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18 OACSFOR
AGDA (M) (7 May 70)

OT-UT-701056

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11 13 Feb 70
12 27 p.
21 May 1970

AD509170

SUBJECT: Operational Report (6) Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 23d
Artillery Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (4) - (8)

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Operational Rept. for
quarterly period ending 31 Jan 70.

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, 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.

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Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 23d ARTILLERY GROUP
APO San Francisco 96289

AVCL

13 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RGS-CSFOR-65 (M)

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1. SECTION 1. CHALLENGES: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

a. PERSONNEL

- (1) The 23d Artillery Group remains assigned to the US Army Vietnam.
- (2) Significant S1 activities.

(a) Casualties: Killed in action decreased from 9 to 5 over the past quarter. Wounded in action decreased from 42 to 40 over the past quarter. Nonhostile Casualties: There were two deaths, an increase of 2 over last quarter, and 33 injuries which represents a decrease of 15 over last quarter.

- (b) The Group has a shortage in MOS's indicated below

<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ASG</u>	<u>FCT</u>
13B40 Fld Arty Crewman	293	258	88
13E40 Asst Chief FD Computer	72	48	67
13Z50 Fld Arty Sr Sergeant	47	40	95
31G40 Commo Chief	24	14	58
31G50 Tactical Commo Chief	7	6	86
35B20 Metro Equip Repairman	4	0	0
36E20 Fld Wireman	254	153	66
76Y40 Supply Sergeant	33	35	92
82C40 Survey Chief	19	17	39
94B40 Mess Steward	32	29	91

(c) Awards presented during the period were as follows: 1 Legion of Merit, 93 Bronze Stars, 20 Air Medals, 117 Army Commendation Medals, 45 Purple Hearts, and 44 USARV Certificates of Achievement.

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b. OPERATIONS

(1) The 23d Artillery Group continues support of operations in the III Corps Tactical Zone. The Group Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and all attached battalions were engaged in combat operations, troop movements, and training during the entire reporting period (92 days).

(2) The Group continues to make effective use of its automatic relay on Fui Ba Den (XT2859). During the reporting period, the Group also established an automatic secure relay capability on Fui Ba Den.

(3) During the reporting period the 23d Artillery Group conducted a study to design a standard 155mm towed howitzer (M114A1) parapet. A design has been selected which will be used in future construction at all fire support bases. The standard parapet is an all-weather parapet which is built in three phases, depending on the anticipated length of use. The three phase construction concept provides for continuous improvement of the position from a hasty occupation to that which will be constructed for a semi-permanent fire support base. At the end of the reporting period the study is under evaluation and results will be reported in future ORLL's.

(4) During the last quarter the 23d Artillery Group has become involved in the Artillery Dong Tien (Forward Together) Program. The purposes of this program are to improve the artillery fire support of maneuver forces and to assist ARVN Artillery by associating their units with US Artillery units thus providing channels for the exchange of ideas and advice. The 23d Artillery Group is participating in the following eight projects:

- (a) The associate US/ARVN Battalion and Battery Program.
- (b) A combined US/ARVN Fire Support Coordination Center in Binh Duong Province.
- (c) Combined US/ARVN Fire Planning between the associate battalions.
- (d) Standardized combined US/ARVN Combat Readiness Evaluations.
- (e) Combined US/ARVN Unit Refresher Training Programs at the associate battalion/battery level.
- (f) A combined US/ARVN Survey Program.
- (g) A combined US/ARVN Registration Program.
- (h) Broadcasting Meteorological data to the ARVN in Vietnamese.

While the program directs the majority of our efforts towards accomplishing

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specific artillery projects, 23d Artillery Group has not limited advice and assistance to only these projects. Much is being accomplished through the exercise of personnel initiative of individual artillerymen at the battery level.

(5) During the reporting period, the 2d Battalion, 13th Artillery engaged in operations supporting the 1st Infantry Division, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 3d and 5th Mobile Strike Forces. Headquarters and Service Batteries remained at Phu Loi throughout the reporting period.

(a) Battery A began the reporting period at Phu Loi (XT8517) with the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. Three howitzers from A Battery were participating in operations as a part of D/2/13 (a provisional battery). On 7 November 1969, one of the howitzers under the control of D/2/13 was released and reverted back to A/2/13. On 21 December 1969, the two howitzers remaining under the control of D/2/13 were released and reverted back to A/2/13. On 23 December 1969, A/2/13 moved from Phu Loi by convoy to Phuoc Vinh (XT974496). Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty (Ambl). On 2 January, A/2/13 moved from Phuoc Vinh (XT974496) to Phuoc Vinh (XT973495) with no change in mission.

(b) Battery B began the reporting period at FSB Thunder II (T723555) with a mission of GSR, 1st Inf Div Arty. On 7 November, B/2/13 moved to FSB Jerri (XU963225) by helicopter and placed under the OPCC of "Task Force Sears" whose mission was GS, IIFORCEV. On 20 December, B/2/13 moved to Phuoc Vinh (XT974496) by helicopter. Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty (Ambl). On 30 December, B/2/13 moved to XT999542 by convoy with no change in mission and returned to Phuoc Vinh. On 31 December, B/2/13 moved to YTC04566 (no mission change) by convoy and returned to Phuoc Vinh. On 1 January, B/2/13 moved to XT999542 with no change in mission and returned to Phuoc Vinh. On 2 January, B/2/13 moved by convoy to FSB Normandy III (XT903319) with no change in mission. On 3 January, B/2/13 moved by air to FSB Florida (YT018333). Mission upon closure was GSR, 1st Inf Div Arty.

