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



IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (19 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-674158

23 February 1968

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st  
Battalion, 27th 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:

C. A. STANFIEL  
Colonel, AGC  
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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1st Battalion, 82d Artillery  
1st Battalion, 27th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery  
APO San Francisco 96268

AVGC-TC

4 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)(U)

THRU: Commanding Officer  
23D Artillery Group  
APO 96289

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam, Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
APO 96266

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVGCC-DH  
APO 96375

Commander-in-Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

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

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FOR OT RD  
674158

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**SECTION I**

**SIGNIFICANT HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT ACTIVITIES**

1. (C) Administration and Personnel

a. The 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery, remains assigned to the 23d Artillery Group.

b. Normal S1 activities have been conducted during the period 1 August 1967 through 31 October 1967.

c. The assigned personnel strength exceeded the authorized strength by a total of one officer and two enlisted men. There were no significant overages and shortages during this reporting period.

d. There were no critical personnel shortages during this reporting period.

e. There were a total of thirteen casualties during this reporting period.

f. There were a total of thirteen Purple Hearts and two Army Commendation Medals awarded during this reporting period.

g. A total of one-hundred and fifty-five personnel went on out-of-country R&A.

h. There were no significant morale, disciplinary, or judicial activities during this reporting period.

i. There were no vehicular or aircraft accidents during this reporting period that significantly affected the operations of this battalion.

j. There were no significant changes in educational opportunities during this reporting period.

k. Religious services, both Protestant and Catholic, are held on a regular weekly basis.

2. (C) Intelligence

The battalion's visual reconnaissance area was expanded from 3200 square kilometers to about 4000 square kilometers. Sightings have increased in the VR area. This increase in significant sightings is due to increased VC activity and the increased experience of the air observers.

3. (C) Training

a. The following periods of mandatory training for personnel were conducted during the reporting period.

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- (1) CER Refresher: 2 hrs
- (2) Code of Conduct: 1 hr
- (3) Safeguarding Defense Information: 1 hr
- (4) Map Reading: 1 hr
- (5) Survival, Evasion and Escape: 1 hr
- (6) Civil Affairs: 1 hr
- (7) Clandestine Surveillance and Listening Devices: 1 hr
- (8) Command Information: 13 hrs
- (9) Drivers Training: 3 hrs
- (10) Weapons Safety: 1 hr

b. Individual replacement training was accomplished by orientation at the 90th Replacement Battalion and a one week course at Phu Loi or Dau Trong Replacement Training Company.

4. (C) Operations

a. The battalion continued normal operations consistent with assigned missions during the reporting period.

b. The 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery participated in the following operations during the reporting period.

(1) Operation WALTER, conducted by the 25th Infantry Division, was supported by Battery A and elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. The Headquarters element was moved to Phu Loi and assigned responsibilities of coordinating fires of A Battery, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery; D Battery, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery and C Battery, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery. Elements of the battalion were involved in WALTER on 22 and 23 August.

(2) Operation WITCH HUNT, conducted by the U.S. Special Forces Detachment, B-32, was supported by Headquarters and B Battery from 16 August to 19 August. Battery B displaced from Tay Ninh and moved to Trai Bi. Two preparations were fired on false LZ as part of a deception plan and then the real LZ for the operation. The battery fired on selected targets during the remainder of the operation.

(3) Operation SIDEWINDER, conducted by the 5th Special Forces Group, Detachment B-32, was supported by B Battery on 24 August. The operation was designed to destroy a training base and to conduct search and destroy operations from the Cambodian border to Ban Soi. Battery fired a preparation on objective on (XT 971526) and continued firing on selected targets for the remainder of the operation.

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(4) Operation CORONADO V, conducted by the 9th Infantry Division, was supported by Battery A from 11 September to 16 September. During this period Battery A was released from its mission of GSR, 1st Divarty and moved to Dong Tam. It was given the mission of GSR, 9th Divarty under the operational control of the 3rd Battalion, 34th Artillery. On 15 September the battery fired 1799 rounds in support of the Riverine Force which had been ambushed. Upon release from the 9th Division, the battery was sent to Dau Tieng. 6

(5) Operation KUHLL, conducted by the 25th Infantry Division was supported by Headquarters, A, B, and C Batteries. The operation was aimed at establishing security in the Ho Bo Woods so that a team of thirty Rome Plows could level a large portion of the woods. On 15 September Headquarters, B, and C Batteries proceeded to Cu Chi. These elements were assigned the mission of reinforcing the 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery and proceeded to FSB Pamela, located on the western edge of the Ho Bo Woods. Due to the poor trafficability of the road, Headquarters, B and C were forced to establish a FSB three thousand meters south of FSB Pamela. From that position, the three elements supported the operation until 27 September. A Battery was utilized from FSB Go Dau Ha, where it had proceeded after leaving Operation CORONADO V in the Delta.

