

MENTIONS A 1/30

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION (AIRMOBILE) 19TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96490

AVDAAR-A

1 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned

Commanding Officer
1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Airmobile)
ATTN: S-3
APO SF 96490

1. Reference: Letter, AVDAAR-T, HQ, 1st Cav Div (AM), subject: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, dtd 16 December 1969. The following report is submitted:

2. Section I: Operations

a. Significant Activities

(1) During the period 1-31 March 1970, this unit continued its mission of direct support to the 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (AM). The 1st Brigade continued "Operation Toan Thang III" in AO Kentucky Copper in the northern portion of Tay Ninh Province. The reporting period was characterized by a large scale ground attack on one FSB and a slight increase in enemy indirect attacks on Fire Support Bases.

(2) On 2 March B/1/77 Arty and A/1/30P were helilifted from FSB Annie to a new FSB designated FSB Heather (XT255926) and continued support of the 2/8 Cavalry and General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM) respectively. Three howitzers of ARVN 1A46 battery were helilifted from FSB Ike to FSB Sandra.

(3) On 3 March ARVN B1 battery helilifted 2 105's from FSB Sandra to FSB Ann and ARVN A1 battery helilifted 2 105's from FSB Christine to FSB Ann. These four tubes were designated D1 and were displaced to support ARVN Abn operations to the West and Southwest of FSB Ann.

(4) On 5 March B/1/77 Arty was helilifted from FSB Heather to a new FSB designated FSB Victor (XT164922) and continued to support 2/8 Cav. A/1/30P helilifted three tubes from FSB Heather to FSB Ann and continued its mission of General Support to 1st Cav Div (AM). ARVN C1 battery helilifted 4 tubes to new FSB designated FSB Jay (XT0387510). The remaining two tubes of C1 battery were helilifted to FSB Ann and the two tubes from ARVN A1 battery were returned to FSB Christine.

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Ann, and support ARVN Abn operations to the West of highway QL-22.

(5) On 8 March B/1/77 Arty was helilifted from FSB Victor to a new FSB designated FSB Flashner (XT225926) and continued to support the 2/8 Cav.

(6) On 9 March ARVN A1 battery helilifted from FSB Christine to FSB Beverly (XT329901).

(7) On 10 March B/2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Jamie to FSB Joe (Minh Thanh) and continued to support the 2/7 Cav Opon 11th ACR. A/1/30 Arty's three tubes were helilifted from FSB Ann to FSB Flashner to provide additional artillery support to the 2/8 Cav and continue its mission of General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM). The organic Q4 Countermortar Radar was helilifted from FSB Jamie to FSB Ann.

(8) On 11 March ARVN 2A46 battery helilifted its three 155's from FSB Carolyn to FSB Ann. A/2/32 Arty road marched two 175' from FSB St. Barbara to FSB Carolyn and the two 8" howitzers road marched from FSB Carolyn to FSB Beverly.

(9) On 13 March B/1/77 Arty and A/1/30F were helilifted from FSB Flashner to a new FSB designated FSB Drum (XT202867) and continued their mission of Direct Support 2/8 Cav and General Support 1st Cav Div (AM) respectively.

(10) On 14 March the ARVN D1 battery helilifted its four tubes from FSB Ann to new FSB Hung Dao (XT099762).

(11) On 15 March the ARVN C1 battery was helilifted from FSB Jay to new FSB Quang Trung (XT050687).

(12) On 16 March the ARVN 2A46 three 155's were helilifted from FSB Ann to FSB Hung Dao.

(13) On 17 March B/1/77 Arty Helilifted from FSB Drum to new FSB Illingworth (XT333788) and continued to support the 2/8 Cav. A/1/30F Arty helilifted three tubes from FSB Drum to FSB Ann and continued its mission of General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM).

(14) On 18 March B/2/19 Arty returned back under the control of 2/19 Artillery and was airlifted by C-130 from FSB Joe to FSB Ann. The battery was then helilifted from FSB Ann to FSB Jay and continued to support the 2/7 Cav in their new AO. The battery did not close due to a mechanical malfunction which caused one C-130 consisting of 4 class V sorties and personnel to divert to Tan Son Nhut. A/2/32 Arty road marched two 175's from FSB Carolyn to FSB St. Barbara and two 8 inch howitzers from FSB Beverly to FSB Ann. IIFV searchlight and quad 50 were road marched from FSB Carolyn to FSB Ann with A/2/32 8" howitzers. ARVN A1 battery road marched from FSB Beverly to FSB Carolyn which was redesignated Me Linh. FSB Sandra was also redesignated FSB Bach Dang

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(15) On 19 March B/2/12 Arty was helilifted from FSB Joe to FSB Jay and continued its mission of General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM). ARVN 2A46 helilifted three 155's from FSB Hung Dao to FSB Me Linh. ARVN C1 battery helilifted from FSB Quang Trung to FSB Le Loi (old FSB Drum).