(c) C Battery remained at FSB Thunder IV throughout the reporting period with the mission of GSR, 1st Cavalry Division Artillery (Ambl).

(d) At the beginning of the period, D/2/13, the provisional battery made up of three 105mm howitzers from A/2/13 and three 155mm howitzers from B/2/12, was at FOB Kathy (XT331904) with a mission of GS, 5th Mobile Strike Force Command. On 5 November, 3T(155) moved to Phu Loi and reverted to control of parent unit (B/2/12). On 7 November, 3T(105) moved by air to Phu Loi, and reverted to the control of parent unit (A/2/13). On 13 November, D/2/13 made up of 2-105 howitzers from A/2/13 and 2-155 howitzers from B/2/12 moved by air to Bu Dop (XU973288) and was placed

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of "Task Force Sears". On 4 December, the two 155 howitzers moved to Phu Loi by air and reverted to control of parent unit. On 15 December, D/2/13 mission changed from OPCON Task Force Sears to GS, 3d Strike Force Command. On 21 December the two remaining howitzers (105) moved by air to Phu Loi and returned to the control of A/2/13.

(b) At the start of the reporting period, Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery, was located at Tay Ninh West Base Camp (XT165425). On 2 December, the battery moved to XT155515 which is still in Tay Ninh West. Service Battery was initially located in Tay Ninh West Base Camp but on 24 December they moved to XT156515 (Tay Ninh West).

(c) Battery A was located at FSB Saint Barbara (XT271647) for the entire reporting period with the mission of GS, IIFORCEV.

(b) Battery B began the reporting period at FSB Rawlins III (XT246485) with the mission of GSR, 25th Infantry Division Artillery. On 24 December, the battery displaced to Tay Ninh West Base Camp (XT141524) with no change in mission. On 5 Jan, the battery moved to the 1st Inf Division Base Camp at Lai Khe (XT767363) and was assigned the mission of GS, 1st Div Artillery. On 6 Jan, the battery moved to FSB Lobo (XT884397) with no change in mission. On 12 January, the battery moved back to Lai Khe with no change in mission and on 15 January, they returned to FSB Lobo.

(c) Battery C began the reporting period at FSB Wood III (XT142342) with a mission of GSR, 25th Division Artillery. On 22 December, C/7/9 moved to Tay Ninh West Base Camp (XT154520) with no change in mission. On 29 December, they repositioned in Tay Ninh to XT171525 with no change in mission.

(7) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery 2d Battalion, 12th Artillery was located at Phu Loi (XT850153) during the entire reporting period. Service Battery was located at Phu Loi (XT855165) during the reporting period.

(a) Battery A began the reporting period in a split configuration with four howitzers located at FSB Copperhead (XT806028) and two howitzers located at Tra Cu (XS477984) with the mission GS, IIFORCEV. On 8 November, Battery A moved four tubes by air from FSB Copperhead to FSB Jerri (XU963225) with no change in mission. On 7-8 December, two howitzers moved from Tra Cu to Song Be (XU143073) by air with a mission of GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty. Also on 8 Dec, Battery A moved one tube from FSB Jerri by air to Song Be to form a three howitzer platoon. On 19 December, Battery A moved three howitzers from FSB Jerri to Song Be by air making battery complete with the mission of GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty.

(b) At the start of the reporting period, Battery B had three

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howitzers located at Phu Loi with a mission of GS IFF ORCEV and three howitzers attached to D/2/13 (a provisional battery). On 5 November, the three howitzers that were attached to D/2/13 were released and rejoined Battery B at Phu Loi. On 13 November, two howitzers were detached from B/2/12 and attached to D/2/13. On 4 December, the two howitzers attached to D/2/13 were returned to B/2/12 at Phu Loi. On 26 December, Battery B moved from Phu Loi to Chi Linh (XT915735) by air with a mission of GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty. On 12 January three howitzers moved to FSB Jamie (XT480714) by air with no change in mission. On 24 January, three howitzers moved from Chi Linh to Phuoc Vinh (XT971495) with no change in mission.

(c) Battery C began the reporting period in a split configuration with three howitzers located at Song Be (XT143073) and three howitzers located at Quan Loi (XT823913) with a mission of GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty. On 8 December, Battery C moved 1 tube from Song Be to Quan Loi. On 9 December, Battery C moved two howitzers from Song Be to Quan Loi making battery complete at Quan Loi. The mission of the battery for the entire period was GSR, 1st Cav Div Arty.

