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AUTHORITY

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

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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (9 Aug 68)

FOR (19) OF RD-682326

26 August 1968

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 108th Artillery Group, ~~Regraded Ending 30 April 1968~~ (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

9 Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 30 Apr 68.

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 that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.
3. To insure that the information provided through the Lessons Learned Program is readily available on a continuous basis, a cumulative Lessons Learned Index containing alphabetical listings of items appearing in the reports is compiled and distributed periodically. Recipients of the attached report are encouraged to recommend items from it for inclusion in the Index by completing and returning the self-addressed form provided at the end of this report.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

11 30 Apr 68 1473

Kenneth G. Wickham

12 12 p.

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
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  - US Army Limited War Laboratory
  - US Army Logistics, Doctrine Systems & Readiness Agency
  - 2d Battalion, 138th Artillery
  - 108th Artillery Group

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# CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 108TH ARTILLERY GROUP  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96269

AVGL-C

30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 108th Artillery Group for Period  
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

THRU: Commanding General  
Provisional Corps Vietnam

TO: Sec Distribution

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. At the beginning of the reporting period the group remained assigned to Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, with operational control exercised by III Marine Amphibious Force (General Orders Number 5473, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, 26 October 1967). During the period the following changes in organization, control and missions occurred:

(1) On 1 February 1968, the United States Army Vietnam Support Company (Provisional) was assigned to the group for all purposes except operational control by General Orders Number 621, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 9 February 1968. Operational control of the unit was given to Headquarters, Military Assistance Command Vietnam (Forward). At the same time the First Platoon, Company A, 504th Military Police Battalion and the First Platoon, 552d Transportation Company (Car) were attached to the USARV Support Company (Provisional) by General Orders Number 622, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 9 February 1968.

(2) Battery F (Target Acquisition), 26th Artillery was activated on 5 February 1968 by General Orders number 80, Headquarters United States Army Pacific, dated 1 February 1968, and assigned to the 108th Artillery Group on the same day by General Orders Number 644, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 13 February 1968. The battery was to be organized using the personnel and equipment of Battery C, 2d Target Acquisition Battalion, 26th Artillery, previously attached to the group on 90 to 180 days temporary change of station from Fort Bragg, North Carolina. The organization of the battery was accomplished on 1 March by transferring to it from Battery C, 2d Target Acquisition Battalion, 26 Artillery those personnel not returning to the CONUS upon completion of their duty, and replacing the remainder with incoming pipeline personnel. Meanwhile, on 12 February, Battery C's designation was returned to its parent

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682326

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battalion at Fort Bragg by General Orders Number 119, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 12 February 1968.

(3) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 108th Artillery Group, was reorganized under MTOE 6-401E, USCONARC 2/68, effective 10 February 1968 by General Orders Number 87, Headquarters United States Army Pacific, dated 2 February 1968. The reorganization involved no change in personnel or equipment authorizations.

(4) General Orders Number 640, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 12 February 1968, as amended by General Orders Number 907, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 28 February 1968, confirmed the assignment of Battery G (Machine Gun), 65th Artillery to the group. The battery, which has been attached to the 1st Battalion, 44th Artillery throughout its existence, had been implicitly assigned to the group since 1 November 1967.

(5) The first COFRAM artillery mission to be fired by the United States Army in combat was fired on 12 February 1968 by Battery C, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery. The target was 40-50 North Vietnamese Army troops in the open at grid YD25757050. The mission was fired at 1400 hours using 54 rounds of 105mm COFRAM ammunition. The air observer indicated that the target was well covered but that he could not observe specific results. ARVN elements operating in the area shortly thereafter reported 14 KIA (body count) from artillery of unspecified types in the target area.

(6) The operational evaluation of the Visual Airborne Target Locator System (AN/UVS-1) was begun by the Army Concept Team in Vietnam on 15 February and continued throughout the reporting period.

(7) On 16 February an additional four-microphone, two-second sound ranging base was installed at Con Thien, oriented generally to the west into the DMZ. This base supplemented those previously established at Con Thien and Gio Linh, both of which were oriented generally north.

