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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (2 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-674200

13 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 3d
Battalion, 6th Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT 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

1 Incl
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY
APO 96318

AVGG-BA-OP

4 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS CS FOR - 65) (JIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
(U)

SECTION 1. (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) General: The 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (105mm SP) consists of a headquarters and headquarters battery, service battery and three howitzer batteries. (Incl 1)

2. (U) Intelligence: Several observers were committed to aerial visual reconnaissance missions which resulted in sightings of numerous hamlets, trails, entrenchments, military structures and suspect enemy personnel. Many of these locations have been used as harassing and interdiction targets by artillery units in the 4th Infantry Division area of operation.

3. (C) Operations and training activities.

a. Operations:

(1) References:

a. Artillery SITREP 1 August to 31 October 1967.

b. Daily Staff Journal (Operations).

(2) Attachments: Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was attached to the battalion during the period 13 August to 31 August. Detachments None.

(3) From 1 August - 31 October, the battalion was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, 4th Infantry Division. From 1 August - 16 September and from 4 - 29 October, the battalion was in direct support of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division. From 1 August - 13 October, the battalion was general support of the 173d Airborne Brigade. From 14 - 29 October, the battalion was reinforcing the 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery, 4th Infantry Division. From 29 - 31 October, the battalion (-) in direct support Task Force 1/22.

(4) The battalion operated in Operation Francis Marion for 71 days, Operation MacArthur for 21 days, and Operation Sparta for 18 days, for a total of 92 days of operations. A total of 34 days of troop movement occurred during this reporting period.

(5) From 8 - 13 August, Battery A split, sending 3 howitzers, Battery A (Fwd), to a position at grid ZB156038. During this period, Battery A (Fwd) fired defensive targets, suspect enemy locations, registration and harassing and interdiction missions.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS CS FOR - 65) (UIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
(U) (Cont'd)

(6) From 8 - 16 August, Battery B occupied a position at grid ZB040266 to support an operation of the 173d Airborne Brigade.

(7) On 12 August, the battalion was issued 4 FADAC. The FADAC has been in continuous use since issued.

(8) From 13 - 31 August, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was attached to the battalion. Battery B/7/13 occupied position at grid ZB 15500383. At 140200H August, Battery B/7/13 took about 20 rounds of 60mm mortar fire. Four personnel were lightly wounded, including the battery commander. One 2½ ton truck radiator was damaged. B/7/13 fired 1632 rounds on defensive targets, practice counter mortar programs, suspect enemy locations, registrations, illumination and marking missions during the period of attachment.

(9) From 15 - 30 August, Battery B performed maintenance, base camp construction and fired 1028 rounds on defensive targets, suspect enemy locations, registrations, counter mortar programs and observer training for tank commanders.

(10) From 29 August - 16 September, Battery C split, sending three howitzers Battery C (Fwd) to Battery B base camp at grid BR03495333, to provide artillery coverage on highway 19E replacing Battery B.

(11) On 30 August, until 25 October, Battery B moved from Battery B base camp at grid ZB15500383, mission: general support 173d Airborne Brigade. On 5 September, Battery B split, sending three howitzers Battery B (Fwd) to a position at grid ZB15500383, mission: general support reinforcing 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery. On 19 October, Battery B's mission in both positions was changed to reinforcing Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery. On 20 October, Battery B (Fwd) moved to a position at grid ZB7733233. The battery remained at this position 5 hours, firing 203 rounds on preplanned targets and suspect enemy locations. On 22 October, Battery B (Fwd) moved to position at grid YB917258 to provide artillery coverage for engineer work on the road. On 25 October, Battery B (-) moved from grid ZB15500383 to join Battery B (Fwd) at grid YB917258. Battery B spent a total of 50 days in split configuration. During this period Battery B fired registrations, observed and unobserved missions at suspect enemy locations, defensive targets, calibration, interdiction of infiltration routes, missions in support of ARVN forces in contact, harassing and interdiction, neutralization and counter mortar programs.

(12) From 31 August - 4 September, the battalion furnished a forward observer to accompany an ARVN Ranger Battalion. The operation was north of Pleiku to interdict and prevent extensive enemy disruption of the RVN national elections.