(d) At the beginning of the reporting period, F/16th Artillery was positioned in a split configuration with three howitzers located at FSB Carolyn (XT267781) and three howitzers located at FSB Thunder III (XT768657). The mission of the element at FSB Carolyn was GS, IFFORCEV and the mission of the element at FSB Thunder III was GS, IFFORCEV. On 15 December, the mission of F/16 element at Thunder III was changed to GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 23 December, F/16 moved three howitzers from FSB Carolyn to FSB Thunder III, assuming the mission of GSR, 1st Infantry Division Artillery, making the battery complete at Thunder III. On 1 January, the mission of F/16 was changed to GS, IFFORCEV. On 30 January F/16 moved to FSB Thunder II (XT781558) by road with no change in mission. On 30 January, the mission of F/16 was changed to GSR 1st Infantry Division.

(8) During the reporting period, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery remained at Dau Tieng (XT498468). Service Battery remained at Cu Chi (XT6615).

(a) Battery A began the reporting period at FSB Stoneman (XT303378) with a mission of GSR, 25th Division Artillery. On 13 November, the battery moved to FSB Hull with no change in mission.

(b) Battery B began the reporting period at FSB Washington (XT140568). On 18 and 30 November, made one dry move to XT120685 and returned to FSB Washington with no change in mission. On 2 December, the battery moved to XT120685 by road with no change in mission. On 4 December, the battery returned to FSB Washington with no change in mission. On 13, 15, and 16

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December, the battery moved by road to XT120685 with no change in mission and returned on the same days.

(c) Battery C remained the entire period at Dau Tieng (YT492472). Initially its mission was GS, IIFFORCEV. On 17 December, its mission was changed to GSR, 1st Division Artillery. On 27 December, its mission was again changed to GS, IIFFORCEV.

(9) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery, remained at Xuan Loc (YT474096) during the period. Service Battery remained at Long Binh (YT095127).

(a) At the beginning of the reporting period Battery A was located at Duster Compound (YT132111) with the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV. On 4 November, three howitzers moved to Blackhorse (YS446981) with the mission of GSR, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 19 November, the three howitzers at Blackhorse exchanged locations and missions with the three at Duster Compound. On 25 November, Battery A moved three howitzers from Duster Compound to Xuan Loc (YT472095) with no change in mission. On 30 November, Battery A moved three howitzers from Blackhorse to FSB Ince (YT628113) with no change in mission. On 31 December, Battery A moved three howitzers from FSB Ince and three howitzers from Xuan Loc to FSB Diano (YT713017) with the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV. On 19 January, Battery A moved to FSB Rite (YT730248) with no change in mission.

(b) At the start of the reporting period, Battery B was operating as a split battery with three howitzers located at FSB Nancy (YT559381) and three howitzers at Blackhorse (XS446981), both elements having the mission of GSR, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 4 November, Battery B moved three howitzers from Blackhorse and three howitzers from FSB Nancy to FSB Concord (YT033175) with the mission GS, IIFFORCEV. On 25 November, Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB Concord to Duster Compound (YT132111) with no change in mission. On 22 December, Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB Concord to FSB Nancy (YT559381) with the mission GSR, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 29 December, Battery B moved three howitzers from Duster Compound to FSB Nancy (YT559381), making battery complete, and assumed the mission GSR, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 31 December, Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB Nancy to Xuan Loc (YT472095) with the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV. On 9 January, Battery B moved three howitzers from Xuan Loc to FSB Nancy (YT564384) with no change in mission. On 10 January, Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB Nancy (YT559381) to FSB Nancy (YT564384), making battery complete, and assumed the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV.

(c) Battery C began the reporting period in a split configuration with three howitzers located at Nui Dat (YS434677) and three howitzers at FSB

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Horseshoe (YS495620) with the mission of GSR 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 3 November, Battery C moved three howitzers from FSB Horseshoe to Nui Dat, making battery complete with no change in mission. On 11 and 12 November, Battery C displaced three howitzers from Nui Dat to YS420716 for one day artillery raids and returning each day to Nui Dat prior to darkness. On 16 November, Battery C displaced three howitzers to YS420716 for a one day artillery raid and returned to Nui Dat prior to darkness. On 20 November, Battery C displaced three howitzers to FSB Horseshoe (YS495620) for a one day artillery raid and returned to Nui Dat prior to darkness. On 27 November, Battery C moved three howitzers from Nui Dat to FSB Horseshoe and returned to Nui Dat on 28 November. On 29 November, three howitzers were displaced from Nui Dat to YS650690 for a one day artillery raid and returned to Nui Dat prior to darkness. On 10 December, Battery C moved three howitzers from Nui Dat to XS460781 for a two day artillery raid and returned to Nui Dat on 11 December. During the period 3 November to 11 December, Battery C maintained the mission of GSR, 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 12 December, Battery C moved three howitzers from Nui Dat to FSB Indigo (YS215852) with the mission GSR, ARVN Marine Artillery. On 16 December, Battery C moved three howitzers from FSB Indigo and three howitzers from Nui Dat to FSB Janet (YS257685) with the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV. On 24 December, Battery C moved to Nui Dat (YS434677) and assumed the mission GSR 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 19 January, Battery C moved three howitzers to FSB Horseshoe (YS495620) with no change in mission. On 21 January, Battery C moved three howitzers to Nui Dat (YS434677) making battery complete with no change in mission.

(10) During the reporting period, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery, remained at Camp William S. Price (YT047118). Service Battery was also located at Camp Price during the entire reporting period.

