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AUTHORITY

U per DoD5200.1 dtd 31 Dec 1982; ST-A per OAG, D/A ltr dtd 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) (7 May 70)

FOR OT UT 701257

19 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 108th
Artillery Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

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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
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 108th Artillery Group
APO San Francisco 96269

AVGL-C

15 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 108th Artillery Group for the period ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

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1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.

a. The Group remained assigned to United States Army Vietnam, with operational control exercised by XXIV Corps. Group Headquarters remained located at Dong Ha Combat Base (YD 226 583). Inclosure 1 reflects organizational status at the end of the reporting period.

b. The 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery (105 SP) was inactivated under Keystone Cardinal. The Headquarters redeployed on 19 November 1969 to Fort Lewis, Washington for inactivation. Stand down and inactivation dates for the firing batteries were as follows:

<u>Battery</u>	<u>Stand Down</u>	<u>Inactivated</u>
A	5 November 1969	6 November 1969
B	9 November 1969	10 November 1969
C	7 November 1969	8 November 1969

c. Aerial observers flew 256 missions for 499.2 hours and conducted 40 fire missions. The decrease in all categories from the last reporting period is due to the winter monsoon period.

d. The following total missions and rounds were fired by the field artillery units of the Group:

		NOVEMBER 1969			
		8/4	6/33	1/40	2/94
MISSIONS	2360	1403	618	1730	Total 6,111
ROUNDS	12,389	17,209	8,728	7,262	Total 45,588

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DECEMBER 1969

	8/4	6/33	2/94	
MISSIONS	1970	1795	1849	Total 5,614
ROUNDS	10,370	16,344	8,382	Total 35,096

JANUARY 1970

	8/4	6/33	2/94	
MISSIONS	2420	1944	2108	Total 6,472
ROUNDS	10,649	16,638	9059	Total 36,076

e. The total number of rounds fired by the field artillery units of the Group since the Group became operational in Vietnam on 1 November 1967 is 1,463,789.

f. The aviation assets of all assigned battalions remained consolidated in a Group Aviation Section which supported the Group Headquarters and all subordinate units throughout the reporting period. During the reporting period, the section turned in 4 OH-23G's and 4 OH-6A's and received 4 OH-58A's. At the end of the period the section was composed of 4 OH-58A's, 2 OH-23G's and 1 OH-6A. Total sorties, passengers, aircraft availability, flight hours, and aircraft accidents are as follows.

(1) Sorties	5,512
(2) Passengers	4,623
(3) Aircraft availability	72%
(4) Flight Hours	1,438
(5) Aircraft Accidents	1

g. Two Integrated Observation Systems (IOS), which were received by the Group on 3 October 1969, and became operational on 4 October 1969, are still in a test and evaluation status and are proving to be a definite asset to the Group's target acquisition capability.

h. Changes incorporated in the personnel field have produced favorable results.

(1) Reenlistment

(a) Since command emphasis on the reenlistment program was increased in

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the 108th Artillery Group, the reenlistment statistics have shown an increase.

(b) The progress of the reenlistment program in the area of 1st term AUS reenlistments during the months of November through January increased from 10 to 11. 100% of RA career eligibles were reenlisted.

(2) Discipline, Law and Order

(a) The following legal actions were processed during the reporting period.

- 1. BCD Special Courts-Martial----- 2
- 2. Special Courts-Martial-----11
- 3. Article 15's-----105
- 4. AR 635-200-----1
- 5. AR 635-212-----4
- 6. Line of Duty Determinations-----2

(b) The following actions were being processed at the end of the reporting period.

- 1. General Courts-martial-----1
- 2. Special Courts-martial-----5
- 3. AR 635-212-----1
- 4. Article 15's-----5
- 5. Line of Duty Determination-----1

(3) Education and Information:

(a) With the establishment of the Education Office last quarter, the number of personnel provided assistance has increased significantly.

- 1. GED examinations completed-----75
- 2. High School Achievements Tests administered---100
- 3. Correspondence courses initiated----210
- 4. Hope for Education Program -----70

(b) In January, college level courses in Business Law, English Composition and American Literature were offered to the members of the 108th Artillery Group. At present, the only course being conducted is Business Law, with an enrollment of 9 students.

(4) Awards and Decorations

(a) The following awards have been submitted to USARV since 1 November 1969:

- 1. Legion of Merit-----5
- 2. Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry-----10

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3. Silver Star -----	6
4. Soldiers Medal -----	0
5. Bronze Star -----	245
6. ARCCM -----	517
7. Air Medal -----	24
8. Purple Heart -----	43
9. Certificates of Achievement -----	204
TOTAL AWARDS AND DECORATIONS -----	1052

(5) Personnel

(a) Strength:

1. The Group experienced an increase in strength during this reporting period due to the redeployment and subsequent deactivation of the 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery. Many officers, warrant officers, and enlisted men were reassigned within the 108th Artillery Group to alleviate critical shortages. A comparison of assigned personnel strengths at the beginning and end of the reporting period follows:

1 November 1969	Authorized	Assigned
Officers:	241	229
Warrant Officers:	38	22
Enlisted:	3299	3044
TOTAL:	3578	3295

31 January 1970	Authorized	Assigned
Officers:	186	204
Warrant Officers:	29	26
Enlisted:	2733	2602
TOTAL:	2948	2832

(2) The following critical MOS shortages exist within the 108th Artillery Group:

- (a) 05B20 Radio Operator
- (b) 13E40 FA Ops Intell
- (c) 16F10 Auto Wpms Specialist
- (d) 16F20 Auto Wpms Specialist
- (e) 17B40 FA Radar Crewman
- (f) 17E30 Fld Illus Crewmen
- (g) 36K20 Fld Wireman
- (h) 63C40 Gen Motor Maint
- (i) 63F20 Recovery Specialist
- (j) 71T20 Maint Data Specialist

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(b) Casualties: During the reporting period the 108th Artillery Group Casualties were:

	NOV	DEC	JAN
1. KIA:	2	0	0
2. WIA:	9	2	1
3. MIA:	0	0	0

(6) Distinguished Visitors:

1. The following distinguished visitors visited the 108th Artillery Group:

DATE	NAME	ORGANIZATION	REASON	BRIEFING
25 Nov 69	Col Hixon	CO, XXIV CORPS ARTY	Briefing	CO, S1, 2, 3, 4
14 Dec 69	MG Truong	CG 1st ARVN Div	"	" " " " "
22 Dec 69	BG Burke	CG, 1st Bde, 5th Mech	"	" " " " "
7 Jan 70	MG Wright	CG, 101st ABN Div	"	" " " " "

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

a. Personnel. None

b. Intelligence. None

c. Operations.

(1) Target Scheduling for Artillery Raids

(a) OBSERVATION: The requirement to engage a large number of targets during the limited period of time encompassed by artillery raids presents a planning problem to heavy artillery units.

(b) EVALUATION: If targets are scheduled without regard to azimuth of lay or in a progressive pattern, heavy artillery units may spend more time re-laying their pieces than actually engaging targets. In addition, when employing aerial rocket artillery (ARA), on targets from a target list, it was found that ARA spent 75% of its time attempting to identify targets.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Target lists assigned for artillery raids by heavy artillery units should be programmed in blocks of targets which include all targets within traverse limits of a single azimuth of lay. This would enable these units to engage one block of targets rapidly and then re-lay to engage the next block. This procedure would significantly increase the number of targets engaged by ARA by providing them a block of targets which is not being engaged by tube artillery during that particular time frame. Fire support and air space coordination will be facilitated by this method of fire planning.

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(2) Teaming of automatic weapons, night observation devices and searchlights.

(a) **OBSERVATION:** During recent artillery raids and at some FSB's, automatic weapons, night observation devices (NOD) and searchlights achieved excellent results when teamed together.

(b) **EVALUATION:** The definition and field of vision of the NOD is greatly enhanced when scanning in areas where a searchlight is operating in the infra-red mode. The NOD, in conjunction with a searchlight, constantly scans its assigned sector. Upon target detection, the Duster or Quad 50 crew is informed of the azimuth and estimated range. The Duster is reciprocally laid with the NOD and searchlight. The AW crew sets off their data, commands the searchlight to go to white light, and brings fire to bear on the target. Care must be exercised to insure that the NOD is turned off prior to visible light illuminating the target.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** That AW's, NOD's and searchlights be teamed together where feasible.

(3) Reduction of fuse setter corrosion.

(a) **OBSERVATION.** Rust and corrosion form rapidly on equipment such as M-26 and M-28 fuse setters.

(b) **EVALUATION:** Maintenance of M-26 and M-28 fuse setters and like items can be reduced by placing desiccant from a PD fuse box in the fuse setter case. The desiccant reduces rust and corrosion by absorbing moisture and can easily be replaced, as necessary, since a ready supply is available in fuse containers.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION.** That desiccant from PD fuse boxes be placed in M-26 and M-28 fuse setter boxes to minimize rust and corrosion.

d. **Organization.** None

e. **Training**

(1) **Reconnaissance, Selection and Occupation of Position Area (RSOP) Training.**

(a) **OBSERVATION.** Proficiency in standard RSOP procedures must be maintained by all field artillerymen.

(b) **DISCUSSION.** During moves by heavy artillery batteries that occupied permanent firing positions for long periods of time, it has been noticed that key individuals lost proficiency in RSOP procedures.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION.** That, where possible, battery moves be conducted often enough to maintain proficiency or, when this is not feasible, that classes be conducted on basic RSOP procedures.

f. **Logistics.**

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SUBJECT: ORLL

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(1) Construction of Underground Bunkers

(a) OBSERVATION: Many tar papered underground bunkers are found to be inadequately waterproofed.

