

AVFB-FA-BC

19 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC:  
WARSA) Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.

A. Command Group

(1) The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remained assigned to II Field Force Vietnam Artillery. The organic batteries of the battalion were not detached during this period.

(2) At the end of the reporting period the assigned personnel strength of the battalion was under authorized strength. Shortages existed in the following MOS's.

| <u>MOS</u> | <u>POSITION</u> | <u>AUTHORIZED</u> | <u>ASSIGNED</u> |
|------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 13B20      | Asst Gunner     | 12                | 2               |
| 13E20      | FD Computer     | 31                | 25              |
| 13E40      | Recon Sgt       | 10                | 6               |
| 31B20      | F.M.C Mech      | 2                 | 0               |
| 63C40      | Motor Sgt       | 5                 | 4               |
| 71H20      | Battery Clerk   | 8                 | 6               |
| 71T20      | Maint Data Sp   | 5                 | 0               |

FDC PERSONNEL SHORTAGE

MTOE 6-437G authorizes each firing battery six (13E20) FDC personnel. In the event that a battery is split and two FDC'S are required to operate on a 24 hour basis, there is not a sufficient number of trained personnel to carry out the mission of the FDC in an efficient and safe manner. Since the batteries are structured to operate in a four gun configuration it is not considered feasible to further modify the MTOE; therefore, utilizing sources within the battalion to meet the additional requirement, survey qualified personnel (MOS 82C20) have been found to have the highest aptitude area scores applicable to FDC operations. One of the battalion survey teams was split in order to give each battery FDC an additional three personnel for on-the-job training. With the exception of one man the survey personnel were successfully utilized to accomplish the FDC's mission.

(3) The morale of the battalion remained high with the R&R program the biggest morale factor. The following is a

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**GROUP - 4**  
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
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## Locations.

| SITE      | FEBRUARY |      | MARCH |      | APRIL |      |
|-----------|----------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
|           | REQ      | RECD | REQ   | RECD | REQ   | RECD |
| Australia | 20       | 14   | 13    | 12   | 11    | 11   |
| Tokyo     | 0        | 0    | 0     | 0    | 2     | 2    |
| Bangkok   | 8        | 4    | 7     | 6    | 6     | 4    |
| Singapore | 6        | 0    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    |
| Hawaii    | 16       | 15   | 8     | 8    | 12    | 10   |
| Taipei    | 1        | 1    | 2     | 2    | 3     | 2    |
| Manila    | 2        | 2    | 0     | 0    | 0     | 0    |
| Hong Kong | 0        | 0    | 2     | 2    | 1     | 1    |

(4) There were no significant morale problems. There were two Special Courts-Martial during this period. Article 15 punishment was administered as shown:

### FEBRUARY

11

### MARCH

9

### APRIL

20

(5) There were 13 WIA due to hostile action during the reporting period. This is an increase of 11 WIA over the last reporting period.

(6) Awards and decorations presented to members of this command are as follows:

Three Bronze Star Medals (Valor)

Five Bronze Star Medals (Achievement)

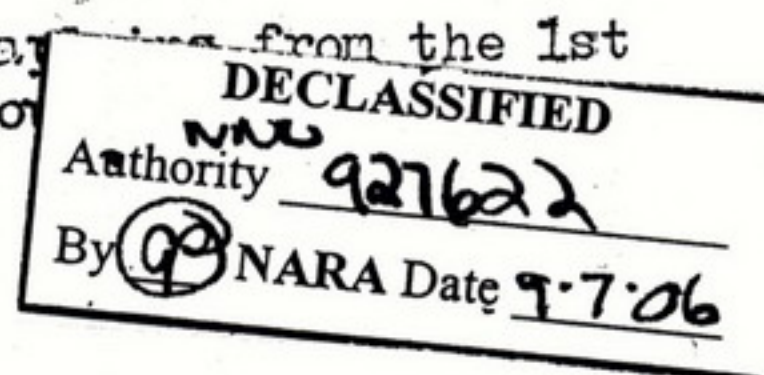
Sixteen Bronze Star Medals (Service)

Six Army Commendation Medals (Achievement)

Ninety-one Army Commendation Medals (Service)

One Air Medal.

(7) Religious services were provided by chaplains from the 1st Cavalry Division (AM) and the 23d Artillery Group.