(8) The 6th Battalion (105mm)(T), 33rd Artillery was assigned to the group on 20 February 1968 by General Orders Number 867, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 26 February 1968. Arriving from Fort Carson, Colorado, the battalion was placed under the operational control of the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery.

(9) By Regimental Order 3000.23, 25 February 1968, the Commanding Officer, 12th Marine Regiment (3rd Marine Division), with the concurrence of the group commander, designated the 108th Artillery Group FDC as the alternate regimental FDC. Plans were prepared and communications installed to enable the group to assume this responsibility on order.

(10) The operational evaluation of the Acoustic Omnidirectional Mortar Locating System (AN/TNS-9) was begun by the Army Concept Team in Vietnam during February and was terminated on 2 April.

(11) On 10 March 1968 the United States Army Vietnam Support Company (Provisional) was redesignated Headquarters Company, Provisional Corps Vietnam by General Orders Number 1033, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 9 March 1968. The company was then reassigned from the 108th Artillery Group to Headquarters United States Army Vietnam effective 10 March 1968, by General Orders Number 1051, Headquarters United States Army Vietnam, dated 9 March 1968.

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(C) (12) OPLAN 1-68, Headquarters Provisional Corps Vietnam, dated 19 March 1968 (Operation PEGASUS), assigned the group a mission of general support of Provisional Corps Vietnam, reinforcing the fires of the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, the 12th Marines (3d Marine Division), and the 101st Airborne Division Artillery. This mission became effective 1 April 1968. Concurrently, by OPOW 2-68, dated 26 March 1968, the group assigned new missions to its battalions to effectively perform the group's newly assigned mission.

(13) The Artillery Commander, Provisional Corps Vietnam, assumed operational control of the group from III Marine Amphibious force effective 12 April. This was confirmed by Provisional Corps Vietnam message 00896, 130813Z April 1968.

(C) (14) OPLAN 3-68, Headquarters Provisional Corps Vietnam, dated 15 April 1968 (Operation Delaware), assigned the group a mission of general support of Provisional Corps Vietnam, reinforcing the fires of the 12th Marines (3rd Marine Division), the 1st Cavalry Division Artillery, and 101st Airborne Division Artillery, and to provide a Battalion Task Force Headquarters with one 175mm gun battery to control 175mm gun fires into the A Shau Valley. This mission became effective 18 April 1968. In fulfillment of this mission the group issued its OPOW 3-68, dated 16 April 1968, assigning its elements appropriate combat missions.

(15) The following total missions and rounds were fired by field artillery units of the group for the reporting period:

| FEBRUARY 1968 |                      |            |             |             |
|---------------|----------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|               | <u>1/40</u>          | <u>8/4</u> | <u>2/94</u> | <u>6/33</u> |
| MISSIONS:     | 3807                 | 1835       | 1604        | 284         |
| ROUNDS:       | 33648                | 4947       | 10924       | 865         |
|               | TOTAL MISSIONS: 7530 |            |             |             |
|               | TOTAL ROUNDS: 52384  |            |             |             |
| MARCH 1968    |                      |            |             |             |
|               | <u>1/40</u>          | <u>8/4</u> | <u>2/94</u> | <u>6/33</u> |
| MISSIONS:     | 4191                 | 1915       | 2183        | 1265        |
| ROUNDS:       | 23893                | 7094       | 11647       | 18060       |
|               | TOTAL MISSIONS: 9554 |            |             |             |
|               | TOTAL ROUNDS: 60694  |            |             |             |
| APRIL 1968    |                      |            |             |             |
|               | <u>1/40</u>          | <u>8/4</u> | <u>2/94</u> | <u>6/33</u> |
| MISSIONS:     | 2558                 | 2807       | 1564        | 2242        |
| ROUNDS:       | 23760                | 9086       | 8075        | 24934       |
|               | TOTAL MISSIONS: 8571 |            |             |             |
|               | TOTAL ROUNDS: 65855  |            |             |             |

(16) rounds fired by the field artillery elements of the group since the group became operational in Vietnam on 1 November 1967 total 311,464 rounds.

