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AGAM-P (M) (25 Jul 69) FOR (OT-UT-692100)

4 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery ~~Period Ending 30 April 1969~~ (U) ③

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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.

11 30 Apr 69

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

⑨ Operational Rept. for Quarterly period ending 30 Apr 69
Kenneth G. Wickham
KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 6th Battalion 14th Artillery
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AVGG-BD-CO

30 April 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion 14th Artillery
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (G) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (C) General.

(1) The battalion continued combat operations in the II Corps Tactical Zone for eighty-nine days during the reporting period. Artillery was employed in support of 4th Infantry Division, ARVN, RF/PF and Special Forces Camps. The elements of this battalion remained in their strategically located areas and continued to provide artillery coverage west of Pleiku and for areas around Kontum and Dak To.

(2) There were no displacements of organic firing batteries. Numerous raids were conducted to extend the artillery coverage in support of maneuver elements and to fire at significant targets beyond the normal range coverage provided from the permanent fire bases. Artillery raids during this period were more frequent and normally for longer durations because of operations along the Cambodian border west of Kontum.

(3) The battalion entered the reporting period with the following disposition of organic and OPCON units: (See inclosure 1)

(a) Battalion Command Post: Artillery Hill (ZA229535).

(b) Battalion Forward Tactical Command Post: LZ Mary Lou, Kontum (ZA 228835).

(c) Service Battery and rear elements of Headquarters Battery: Artillery Hill, Pleiku (ZA 229534).

(d) Battery A: New Flei Djereng (YA 876456); OPCON to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, GS.

(e) Battery B: Fire Support Base 12, Ben Het (YB 869256); OPCON to 1st Battalion, 92nd Artillery, GS.

(f) Battery C(-): LZ Mary Lou, Kontum (ZA 224844), GS.

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(g) Battery C (8-inch platoon): LZ Bass, Polei Kleng
(ZA 098834), GS.

(h) Liaison and Metro Sections: Kontum (AR 774894).

(i) Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery: LZ Susan
(YA 834745), OPCON to 6th Battalion 14th Artillery, FS.

(j) Battery B, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery: (ZA 101771),
OPCON to 6th Battalion 14th Artillery, DS to 2d Battalion 8th Infantry.

(k) 4th Radar Section, 8th Battalion 26th Artillery:
Kontum (ZA 788896), OPCON to 6th Battalion 14th Artillery, GS.

(4) Increased emphasis was placed on the effectiveness of the Combined Fire Support Coordination Center (CFSCC) at Kontum, which was established in January 1969. Additional personnel and equipment were provided by this Headquarters.

(5) The Tactical Command Post continued to operate from LZ Mary Lou, exercising control over OPCON units and coordinating fires with all agencies in that area. Coordination of fires was accomplished with the CFSCC in Kontum and 4th Battalion 42d Artillery (DS Artillery Battalion to 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division), which was located at LZ Mary Lou. During portions of this period, the battalion supported all three brigades of the 4th Division simultaneously in their respective Areas of Operations. Special liaison was established during the period 19 February through 10 March with 6th Battalion 29th Artillery (DS to 1st Brigade). Supporting fires for the 3d Brigade were provided upon request.

(6) Battery A continued to fire in support of combat operations by the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, Special Forces, and on several occasions for the 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, in the area west and southwest of Kontum.

(7) Battery B continued to provide artillery support for the Ben Het - Dak To area. The battery supported the Corral program and all Free World Forces within range. During the period, Battery B became a prime target for enemy artillery. Fire Support Base 12 (Ben Het Special Forces camp) received approximately 1500 rounds of enemy artillery, with approximately 280 of these impacting inside the battery area. Because of the enemy's activities, counter-battery fires accounted for approximately 40% of the battery's expenditures during the reporting period.

(8) Battery C continued to provide fire support for the

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Kontum area. In addition to supporting maneuver forces, the battery played a key role in the counter-rocket program for Kontum City. The battery also supported villages and hamlets within its range capability. Several artillery raids were conducted to LZ Bass (Polei Kleng) in support of 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division operations.

(9) Liaison Sections: The battalion had two LNO sections deployed. The LNO section with Kontum Province Headquarters continued its liaison mission with emphasis on firing defensive targets and establishing on-call targets for Vietnamese villages and hamlets. A new LNO section was organized on 26 April and deployed with the 3d Armored Cavalry (ARVN), whose mission was road security on Highway 14 N, between Kontum and Ban Hoi.

b. Intelligence.

(1) Targeting:

(a) The targeting activities of the CFSCC in Kontum City have been expanded during the reporting period. The battalion S2 was assigned as OIC of the CFSCC.

(b) The CFSCC obtained SPARs from Province, 24th Special Tactical Zone, and 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. In accordance with applicable directives, targets were developed and submitted for clearance and subsequent firing.

(c) Since there were three other targeting sections in the Kontum area, the CFSCC refrained from developing Harassing and Interdiction targets. However, lucrative agent reports and acquired targets were developed for firing.

(d) The CFSCC operated as a combined liaison section for the two Vietnamese Headquarters (24th Special Tactical Zone and Province Headquarters) in the Kontum City area, by assisting and advising in the artillery support for ARVN and RF/PF operations.

(e) The CFSCC coordinated all fire support agencies in the defense of Kontum City by establishing fire coordination lines, and by acting as a net control station for the Kontum City quick-fire channel.

(f) The CFSCC received in-flight SLAR readouts from aircraft flying through the Area of Operations and was able to get immediate fire on those targets that were determined to be unfriendly.

(g) The CFSCC developed and continually updated a

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counter-rocket and counter-mortar program for the Rocket Ridge area (northeast of Kontum) which is included in the overall Kontum counter-battery program published by 4th Battalion 14th Artillery.