(6) Operation DIAMONDHEAD continued throughout the entire reporting period, and was supported by Headquarters, Service, B and C Batteries for most of that period. A Battery supported the operation from 22 September to 31 October. DIAMONDHEAD is primarily a series of search and destroy operations conducted by the 3d Bde, 25th Infantry Division within its TAOR.

(7) Operation ECLIPSE, conducted by the 5th Special Forces Group, Detachment B-32, was supported by Headquarters Battery Personnel from 29 August thru 1 September. A Forward Observer was provided to accompany the SF/CIDG personnel on a heliborne assault at LZ MARS and a patrol from that position (XT 253705) to Trai Bi.

(8) The 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery conducted the following one-day artillery assaults:

(a) On 16 August 1967, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery, departed Tay Ninh base camp on an artillery assault at Trai Bi. Headquarters Battery provided a forward observer party, an air observer, and a survey party. The battery fired two preparations during the operation and provided additional fires throughout the operation on preselected targets. A total of 174 rounds were fired throughout the operation.

(b) On 18 August 1967, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery, conducted an artillery assault at Ben Keo (XT23144330). The battery fired 183 rounds at preplanned targets and 99 rounds at targets located by "people sniffer". Headquarters Battery provided an air observer and survey control data for firing positions.

(c) On 24 August 1967, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery conducted a one day artillery assault via (XT107513). The battery

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fired 291 HE and 3 WP rounds during the operation. This was broken down as two unobserved and seven observed missions. Four of these missions were in support of "Sidewinder", a Special Forces operation conducted to destroy a basic training camp believed to be in the vic of WF 971526. An estimated 200 recruits were believed to be in the early phases of basic training at this camp.

(d) On 7 September 1967, Battery C, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery conducted a one day artillery assault vic (XF 495504). A total of 8 missions were fired and functional firing of all machine guns, grenade launchers and individual weapons was conducted. Rounds expended were: 28 rounds on registrations, 3 rounds on a destruction mission and 276 rounds on other missions. Headquarters Battery provided an Air Observer for the operation.

(e) On 12 October 1967, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery conducted a one day artillery assault vic (XF 113497) in support of B-32 Special Forces. A total of 197 rounds were fired on prosolicted targets during the operation.

(9) The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition listed below:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NO. OF MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>AMMO EXPENDED</u>
		<u>155MM</u>
Battery A	2995	20526
Battery B	2645	22913
Battery C	<u>5326</u>	<u>21366</u>
TOTAL	10966	64805

5. (C) Logistics

a. Supply in general continues to improve.

(1) Class I has stabilized with all batteries drawing sufficient "A" rations, though the selection of condiments at Dau Tieng is limited.

(2) No problems have been encountered in Class III.

(3) No significant problems in Class V.

b. During this period the overall maintenance support for the battalion has improved. Repair parts supply is improving and the battalion has gone from a 30% zero balance in its prescribed load list to 28% zero balance to date.

6. (U) During the past quarter, four significant civil action projects were either initiated or completed.

a. Twenty-five scholarships to the high school in Dau Tieng were provided to worthy students from money contributed by personnel in Headquarters Battery and Battery C. 5

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b. The soccer field in Dau Tieng was refurbished to include the planting of grass, putting in new goal supports, and enclosing the field with a new fence. This was a joint project in which the local Vietnamese provided the labor while this battalion provided technical assistance and materials.

c. Work was begun on a new Dau Tieng Community Center by hauling fill dirt to raise the level of a vacant lot where the center is to be built.

d. Battery A has organized a Boy Scout Troop in Phu Loi. The battery had uniforms made for all the members. An officer and an enlisted man help conduct troop meetings on a weekly basis when the battery is in base camp.

## SECTION II

### PART I, OBSERVATIONS

#### 1. (U) Personnel and Administration

None

#### 2. (U) Intelligence

##### a. ITEM: Starlight Scope Use

(1) DISCUSSION: Experience has shown that starlight scopes are quite useful in backing up perimeter defense in Fire Support Patrol Bases. These items enable outposts to better examine suspect areas at night. They enhance the capability of discovering infiltrators.

