sally back to LZ Jane.

q. On 11 April, Battery "C" (-) fired the first COFRAM round fired by this battalion.

r. On 14 April, Battery "C" (-) moved from LZ Jane to FSB Boyd in support of the 101st Airborne Division.

s. On 15 April, Battery "B" (-) displaced from FSB Birmingham to join the platoon at FSB Bastogne.

t. On 15 April, Battery C, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery was attached to the 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery.

u. On 18 April, Battery B, 6th Battalion, 3rd Artillery was placed under the operational control of this battalion and closed a position vicinity Camp Eagle.

v. Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery was positioned at FSB Sally. During the period 23 - 26 April, one platoon from Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery was positioned at FSB Vulture to support the 2d Squadron, 17th Cavalry on clearing operations north of Hue. The platoon returned to FSB Sally on 27 April.

w. Presently, Battery "A" is located at Phuoc Vinh. Their mission is general support of II Field Force Artillery, reinforcing the fires of the 2d Battalion, 319th Artillery, 101st Airborne Division. Battery "B" is located at FSB Bastogne; Battery "C" (-) at FSB Bastogne, and the first platoon of Battery "C" is located at FSB Geronimo. The Battalion minus retains the mission of general support of the 101st Airborne Division. Batteries have been given modified missions to reinforce the fires of particular direct support battalions of the Division Artillery as required by the tactical situation. Currently, the battalion is supporting both Operation Carentan II being conducted by the 101st Airborne Division east of FSB Bastogne, and Operation Delaware being conducted by the 101st Airborne Division and the 3d ARVN Airborne Brigade.

x. Organizational Structure. See Inclosure 1.

y. Number of days unit engaged in (1) Training - 0 (zero), (2) Troop Movement - 8 days, (3) Operations - 90 days.

z. No major difficulties were experienced during movement.

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aa. Effects of Logistical Support.

(1) Although this unit has moved to another location during the reporting period and is now supported by a different support activity, the anticipated problem of difficulty in obtaining repair parts and supplies has not occurred. This is due largely to not cancelling requisitions with support activities in the Long Binh area. At Long Binh a rear detachment receives supplies previously requisitioned and sends them to the forward location by air courier. This unit is also currently being supported by the DSO of the 101st Airborne Division and Task Force Lane of the 1st Log Command, which are co-located at Camp Eagle.

(2) Maintenance support during the reporting period has remained adequate.

(3) Difficulty is still being experienced in obtaining parts, i.e., spark plugs and points for the 1.5 KW generators. Parts for the 3 KW, 1000 cycle generator, i.e., stator (field wiring) remain extremely difficult to obtain. Two of the latter type generators have remained deadlined throughout the entire reporting period due to the lack of availability of the stator. The part has been on redical requisition for more than 90 days.

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

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) Operations of Divided Battery.

(a) Observation. Artillery units arriving in Vietnam as well as those already in country are not authorized sufficient equipment under current TOE's to operate in two or more widely separated firing positions.

(b) Evaluation. It has been a common occurrence for the firing batteries of this battalion to divide into two or more firing elements to provide desired coverage within areas of operation. This situation requires each of the separate firing elements to perform all those functions that are normally required of a battery at full TOE strength. The primary problem area lies within those common areas where personnel and equipment are adequate when the battery operates from a single firing position, but which has proven far from adequate when operating from more than one firing position. The common areas contain communication equipment, fire control equipment, mess equipment, and sufficient available officer personnel for command and fire control, as well as sufficient enlisted fire direction personnel to support the battery in a divided configuration on a twenty four hour basis. Requests for modified TOE's are slow to be realized. In the case of this battalion a modified TOE was

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requested more than a year ago. In the interim the battalion has functioned with firing batteries divided a good percentage of the time.

(c) Recommendation. That the test results of objective 3 (Artillery Survivability) Troop West Frontier Shield, USAREUR, Aug - Sep 1966, be re-evaluated and that these results and recommendations be re-evaluated with reference to the combat requirements presented to artillery units in the Republic of Vietnam.

(3) Training. None.

(4) Intelligence. None.

(5) Logistics.

(a) Commander's Observations. The current policy of cancelling requisitions due to relocation of a unit presents unnecessary resupply problems under the current system, CCSTAR.

(b) Evaluations. During the transition phase when a unit changes from one support activity to a new support activity, the unit, by policy, should be allowed to continue to receive supplies from the supply activity in the area departed, submit requisitions through the supply activity in the new area, and close the account with the former activity as soon as the new supply activity can provide for the needs of the unit.

(c) Recommendations. That an effective system be developed so that during the transition phase of a unit which must transfer from one supply activity to another, items are received by the displacing unit without the currently experienced delays.

(6) Organization. Reference item 2b above.

(7) Medical. Malaria.

(a) Commander's Observation. Incidence of malaria in this battalion has consisted of only one documented case in the last 17 month period.

(b) Evaluation. It is felt that this low incidence is due to the fact that personnel of this battalion are required to take the Dapsone tablet daily and the Chloroquine - Primaquine tablet weekly, regardless of the geographical area occupied within the Republic of Vietnam.

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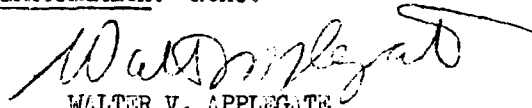
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(c) Recommendations. That all personnel within the Republic of Vietnam ingest both types of malaria tablets, regardless of geographical location within the Republic of Vietnam.

3. Section 3. DA Survey Information. None.

1 Incl
as



WALTER V. APPLGATE
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
2D BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96383

Inclosure 1 (Organizational Information) to Operational Report of 2d
Battalion, 11th Artillery for the Period Ending 30 April 1968,
RCRGTOR-65(R1).

1. Organic Units. 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery minus Battery "A"
(Battery "A" is currently attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery)
and minus the Meteorological Section (attached to the Medical Division).
2. Attached Units. Battery C, 6th Battalion, 16th Artillery (155mm,
towed).
3. Units Op Con. Battery B, 6th Battalion, 33d Artillery (105mm,
towed).

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