(h) During March, when the 175MM guns of Battery C, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery displaced from LZ Mary Lou to LZ Bass, the CFSCC assisted by providing a target list of areas of increased enemy activity and road sections which were being mined on a regular basis.

(i) During the first part of April, the CFSCC gave two individuals from the 6th Battalion 29th Artillery (DS Artillery Battalion to 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division) on-the-job training in Aircraft Warning Control Center (AWCC) procedures, in preparation for the establishment of a new AWCC.

(j) During the month of February, all three brigades of the 4th Infantry Division had Areas of Operations in close proximity to each other, around the Kontum area. The Kontum CFSCC was the single agency which could clear grids by coordinating with 1st, 2d, and 3d Brigades, 24th Special Tactical Zone, and Kontum Province.

(k) The collocation of the Kontum AWCC with the CFSCC served a useful purpose in coordination of contact missions. Since a quick glance at the air advisory map indicated which artillery batteries were occupied with other missions and particularly in which directions they were firing, the CFSCC was able to make a quick determination of which artillery might be most quickly and efficiently employed to shoot contact missions.

(2) Physical Security:

(a) During the reporting period, emphasis was placed on improving physical security throughout the battalion. Additional training of personnel was conducted in the areas of enemy sapper tactics, employment of claymore mines, trip flares, and fou gas, and rules of engagement. In addition, more frequent sweeps of the Artillery Hill perimeter were made.

(b) At the beginning of the reporting period, three Intrusion Detectors, BPS Model 3, were installed in the Headquarters Battery perimeter on Artillery Hill. These pressure-sensitive devices indicate whenever a moving object is in the perimeter. The devices were checked daily to insure that they were operational. Their effectiveness was substantiated by detecting dogs, nearby moving vehicles, and even heavy rain.

(c) On 9 April, three personnel of the battalion attended

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a course on the use of the Medium Range Night Observation Device in An Khe. Upon their completion of the instruction, the battalion was issued the device.

(d) On 18 April, the battalion received eighteen E-8 CS gas dispensers which are being employed on Artillery Hill and at the firing batteries.

(e) During the month of April, the battalion initiated a plan to defoliate the perimeters of the battalion utilizing aircraft spraying. At the close of the reporting period, the perimeters at Artillery Hill and Battery A at New Flei Djereng had been defoliated.

(f) Headquarters Battery at Artillery Hill constructed new personnel fighting bunkers on the perimeter and two strategically located fighting bunkers near the Tactical Operations Center.

(g) Service Battery at Artillery Hill completed the construction of one new guard bunker and partially completed a second guard bunker. In addition, one perimeter gate was repaired and two new gates were installed.

(h) Chain-link fencing was employed in front of five of the eight perimeter bunkers manned by this battalion on Artillery Hill. The fencing was placed between four and ten feet away from the bunkers to provide standoff protection against the effects of anti-tank type weapons. Fencing will be installed around the remaining bunkers in the near future.

(i) Perimeter lighting was installed along the battalion perimeter on Artillery Hill. The lighting system, which was completed on 21 February, has been very effective in illuminating the perimeter. A Starlight Scope is available in the event that there is a power failure.

(j) Battery A increased the amount of claymore mines on their perimeter, repaired the perimeter wiring, and rebuilt some of their guard bunkers. The battery has policed their entire perimeter and has installed E-8 CS gas dispensers.

(k) Battery B is not responsible for maintaining the perimeter at Ben Het, but did lend assistance whenever needed.

() Battery C has installed E-8 gas dispensers and repaired their perimeter wire. The battery has also prepared four gas, increased the number of trip flares on their portion of the perimeter

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at LZ Mary Lou, and has constructed chain-link standoff fences for defense against RPG-2 and RPG-7 attacks.

(3) Crater Analysis: Crater analysis was used extensively during the reporting period. Fragments from Ben Het were used to identify the Russian-built 85MM field guns being employed against friendly forces in that area. During the reporting period, the battalion employed its crater analysis team extensively in the Fleiku area. Crater analysis was used to establish likely sites for launching of 122MM rockets and 82MM mortars, and was also employed once after a B-40 rocket attack.

(4) Forward Observer Operations: During the reporting period, nine operations involving Forward Observer teams from this battalion were conducted:

(a) 23 January through 3 February: A Forward Observer team from Battery A supported the 22d Ranger Battalion (ARVN) in the vicinity of YA 895686 to YA 906686. Artillery support was provided by Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery.

(b) 5 February through 6 March: A Forward Observer team provided by Battery A supported the 223d Company, 3d MSF Battalion in the Boun Megau Valley. This operation was considered to be very successful. Artillery support was provided by Battery B, 5th Battalion 22d Artillery.

(c) 26 February through 1 March: Battery C provided a Forward Observer team in support of a CIDG company. Battery B, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, and Battery A, 4th Battalion 42d Artillery provided fire support.

(d) 9 March through 2 April: Both Battery A and Battery B provided Forward Observer teams to support the 221st Company, 2d MSF Battalion in the vicinity of Fire Support Base 29 and Hill 824 near Ben Het. Artillery support was provided by Battery B, 6th Battalion 4th Artillery, Battery B, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, and Battery A, 4th Battalion 42d Artillery.

(e) 28 March through 2 April: A Forward Observer team from Battery C supported the 222d Company (MSF) in the Ben Het area. Artillery support was provided by Battery A, 4th Battalion 42d Artillery.

(f) 4 April through 16 April: Battery C provided a Forward Observer team to support the 2d MSF Battalion on an operation in the vicinity of Hill 990 near Ben Het. Artillery support was

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provided by Battery A, 4th Battalion 42d Artillery.

(g) 8 April through 21 April: Battery A provided a Forward Observer team to support the 2d Squadron 1st Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division in the area of Fire Support Base Blackhawk. Artillery support was provided by Battery C, 7th Battalion 15th Artillery.