(2) OBSERVATION: The addition of starlight scopes to a 155 battery TOE would significantly improve the battery's night defensive posture.

##### b. ITEM: Hand-Held Cameras for Visual Reconnaissance

(1) DISCUSSION: Occasionally, observations from VR aircraft are difficult to describe. At times things which are not recognizable to the observer, might be recognizable to someone else. In these cases, photographs might resolve the problem. Aerial photographs from reconnaissance aircraft would help, but often take too long to acquire without abusing the priority system.

(2) OBSERVATION: This problem could be alleviated by authorizing 35mm cameras with telephoto lenses (approximately 200mm) for use by aerial observers. Basis of issue would be one per VR aircraft assigned or allocated. Due to separation of units from their higher headquarters, cameras, with developing facilities and supplies, should be located at the units providing the observers. When not being used on VR flights, these cameras could also be used to enhance PIO capabilities.

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3. (U) Training and Organization

None

4. (U) Operations

a. ITEM: Clearance of Fires

(1) DISCUSSION: During the quarter there were two instances where air observers spotted armed forces moving through a specified strike zone. In both cases clearance to fire was received. Both sightings turned out to be RF/PF patrols and a tragedy was prevented at the last minute by these patrols identifying themselves. One patrol actually took cover when the aircraft made a low level pass, making them even more suspicious.

(2) OBSERVATION: ARVN must report the movement of their units within these specified strike zones. Also, these units must take immediate action to identify themselves as friendly when an aircraft circles them.

b. ITEM: Base Camp Defense Commitment

(1) DISCUSSION: As a tenant unit at Dau Tieng, the Battalion has been required to furnish fourteen enlisted men and one officer to support the base camp defense program. The personnel assigned to this program remain behind when the battalion moves out on another mission. This causes the shifting of additional duties on the personnel going with the battalion.

(2) OBSERVATION: The unit that has the mission of base camp defense should be given a TD augmentation in order to provide the necessary personnel.

5. (U) Logistics

a. ITEM: Infusees with Incomplete TA50-901 Equipment

(1) DISCUSSION: At the present time this unit is undergoing a large infusion program and many of the replacements are arriving without helmets, helmet liners, and body armor.

(2) OBSERVATION: Since these items of equipment are extremely difficult to obtain through supply channels, the infusees should bring these items with them from their previous station.

b. ITEM: Shortage of Airlift Equipment

(1) DISCUSSION: During a recent operation in which elements of this battalion participated, it was necessary to resupply strictly by air. Due to a serious shortage of airlift equipment, the aerial resupply was slow and difficult.

(2) OBSERVATION: It appears that aerial resupply of this unit will occur frequently in the future and it is imperative that sufficient airlift equipment be readily available. Of the one hundred A-22 bags requested from the 567th Ordnance in Tay Ninh on 7181, only nine have been issued.

c. ITEM: Fire Control Repair Capability

(1) DISCUSSION: Maintenance support received from the battalion's direct support unit was found to be lacking in fire control repair capability, therefore, all fire control is evacuated to a depot repair unit. This takes an average of two weeks due to transportation problems and a backlog of jobs at the depot repair units.

(2) OBSERVATION: After discussing the problem with personnel of the direct support unit, it was learned that adequate personnel and tools are available to repair fire control equipment but no repair parts are on hand.

SECTION II

PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Administration and Personnel

None

2. (U) Intelligence

That all batteries of a 155 battalion be authorized 2 starlight scopes each to effectively increase night security.

3. (U) Training

None

4. (U) Operations

None

5. (U) Logistics

That repair parts for support of fire-control equipment be released to the direct support units that have the capability and personnel to perform the necessary maintenance.

*Nicholas R. Nave, Jr.*

NICHOLAS R. NAVE, JR.

LTC Artillery

Commanding

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AVGE-C (4 Nov 67) 1st Ind.  
SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) UIC: WD3EAA

Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, APO 96289, 25 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFB-FAC,  
APO 96266

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for the period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery.