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b. Inclosure 1 reflects the current organizational status of the group.

c. The group headquarters was continuously engaged in combat operations on a daily 24-hour basis throughout the reporting period. Section training and required unit training was performed as prescribed by USARV Reg 350-1. The group headquarters made no displacement during the reporting period.

d. Administrative Activities.

(1) An active MEDCAP program was conducted by the group headquarters in the hamlets of Vinh Dai and Thiet Trang. In close cooperation with the S-5 of the 2nd Bn, 12th Marines, over 200 villagers were given medical aid. Immunization against smallpox and plague is being accomplished at present and represents an immediate goal. Water wells are being constructed to improve the health and sanitation of the local population. In addition, medical care is being provided to approximately 25 Christian orphans in Quang Tri. These activities are in addition to the civic action projects of the group's subordinate units.

(2) Logistics.

(a) Class I and III: Class I and III supplies continue to be drawn from PLSG-B of the Force Logistics Command (USMC). Support has been generally excellent.

(b) Class II and IV: Until 31 March 1968, this command received its class II and IV support from Da Nang Sub-Area Command through Task Force Slawson located at Dong Ha. Except for artillery maintenance, which has been generally good, support in this area was maintained at a barely minimal level until early February when, with the sudden influx of additional Army combat units into the northern ICTZ, it virtually ceased. On 31 March, the 26th General Support Group, newly established at Quang Tri, assumed the responsibility for providing these classes of supplies, and support has shown a gradual but steady improvement.

(c) Class V: Class V is supplied by the US Army Support Command, Da Nang, through the ASF at Dong Ha. Because of heavy enemy activity along Route 9 from Dong Ha to Camp JJ Carroll and Thon Son Lam, and along Route 1 between Dong Ha and Dyemarker position CL, there have been periodic difficulties in the normal resupply of units at these locations by land convoy. In each case resupply by air has been successfully accomplished.

(3) Personnel.

(a) With the assignment of additional units and additional personnel, the group's administrative requirements increased considerably. Although the administrative section is not staffed by TO&E to perform the duties of a major command, the operations continued by adding personnel withdrawn from subordinate units to assist in such functions as personnel assignments, replacements, requisitions, rotation, infusion, R&R, strength accounting, casualty reporting, and awards and decorations. Also during this period members of Provisional Corps Vietnam were carried on the group headquarters and headquarters battery morning report. A proposed MTO&E for the group headquarters and headquarters battery was submitted on 2 December 1967 to provide the additional personnel and equipment to



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support these additional operations, but had not been approved at the end of this period.

(b) An infusion program to reduce the rotation hump for the 6th Battalion, 33d Artillery was initiated in April.

(c) During the reporting period the group sustained 17 KIA and 167 WIA.

(d) At the close of the reporting period the authorized and assigned strengths of the group and its attachments were as follows:

|       | <u>OFF</u> | <u>WO</u> | <u>EM</u> | <u>TOTAL</u> |
|-------|------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|
| AUTH: | 214        | 29        | 3226      | 3509         |
| ASGD: | 228        | 22        | 3374      | 3624         |

(e) In addition to supporting its assigned strength, the group provided administrative support to a 6-man counterbattery intelligence detachment, a 4-man dental detachment, a 5-man postal detachment, and a 20-man VATLS detachment.

(f) Distinguished visitors to the group headquarters since 1 February 1968 included the following:

GEN Harold K Johnson (USA), COSA (19 Apr 68)  
 LTG William B Rosson (USA), CG PCV (13 Mar 68)  
 BG Lawrence T Caruthers (USA), PCV Arty (18 Feb, 19 Apr, 20 Apr and 26 Apr 68)  
 BG Truong (ARVN), CG 1st ARVN Div (13 Mar 68)

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

a. Personnel: NONE

b. Operations:

(1) Lack of Helicopter Support

(a) OBSERVATION. The lack of aviation capability within the group or helicopter support from outside the group has severely limited the group's command and control capabilities:

(b) EVALUATION. The group and its assigned units are authorized eight aircraft and nine aviators by currently approved MTOE. The group has none of either. The group has had no success in obtaining recurring helicopter support from higher headquarters. The group has units dispersed from Khe Sanh in the north west of the DMZ to below Da Nang in the south, a distance of approximately 110 miles by existing roads. Due to frequent enemy actions, these roads are closed to US military vehicles a considerable percentage of the time. The complete lack of helicopter support places severe restriction upon the effective control exercised by the group commander and his staff over the five assigned battalions, their attached units, and the assigned target acquisition.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That a minimum of one utility or two observation helicopters each day be provided for use by the group.