(b) DISCUSSION: Bunkers which are constructed underground with flat roofs very often provide poor weather protection during wet weather conditions despite complete tar paper covering. Regardless of depth, a flat roof with tar paper does not provide required waterproofing.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Underground bunkers should be constructed with sloped roofs. Moreover, membrane should be used as a standard covering for bunker roofs.

g. Communications. None

h. Material. None

i. Other. None

Milton E. Key
MILTON E. KEY
COL, FA
Commanding

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as

Incl wd HQ DA

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- 4 CG, XXIV Corps, ATTN: AVII-GCT
- 5 CG, XXIV Corps Arty, ATTN: AVII-ATC

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AVII-ATC (15 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 108th Artillery Group
for the Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

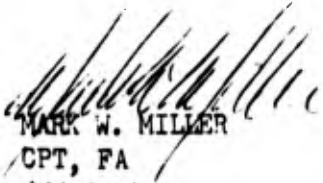
DA, HQ, XXIV Corps Artillery, APO San Francisco 96308

TO: Commanding General, XXIV Corps, ATTN: AVII-GCT, APO San Francisco
96308

1. (U) The ORLL of the 108th Artillery Group is forwarded in accordance with USARV Reg 525-15.
2. (U) This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs. Additional comments are given below.
3. (C) Reference paragraph 1h(5)(a)1, page 4. The first sentence is clarified as follows. Many of the personnel who had formerly been assigned to the 1st Battalion, 40th Artillery were reassigned within the 108th Artillery Group when the battalion was redeployed. This resulted in an increase in the assigned strengths and the percentage of personnel fill in the remaining 108th Artillery Group units.
4. (U) Reference paragraph 2c(1), page 5. This method of scheduling has been adopted by all heavy artillery units in XXIV Corps Artillery for use during artillery raids. Recommend this information be disseminated to other heavy artillery units in USARV.
5. (C) Reference paragraph 2c(2), page 6. This method of coordinating searchlights and automatic weapons is in the process of being implemented at feasible locations in the XXIV Corps AO.
6. (U) Reference paragraph 2c(3). This information will be disseminated to all artillery units with the Corps via information letter.
7. (C) Reference paragraph 2e(1), page 6. Participation in frequent artillery raids has also contributed significantly to the proficiency of many Corps Artillery units in RSOP techniques. RSOP training is emphasized to insure that all Corps Artillery units maintain the capability to conduct raids on short notice.
8. (U) Reference paragraph 2f(1), page 7. Although the technique of construction now in use is supposed to provide adequate waterproofing, experience has shown that this is not the case. The recommended method of construction provides superior results with minimal additional cost and construction effort.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

8


MARK W. MILLER
CPT, FA
Adjutant

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AVII-GCT (15 Feb 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 108th Artillery Group
for Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ, XXIV Corps, APO San Francisco 96349

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

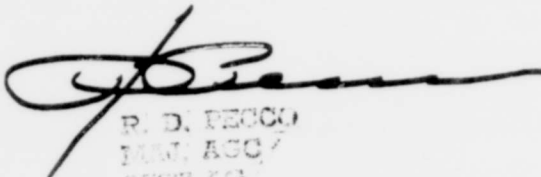
1. The ORLL of the 108th Artillery Group has been reviewed at this headquarters and is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.

2. Except as noted below, this headquarters concurs with the report.

a. Reference paragraph 2c (1), page 5. ARA should be utilized on targets of opportunity prior to the insertion of tube artillery and up until the time the tube artillery is layed and ready to fire. Artillery should be employed on a block of targets which can be engaged on a single azimuth of lay and ARA should be utilized to cover dead spaces for tube artillery, whether it be dead space due to lay of weapons or due to maximum range capability.

b. Reference paragraph 2f (1) (c), page 7. Nonconcur with recommendation in reference paragraph. Proper construction techniques with tarpaper, optional sloping of bunker roofs, and optimal use of available excess membrane will provide required water proofing.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. D. PECCO
MAJ. ACC
FIRST AG

AVHGC-DST (15 Feb 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 108th Artillery Group
for the period ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375

01 APR 1970

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 108th Artillery Group and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Reference item concerning "Construction of Underground Bunkers", page 7, paragraph f(1): concur. The amount of water reaching the roof structure of an underground bunker depends on the porosity, thickness, and shape of the soil cover as well as the amount of rainfall. Sloping the roof structure is helpful if conditions are severe enough to produce a flow of water beneath the soil cover. For soil not completely saturated, capillary action is a predominant effect and is relatively independent of gravity and hence relatively independent of roof slope. For saturated soil free flow occurs, and a sloping roof is advantageous. Only a simple design modification is required and will be included in future designs. Note that sloping and compacting the upper surface of the soil cover can be very effective in reducing water absorption. Membrane is useful in preventing seepage whether or not the water is free flowing. It is, however, not the only solution. Asphalt and corrugated metal sheets are some of the alternatives. If properly sealed, tar paper should do the job. However the report of its ineffectiveness will cause the Engineer Command to consider carefully the alternatives before using it in future designs. Membrane is not free of problems. It tears, mildews, and deteriorates. The Engineer Command believes that it is useful but that it is not sufficiently effective to incorporate it as standard for all designs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


L. D. MURRAY

CPT, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
HQ, XXIV Corps
108th Arty Gp

GPOP-DT (15 Feb 70) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operation 1 Report of HQ 108th Artillery Group for Period Ending
31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 7 APR 1970

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

This headquarters concurs in subject as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. I. SHORT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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