(a) During the entire reporting period, Battery A was located at Tan Tru (XS655620). During the period 1 November through 26 December, its mission was GSR, 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery. On 27 December, its mission was changed to GS IIFFORCEV.

(b) At the beginning of the reporting period, Battery B was located at Thu Thua (XS547702) with the mission of GSR, 2d Battalion, 4th Artillery. On 7 December, two howitzers displaced by air to Tra Cu (XS477984) with no change in mission. On 27 December, both elements assumed the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV.

(c) At the beginning of the reporting period, Battery C was located at FSB Concord (XT034174) with the mission of GS, IIFFORCEV. On 4 November, Battery C assumed a split configuration with three tubes moving by

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road to FSB Passion (YT385261) and three tubes moving by road to FSB Nancy (YT565385); both elements assuming the mission of GSR, 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 7 November, Battery C moved three tubes by air from FSB Passion to FSB Cay Gao (YT303255) with no change in mission. On 11 November, Battery C moved three howitzers from FSB Cay Gao by air to FSB Thoroughbred (YT256277) with no change in mission. On 3 December, Battery C moved three howitzers by air from FSB Thoroughbred to FSB Picton (YS640898) with a mission of GSR, 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 22 December, Battery C moved three howitzers by road from FSB Nancy (YT565385) to FSB Concord (YT034174) with a mission of GS, IIFORCEV. On 27 December, Battery C moved three howitzers by air and road from FSB Picton (YS640898) to FSB Concord making battery complete. The mission of the battery was GS, IIFORCEV.

(11) Ammunition Expenditure Chart

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NR MISSIONS</u>	<u>ROUNDS EXPENDED</u>	
		<u>105mm</u>	<u>155mm</u>
2/13	30,997	83,527	4,300
7/9	8,189	59,243	
1/27	9,539		46,672
2/12	9,588		51,599
F/16	2,711		21,549
2/35	3,243		30,092
5/42	1,313		36,669
TOTAL	65,580	142,770	190,881

c. TRAINING

(1) Fire Direction Centers and howitzer sections continue to stress basic artillery procedures in order to insure timely and accurate fires in support of maneuver elements.

(2) During the reporting period, the 23d Artillery Group began teaching approximately 55 CIDG students firing battery, fire direction, and observed fire procedures at Trang Sup Special Forces Camp. The course, which lasts 10 weeks, has the objective of training artillerymen to replace the

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ARVN Artillery at Special Forces Camps at Tra Cu (XS4798) and Loc Binh (XU7308). This is the second course of this type conducted by this Group and they have been found to be extremely effective in producing competent CIDG artillerymen.

(3) During the reporting period, 39 Lieutenants attended and passed the IIFORCEV Artillery FDO School.

d. INTELLIGENCE

(1) Security: The following security clearances were processed during the quarter:

TOP SECRET clearances validated.....	52
SECRET clearances granted.....	69
SECRET clearances validated.....	250
Interim SECRET clearances granted.....	6
Local Files Checks processed.....	324

(2) Visual Reconnaissance: During the period November 1969 to January 1970, the number of aircraft allocated to the Group for visual reconnaissance missions was reduced from five to two. The VR areas for which the Group was responsible were also reduced; however, the area was only reduced from approximately 1800 square miles to approximately 1400 square miles, a reduction in area not commensurate with the reduction in aircraft allocated for the mission. The Group continues, however, to perform the VR mission satisfactorily. A total of 334 VR missions were flown during this quarter compared to 299 VR missions for the 1st Quarter, FY 70. Total hours increased from 709 to 847. This increase is attributed primarily to more efficient aircraft utilization as well as greatly improved climatic conditions.

e. LOGISTICS

(1) Normal supply and logistic support was provided two 105mm battalions and four 155mm battalions. An average of 5 fixed wing and 15 rotary wing resupply sorties were flown daily.

(2) Batteries of the 23d Artillery Group conducted twelve airmobile operations during the quarter. At all locations, unit was resupplied exclusively by air.

(3) During the quarter, 7 batteries received USAFV GMI's. All batteries received a rating of satisfactory.

(4) During the month of January, considerable effort was expended in the planning for Operation Keystone Bluejay. 7th Battalion, 9th

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Artillery; 2d Battalion, 13th Artillery, and Battery F, 16th Artillery will be redeployed or inactivated during the coming quarter. Initial turn in of equipment began on 2 Feb 70.

f. OTHER

(1) Aviation

(a) The 23d Artillery Group continues to operate a consolidated aviation section.

(b) The assigned U6A still remains as a tremendous asset to the Group. It remains useful in carrying most general support missions to include large passenger loads, forward observer parties, and large parts for artillery pieces.

(c) All OH6A aircraft have been turned in and replaced with the OH58. OH58's are being issued on a scheduled basis to include replacing of the OH23G. As anticipated, maintenance and major component failures and/or problems are beginning to rise in the OH23G.

(d) The break down of missions flown and hours flown for the past quarter are:

Rotary Wing - ~~OH58A~~ - 8 - OH58A, 14 - OH23G

VR Missions - 295, C&C Missions - 2213, Cargo/C Missions - 387, Troop/C Missions - 4916, Training Missions - 1124, Maintenance Missions - 652, Total Missions - 305, Cargo - 7 tons, Pax - 295, Hours - 146.

