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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (5 Aug 68) FOR OT RD 682112

21 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

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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:

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as

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

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Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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15 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters IFFORCEV for Quarterly  
Period Ending 30 April 1968 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

no location available to establish an adequate photographic lab. Reproduction was accomplished at the detachment photo lab in Nha Trang. Exposed film was picked up at An Khe by 1st MI Bn (ARS) delivery aircraft and taken to Nha Trang for developing and printing. Finished prints were delivered back to the team member the same way. Hand-held photographers were rotated during the period to gain maximum use of the valuable experience gained on an operation of this type. The second team consisted of one hand-held photographer and one reproduction specialist and provided support to LRP operations in the Ban Me Thuot area. Support for this was planned for a 14 day period but actually lasted only two days because the operation ended early. Processing and printing was done in the National Police headquarters in Ban Me Thuot utilizing their reproduction equipment.

3. Hand-held photography missions remained an important part of the detachment's overall operations. In addition to daily hand-held photography flights, two special projects were undertaken. The first of these projects was for the 64th Engr Det (T) and consisted of photographing highway bridges. The photographs are used as part of an engineer data file for each bridge and for bypass construction planning. During the project, unit hand-held photographers flew six missions totaling 29.95 hours and produced 1412 prints. The second special project comprised hand-held photography from artillery OPs throughout II CTZ to provide a 360 degree panorama from each outpost. The panorama photographs will be used as aids by observers in directing fire at night and to help familiarize new personnel with the position. A total of four missions totaling 25.66 hours and production of 2108 prints were completed during this project.

(f) Long Range Patrol (LRP) Company:

1. Training:

a. All platoons were completely trained in the previous quarter so that the only training conducted for unit members was that for 17 individuals who attended the MACV Recondo School. The company did provide 12 personnel to train selected 4th Inf Div combat engineers in the techniques of rappelling from helicopters in order to construct LZ's.

b. A training program for ARVN LRP's has been started within IFFORCEV with the objective of improving the capabilities of ARVN units to conduct LRP operations. The ARVN LRP training course at Duc My, Khanh Hoa Province, has been suspended due to the greatly increased trainee load and US LRP units are temporarily assuming this training mission. On 22 Apr the 4th Inf Div commenced training 30 ARVN LRP students from the 24th Special Tactical Zone. Co E (LRP), 20th Inf is providing six man Mobile Training Teams (MTT) to the 22d and 23d Divisions to train selected personnel for LRP operations. The 23d Division is providing 50 LRP students for training at Ban Me Thuot and the 22d Division is training 40 ARVN LRP students at De Duc near LZ English.

2. Operations:

a. During the quarter Co E (LRP), 20th Inf inserted a 153 LRP's which resulted in 138 enemy sightings and 72 enemy KIA (BC) with a loss of only two LRP's members (KIA) and 21 wounded. The largest confirmed kill at any one time was 20 enemy which were part of a larger force, after which the LRP was successfully extracted with only two minor casualties.

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b. Integrated ARVN-US LRP operations were begun in early April with excellent results. The 22d ARVN Div provided eleven Duc My LRP School graduates to work with the 173d Abn Bde (Sep) in the COCHISE AO. The 22d ARVN Div on 27 Apr provided 10 ARVN LRP personnel, three of which were Duc My graduates, to the Co E (LRP), 20th Inf platoon in support of the 4/503d Abn Inf at Phu Hiep. The 23d ARVN Div is scheduled to provide by 30 Apr, 18 Duc My LRP School graduates to the Co E (LRP), 20th Inf platoon operating in the 23d ARVN Div's area of interest. Upon termination of the LRP training being conducted by the 4th Inf Div for the 24th Special Tactical Zone LRP trainees, those trainees who successfully complete the course of instruction will be integrated into the LRP detachment of the three brigades of the 4th Div.

(g) The 64th Engineer Detachment (Terrain) processed and distributed 106,655 copies of Tactical Date Overprints of 105 map sheets, scale 1:50,000 and 40,500 copies of Terrain Analysis Overprints of 105 map sheets, scale 1:50,000. Of the 105 sheets, 36 were in the I CTZ and 69 were reprints in the II CTZ.

(3) Deviation from current intelligence doctrine: No change from previous quarter.

(4) Significant changes from previous reports: None.

(5) Enemy Order of Battle:

(a) Disposition of NVA, VC Main Forces and VC Local Forces is shown at Inclosure 1.

(b) Changes in OB holdings during the period:

|                    |                           |           |      |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------|------|
| 1. Units accepted: | K50 Trans Bn, NT5         | Probable  | 500  |
|                    | 209th NVA Regt, NT1       | Confirmed | 1800 |
|                    | 36th Sapper Bn, Binh Dinh | Confirmed | 125  |
|                    | 28th Sapper Bn, B3 Front  | Probable  | 150  |
|                    | 401st LF Bn, Darlac       | Probable  | 110  |
|                    | 406th Sapper Bn, Kontum   | Probable  | 75   |
|                    | 610th LF Bn, Ninh Thuan   | Probable  | 280  |

2. Units dropped: K33 Arty Bn, 40th Arty Regt - Moved to III CTZ  
 10th NVA Division - Reportedly disbanded  
 Bien Hoa DKZ Bn - Lack of information

3. Changes in subordination: K101 Bn from 95B NVA Regt to B3 Front  
 17th Trans Bn from NT10 to NT1

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1st Bn (Mech) 50th Inf  
E Co, 20th Inf (LRP)  
54th Inf Det (Radar)  
68th Inf Det (Radar)  
5th PI Det  
11th PI Det  
13th Mil Hist Det  
43d APU (APO 96350)  
54th Sig Bn (Corps)  
55th MI Det  
64th Engr Det (Terrain)  
167th Sig Co (Art)  
209th Sig Det (KA)  
272d MP Co (Corps)  
297th Trans Co (CAR)

USARV GO 5381, 22 Oct 67  
USARV GO 4916, 26 Sep 67  
USARV GO 3137, 27 May 66  
USARV GO 1913, 28 Mar 68  
USARV GO 640, 12 Feb 68  
USARV GO 640, 12 Feb 68  
USARV GO 526, 5 Feb 68  
USARV GO 5953, 6 Oct 66  
USARV GO 640, 12 Feb 68  
USARV GO 1229, 27 Oct 65  
USARV GO 159, 13 Jan 66  
USARV GO 640, 12 Feb 68  
USARV GO 1590, 15 Nov 65  
USARV GO 640, 12 Feb 68  
USARV GO 5953, 6 Oct 66

NOTE: \* Unit is in support of 3d Bde, 82d Abn Div

#### ATTACHED UNITS

41st CA Co (-)  
313th RR Bn

#### AUTHORITY

USARV GO 4079, 22 Jun 66  
509th RR Gp GO 9, 8 Jun 66

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Attached 173d Abn Bde (Sep)  
Attached 4th Inf Div  
Attached 173d Abn Bde (Sep)  
Attached 52d CAB

USARV GO 1503, 4 Apr 68  
USARV GO 5271, 14 Oct 67  
IFFORCEV GO 148, 22 Feb 68  
L-ORCEV GO 415, 25 Oct 66

Attached 54th Sig Bn  
Attached 54th Sig Bn

IFFORCEV GO 147, 22 Feb 68  
IFFORCEV GO 25, 16 Nov 65

#### STATUS

#### AUTHORITY

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