

B 2/17
B 1/77
A 2/32
Mentions A 1/30TH

[REDACTED]

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

11-30 APR 1970

ATTACK FSB ILLINGSWORTH
1 APRIL 1970

29 April 1970

AVDAAR-A

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned

2ND BN, 19TH ARTY
VERSION

Commanding Officer
1st Cavalry Division Artillery (AM)
ATTN: S3
APO 96490

1. References:

- a. Letter, AVDAAR-T, HQ, 1st Cav Div (AM), subject: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, dtd 16 December 1969.
- b. Unclassified message, HQ, 1st Cav Div Arty (AM), CITE: AVDAAR-T OFU1176, subject: ORLL Report for Apr 70, DTG 271425 Apr 70.

2. Section I: Operations

a. Significant Activities

(1) During the period 1-30 April 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 Cougar in the northern and western portion of Tay Ninh Province. The reporting period was characterized by a significant increase in artillery fires due to an increase in enemy activity including two fire base attacks consisting of intense indirect fire and ground attacks. There was one stand-off attack conducted against the Rome Plow NDP on 26 April.

(2) On 1 April at 0215 FSB Illingworth received 15 to 20 mixed 107 and 122mm rockets, 100 rounds of 82mm mortar, 100 rounds of 120mm mortar and an unknown number of 75mm recoilless rifle rounds. Shortly afterwards the base received small arms, automatic weapons, B-40 fire and a ground attack by two reinforced companies. The enemy was engaged with artillery and ARA, also Night Hawk and Shadow Aircraft were employed. Tube artillery and all other assets were employed simultaneously throughout the attack. Tube artillery was continually employed in pursuit fires throughout the following day. US losses were 24 KIA and 54 WIA; including 6 KIA and 16 WIA from B 1/77 Artillery, 3 KIA and 5 WIA from A 2/32 Artillery, and 2 WIA from A 1/30 Artillery, also

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1X105 howitzer, 1X8 inch howitzer, and 1X23 inch searchlight CBL. Enemy losses were 88 NVA?KIA, of which 21 were credited to the artillery, and numerous weapons and munitions captured.

(3) On 3 April B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Hannas to new FSB Blondin (XT017730) and continued to support 2/7 Cav. B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Hannas to Thien Ngon, and then from Thien Ngon to Quan Loi by fixed wing. A 1/30 Arty was helilifted from FSB Illingworth to FSB Blondin and continued its mission of General Support 1st Cavalry Division (AM). ARVN D-1 battery helilifted from FSB Cao Truong to FSB St. Barbara. A 2/32 Arty road marched two 8 inch howitzers to FSB Illingworth to replace the howitzers damaged on 1 April 1970. Three additional quad .50 caliber machine guns from D, 71st Arty and one searchlight from I 29th Arty were helilifted to FSB Illingworth. II FFORCEV road marched two M-42 Dusters (B 5/2 Arty) to FSB Illingworth. B 1/27 Arty road marched from FSB Illingworth and assumed the mission of General Support 1st Cavalry Division (AM).

(4) On 4 April B 1/77 Arty, A 2/32 Arty, B 1/27 Arty, the Quad .50 caliber and M-42 Duster road marched from FSB Illingworth to new FSB Wood (XT045796) and continued their assigned missions. B 7/11 became OPCON to 2/19 Arty and was helilifted from FSB Buell to new FSB Coffman (XT027684) and continued to support 1/5 Infantry (Mech), now OPCON to 1st Bde, 1st ACD.

(5) On 5 April B 1/77 Arty and A 2/19 Arty were exchanged. The move was conducted by fixed wing between Phuoc Vinh and Thien Ngon and from Thien Ngon to FSB Wood by road. B 1/77 continued to support the 2/8 Cav now operating in AO Chief, while A 2/19 continued to support the 5/7 Cav currently OPCON to the 1st Bde.

(6) On 6 April B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Blondin to new FSB Laytons (XT060770) and continued to support 2/7 Cavalry. A 1/30 Arty, three 155s, were helilifted from FSB Blondin to Thien Ngon and continued the mission of General Support 1st Cavalry Division (AM).

(7) On 8 April B 7/11 Arty was helilifted from FSB Coffman to new FSB Olsen (XT023697) and continued its mission of direct support 1/5 Mech.

(8) On 10 April B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Laytons to new FSB Rhr (XT005775) and continued its mission of direct support 2/7 Cav. ARVN D-1 battery helilifted 3 tubes from FSB St. Barbara to new FSB Tu Duc (XT170930). The fourth tube was helilifted to FSB Bach Dang.