(2) Civil Affairs; During the past quarter 156 MEDCAPS were conducted with a total of 16,731 patient visits. A total of 5,730 pounds of surplus food was distributed. Separate institutions assisted during the reporting period are as follows:

- (a) Schools (11)
- (b) Hospitals/Dispensaries (10)
- (c) Orphanages (3)
- (d) Dwellings (1)

(3) Signals:

(a) An automatic relay was established at Nui Ba Ra (YU1806) to support operations northwest of Song Be. The relay was established 7 November 1969. The relay was established on short notice despite the complete lack of any support facilities at Nui Ba Ra. Equipment was loaded into a conex container, airlifted to the site and then the equipment was operated from the conex. The conex served as a working area and a living area for relay personnel.

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(b) The Group received the first of the OH58 helicopters in November. Actions were taken to obtain Nester equipment and installation kits to provide secure voice capability for the FM radio in the OH58's. This equipment is on valid requisition but is not yet available in RVN.

(c) In October, a major realignment of sole user telephone circuits was accomplished when the 2/35th and 5/42d Artillery Battalions were gained from 54th Artillery Group and the 6/27th and 2/32d Artillery Battalions were lost to IIFORCEV Artillery.

(d) In late November and early December, a major review of all sole user telephone circuits was conducted. At that time, twelve circuits were released for deactivation as no longer required and errors in circuit records of seventeen others were corrected. Nineteen circuits were rejustified with no changes.

2. (c) SECTION 2. LESSONS LEARNED: COMMANDER'S OBSERVATION, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

a. PERSONNEL. JUNIOR OFFICER RETENTION

(1) Observation: The retention of junior officers, both in quality and quantity, is one of the most important programs demanding attention in the Army today.

(2) Evaluation: The junior officer retention program is receiving command attention at the highest levels of command. Junior Officer Councils have been recently established in the 23d Artillery Group and are proving to be a valuable sounding board for junior officer problems and ideas. Personal involvement on an individual basis by each commander seems to be the most desirable and meaningful method of accurately identifying prospective retainees.

(3) Recommendation: That all field grade officers receive some type of formal instruction on the techniques of junior officer retention at some time during their military schooling.

b. OPERATIONS.

(1) Reference Material for CM/CR Teams.

(a) Observation: The Group CM/CR team at FSB Jorri had available to it as reference material, several manuals on enemy weapons. Maximum range capabilities and characteristics of the weapons and ammunition were given. Firing table data was available only for the 82mm mortar and the 107mm rocket. No data was available for fragment identification.

(b) Evaluation: Two elements are always available as a result of crater

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analysis, the back azimuth of the round and the angle of the fall. Fragments are usually available. If firing tables are available, the range can be estimated based on the angle of fall, which can be considered accurate within 200 meters. Fragments, size and shape of the crater, etc., give clues to the type of weapon. Rockets are usually easily identified by the motor section, while mortars have a tail fin. Other weapons which are more difficult to identify are recoilless rifles, howitzers, and guns. Fragment comparison is the most accurate means of identifying these weapons.

(c) Recommendation: It is recommended that firing tables be compiled for NVA/VG weapons and distributed down to battery level. The tables should include the range and angle of fall for each type weapon and should be developed for all mortars, rockets, and recoilless rifles as a minimum. Material for fragment identification for all of the above should also be developed and distributed.

(2) SHELLREPS

(a) Observation: Shellreps are the most common and readily available means of locating hostile weapons.

(b) Evaluation: The AN/MPQ4A radar generally requires more than one round to locate a hostile weapon. This is predicated on operator proficiency as much as equipment limitations. The experience at FSB Jarri was that the majority of attacks consisted of two rounds, fired a few seconds apart, which made a radar pick-up unlikely. A further complication was that the majority of the attacks were by very low trajectory weapons. This established the shellrep as the most used device for locating the hostile weapon. It was noted that the majority of the personnel had a very limited knowledge of how to conduct a shellrep or what information to report.

(c) Recommendation: It is recommended that all persons receive instruction on shellreps as a part of in-country training programs and that the standard shellrep (DA Form 2185-R) be included as a permanent item in all SOI's.

(3) Jungle Battery

(a) Observation

(1) In November 1969, plans for the transfer of responsibility for the fire support of the 3d Mobile Strike Force Command (MSFC) operations from US to ARVN Artillery were prepared. Support for the 3d MSFC had been provided by Battery D, 2d Battalion, 13th Artillery (Provisional) (Jungle Battery), a composite 105/155 artillery battery.

(2) On 4 December 1969, two ARVN 155mm howitzers replaced the US 155mm

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howitzers of the battery. Command and control was retained by the US battery commander.

(2) On 21 December 1969, two ARVN 105mm howitzers replaced the US 105mm howitzers and the ARVN assumed full responsibility for support of the 31 HSFC.

(4) During the period of transition the US battery personnel conducted refresher training for the ARVN in Firing Battery, FDC, and Maintenance Procedures. Instruction was also given on the mission of the battery, its tactical employment, and airmobile techniques.