(h) 20 April through 26 April: Battery C provided a Forward Observer team which supported a CIDG company in the vicinity of Qd Plei Djereeng. Artillery support was provided by Battery A, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery.

(i) 21 April through 23 April: Battery C supplied a Forward Observer team to support a RF/PF Battalion in the Pleiku area. Artillery support was provided by Battery B, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery.

c. Operations and Training Activities.

(1) Operations.

(a) Significant Events.

1. On 4 February, the 8-inch platoon of Battery C returned from LZ Patt (ZA 098834) where it was collocated with Battery D, 5th Battalion 16th Artillery. The platoon arrived at that location on 31 January, resulting in six 8-inch howitzers available for employment in that area.

2. On 7 February, with the termination of the ARVN operations Binh Tay 48/49/50, northwest of Pleiku, which began on 7 January, the operational control of Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, located at LZ Susan (YA 834745), changed from this battalion to the 3d Battalion 6th Artillery. The 24th Special Tactical Zone (ARVN) had conducted these operations against elements of the 24th NVA Regiment.

3. On 11 February, Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery was airlifted from LZ Susan to LZ Bobbie (ZA 062736) with the mission of General Support, with priority of fires to 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. Upon closing at LZ Bobbie, this battalion assumed operational control of the battery.

4. On 19 February, the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division began operations west of Plei Mrong (ZA 112672). The Brigade Tactical Command Post was located at Plei Mrong to direct the operations. The mission of Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery was modified to provide priority of fires to the 1st Brigade. This battalion dispatched a portion of the Tactical Operations Center, in

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the form of a liaison section, to Plei Mrong, collocating the section with the 1st Brigade Tactical Command Post and working directly with the 6th Battalion 29th Artillery which had the mission of Direct Support to 1st Brigade. The liaison section enabled this battalion to rapidly coordinate, plan, and provide responsive artillery support to the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

5. On 22 February, Battery A, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery (OPCON to this battalion) replaced Battery B of the same battalion as the Direct Support battery to 2d Battalion 8th Infantry (Mechanized). The exchange of missions was to allow Battery B, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery to perform concentrated maintenance while assigned the mission of General Support to the Plei M Area Defense.

6. On 24 February, the 175MM platoon of Battery C, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery was displaced from LZ Mary Lou to LZ Bass (ZA 029993) to fire upon heavy intelligence readings near the Cambodian border west of Kontum. The platoon returned to LZ Mary Lou on 10 March after firing also in support of operations of the 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division.

7. On 28 February, with the termination of the 1st Brigade operations west of Plei Mrong, the Brigade Tactical Command Post was moved to Poley Kleng (LZ Bass) to prepare for Operation Wayne Gray in the Plei Trap Valley, west of Kontum, and along the Cambodian border. To continue the close liaison established with the 6th Battalion 29th Artillery, and the 1st Brigade, the special liaison section also displaced to LZ Bass. On the same day, Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, under the operational control of this battalion, conducted a road march to LZ Bass, in preparation to support the 1st Brigade during Operation Wayne Gray.

8. On 1 March, Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery was airlifted from LZ Bass to LZ Swinger (YA 837967). Mission of the battery was General Support, with priority of fires to the 1st Brigade. The intensity of enemy activity in the area, in the form of artillery attacks and small arms fire, resulted in the need for extreme protective measures for resupply helicopters, such as suppressive fires around the battery location, gunship escorts, and the use of several different landing pads.

9. On 3 March, a coordinated enemy artillery and armor attack was launched against Ben Het, where Battery B, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery was located. Approximately twelve tracked vehicles were reported in the area and the Ben Het camp received approximately 480 incoming rounds. Artillery support was received from Battery B, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, and Battery A, 4th Battalion

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42d Artillery. Rounds fired by these two batteries in defense of the camp totaled 2,000. Air Force flare and gun ships fired in support throughout the attack and were later joined by fighter aircraft. Two enemy tanks were reported destroyed. Two friendly KIA's and two WIA's were reported, none of which were from this battalion.

10. On 4 March, two 175MM guns from Battery B were displaced temporarily to FSB 1 in Dak To. The splitting of the firing battery was to enable at least half of the battery to fire counter-battery fires whenever the enemy fired on FSB 12 (the Ban Het Special Forces camp). The intensity of enemy artillery fire frequently prevented counter-battery fires from the normal battery area. The two 175MM guns remained at FSB 1 until 7 April when the enemy artillery deployed against FSB 12 decreased significantly. While at FSB 1, the computation of firing data was accomplished from FSB 12, using a common Fire Direction Center. Numerous other missions other than counter-battery were fired from the guns at FSB 1. On 28 March, two 155MM howitzers from Battery A, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery were placed at FSB 12, with overhead cover, to primarily fire counter-battery fires in defense of that location.

11. On 17 March, the 8-inch platoon of Battery C, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery displaced from LZ Mary Lou to LZ Bass for the purpose of firing destruction missions on large bunker complexes northwest of LZ Bass. The bunkers were reported to have heavy overhead cover and to be well camouflaged. Missions were adjusted by air observers and forward observers. Heavy smoke in the area hindered some of the adjusted missions. The 8-inch platoon returned to LZ Mary Lou on 24 March.

12. On 24 March, major changes in the Kontum area caused by the departure of armored/cavalry elements and by changes in Areas of Operations triggered two artillery displacements within this battalion. Battery A, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery came under the operational control of this battalion upon closing at LZ Panther (ZB 153065), with the mission of General Support, with priority of fires to the 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. The battery was collocated with the Tactical Command Post of the 2d Battalion 8th Infantry (Mechanized), which moved into the area the same day. Battery A, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery (IS to 2d Battalion 8th Infantry) displaced from LZ Nicole to LZ Gigolo (ZA 221915). The 2d Battalion 8th Infantry had the mission of road security (Highway 14 N, north of Kontum) and to conduct search and destroy missions along the highway.