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## B. Operations

1 At present, the batteries of the battalion are located as shown in inclosure 1.

At the beginning of the period, the mission of each firing battery was:

Battery A, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, GS, II FFORCEV

Battery B, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, GS, II FFORCEV

Battery C, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, GS, II FFORCEV

(2) During this period the battalion participated in several operations and displaced units as indicated:

### (a) Battery A:

1 On 20 February 1970, 175mm platoon, departed LZ Jake at 1330 hours. Convoy closed Quan Loi at 1530 hours without incident.

2 On 20 February 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Quan Loi at 1445 hours. Convoy closed Phuoc Vinh at 1915 hours without incident.

3 On 7 March 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Phuoc Vinh at 1300 hours. Convoy closed Quan Loi at 1815 hours without incident.

4 On 2 April 1970, 8" platoon, departed Quan Loi at 0835 hours. Convoy closed Fort Defiance at 1630 hours without incident.

5 On 15 April 1970, 8" platoon, departed Fort Defiance at 1300 hours. Convoy closed FSB Paul (AKA. Burkott) at 1425 hours without incident.

6 On 25 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Quan Loi at 0630 hours. Convoy closed FSB Ann 1350 hours without incident.

7 On 29 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed FSB Ann at 1605 hours. Convoy closed at Quan Loi 2057 hours without incident.

8 On 30 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Quan Loi at 0920 hours. Convoy closed FSB Eagle I at 1128 hours without incident.

### (b) Battery B:

1 On 26 February 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Phuoc Binh at 0600 hours. Convoy closed FSB Candy at 1630 hours without incident.

2 On 14 February 1970, 8" platoon, departed FSB Lee at 0800 hours. Convoy closed FSB Lee at 1520 hours without incident.

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3 On 23 February 1970, personnel from 8" platoon at FSB Elaine were exchanged with the personnel of the 8" platoon, Battery C, at Song Be. Unit designations were changed, thus moving Battery B 8" platoon to Song Be.

4 On 26 February 1970, 8" platoon, departed Song Be at 0800 hours. Convoy closed FSB Candy at 1630 hours without incident.

5 On 14 March 1970, Battery B departed FSB Candy at 1300 hours. Convoy closed FSB Loan at 1900 hours without incident.

6 On 15 March 1970, Battery B departed FSB Loan at 0800 hours. Convoy closed FSB Huong 1445 hours without incident.

7 On 3 April 1970, Battery B departed FSB Loan at 0800 hours. Convoy closed Song Be at 1921 hours without incident.

8 On 4, 5, and 6 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Song Be and conducted artillery raids from YU 188117, firing into the area the battery had departed on 3 April 1970. Element returned nightly to base camp at Song Be.

9 On 16 April 1970, 8" platoon, departed Song Be at 1300 hours. Convoy closed Fort Compton 1533 hours without incident.

10 On 18 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Song Be and conducted an artillery raid from YU 188117, firing in the vicinity of FSB Huong. Convoy returned to Song Be closing at 1630 hours without incident.

## (c) Battery C:

1 On 8 February 1970, 1 Tube, 175mm, departed Phuoc Vinh with security element at 1213 hours. Convoy closed LZ Bunard at 1550 hours without incident.

2 On 8 February 1970, 8" platoon, departed FSB Jake at 0800 hours. Convoy closed Lai Khe at 1730 hours without incident.

3 On 9 February 1970, 8" platoon, departed Lai Khe 0800 hours. Convoy closed Phuoc Vinh at 1030 hours without incident.

4 On 10 February 1970, 175mm platoon (-) departed Phuoc Vinh at 0830 hours. Arrived LZ Bunard at 1105 hours without incident.

5 On 22 February 1970, 8" platoon, departed Phuoc Vinh 0830 hours. Convoy closed Song Be 1850 hours without incident.

6 On 23 February 1970, as stated in paragraph B(2)(b)(3) above, personnel from the 8" platoon exchanged with the 8" platoon of Battery B

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at FSB Elaine. Unit designations were changed thus moving the 8" platoon of Battery C to FSB Elaine.

7. On 8 March 1970, 8" platoon, departed FSB Elaine at 1050 hours. Convoy stopped enroute to LZ Burnard and picked up the 175mm platoon. Battery (intact) closed Phuoc Vinh at 1930 hours without incident.

8. On 20 March 1970, 8" platoon, Battery C departed Phuoc Vinh at 1300 hours. Convoy developed maintenance problems and closed FSB Lobo at 1800 hours.

9. On 21 March 1970, 8" platoon, departed FSB Lobo at 0836 hours. Convoy closed FSB Thunder II at 1307 hours.

10. On 7 April 1970, 8" platoon, converted from 8" to 175mm, making the Battery a complete 175mm Battery. The platoon remained at FSB Thunder II.