(b) Evaluation: The integration of ARVN into the battery and the transition from US to ARVN control was smooth and effective. At no time during the transition was the tactical mission of the battery impaired.

(c) Recommendation: That this method of transition be considered when replacing US Artillery units with ARVN.

(4) Training of CIDG Artillerymen

(a) Observations: On 9 November 1969, the first class of 65 CIDG Artillerymen was graduated from the 231 Artillery Group's CIDG Artillery School at Trang Sap Special Forces Camp. The graduates were formed into artillery platoons which were deployed to Thien Ngan and Katum Special Forces Camps. Since arriving at those camps the platoons have been providing artillery support to the local CIDG operations and camp defenses. The platoons have been operating independently with periodic liaison and evaluation visits by 231 Artillery Group staff members to monitor their progress. To date they have been providing timely and accurate artillery support to their camps.

(b) Evaluation:

(1) Untrained CIDG personnel can be trained in the techniques of FDC and Firing Battery in a relatively short period of time (ten weeks) by conventional artillery unit personnel.

(2) CIDG Artillerymen are capable of operating on their own to provide support to CIDG operations and camp defense.

(c) Recommendation: That this program be extended to include training of CIDG Artillerymen for Special Forces Camps in other areas.

c. TRAINING

(1) Basic Artillery Gunnery Techniques

(a) Observations: Continuous training is necessary in basic artillery gunnery techniques.

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(b) Evaluation: Units which have been operating in the Republic of Vietnam for several years have gradually begun to use shortcuts and expedients in many areas of operation instead of the accepted basic artillery gunnery techniques. These shortcuts have been especially prevalent in such areas as computation of firing data, position area survey, rapid (but organized!) occupation of position, analysis and engagement of targets, and currency of enemy/friendly situation maps. In some cases, FDC's were not organized in a manner that would facilitate proper supervision by the Fire Direction Officer. The sole solution to problems such as these is continuous, comprehensive training of all elements of the firing battery in the artillery basics.

(c) Recommendation: That all artillery units conduct continuous training in basic artillery techniques and that commanders and their staffs monitor this training closely to insure that only accepted procedures are used.

(2) Material Readiness Training

(a) Observation: Material readiness training is often neglected by units.

(b) Evaluation: All units acknowledge the importance of a good maintenance program but many of these same units do not have an effective material readiness training program in progress. Without training to instruct maintenance personnel, supervisory personnel, and equipment users in the proper maintenance techniques, a unit's maintenance program cannot fulfill the desired goals.

(c) Recommendation: That all commanders evaluate their maintenance training programs to see if they are adequately training personnel to perform and supervise maintenance in the most efficient and effective manner.

d. INTELLIGENCE

(1) Rotation of Personnel Manning Technical Positions at Isolated Locations.

(a) Observation: That the efficiency of personnel involved in technical operations at remote locations decreases in proportion to the length of time they remain at such a location.

(b) Evaluation

(1) Personnel who normally function in a technical capacity are more susceptible to strain and adverse conditions than individuals performing nontechnical jobs.

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(2) Such strain adversely affects the operational capabilities of units dependent upon such personnel for support.

(3) Technical personnel who are rotated periodically to base areas for rest and recuperation normally perform more reliably and with greater efficiency than those who are required to remain at isolated locations with limited facilities for extended period of time.

(c) Recommendations:

(1) That personnel who are assigned technical duties at remote locations be rotated periodically to base areas.

(2) That the rotation period not exceed 1 week in duration before personnel are returned to their normal duty station.

(3) That personnel on rotation in a base camp area be utilized in non-technical capacities throughout the majority of their rotation period.

(2) Camouflage of AN/MPQ44 Radars:

(a) Observation: That the effectiveness of counter-mortar radar operations is limited if the enemy is able to observe the sector being scanned by the AN/MPQ44 radar.

(b) Evaluation: Because of its narrow 450m beam width, and the consequently limited sector of scan, AN/MPQ44 radar operations are of limited effectiveness if the enemy is able to observe the direction in which the radar antenna is oriented.

(c) Recommendation: That AN/MPQ44 radars be camouflaged utilizing a 100' cargo parachute erected over scaffolding material.

(3) Location of AN/MPQ44 counter-mortar radar with respect to supported artillery units:

(a) Observation: That counter-mortar operations are less successful when the counter-mortar radar is located at a position other than with the unit for which primary protection is required.

(b) Evaluation:

(1) If the counter-mortar radar is not collocated with the supported artillery battery, radio communications must normally be used, requiring another radio in the battery FDC or radar use of a radio already committed to another operational requirement. When hostile fire is received, the resulting high level of activity may preclude adequate communications with the radar, particularly when the incoming rounds are originating outside of the

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radar sector of scan, necessitating reorientation of the radar. This problem does not arise when the radar is collocated with the battery, since wire communications are normally used between radar and FDC, and since radar personnel can observe the incoming azimuth of fire and determine if reorientation is necessary.

(2) The larger sector of scan to be gained by locating the radar at a position somewhat distant from the protected installation is not of sufficient advantage to outweigh the loss of the immediate awareness of the situation by radar personnel. If the radar is not collocated with the battery, and assuming the attack comes from other than the radar's primary sector of scan, the radar personnel will not know that the distant position is receiving an attack until they are contacted by radio. Once informed that an attack is taking place, the radar operator must still determine from which direction the rounds are being received in order to reorient the radar. These problems are reduced when the radar is collocated with the battery.