## c. Training

(1) 8" Howitzer and 175mm gun (SP) training.

(a) OBSERVATION. Personnel of 8" and 175mm gun battalions must develop a proficiency in the operation of both weapons. Basic fire direction equipment should be available for both weapons.

(b) EVALUATION. In the event of retubing from one caliber to the other, both FDC and firing battery personnel must be immediately responsive to the new weapon. The retubing process consists merely of replacing one caliber of tube with the other on the same carriage, which can be accomplished within a few hours. Retubing may come with little or no advance notice and leaves no time for training with the new caliber.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That both 8" and 175mm gun battalions train their personnel in the firing and maintenance of both calibers, and that the basic firing equipment for both weapons be maintained within the units.

d. Intelligence: NONE

e. Logistics: NONE

## f. Organization.

(1) Expansion of Group's Liaison Section.

(a) OBSERVATION. The one Liaison Section presently authorized the group headquarters is not sufficient to meet tactical requirements.

(b) EVALUATION. Under the present TOE 6-401E, only one Liaison Section is authorized. The group frequently supports the fires of three separate divisions scattered over large geographical areas. At least three Liaison Sections are needed at group level to support these wide spread missions, MTOE 6-401G, standard field artillery group headquarters and headquarters battery, provides the required three Liaison Sections. This MTOE has been submitted by USARV to DA for approval, but approval is still pending.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That MTOE 6-401G be approved and implemented without further delay.

1 Incl  
Organization Chart

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

## DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 CINCUSARPAC  
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PCV Arty, ATTN AVII-AT  
APO San Francisco 96308

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AVII-AT (22 May 68) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 108th Artillery Group for Period Ending  
30 April 1968, RCS CSPOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, CORPS ARTILLERY (PROVISIONAL) VIETNAM, APO 96308

TO: Commanding General, Provisional Corps Vietnam, APO 96308

1. (U) The Operational Report-Lessons Learned of the 108th Artillery Group for the period ending 30 April 1968 is forwarded herewith in compliance with PCV Reg 525-2.

2. (C) During the report period 108th Artillery Group has participated in the development, testing and initial combat use of an unusually large number of experimental devices:

a. The first COFRAM artillery mission to be fired by the US Army in combat was fired by Battery C, 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery on 12 Feb 68.

b. The operational evaluation of the Visual Airborne Target Locator System (AN/UVS-1) was initiated on 15 February 1968 and is still being evaluated.


c. The operational evaluation of the Acoustic Omnidirectional Mortar Locating System (AN/TNS-9) was completed on 2 April 1968.

3. (C) Comments on commanders recommendation:

a. Reference item concerning lack of helicopter support, page 5, par 2b(1). Concur in principle. Sufficient assets are not available at this level to provide the required aircraft support. A similar problem exists at this level since no corps artillery aviation battery was activated for PCV Artillery. Corps Artillery (Provisional) Vietnam ORLL recommends that each corps artillery headquarters be provided with a corps artillery aviation battery.

b. Reference item concerning 8" howitzer and 175mm gun (SP) training, page 6, par 2c(1). Concur. The ability to change from one caliber to the other with adequately trained firing battery and FDC personnel added substantially to the flexibility of heavy artillery fire support in PCV particularly during Operations PEGASUS and DELAWARE.

c. Reference item concerning Expansion of Group Liaison section, page 6, par 2f(1). Concur. The nature of the tasks assigned to field artillery group headquarters in Vietnam involves supporting several major formations operating in different areas and in different directions. The group must be able to establish liaison with a minimum of 3 such formations. Further recommend that action be taken to expedite implementation of the MTOE-6-401G which will provide the additional liaison personnel necessary to meet tactical requirements.