(9) On 12 April B 7/11 Arty was helilifted from FSB Olsen to FSB Buell (XT2153) and released OPCON 2/19 Arty. How 1/11 ACR and B 2/32 (8") road marched from Camp Hazard to new FSB Kramer (XT020728) and continued support of the 11th ACR and General Support 1st Cavalry Division respectively.

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(10) On 13 April B 2/19 was helilifted from FSB Rohr to new FSB Atkinson (XT010788) and continued to support 2/7 Cavalry.

(11) On 15 April 2158 hours FSB Atkinson was attacked by elements of the 95C Regiment. An intense indirect fire attack was followed by a determined ground assault from the south and a sapper attack from the southeast. A highly coordinated infantry-artillery defense repulsed the attack by 0230. The Atkinson fire plan was executed and there was continuous coordinated fire power utilizing all available cannon artillery, thirteen (13) sections of ARA, Nighthawk, Shadow Flare Ships, and two (2) Tactical Air strikes. Planned air routes were used effectively throughout the attack. Battery B, 2/19 Arty fired over 600 rounds direct fire to include 35 rounds of Beehive. The enemy withdrew leaving 38 NVA/KIA in the immediate area. US losses were 7 KIA and 20 WIA. There were no casualties from B 2/19. Total enemy losses were 66 NVA/KIA, 3 POW's, and numerous individual and crew served weapons and a quantity of ammunition and miscellaneous equipment captured.

(12) On 17 April B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Atkinson to new FSB Disantis (XT024763) and continued to support 2/7 Cavalry.

(13) On 21 April How 1/11 ACR and B 2/32 (2Xth) road marched from FSB Kramer to FSB Sharon. 1/11 ACR (-) released OPCON 1st Bde, 1st ACD.

(14) On 22 April B 2/19 Arty was helilifted from FSB Disantis to new FSB Wainwright (XT061773) and continued to support 2/7 Cavalry. ARVN B-1 was helilifted from FSB Bach Dang to new FSB Long Bien (XT263888).

(15) On 23 April ARVN C-1 helilifted 4 tubes from FSB Le Loi and 2 tubes from FSB Tu Duc, all to new FSB Ky Dong (XT163918).

(16) On 24 April ARVN 1A46 (three 155s) were helilifted from FSB Le Loi to new FSB Ky Dong (XT163918). The disposition of ARVN artillery as of this date is as follows: C-1 (6X105) and 1A46, (3X155) located at FSB Ky Dong; B-1 (6X105) at FSB Long Bien; and A-1 (6X105) and 2A46, (3X155) located at Me Linh.

(17) On 29 April B 2/32 Arty (175) road marched from FSB St. Barbara to Katum Special Forces Camp. B 1/27 Arty (155) also moved to Katum.

(18) On 29 April B 2/19 Arty moved from FSB Wainwright to Katum (XT330900) and became OPCON to 1/21 Arty.

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

(1) Organic
HH&S 2/19
A 2/19

FSB
Tay Ninh West (XT178515)
FSB Wood (XT045796)

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(2) General Support

A 1/30 (3 tubes)

A 2/20 (ARA)

A 2/32 (2 tubes 8")

FSB

Thien Ngon (XT085815)

Tay Ninh West (XT1551)

FSB Wood (XT045796)

(3) ARVN:

A-1 (6 tubes)

B-1 (6 tubes)

C-1 (6 tubes)

1A46 (3 tubes)

2A46 (3 tubes)

FSB

FSB Me Linh (XT276785)

FSB Long Bien (XT264888)

FSB Ky Dong (XT163918)

FSB Ky Dong (XT163918)

FSB Me Linh (XT276785)

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

A 2/19

4 X E-5 13E40

1 X E-6 94B20

2 X E-4 05B20

4 X E-6 13B40

1 X E-5 36K40

B 2/19

2 X E-5 13E40

5 X E-6 13B40

C 2/19

2 X E-4 05B20

4 X E-5 13E40

5 X E-6 13B40

HH&S 2/19

1 X E-7 13E40

1 X E-6 13E40

2 X E-5 13E20

2 X E-4 13E20

1 X E-6 82C40

1 X E-5 13E40

1 X E-6 17B40

d. Senior NCO Assignment Policies: Senior NCO's are presently being assigned to battalion to fill key positions related to their PMOS. These personnel should have some training prior to arriving at the battalion. In one instance a 13D40 E-7 Missile Crew Supervisor is being assigned to replace a chief of a 105 howitzer battery. Although this is in accordance with AR 611-201 individuals can not effectively take over a firing battery without prior training normally requiring two (2) to three (3) weeks depending on the

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individual. Consideration should be given toward a training program by Division level prior to assignment of these personnel to the battalions.

e. NCO Candidate Program: It is felt that more training should be stressed toward leadership.

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