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(U) (Cont'd)

(13) At 100145 September 1967, Battery C (-) base camp at grid AR8304900 was attacked by an estimated enemy platoon. The enemy breached the wire in two places. The principal weapons employed by the enemy were RPG - 2 rockets and hand - thrown $\frac{1}{2}$ pound charges. The enemy was engaged by battery personnel and by two security tanks. Contact ended at 100215. Four men from C/3/6 (-) were WIA, 2 of whom were evacuated. Material damage to C/3/6 (-): 3 - M108 howitzers damaged by RPG - 2 rockets, 1 - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck destroyed by fire, 1 - 5 ton truck extensively damaged by $\frac{1}{2}$ pound charges, POL dump destroyed and maintenance tools and equipment destroyed. A float howitzer was substituted for C-36 and all three howitzers were operational by 101830H Sep 67. Ten enemy were killed within the perimeter, and another 7 bodies were recovered northeast of the position. One RPG - 2 rocket launcher, 4 - RPG rocket rounds, 3 - AK 47, 1 carbine, miscellaneous grenades, $\frac{1}{2}$ pound charges and small arms ammunition were captured.

(14) On 16 September, Battery A vacated its base camp at grid ZA1605378 and moved to grid AR763320 to establish a new base camp. The mission of the battery changed from direct support of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry to direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

(15) On 16 September, Battery C mission changed from direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor to direct support of the 2d Squadron, 1st Cavalry.

(16) On 16 September, the battalion liaison section with the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry was sent to grid ZB155038 to work as part of the 52d Artillery Group (Fwd).

(17) On 18 September, the battalion's overall assigned strength was 76% of authorized TO&E (527/399). Howitzer section crews were between 69% - 72% strength.

(18) From 25 - 29 September, Battery A occupied a position at grid AQ85888987 to support a cordon and search operation by elements of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor in the vicinity of AQ8282. During this period, Battery A fired registrations, one preparation, suspect enemy locations, interdiction of infiltration routes, illumination, marking missions and harassing and interdiction missions.

(19) From 29 September - 1 October, Battery A occupied a position at grid AR87950845 to support the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor cordon and search operation.

(20) From 1 - 6 October, Battery A occupied a position at grid AR87950845 on direction of the G-3, 4th Infantry Division to develop a target of opportunity. About 4 hours after the move was completed, Battery A received a new mission: general support reinforcing the 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery, on order, direct support 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. During this period

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31 October 1967 (RCS CS FOR - 65) (VIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
(U) (Cont'd)

Battery A fired confirmed enemy locations, interdiction of infiltration routes, illumination, marking missions, registrations, and harassing and interdiction missions. Battery A was credited with 3 confirmed NVA KIA by a forward observer from 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery.

(21) On 4 October, Battery C was relieved in place by Battery A, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. Battery C moved to grid ZA11852863 and established a new base camp. Battery C's mission changed to direct support 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

(22) From 5 - 9 October, Battery C occupied positions at grids YA84754563, YA80754330, YA8128442 and YA83453980, in support of an Armor Cavalry operation by the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. Due to the intelligence gathered by D troop, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, it was believed that a large force was infiltrating across the border. During this period Battery C fired 956 rounds on suspect enemy locations, rest areas, routes of infiltration, registrations, counter mortar programs, illumination, white phosphorous on roads to prevent mining, and harassing and interdiction missions.

(23) From 6 - 15 October, Battery A occupied a position at grid AR87950845 mission: direct support 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. The 1st Battalion, 69th Armor received an attachment of A Company, 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry. Battery A furnished two forward observers in support of a cordon, search and a sweep of a suspected infiltration route. During this period, Battery A fired registrations, interdiction of infiltration targets, blocking missions, contact missions, harassing and interdiction missions.

(24) On 10 October, the battalion maintenance section replaced tubes on 4 howitzers in Battery C. All 4 howitzers were satisfactorily test fired.

(25) From 14 - 31 October, Battery C occupied a position at grid YA805465 in support of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, OPCON, to the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, to counter a large build up along the border. Battery C fired preparations, counter mortar programs, illumination, registrations, and suspect enemy locations during this period. On 24 October, the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division started a withdrawal from the border area. Battery C with elements of 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, moved to position at grid YA854453 to support the withdrawal. On 25 October, Battery C sent one howitzer to Battery C base camp at grid ZA11852863. The last two tubes were changed on 25 October and satisfactorily test fired. Battery C furnished three howitzers to support Rome Flow operations on highway 14B. The remaining three howitzers stayed in position at grid ZA11852863 to provide artillery coverage in the Oasis area and Highway 19W. During period 26 October, Battery C (Fwd) occupied positions at grid YA904333, YA901365, YA903371, to support one platoon 1-10 Cavalry and Rome Flow operation on Highway 14B to the north. Battery C (Fwd) covered the Rome Flow operation during the day and