(16) On 20 March ARVN D1 battery helilifted from FSB Hung Dao to FSB St. Barbara.

(17) On 21 March A/2/32 (8") and IIFTV Quad 50 and Searchlight road marched from Thien Ngon to FSB Illingworth.

(18) On 23 March A/1/30F road marched three 155's from Thien Ngon to FSB Illingworth and continued its mission of General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM). ARVN 1A46 battery was helilifted from FSB Bach Dong to FSB Le Loi.

(19) On 25 March the IIFORCE Countermortar Radar was helilifted from FSB Me Linh to FSB Suffy (YU336362) and was released OPCON 2/19 Artillery.

(20) On 27 March How battery 1/11 ACR (155) and B/2/32 Arty (8") road marched from FSB Sharon to a new NDP Camp Hazard (XT078840) closing at 2230 hours. ARVN D1 battery helilifted four tubes from FSB St. Barbara to FSB Cao Thang (old FSB Victor). A/2/32 Arty (175) FSB St. Barbara, exchanged personnel with B/2/32 and was redesignated B/2/32.

(21) On 29 March FSB Jay (XT039750) received a ground attack from an unknown size enemy force. The attack was supported by 107mm and 122mm rockets, 82mm mortars; 75mm recoilless rifle fire, B40 and B41 fire, small arms and automatic weapons fire. All artillery within range was used to engage preplanned defensive targets, counter-mortar targets and target groups. Pursuit fires were used throughout the day on all known and suspected withdrawal routes. The artillery fires were reinforced with Aerial Rocket Artillery. Cannon artillery, ARA, Tac Air, Medevac and Resupply were all employed simultaneously throughout the attack and during the pursuit phase after the attack. The enemy withdrew at 0652, leaving five NVA/KIA and one NVL/WIA, (PW). US losses were 13 KIA and 53 WIA including 4 KIA and 23 WIA from B/2/19 Artillery and 2x105 combat loss. A sweep of the area south and southwest of FSB Jay revealed an additional 69 NVA/KIA. The artillery was credited with 35 NVL/KIAs out of the seventy-four (74) total body count.

(22) On 29 March B/2/19 Arty and B/2/12 Arty were helilifted from FSB Jay to a new Fire Support Base designated FSB Hannag (XT031718) and continued their missions of direct support 2/7 Cav and General Support to 1st Cavalry Division (AM) respectively.

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b. The reporting period ended with the following organization for combat:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| (1) Organic
HH&S 2/19
B 21/9 | FSB
Tay Ninh West (IT178515)
FSB Hannas (IT031718) |
| (2) Operational Control
B/1/77 | FSB
FSB Illingworth (IT033788) |
| (3) General Support
A/1/30 (3 tubes)
B/2/12 (6 tubes)
A/2/20 (ARL)
How 1/11 ACR
A/2/32 (2 tubes 8")
A/2/32 (2 tubes 8")
B/2/32 (2 tubes 175mm)
B/2/32 (2 tubes 8") | FSB
FSB Illingworth (IT033788)
FSB Hannas (IT031718)
Tay Ninh West (IT1551)
FSB Hazard (IT078840)
Tay Ninh West
FSB Illingworth (IT033788)
FSB St. Barbara (IT276679)
FSB Hazard (IT078840) |
| (4) ARVN
A-1 (6 tubes)
B-1 (4 tubes)
C-1 (4 tubes)
D-1 (4 tubes)
1A46 (3 tubes)
2A46 (3 tubes) | FSB
FSB Me Linh (IT276785)
FSB Bach Dang (IT202789)
FSB Le Loi (IT202868)
FSB Cao Thang (IT164922)
FSB Le Loi (IT202868)
FSB Me Linh (IT276785) |

c. The following MOS's are chronic shortages: 05B20, 13B40, 13E40, 13E20, 36K20, 94B20. Shortages of key NCOs by battery are as follows:

A/2/19	1 X SFC 94B20 1 X SGT 31G40 5 X SSG 13B40 1 X SGT 13E40
B/2/19	1 X SGT 31G40 6 X SSG 13B40
C/2/19	1 X SFC 94E20 1 X SGT 31G40 6 X SSG 13B40 1 X SGT 13B40
HH&S/2/19	1 X MSG 13Z50 1 X SFC 13E40 3 X SSG 13E40

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REAS/2/19

4 X SP5 13E20
2 X SP5 82C20
1 X SSG 17B40
1 X SSG 82C40
1 X SGT 94B20

d. Senior FCO Assignment Policies: Senior NCO's are assigned, in the majority of cases, directly to a specific battalion by Department of the Army. Senior NCO's not thus assigned are given to a battalion within the division on the basis of most urgent need. In the battalion, senior NCO's are further assigned based on their MOS and existing slot vacancies.

e. NCO Candidate Program: The consensus of battery commanders is that FCO candidates are technically proficient; however, they lack the necessary leadership experience. Normally, this shortcoming is overcome after a short tenure of position under combat conditions.