(3) When the radar is collocated with, and placed under the operational control of, an artillery battery, there is generally a greater emphasis on radar operations including counter-battery operations, radar registrations, and location of incoming aircraft during the hours of darkness or reduced visibility. The sense of "ownership" engendered in the artillery battery commander also results in reduced supply and maintenance problems for the radar.

(c) Recommendations:

(1) That when at all possible counter-mortar radars be collocated with a supported artillery battery and placed under the operational control of the battery.

(2) That when operational requirements preclude collocation of the artillery battery and the counter-mortar radar, a standard operating procedure be prepared by the battery commander and the radar detachment commander, to include:

(a) Communications frequencies and procedures to be used to include appropriate brevity codes.

(b) Procedures for shifting radar sectors of scan.

(c) Procedures for conducting high-burst and CI registrations.

(d) Resupply requests and procedures for requesting maintenance assistance.

c. LOGISTICS. TWO MAN LIVING BUNKER

(1) Observation: There is a need to be able to construct rapidly a two-

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man living bunker to withstand rocket/mortar attacks on fire support bases.

(2) Evaluation: The need for a quickly constructed bunker is obvious. Units of this command have had considerable success constructing a two-man bunker from 4 pieces 72" culvert, 16 dirt filled 105mm ammunition boxes and sandbags. The culverting is placed over a hole 5 feet wide, 7 feet long and 2 feet deep and covered by 3 layers of sandbags. 8 dirt filled 105mm ammunition boxes are used to close one end and 8 are used as a deadman at the other end. Should soil conditions preclude the digging of a hole, additional ammunition boxes may be used to raise the culverting to obtain additional headroom.

(3) Recommendation: That commanders consider using this technique for bunker construction.

f. ORGANIZATION: NONE

g. OTHER

(1) Removal of teletypewriter TT-98 from radio teletypewriter set AN/GRC-142.

(a) Observation: Removal of teletypewriter TT-98 from radio teletypewriter set AN/GRC-142 causes all teletype to run open. Thus, if TT-98 is declassified, the entire AN/GRC-142 is declassified unless some action is taken.

(b) Evaluation: The AN/GRC-142 uses two pieces of teletype equipment, a TT-98 (a page printing teletypewriter with keyboard) and a reperforator-transmitter TT-76 (a tape puncher, a tape reader and a keyboard). When the TT-98 is removed, this also removes the ability to receive page copies of messages, however, printed paper tapes could be received on the TT-76. The hut wiring in the AN/GRC-142 causes all teletype to run open if any single piece is removed. To allow use of the TT-76 to send and receive messages when the TT-98 has been removed, it is necessary to complete the teletype loop circuit. This can be done by connecting the loose ends of the black and white wire in cable W2 together. The same is done to the cable W5. Teletype messages can then be received on the reperforator or printed paper tape.

(c) Recommendation: That this expedient be used to maintain communications when declassified TT-98's would otherwise declassify an entire AN/GRC-142.

(2) Voltage in radio teletypewriter set AN/GRC-142.

(a) Observation: DC voltage setting in the radio teletypewriter set AN/GRC-142 should be 26.5 volts rather than 28.5 volts as stated in the manual.

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(b) Evaluation: Overheating problems encountered in the AN/GRC-106 transmitter in the AN/GRC-142 appear to be aggravated by setting the input voltage as high as called for in the manual. Coordination with manufacturer's representatives (General Dynamics Technical Representatives working with 1st Long Command) indicates that lower input voltage aids in keeping overheating to a minimum.

(c) Recommendation: That AN/GRC-142 be operated on 26.5 volts DC.

(3) Effectiveness of a ground system.

(a) Observation: The evaluation of the effectiveness of a ground system is difficult. Measurements to determine the resistance of a ground require installation of two additional grounds which must be almost as good as the ground to be measured.

(b) Evaluation: An alternate scheme is to evaluate the effectiveness of the ground. This may be done by placing a fairly simple ground at least 25 feet away from the ground to be tested. Using a long wire to connect an ordinary voltmeter (TS-352 is satisfactory), measure voltage (both AC & DC) between ground being tested and the reference ground while the equipment being grounded is in full operation. Voltages in excess of three to five volts indicate that the ground is inadequate. This test will disclose whether a ground is effective in the application in which it is being used. Even a good ground, by actual resistance measurements, may be inadequate for some applications in which heavy ground currents are flowing.

(c) Recommendation: That such ground tests be used to evaluate grounding systems.

(4) Gaining the support of the Vietnamese.

(a) Observation: There is a greater need to affiliate and promote increased cooperation with the Vietnamese populace.

(b) Evaluation: Projects jointly conducted with the ARVN's, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts have proved very effective.

(c) Recommendation: That greater emphasis be placed upon programs that gain the support and cooperation of the Vietnamese people. Decreased emphasis should be placed upon any Civic Action program that cannot later be improved upon and controlled by the Vietnamese.

(5) Vietnamese employees.

(a) Observation: Proper management, utilization, and training of the Vietnamese employed by US Forces is needed.