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closed with the Rome Flows in night positions daily. On 29 October, two howitzers from Battery C (-) at grid ZA11852863 joined CO A, 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry (Mch) and joined Battery C (Fwd) at grid 903371 and occupied a position at grid YA903375. Battery C supported a 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry operation starting from Highway 14B to the east. On 301200H October Battery C mission changed to direct support 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry. On 31 October Battery C occupied a position at grid YA89543538, mission: direct support to 2d Battalion, 8th Infantry.

(26) From 15 - 31 October, Battery A occupied positions at grids AR80652095, and AQ86849442 in support of operations of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor to provide artillery coverage on Highway 14. During this period, Battery A fired blocking fires, registrations, marking missions, direct fire exercises, FO training, suspect enemy locations and harassing and interdiction missions.

(27) On or about 262232H October, three 122mm rockets impacted on Headquarters and Service Batteries located at Artillery Hill, ZA2253. One enlisted man from Service Battery was slightly wounded. One building was slightly damaged, two were moderately damaged.

(28) From 28 - 31 October, Battery B moved from FSB #13 (YB91622584) to a position on Highway 509 at grid ZA091448. During this period, Battery B stopped at base camp on Artillery Hill ZA2253 for 1 1/2 days to perform maintenance. They moved to their present position on 30 October, their mission: DS Task Force 1/22.

(29) From 29 - 31 October, elements of Headquarters Battery and Service Battery (Hq 3/6 (-)) moved from Artillery Hill (ZA2253) to Oasis (ZA1127). The 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery mission: DS Task Force 1-22. The battalion (-) consisted of Headquarters (-), Battery B 3/6 Arty, Battery C, 3/6 Arty, Battery C 4/42 Arty (OPCON), with Battery A on separate mission in direct support 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. The operation is expected to last from one week to thirty days.

b. Training:

(1) On 21 October the battalion training program was completely revised to incorporate all required subjects. The training cycle now includes all mandatory subjects and a progressive section training, evaluation and competition program over a three month cycle. A new mandatory replacement training program has been implemented.

(2) Familiarization firing and battlesight zero of individual and crew served weapons were conducted during reporting period.

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31 October 1967 (RCS CS FOR - 65) (UIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
(U) (Cont'd)

(3) Direct fire exercises were conducted by the howitzer batteries during this reporting period.

(4) The 52d Artillery Group firing battery evaluation team visited Battery C during the reporting period. All deficiencies noted have been corrected.

(5) A six - man scout section received two weeks of training on all aspects of small unit tactics and patrolling.

(6) As some form of training was conducted by some element of the battalion each day, 92 days of training were completed.

SECTION II. (U) COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I. Observations (Lessons Learned)

(U) Operations:

1. FADAC GFT

Item: FADAC GFT settings may be obtained to up grade the graphical solution.

Discussion: With accurate muzzle velocity and a valid meteorological message, there is no longer a need for registration, once the battery position has been established. When operating in populated areas and firing close defensive fires, accuracy of the initial round is critical.

Observation: Using the battery center, mythical grids at ideal ranges for charges desired, and the same altitude as the battery center, compute the FADAC data. The chart data is compared to FADAC data. The result is a GFT setting for use if FADAC fails or the battery conducts split operations. These GFT settings may be computed for all directions or for any area of special interest. This operation eliminates transfer limits and the computation of NATO Meteorological messages.

2. FADAC Deflection

Item: FADAC maximum deflection readout is 3200 mils. The sight on the M108 may be read throughout 6400 mils.

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31 October 1967 (RCS GS FOR - 65) (VIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
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Discussion: The deflection maximum readout is 3200 mils for FADAC programs. The decision to add 3200 to the deflection indicated or to use the deflection as shown in the deflection readout windows is not easily determined. With one additional operation, the FADAC shows direction and range to the target. The direction must be translated to deflection by use of the ~~off~~ times error producing LARS rule.

Observation: Since deflection increases as direction decreases it is necessary to establish reference lines and a reference point. These are established by laying the battery on a cardinal direction, using the north south and east-west grid lines as reference lines, and the battery center as the reference point.