3. Section II Lessons Learned

Operations:

a. Airmovement Assistance Team

(1) OBSERVATIONS: A two man team with radios proves valuable in assisting the battery and battalion FDC during airmoves.

(2) EVALUATION: During the recent air moves to support the 2/8 Cav B/1/77 has had to displace three tubes initially to establish the new FSB before the remaining three tubes could march order at the old FSB. This required the battery to split the FDC and firing elements. To eliminate the battery from having the additional duty of reporting its status during these moves a two (2) man control team with radios was utilized. One man with radio was placed in the new location, while the other remained at the old FSB. They assisted in the control of the battery loads and reported the status of the airmove to battalion. Their reports to battalion FDC enabled battalion to provide timely and accurate reports to Division Artillery. The reports were submitted on the battalion Admin/Log Mat. A team was also used when E/2/19 moved from FSB Joe by fixed wing to FSB Inn, and from Inn to FSB Jay by helicopter. One officer with RTO was located at the airstrip to aid the battery in unloading from the fixed wing and preparing loads for sling out. Reports were submitted on the arrival times and type loads by fixed wing, and departures to the new FSB. Key personnel from the battery were free to continue with their primary duties when assisted by battalion in these cases.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS: That all battalions consider the organization and use of control team to assist during either two phase or split battery moves.

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b. Stockage of Smoke Rounds During Extended Support Operations.

(1) OBSERVATIONS: It is normal for a battery to maintain a supply of both white phosphorous and smoke rounds. The rounds are normally used as "safety first" and marking rounds.

(2) EVALUATION: When a battery occupies a hasty FSB on Extended Support Operations or a Raid, ammunition stockage is minimized. By eliminating the requirement to have smoke rounds, this quantity can be added to the HE stockage. White Phosphorous provides the capability of "safety first" and marking rounds.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS: That only White Phosphorous be carried during hasty FSB operations and that the allowable smoke round stockage be added to the HE stockage.

4. Section III: US Support and Training of ARVN Forces.

a. Relationship with ARVN: The 2/19th Artillery is co-located with the 1st ARVN Abn Artillery at Tay Ninh Base Camp. A joint operations section permits US-ARVN fire planning and control. ARVN channels are used and emphasized, expediting fire control and clearance.

b. Status and effectiveness of DONG TIEN: ARVN expertise continues to grow in all areas, especially technical fire direction. The frequent heli-borne moves during the month have given the joint US-ARVN operations center an excellent opportunity to continue improving clearance and coordination of fire support. This has been reflected in the generally excellent US-ARVN joint coverage of LZ/PZ Camps. Dai-uy Truyen has been a very valuable point of coordination in the joint FDC and been unfailingly cooperative and effective.

c. Training - Type and Duration: ARVN training is conducted on the job on an informal basis designed to attract, rather than demand, their interest. It is important to avoid being overbearing or pedantic and giving offense to them. The informal, intermingled atmosphere of the FDC has developed both rapport and mutual interest, permitting effective training in FADAC, fire planning, AWCC, and Met + VE. A significant feature this month has been the submission of ARVN fire plans for their own FSBs (Beverly, Ann, Jay, Hung Dao, and Quang Trung). These presently consist of an overlay and a target list, thus are not complete. We are continuing to work towards completed ARVN fire plans which are up to Division Artillery standards.

d. Aviation: Aviation resources made available to ARVN consists of the 2 OH-6A helicopters from E/82 Arty (AVN) on duty with 2/19th Artillery and an O-1 fixed wing.

e. Communications: There were no equipment loans during March.

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- f. Logistics: Logistical support to ARVN is provided thru HQ, 1st Bde.
- g. Engineer: Engineer support from I/8 and ARVN Engineers consists of bunker and berm construction on new ARVN FSBs.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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1 May 1970

SUBJECT: Change to ORLL

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The following additions and corrections to letter AVDAAR-A, HQ, 2d Battalion, 19th Artillery, subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 29 April 1970 are submitted:

- a. ADD: On 28 April ARVN C-1 helolifted 3 tubes from FSB Ky Dong to FSB Katum (IT330900).
- b. ADD: On 29 April ARVN C-1 (-) and 1A46 were helolifted from FSB Ky Dong to FSB West I (IT374950).
- c. Change item (3): Change B 2/19 Arty in second sentence to B 2/12 Arty.
- d. Change item (17): Change B 1/27 Arty (155) also moved to Katum to read B 1/27 Arty (155) road marched from FSB Wood to Tay Ninh Base Camp.
- e. Delete ARVN C-1 and ARVN 1A46 from para 2b(3).

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