2. The following comments are made:

a. Section II, Part I, paragraph 2a. Concur. This headquarters feels that each battalion headquarters battery and firing battery should have at least one short-range starlight scope for field use.

b. Section II, Part I, paragraph 2b. Concur. 23d Artillery Group currently has one (1) hand held camera on hand. Four (4) additional cameras are being requested (one per battalion and one for Group Headquarters). A greater density of issue would have to be studied in detail and justified to higher headquarters. Logistic support in terms of supply and processing capabilities would have to be assured.

c. Section II, Part I, paragraph 4a. Concur. Closer coordination must be established between the RF/PF units and the ARVN clearing agencies. Battalions of the 23d Artillery Group have established personal liaison with RF/PF units in their areas and this should aid in eliminating situations of this nature.

d. Section II, Part I, paragraph 4b. Concur. Units required to provide personnel to base camp defense programs should be relieved, to the maximum extent possible, from this commitment when operations require displacement from the base camp.

e. Section II, Part I, paragraph 5a. Concur. Paragraph 9b, USARV Regulation 735-35 and paragraph 5-3, AR 735-35 direct that these items accompany the individual when transferring in-country.

f. Section II, Part I, paragraph 5b. Valid requisitions have been submitted. Items are not in RVN. No further action can be taken.

g. Section II, Part I, paragraph 5c. IIFV Artillery directed that all float sights on hand be turned in to support maintenance to alleviate this problem. This action was completed by 23d Artillery Group units on 24 October 1967.

h. Section II, Part II, Paragraph 2. See paragraph 2a above.




AVGE-C (4 Nov 67)

1st Ind

25 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) UIC: WD3EAA (U)

1. Section II, Part II, paragraph 5. Concur. In addition, recommend that Forward Support Companies be given the personnel and repair parts to perform necessary repairs.

  
ROBERT J. KCCH  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

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AVFB-FAC (4 Nov 67) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Reports - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSTOR-65) UIC: WD3EAA

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV Arty, APO 96266 11 DEC 1967

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,  
APO 96375  
Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,  
APO 96558

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

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reported period.

2. (C) The following comments pertain to the attached Operational Report - Lessons Learned:

a. Section II, Part I, Observations:

(1) Paragraph 2a. Concur. Under the provisions of USARV unclassified message, AVHGC-OT 19073, dated 25 March 1967 and USARV message AVHGP-MD 65839 dated 6 October 1967, subject, Temporary Loan Procedures, units may request issue of needed equipment. As Starlight Scopes are in short supply in RVN, requests for temporary loan are evaluated on an individual basis. The 23d Group has been notified of this procedure.

(2) Paragraph 2b. Concur as modified by paragraph 2b, of 1st Indorsement.

(3) Paragraph 4a. Concur. Only mil. clearance is required to fire into a Specified Strike Zone. To preclude accidents or incidents thorough US/ARVN coordination is a continuing and vital requirement.


(4) Paragraph 5c. Recommend direct support maintenance units continue to evaluate repair parts stockage requirements to ensure prompt and adequate support.

b. Section II, Part II, Recommendations:

(1) Paragraph 2. Concur. See paragraph 2a(1) above.

(2) Paragraph 5. Concur. See paragraph 2a(4) above.

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RAYMOND P. MURPHY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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AVFBC-RE-H (4 Nov 67) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 October 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (UIC-WDFU TO) (U)

DA HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266

21 DEC 1967

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

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

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached report and concurs with the comments and recommendations as modified by the 1st and 2nd Indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
as

  
R. E. WAINWRIGHT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (4 Nov 67) 4th Ind (C)  
 SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65)(U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 25 JAN 1968

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery(D3EA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning base camp defense, page 7, paragraph 4b; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2d. Personnel augmentation for base camp support is not available. USARV message AVHGC-FD 92479 DTG 171520Z Dec 67 informed all commands.

b. Reference item concerning fire-control capability, page 8, paragraph 5; 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2i; and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2a(4): Nonconcur. Centralized control is not placed on issue of fire control repair parts to direct support (DS) units. When requisitions are submitted by the DS units they are filled from available assets. If this is not possible, requisitions are filled as parts are received in-country.

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



D. E. TUMAN  
 Major, AGC  
 Asst Adjutant General

cy furn:

HQ, 1st Bn, 27th Arty  
 HQ, II FFORCEV

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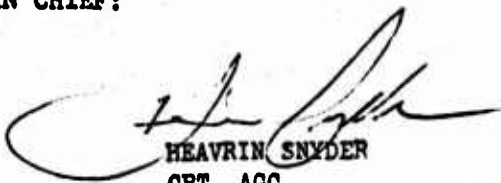
GPOP-DT(4 Nov 67) (U) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October  
1967 from HQ, 1st Bn, 27th Arty (UIC: WD3EAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 6 FEB 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  
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