Example: If the battery is laid on 6400, the reference line is the north-south grid line and the reference point is the battery center. Therefore, all targets that plot with an easting grid numerically greater than the easting grid of the battery center, the deflection will be less than the 3200. Likewise, if the easting grid is numerically less than the easting grid of the battery center, the deflection will be greater than 3200, and 3200 must be added to the deflection indicated by the FADAC. Posting this procedure on or near the FADAC decreases the chance for error.

3. Combined Operations

Item: Combined Armor self-propelled artillery operations in the jungle.

Discussion: A mobile fire team has been successfully employed using an armored cavalry troop and an armored self-propelled field artillery battery. This combination provides large volumes of fire in the remote jungles of the western Vietnamese highlands along the Cambodian border. Using the Air Cavalry Troop to locate suitable target areas, a screen by fire can be executed by this combined arms team. The tanks clear an area and are laid for indirect fire. The battery FDC provides indirect fire data for the tanks. The target area is divided. Tanks are given targets that can be attacked with a flat trajectory. The artillery battery completes and complements the coverage.

Observation: Armored field artillery batteries TO&E should be modified to give the firing battery a full track laying capability. In this battalion, this has been accomplished by assigning tracking laying vehicles from headquarters battery to the firing batteries, and where necessary, borrowing an APC from the supported unit to provide the battery commander a command and control vehicle.

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4. Use of Shell WP.

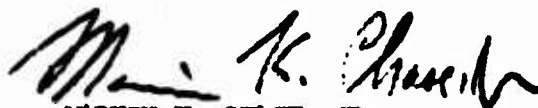
Item: The use of shell, white phosphorus, on MSR's to
deter mining.

Discussion: Maneuver units charged with the mission of road security often face the problem of mines being emplaced between the armored patrols. Mining incidents were first reduced by the use of staybehind patrols but economy of force tactics covering an extended road net in difficult terrain demanded an alternate solution. Conventional H&I fires were considered and rejected because shell fragments would hinder mine detection and damage the roads. Finally, a series of targets along the road were attacked with shell WP coordinated with patrol activity.

Observation: After the firing of WP began, mining incidents diminished. As a result, fewer ground forces were required for road security.

Part II Recommendations: None

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MARVIN K. CHASE, JR.
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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Part I, para 3, added.

From 1 August - 25 October this battalion supported ARVN forces. The battalion provided one forward observer for two operations. Battery C fired suspect enemy locations and harassing and interdiction missions for Pleiku defense, II Corps. Battery B fired enemy locations, suspect enemy locations harassing and interdiction mission for the 24th Special Tactical Zone from position at ZB15503883. During this period a total of 876 missions and 3256 rounds were fired by this battalion in support of ARVN Forces.