  
L.H. CARUTHERS JR  
BG, USA  
Artillery Officer

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AVII-GCT (22 May 68) 2d Ind

PAJ Sanderson/jas/2506

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 108th Artillery Group, for Period  
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HQ, PCV, APO San Francisco 96308 29 June 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375.

1. (U) The inclosed ORLL, 108th Arty Group, is forwarded IAW USARV Rcp 525-15.
2. (U) Comment on Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities. A correction should be made on page 4, para 1d(2)(a) to change Fleet Logistics Command (US Navy) to read Force Logistics Command (USMC).
3. (C) Comments on Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations, are listed below:

a. Item: Lack of helicopter support, page 5, para 2h(1) and 1st Ind, para 2a. Concur that additional aviation assets are required. HQ, PCV is preparing for submission to HQ, USARV, a request to augment the PCV Aviation Co with additional aircraft specifically for support of Corps Arty. When the requested additional aircraft become available, the Corps Arty Commander will then have sufficient assets to adequately support subordinate units, e.g. 108th Arty Group. The need for helicopter support has become so critical that 1st Cav Div (MI), 101st Abn Div and 3d Mar Div have been tasked to provide one helicopter a week to CO, 108th Arty Group. (Note: HQ, Corps Arty helicopter support remains solely from PCV Aviation Co assets.) The borrowed division helicopters are an interim measure of marginal benefit to 108th Arty Group. The lack of helicopter support is unique to this Corps, since there is no aviation in general support.

b. Item: 8" Howitzer and 175mm Gun (SF) training, page 6, para 2c(1) and 1st Ind, para 3b. Concur. Recommend this information be provided to all 8" and 175mm units in Vietnam and to USAAMS, Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

c. Item: Expansion of Group's Liaison Section, page 6, para 2f(1) and 1st Ind, para 3c. Concur.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*R. L. Nurdin*  
R. L. NURDIN  
MAJ, AGC  
Asst AG

Cy furn:

CG, PCV Arty  
CO, 108th Arty Gp

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AVHGC-DST (30 Apr 68) 3d Ind (C) CPT Arnold/dls/LBN 4485  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 108th Artillery Group for Period  
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 11 JUL 1968

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 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 108th Artillery Group.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning lack of helicopter support, page 5, paragraph 2b(1); 1st Indorsement, paragraph 3a; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 3a: Concur. DA policy, however, established in DA Confidential message 763149 ACSFOR Avn, subj: Aviation Units for RVN, established a moratorium on providing aircraft and aviators to combat support and combat service support units deploying to RVN with aviation section authorized but not filled. This headquarters has received information indicating that aircraft are programmed for these units at a later date. Current aviation assets are being utilized to fill existing authorizations.

b. Reference is made to item concerning expansion of the 108th Artillery Group liaison section, page 6, paragraph 2f(1); 1st Indorsement, paragraph 3c; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 3c. MTOE 6-401G was submitted in December 1967 as part of Phase II Standardization but has not yet been approved. The MTOE as submitted, contained an authorization for three liaison sections in the group headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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

Cy furn:  
HQ 108th Arty Gp  
HQ PCV

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GPOP-DT (30 Apr 68) 4th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 108th Arty Gp for Period Ending  
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 AUG 1968

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

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.
2. Reference 3d Indorsement, paragraph 2b: MTOE 6-401G was submitted directly to DA from USARV in December 1967 as part of the Phase II Standardization. To this date this headquarters has not received any approval documents for units in this standardization.