13. On 1 April, the 175MM gun platoons of Batteries A and C, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery were displaced to conduct artillery raids to support the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division

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operation in the Plei Trap Valley. The platoon from Battery A moved to old Plei Djereng (YA 859532) and the platoon from Battery C moved to LZ Bass. These raids were based upon knowledge of enemy activity in the southern portion of the 1st Brigade Area of Operations.

14. On 14 April, Battery C, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery was airlifted from LZ Swinger to FSB 1 in Dak To. This marked the termination of 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division operations in the Plei Trap Valley. Battery C was one of the last elements extracted because of its strategic location for supporting all other elements awaiting extraction. Extraction of the battery and its security was conducted under the protection of gunships flying continuous cover and suppressive fire from Battery B, 4th Battalion 12d Artillery, located at LZ Mile High (YA 937934). Operational control of the battery changed from this battalion to the 1st Battalion 92d Artillery upon closure at FSB 1.

15. On 15 April, the 175MM platoon from Battery A, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery returned from Old Plei Djereng to its permanent firebase at New Plei Djereng. On the same day, Battery A(-), 1st Battalion 92d Artillery departed FSB 1 and road marched to LZ Mary Lou. Upon closing, the battery(-) came under the operational control of this battalion. Plans had been formulated to road march the battery(-) to LZ Bass and airlift it to LZ Susan (24.834745) to support a two-battalion MSF operation in the southern portion of the Plei Trap Valley.

16. On 16 April, Battery A(-), 1st Battalion 92d Artillery road marched to LZ Bass and was airlifted to LZ Susan. MSF Battalions were inserted the following day and were placed under the operational control of the 2d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.

17. On 19 April, one 175MM gun of Battery B, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery was displaced from FSB 12 (Ben Het) to FSB 1 (Dak To) for the purpose of firing counter-battery fires for FSB 12, as a follow-up to reliable indications of impending enemy artillery activity in the Ben Het area. The battery remained split, with three guns at FSB 12 and one gun at FSB 1, at the close of the reporting period.

18. On 24 April, the 3d Armored Cavalry (ARVN) assumed control of Highway 14 N between Kontum and Ben Het. The 2d Battalion 8th Infantry (Mechanized), formerly located at Vo Dinh (ZB 154065) with its DS Artillery battery, Battery A, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery, then assumed control of Highway 14 N between Pleiku and Kontum, and displaced to a new LZ south of Kontum. Battery A, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery was no longer needed as DS battery to the 2d

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Battalion 8th Infantry; consequently it was displaced on 24 April to FSB 1, its mission was changed to General Support, and operational control was transferred from this battalion to 1st Battalion 92d Artillery. Artillery coverage for villages and hamlets in the vicinity of Vo Dinh, formerly provided by Battery A, 3d Battalion 6th Artillery, was provided from 24 April through the close of the reporting period by a platoon of 105MM howitzers from the 221st Artillery Battalion (ARVN).

19. On 26 April, the MSF operation in the Plei Trap Valley was terminated. Battery A(-), 1st Battalion 92d Artillery (OPCON to this battalion), was airlifted from LZ Susan to LZ Bass, completing the airlift on 27 April. The battery then road marched to LZ Mary Lou, where it remained at the close of the reporting period. The battery remained under the operational control of 6th Battalion 14th Artillery.

20. On 29 April, the 175MM platoon of Battery C, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery road marched from LZ Bass to its permanent battery location at LZ Mary Lou. The support of the 175MM platoon was no longer needed at LZ Bass.

(b) Significant Surveillance: (See Inclosure 2).

(c) Artillery ammunition expenditures during the reporting period were as follows:

<u>WEAPON</u>	<u>SHELL</u>	<u>FUZE</u>	<u>REPORTING PERIOD</u>	<u>SINCE ARRIVAL IN RVN</u>
8-inch How M107	M106	PD	5592	95387
		CVT	358	2686
		MTSQ	44	931
		CP	8	72
		TOTAL	6068	99155
175MM Gun M110	M137E2	PD	17210	143165
		CVT	1030	2957
		TOTAL	18240	146122

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(d) The battalion engaged in 89 days of operations during the reporting period.

(2) Training.

(a) The battalion used a weekly training schedule published four weeks in advance. This schedule consisted of those subjects required by the United States Army Vietnam plus intermediate headquarters. On-the-job maintenance training continued to be the major element of the battalion training program. All newly assigned personnel received mandatory replacement training at the 4th Infantry Division Replacement Training Center until 8 April 1969. On 10 April 1969 the 52d Artillery Group implemented its own RVN replacement training. This battalion contributed the classroom for indoor instruction, four instructors teaching a total of seven classes, and personnel and equipment for the rifle range live firing exercises.

(b) In February, this battalion conducted forward observer training for one RF Company near Kontum City. Training was received by one officer, one NCO, and thirty-six enlisted men. The 221st Artillery Battalion (ARVN) provided the live fire portion of the training.

(c) A SF/CIDG assistance team consisting of one officer, one NCO, and one artillery mechanic visited six Special Forces camps during the period 15 March through 14 April 1969. Camps visited were Dak Pek, Dak Seang, Mang Buk, Pleime, Duc Co, and Tieu Atar. Instruction was provided all camps in FDC procedures, aiming circle operation, and firing battery procedures according to the needs of each camp as determined by the assistance team. In most cases, instruction was well received and it was deemed to be a very successful program.