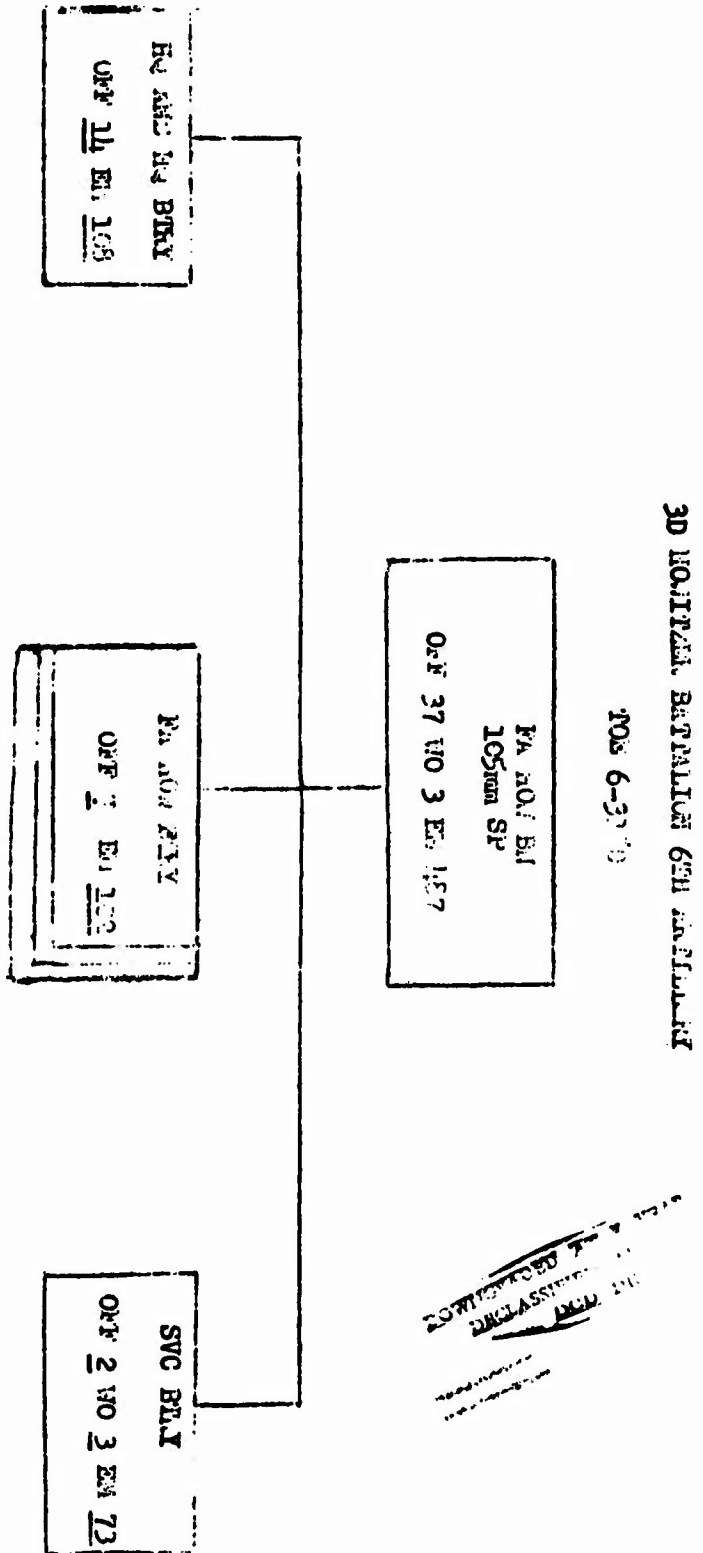
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AVGG-CO (4 Nov 67)

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS SC FOR - 65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96318, 14 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, IFFORCEV Artillery, APO 96350

1. Forwarded.
2. Concur with contents of basic report.

T. E. Fitzpatrick Jr.
T. E. FITZPATRICK JR
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-D (4 Nov 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (UIC WA2CAA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty) (U)

Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350, 26 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO
96350

1. Concur in the observations contained in basic communication and previous indorsement.

2. Reference: Section II, Part I, paragraph 1, page 6. ~~Noneconcur.~~
Although the FADAC will provide accurate registration data, the need for manual computation is essential for the reasons indicated.

- a. To maintain manual proficiency.
- b. As a back up for FADAC failures.
- c. When accurate survey is not available.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



DONALD L. BURTON
MAJ, Artillery
Adjutant

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AVFA-GC-OT (4 Nov 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 RGS GSFOR-65 UIC WA20A 3d Bn, 6th Arty (U)


HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVFCC-DST,
APO 96375

Concur with observations and comments of the basic document as
modified by the 2d Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1: Incl
no


B. L. CHENAULT
2LT. AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (4 Nov 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 October 1967 (ACS CS FOR - 65) (UIC WA2CA)
(3d Bn, 6th Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 10 DEC 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT,
APO 96350

1. AR 340-5 directs that indorsements to correspondence will be forwarded with the original and one carbon copy of each indorsement attached. USARV message AVHGC-DST #86650, dated 230859 Nov 67, directed that each indorsing headquarters would insure the proper number of copies of indorsements were forwarded.

2. Operational Report of Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery is returned for addition of carbon copies of 1st and 2d Indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. Nakatsukasa

C. S. Nakatsukasa

Cpt, AGC

Asst AG

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AVFA-GC-OT (4 Nov 67) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 RCS CSFOR-65 UIC WA2CA 3d Bn, 6th Arty (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

In compliance with paragraph 2 of the 4th Indorsement, carbon copies
of the 1st and 2d Indorsements are forwarded.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


RICHARD J. SETTIMO
Capt. AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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AVHOC-DST (4 Nov 67) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS CS FOR-65) (UIC WA2CA) (3d Bn, 6th Arty)
(U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 22 DEC 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (A2CA) as indorsed.
2. Concur with report as indorsed. Report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

cc: HQ, 3d Bn, 6th Arty
HQ, I FFV

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GPOP-DT (4 Nov 67) 7th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October
1967 from HQ, 3d Bn, 6th Artillery (UIC: A2CA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 12 JAN 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
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