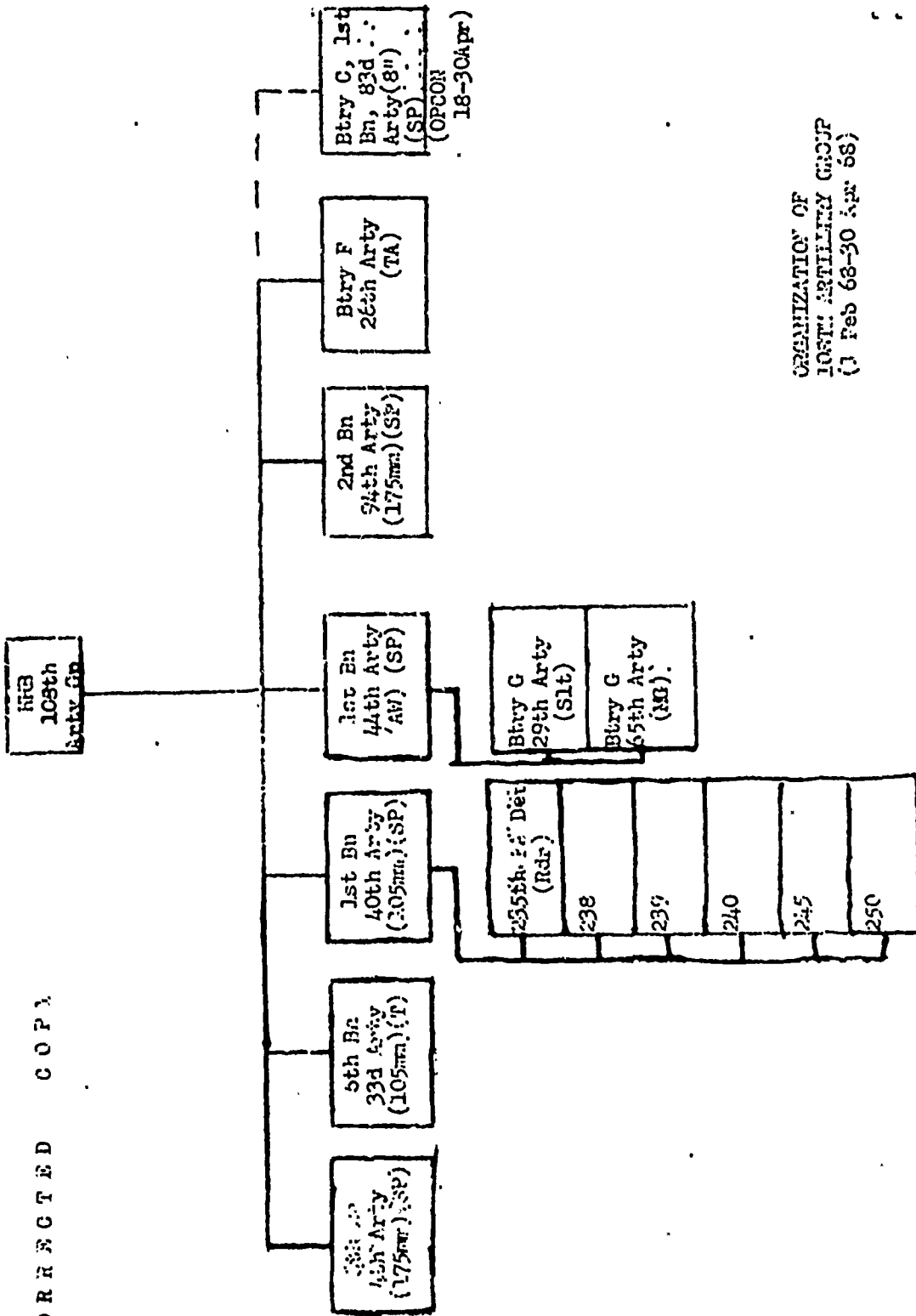
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
C.I. SHORT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

Cy furn:  
CG USARV

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ORGANIZATION OF  
108TH ARTILLERY GROUP  
(1 Feb 68-30 Apr 68)

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Security Classification

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| 3. REPORT TITLE  |  | 2b. GROUP   |                 |
| Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hq, 108th Artillery Group (U)            |  | 4   |                 |
| 4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)                      |  |   |                 |
| Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb - 30 Apr 68 |  |   |                 |
| 5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)                           |  |   |                 |
| CO, 108th Artillery Group  |  |   |                 |
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15 The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Lessons Learned Index:

ITEM 1

\* SUBJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_

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