(d) The battalion continued to enroll all newly assigned officers and selected enlisted personnel in the First Field Force Vietnam Artillery Schools for Fire Direction Officers and Forward Observers. During the period six officers and five enlisted men attended the Fire Direction Course and two enlisted men attended the Forward Observer course. In addition, two officers and one NCO attended the Aerial Observer course conducted by the 219th Aviation Company.

(e) During the month of April 1969, this battalion formed a special liaison team with the mission of evaluating, teaching, and assisting Mobile Advisory Teams (MAT) to improve artillery support for villages, hamlets, and the RF/PF Forces. The team visited Kontum Province Headquarters, District Headquarters, and MAT locations in Kontum District. Training in all phases of artillery

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employment and the planning and firing of defensive targets was emphasized. This assistance team will continue its activities into the next reporting period.

(f) During the reporting period, increased instruction on enemy tactics, enemy weaponry, sapper attack techniques, and defensive actions was presented to all battalion personnel due to the increased enemy activity in this area.

(g) The battalion engaged in 89 days of training activities during the reporting period.

(h) The battalion engaged in ten days of troop movements during the reporting period.

(3) PSYWAR.

(a) Leaflets were dropped around Artillery Hill, all Fire Support Bases of the battalion, and along convoy and air routes to the battery locations. Air observers have also conducted drops in other areas which are not normally covered by battalion movement.

(b) VIP program leaflets were distributed to local civilians at convoy control point 40 located near Artillery Hill. Funds are currently on hand for expedient payment for information and/or equipment turned in under the VIP program.

(4) Other.

(a) Metro: The Metro Section was operational 70 days out of a possible 89 days. This represents all flights transmitted and computed as six flights representing one day. The total number of non-operational days was 19, representing 114 flights. Down time for the section was divided into three areas. The first area of difficulty, representing 64 missed flights, was due to the mechanical breakdown of the Rawin Set and associated systems. The second area, representing 35 missed flights, was due to loss of electrical power. The third area, representing 15 missed flights, was due to the short supply of expendables, such as radiosondes, hydrogen, and balloons. Expendables continued to be a problem. The Metro Section did not use any new techniques other than an extensive program of data checking prior to each broadcast. This was required due to a large percentage of personnel rotations during the reporting period.

(b) Battalion Aviation Section: On 13 February 1969, the Battalion Aviation Section was placed OPCON to the 52d Artillery

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U) (Cont'd)

Group. During the first twelve days of February, the Battalion Aviation Section, consisting of two LOH-6A helicopters, flew missions of command and control, artillery adjustment, convoy coverage, and delivery of repair parts and mail. The aircraft were available for use 80% of the time, flew 34 hours, and accomplished 88 direct combat support missions. No accidents or incidents occurred during the reporting period. Classes continued to be held on safety and flight planning.

d. Logistics and Maintenance.

(1) Logistics.

(a) Resupply activities were conducted by the battalion using organic vehicles and assets from supporting transportation units (trucks and aircraft). Seventy-five percent of the convoys were conducted to resupply Battery A at New Fiei Djoreng. The remaining convoys resupplied Battery B at FSB 12 and Battery C at LZ Mary Lou. 35 convoys transported 22 tons of Class I, 99 tons of Class III, and 1945 tons of Class V. Additional Class I and Class III for Battery A were transported by aircraft. Resupply was accomplished with minimum difficulty, due to adequate roads to both Battery A and Battery B, and by the use of flatbed trailers from the 124th Transportation Battalion, in spite of a 47% shortage of organic ammunition carriers.

(b) Establishment of an FSA at Dak To for Class I and Class III greatly facilitated resupply of Battery B during the reporting period. The old ASP at Dak To was also utilized for prestocking Class V for Battery B.

(c) During this reporting period, the battalion prepared for the continued logistical support of its organic units during the approaching monsoon season by prestocking Class III and Class V at firebases and by acquiring necessary air items in order to implement aerial resupply if the roads become unusable.

(2) Maintenance.

(a) Maintenance improved during this reporting period. This improvement is a result of increased command emphasis on the maintenance program within the battalion. A Battalion Maintenance Assistance Team was formed and assisted all but one battery in the battalion.

(b) Support Activities: During the reporting period the maintenance support unit, the 62d Maintenance Battalion, furnished an increased number of repair parts and has in most cases been successful.

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U) (Cont'd)

in performing 3d Echelon maintenance on the battalion's equipment.

(c) The total number of miles traveled by the vehicles of the battalion in the quarter was 91,500.

(d) During the reporting period, the battalion received one Truck, Cargo, 5-Ton; one Carrier, Cargo, 6-Ton, M-548; two Trucks, Shop Van, 2½-Ton; two Trucks, Cargo, 2½-Ton; and two Trucks, Utility, ½-Ton. However, during the reporting period, three Trucks, Utility, ½-Ton; three Trucks, Cargo, 3/4-Ton; one Truck, Cargo, 2½-Ton; four Trucks, Cargo, 5-Ton; and five Carriers, Cargo, 6-Ton, M-548, have been turned in as a result of Fair Wear and Tear. In addition, the battalion turned in one Truck, Cargo, 3/4-Ton, and one Trailer, Water, as combat losses due to enemy artillery.

(e) Forty 175MM tubes and ten cannon assemblies were replaced during the reporting period. No 8-inch tubes or cannon assemblies were replaced.

(f) During the reporting period, the following gun/howitzer assemblies were replaced: Two engines, one transmission, and six mounts.

(g) The vehicles and tracks replaced during the reporting period were one new M-548, four new guns, two new ½-Tons, and two used 2½-Tons.