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(b) Greater effort should be placed upon training US Forces personnel about Vietnam, its customs, and its people. Additional English and job skill courses could be effectively utilized to increase the quality and quantity of work output. Military personnel working directly with the Vietnamese employees require additional knowledge of the employment system, management methods, and Vietnamese sociological background that will aid in the creation of an environment that is conducive toward improvement of the employer-employee relationship. Efforts in this regard would definitely improve the image of the US Forces in Vietnam. This training is being held in the 23rd Artillery Group and it has been effective.

(c) Recommendation: That establishment of training in these areas be undertaken by all organizations that hire Vietnamese nationals.

(6) Aviation maintenance.

(a) Observation: The OH58A has proven an acceptable replacement for the OH6A and OH23G. A few minor problems have developed during its initial utilization by this test unit.

(b) Evaluation:

(1) Damage has been incurred to the honeycomb structure of the aircraft from both flying foreign objects and rotor wash. The honeycomb material can not be repaired as easily as sheet metal nor with normal methods.

(2) Doors have been damaged through daily use because they have been forced beyond their normal opening limits. On some occasions the doors will impair the vision of the pilot to the rear of the aircraft.

(c) Recommendation:

(1) That take-off and landing be confined, where possible, to areas where there is relatively little danger from flying objects.

(2) That doors be removed from the aircraft during normal operation.

(7) Aviation training.

(a) Observation: It has been found through experience that the requirement to use instruments in normal flight is becoming more prevalent.

(b) The OH58A's have the minimum number of instruments necessary to conduct IFR flight for short periods of time. Their primary purpose is to aid the pilot in case instrument conditions are encountered. These instruments are designed to aid the pilot in navigating to areas of better conditions where visual flight is possible. Since there is a possibility for instrument flight in the new helicopters, check rides should be given to

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insure pilot proficiency.

(c) Recommendation: That instrument rated aviators be appointed as instrument instructor pilots and that check rides be given to every pilot. Currency rides involving instrument procedures and flight qualification should be given to all pilots throughout RVN much like the 90-day standardization training.

Joseph N. Hearin
JOSEPH N. HEARIN
Colonel, FA
Commanding

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- 3 - Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam
- 4 - Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery

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AVFB-FAC (13 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 23d Artillery Group for Period Ending
31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (E2)(U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE, APO
96266

This headquarters has reviewed the quarterly report of the 23d Artillery Group and concurs with operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Raylonce W. Hill Capt.

for
R. G. PARRISH
LTC, FA
ADJUTANT

AVFBC-RE-H (13 Feb 70) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266

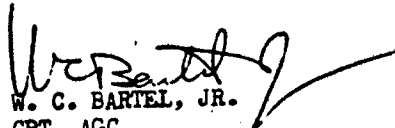
THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

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

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

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -
Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group for the period ending
31 January 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. BARTEL, JR.
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (13 Feb 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS-23FOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 02 APR 1970

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. (C) Reference item concerning Reference Material for CM/CR Teams", page 11, paragraph 2b(1). Confidential firing tables for many NVA/VC weapons have been published. These tables may be obtained by contacting U.S. Director, Combined Material Exploitation Center, APO 96307. Item and comment have been extracted for possible inclusion in the next issue of the USARV Combat Intelligence Lessons. No action by DA or USARPAC is recommended.

b. (U) Reference item concerning "Removal of Teletypewriter TT-9" from Radio Teletypewriter set AN/GRC-142", page 17, paragraph g(1): concur.

c. (U) Reference item concerning "Voltage in Radio Teletypewriter Set AN/GRC-142", page 17, paragraph g(2). The AN/GRC-142 is designed to operate with a input voltage of 26.5 - 28.5 VDC. The preferred operating voltage is 27.5 VDC.

d. (U) Reference item concerning "Effectiveness of a Ground System", page 18, paragraph g(3): concur. This method has been employed by 4COM with good results.

e. (U) Reference item concerning "Aviation Maintenance", page 19, paragraph 2g(6): concur. The 17 March 1970 issue of the USARV Aviation Safety Weekly Summary contained an article re-emphasizing to all units the hazards associated with loose debris and equipment in helicopter operating areas. The OH-58A operator's manual (TM 55-1520-22-10) states that the OH-58A may be flown with the aircraft doors removed. However, with the doors removed, care must be exercised that those seat belts not in use are secured. This matter was published in the February 1970 newsletter of the 34th General Support Group.

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AVHCC-DST (13 Feb 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R1)

f. (U) Reference item concerning "Aviation Training", page 19, paragraph 2g(7): concur. USARV Supplement 1 to AR 95-1 requires that unit commanders conduct an instrument training program for aviators under their command. Additionally, instrument flight proficiency is an item evaluated during each 90 day proficiency checkride. This information has been passed to the Aviation Officer, 23d Artillery Group. No action by higher headquarters is recommended.

FOR THE COMMANDER

Cy Burn:
HQ, II FFORCEV
23d Arty Gp

L. D. Murray
L. D. MURRAY
CPT, AF
Assistant Adjutant General

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GPOP-DT (13 Feb 70) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 23d Artillery Group for Period
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 APR 1970

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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