(h) FLL Level:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>100% FILL</u>	<u>PARTIAL FILL</u>	<u>ZERO BALANCE</u>	<u>TOTAL LINES</u>
Automotive	322	246	1149	1717
Engineer	0	24	42	66
Artillery	285	261	1197	1743

(i) FLL in the field: FLL was sent to each firing battery under the assumption that the FLL system would work better with the FLL's at the firing positions. After a three-week trial period, it was decided that FLL should return to base camp. Reasons for this action were the problems encountered in getting parts to the batteries, less qualified supervision of FLL clerks, and the non-availability of spare parts when the vehicles were returned to Artillery Hill for maintenance.

(j) Pre-monsoon steps taken: A program is under way in

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFAR-65 (RI) (U) (Cont'd)

the Artillery Hill motor pool area to penetrate the entire motor park area, including access roads. Efforts are being made to assure that recovery equipment, including winches, is completely serviceable and capable of accomplishing vehicle recovery. Classes concerning vehicular maintenance and safety on wet terrain are being taught to all new arrivals in the battalion.

e. Civil Affairs. Civil Affairs projects accomplished by the battalion involve person to person contact between battery personnel and civilians. The following is a list of projects performed during the reporting period:

(1) Headquarters and Service Batteries supported the Fleiku orphanage by providing laborers, tools, and performing repairs on buildings and grounds. Some of the work performed was the repairing of electrical wiring, installation of light fixtures and sockets, repair of the generator, and replacement of kindergarten tables and chairs. Window screens were replaced in the nursery as well as screen doors in the dispensary. In addition, local nationals were hired to perform piece work and other tasks in the battalion area, providing additional income for the local population in the Fleiku area.

(2) Battery A constructed a trash disposal point for the local Montagnards in the Plei Djerong area, and contributed tools and materials to local Montagnards for a land-clearing project. Transportation was also furnished for a village resettlement project. Local personnel were hired to accomplish piece work and other tasks, providing extra income for the Montagnards in the Plei Djereng area.

(3) Battery B furnished medical aid for the treatment of local Montagnards for minor cuts and bruises. They donated materials to a local Montagnard tribe for improvement of their living quarters and contributed sundry items and clothing items to area children. The battery hired local Montagnards, and the Battery Commander and First Sergeant attended holiday celebrations in honor of the lunar new year.

(4) Battery C contributed sundry items to local Montagnards and donated powder canisters to the Montagnards for the purpose of constructing pig pens. The battery also contributed sundry items and clothing through channels for donation to the Pat Smith Hospital in the Kontum area.

(5) During the reporting period, the battalion contributed 400 pounds of food, 225 pounds of sundry items, and 50 pounds of clothing, as stated above. The cost of supplies from military resources was approximately four hundred dollars.

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f. Personnel

(1) During the reporting period, the battalion sustained one KIA and fourteen WIA's as a result of hostile action. The KIA was the result of an enemy artillery shell. Enemy artillery also resulted in seven WIA's. Four personnel were wounded by enemy mortars and two were wounded by an enemy mine. The other was a shrapnel wound which resulted when an ammo dump exploded after being hit by an enemy rocket.

(2) Personnel gains outnumbered losses in the battalion, 215 to 151. At the close of the reporting period, the present for duty strength was 32 officers, six warrant officers, and 503 enlisted men. Critical shortages which exist at the present time in this organization are as follows:

<u>MCS</u>	<u>NUMBER SHORT</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
13B40	14	Field Artillery Crewman
13E40	7	Operations and Intelligence Specialist
13Z50	1	Field Artillery Senior Sergeant
31050	1	Tactical Commo Chief
63C40	1	General Vehicle Repairman
71T20	5	Maintenance Data Specialist
76S20	3	Auto Repair Parts Specialist
76Y40	3	Armorer/Unit Supply Specialist
91E40	1	Medical Specialist
94E40	5	Cook

(3) 115 out-of-country and seventeen in-country R&R's were used during the reporting period. Incoming mail was received and distributed to the batteries without significant problems.

(4) Awards: Recommendations for thirteen Bronze Stars for valor, sixteen Bronze Stars for service, thirteen Army Commendation Medals for valor, twenty-eight Army Commendation Medals for service, seven Air Medals, ten Purple Hearts, and thirty-eight IFFORCEV Artillery Certificates of Achievement were submitted during the

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion 14th Artillery
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U) (Cont'd)

reporting period. Awards presented were: Two Bronze Star Medals for valor, ten Bronze Stars for service, four Air Medals, twenty-one Army Commendation Medals for service, one Army Commendation Medal for valor, ten Purple Hearts, and thirty-four IFFORCEV Artillery Certificates of Achievement.

(5) During the reporting period, all batteries, with the exception of Headquarters Battery, changed commanders.

g. Other.

(1) Survey:

(a) During the reporting period, the survey section verified survey control at Tlei Djerong on 1 April 1969 by means of astronomic observation and map spotting. No problems were encountered.

(b) On 11 April 1969, the survey section completed a 4500 meter survey to establish survey control at the 937th Engineer Battalion for the mortar platoon and azimuth mark. Azimuth was verified by astronomic observation. Horizontal control was taken from Artillery Hill (SCP 18) by triangulation.

(c) On 13 April 1969, the survey section established the radar position at LZ Mary Lou by traversing 68 meters.

(d) There were no problems encountered during this reporting period.

(2) Signal:

(a) No electronic countermeasures were experienced during the reporting period. No significant reports of interference were received which affected the Command or Operations nets.

(b) Plans: Work began on the complete rewiring of the internal communications lines in the battalion rear area, utilizing 26-pair cable. Initial work began on complete rewiring of electrical and communications lines at the firing battery locations, to include installation of telephone poles. Poles are being distributed to the firing batteries from the excess poles created by the rewiring project at the Artillery Hill base camp location. Additional poles will be constructed from powder canisters. Plans for the construction of a new Message Center are being finalized. Work will commence as materials become available, with emphasis on the construction of external areas prior to the impending monsoon season.

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL) (U) (Cont'd)

(3) Engineer:

(a) During the reporting period, the battalion embarked on an extensive program of firebase improvement on a self-help basis with technical assistance and equipment from the 20th Engineer Battalion. Following are project scopes and completion percentages for the respective firebase projects:

1. Battery A: Resurface gun pads -- 100%; refurbish gun berms -- 60%; upgrade of interior drainage -- 50%; upgrade Class V storage -- 50%; construction of latrines and showers -- 100%; construction of personnel bunkers -- 100%.

2. Battery B: Resurface gun pads -- 100%; refurbish gun berms -- 25%; upgrade of interior drainage -- 50%; upgrade of access road -- 40%; overhead cover for guns -- 80%; construction of Class V storage facilities -- 70%; latrines and showers -- pending; construction of a new mess hall -- 20%.

3. Battery C: Resurface gun pads -- 100%; refurbish gun berms -- pending; upgrade of interior drainage -- 80%; construction of Class V storage facilities -- 90%; upgrade personnel bunkers -- pending; construction of latrines and showers -- pending.

4. Current objectives are to complete all projects by 15 May 1969.

(b) The four underground revetments with overhead cover for the 175MM guns at Battery B were completed in late February. However, due to the tremendous amount of muzzle blast from a 175MM gun, two of these revetments caved in. No damage to equipment and no injuries were sustained. The revetments were constructed as shown in Inclosure 2 to the last quarter's ORL, with 2" x 12" boards for siding and 4" x 12" boards for roofing. The two revetments that caved in were completely dismantled and for safety reasons the other two were also torn down. The 175MM guns continued to use the pits whenever incoming was received. New overhead cover for the guns is being constructed with engineer equipment and technical advice as was discussed in paragraph (3) (a) 2. above. (See Inclosure 4).

(4) During the reporting period, four dignitaries visited 6th Battalion 14th Artillery (see Inclosure 2).

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion 14th Artillery
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, AFS GFOR-65 (P1) (U) (Cont'd)

2. (C) Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations,
Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. None.

b. Operations.

(1) Split Firing Batteries for Counter-Battery Firing.

(a) OBSERVATIONS. During the period 23 February to 14 April, Battery B, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery at FSB 12 (Ben Het) received numerous attacks by enemy artillery. On many occasions the intensity of enemy artillery was such that counter-battery fires could not be rendered without a high degree of risk to personnel. One attempt to fire counter-battery fires resulted in one crew-member KIA, and three crew-members wounded.

(b) EVALUATION. Crews of heavy artillery take a high degree of risk in firing counter-battery in defense of their positions. The mutually supporting units, Battery A, 4th Battalion 42d Artillery, and battery B, 1st Battalion 92d Artillery, were not in range to engage enemy artillery locations.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That consideration be given, under similar circumstances, to split a battery to increase the capability to fire counter-battery fires, without increasing the degree of exposure of or risk to gun crews.

c. Training. None.

d. Intelligence. None.

e. Logistics. None.

f. Organization. None.

g. Other.

(1) Construction of Revetments for 175MM Guns.

(a) OBSERVATION. Of the four underground drive-in revetments constructed for the 175MM guns of Battery B, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery, two collapsed within thirty days after construction. (This construction was discussed in the battalion's previous ORLL).

(b) EVALUATION. The muzzle blasts from 175MM guns caused extreme pressure to be exerted on the walls of the revetment.

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for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U) (Cont'd)

The two revetments that collapsed were located in the primary direction of fire. Only one end of the revetment was opened, and the opened end was facing the firing pads. Walls were not anchored properly, due to lack of technical knowlege.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That future requirements for underground structures be handled by an Engineer unit to insure proper construction.

- 4 Incl
 - 1 - Organizational Chart
 - ~~2 - Significant Surveillance~~
 - ~~3 - Visits by General Officers~~
 - 4 - 175mm Gun and Ammunition Revetment
- Incl 2 and 3 wd Hq, DA

DISTRIBUTION:

- 6 - 52d Artillery Group, ATTN: AVGG-OP, APO 96318
- 3 - CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96558
- 2 - CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558
- 1 - Ea Btry
- 1 - Ea Staff Section

Kenneth R Bailey
KENNETH R BAILEY
LTC, FA
Commanding


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AVGG-OP (30 Apr 69) 1st Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, 52d Artillery Group, APO 96318 15 May 1969

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: ANFA-AT-D
APO 96350

(U) Concur in the contents of the basic report and recommendations.


ALAN R. TOFFLER
Colonel, FA
Commanding

AVFA-AT-D (30 Apr 69) 2d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery for
Period Ending 30 April 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350 30 MAY 1969

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

1. This headquarters concurs with the subject report.

2. Reference paragraph 1c(4)(a):

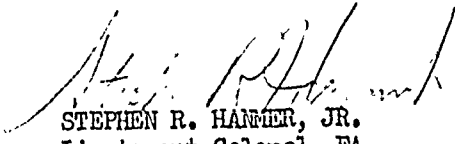
a. The unit received a Rawin Set to replace present one under a closed loop program on 21 May 69.

b. The metro section received a new generator to supply electrical power on 20 May 69.

c. Action has been taken to correct the expendable supply problem by requesting that metro expendables be designated Project Fill items. A message establishing a system to monitor metro expendables was sent to all artillery commands on 9 May.

3. Appropriate recommendations contained in Section II will be included in future training publications.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


STEPHEN R. HAMMER, JR.
Lieutenant Colonel, FA
Adjutant

AVFA-GC-HIST (30 Apr 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 14th Artillery for
Period Ending 30 April 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 , 8 JUN 1969

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and indorsements and
concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

DERICK E. HOLLAND
1LT AGC
ASST AG

Copy furn:
2-ACSFOR, DA
1-6th Bn, 14th Arty

AVHGC-DST (30 April 1969) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion 14th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

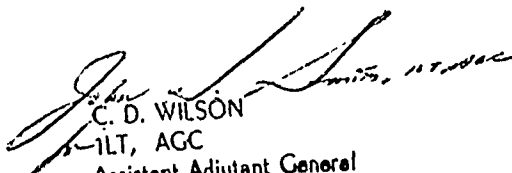
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2 9 JUN 1969

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 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion 14th Artillery.

2. Reference item concerning Split Firing Batteries for Counterbattery Firing, section II, page 20, paragraph b(1); concur. The split battery concept is a practice which is being employed more frequently and for longer periods of time than present TOE's and MTOE's can adequately support. When a firing battery is split, firepower and crew efficiency will be reduced considerably. Batteries should be split for counterbattery purposes only if there are no alternatives. Unit will be advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


C. D. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
6th Bn, 14th Arty
I FFV

GPOP-DT (30 Apr 69) 5th Ind (U) 6th Battalion
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 14th Artillery for Period Ending
30 April 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65 (R1))(U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 10 JUL 69

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

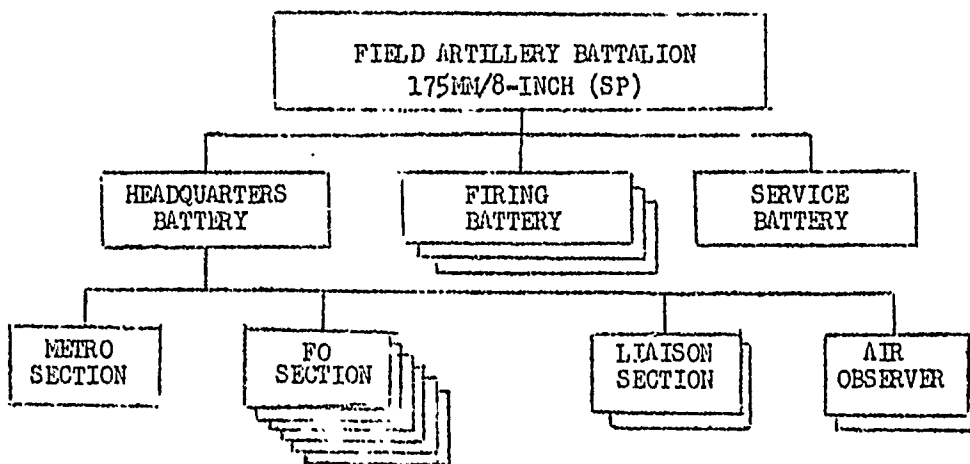
This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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Organizational Chart of the 6th Battalion 14th Artillery

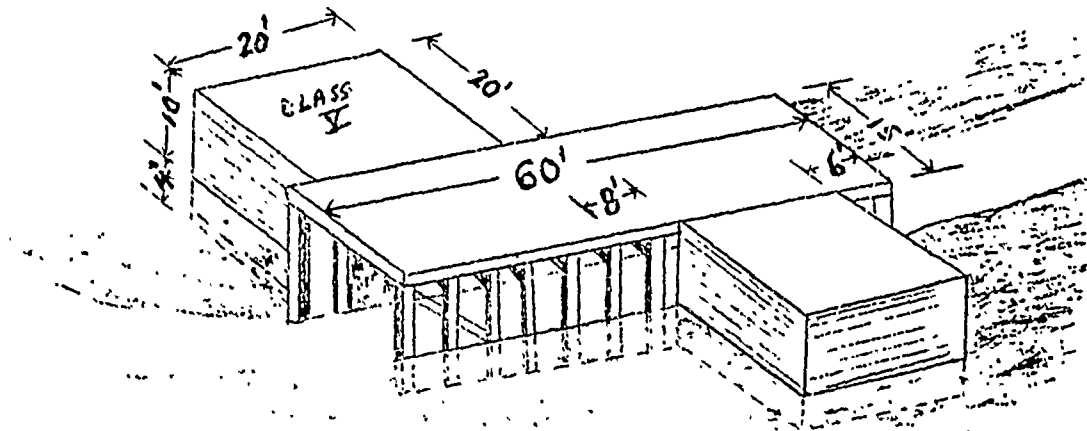


Status of Organic and OPCON Units

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>DATE ASSUMED</u>	<u>DATE RELEASED</u>
HQB, 6/14 Arty	Organic		
Btry A, 6/14 Arty	OPCON to 3/6 Arty	5 Dec 68	---
Btry B, 6/14 Arty	OPCON to 1/92 Arty	26 Jul 68	---
Btry C, 6/14 Arty	Organic		
Svc Btry, 6/14 Arty	Organic		
Btry A, 1/92 Arty	OPCON to 6/14 Arty (4 Howitzers)	24 Mar 69 15 Apr 69	11 Apr 69 -
Btry C, 1/92 Arty	OPCON to 6/14 Arty	26 Nov 68 11 Feb 69	7 Feb 69 14 Apr 69
Btry A, 3/6 Arty	OPCON to 6/14 Arty	4 Mar 69 20 Mar 69	18 Mar 69 24 Apr 69
Btry B, 3/6 Arty	OPCON to 6/14 Arty	6 Dec 68	4 Mar 69
Section 4, 8/26 Arty (Radar)	OPCON to 6/14 Arty	16 May 69	---

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175MM Gun and Ammunition Revetment



NOTE:

1. Class V Storage Capacity: 500 175MM Projectiles
500 175MM Powders
2. Sixty-foot drive-through corridor will effectively provide protection to two M107's.
3. Two of these are being constructed.

Incl 4

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**DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 32 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10**

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UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

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