11. On 28 April, 175mm platoon, departed FSB Thunder II at 1105 hours. Convoy closed Quan Loi at 1500 hours without incident.

12. On 29 April 1970, 175mm platoon, departed Quan Loi at 0812 hours. Convoy closed FSB Jake at 1435 hours without incident.

(d) During the period 7-13 February 1970, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery moved from Quan Loi to its present location at Phu Loi, RVN.

(E) Service Battery moved from Long Binh to its present location at Phu Loi on 14 March 1970.

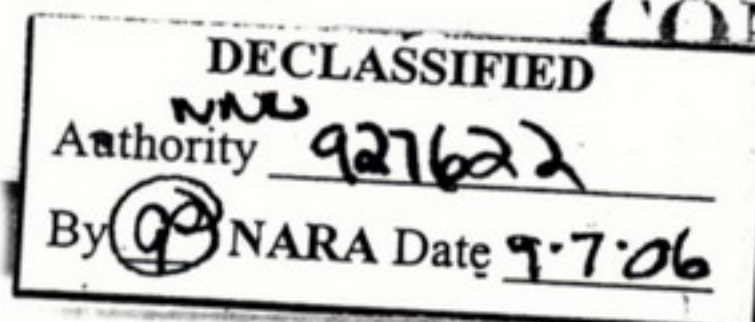
(3) The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition expended as indicated during the reporting period:

| UNIT                 | MISSIONS FIRED | AMMUNITION EXPENDED |             |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
|                      |                | 175MM               | 8"          |
| Battery A, 6/27 Arty | 2742           | 3708                | 3595        |
| Battery B, 6/27 Arty | 5253           | 5356                | 7849        |
| Battery C, 6/27 Arty | <u>2167</u>    | <u>4546</u>         | <u>1714</u> |
| TOTALS:              | 10162          | 13610               | 13158       |

## G. Training

(1) A vigorous and continuous cross training program of personnel was necessitated by extended period operations at platoon level and a

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shortage in certain critical MOSs. The most significant skills developed in this program were Fire Direction and Gun Section Chiefs.

(2) In-country schools were utilized to upgrade assigned personnel through attendance at Officer Fire Direction, Generator, and Driver courses conducted on a battalion level. Advanced training gained through these classes has enhanced unit operations.

(3) Assigned survey personnel have significantly improved MOS skills during this period due to a continuing emphasis toward extending survey control throughout the Corps zone and by extended operations at platoon level.

(4) New arrivals in the unit have continued to receive in-country replacement training within seven days after arrival. This training has provided a firm basis for rapid adaptability of the individual to a combat environment.

(5) Mandatory training subjects:

| <u>SUBJECT</u>            | <u>REQUIRED HOURS</u> | <u>HOURS COVERED</u> |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Character Guidance        | 3                     | 3                    |
| Command Information       | 13                    | 13                   |
| Fire Prevention           | 2                     | 2                    |
| Weapons Training          | 3                     | 3                    |
| Weapons Firing            | 24                    | 24                   |
| Intelligence Training     | 2                     | 2                    |
| Mine & Booby Trap Warfare | 1                     | 1                    |
| Psychological Operations  | 1                     | 1                    |
| Sapper Training           | 3                     | 3                    |
| Mobility Training         | 36                    | 36                   |
| Medical Training          | 3                     | 3                    |

## D. Intelligence

(1) During the reporting period aerial observers of this battalion flew 155 VR missions consisting of 457 hours which resulted in 35 significant sightings and 11 fire missions.

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(2) Target surveillance credited this battalion with 11 confirmed enemy killed by artillery (KBI) and 2 possible KBI. Attacks against hard target complexes resulted in the battalion destroying 50 bunkers, 13 hootches, 2 bridges, and 2 automatic weapons positions, 9 bunkers damaged, 1 hootch damaged, 1 tunnel entrance uncovered, and 3 fighting positions damaged. The battalion was also credited with 3 secondary explosions.

(3) Survey operations during the reporting period established a total of 14 orienting stations and their orienting lines, 11 battery and platoon centers, 0 flash bases and 1 radar position.

E. Logistics and Maintenance. The battalion engaged in normal supply, maintenance, and ammunition support and service activities during the reporting period. Daily air resupply of all classes of supply was made to Battery B, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery throughout the period. Daily air resupply was also made to most platoons operating away from the battery command post during split battery operations; Fort Defiance, FSB Jake, FSB Ann, FSB Candy, FSB Elaine, FSB Hung, FSB Compton, and FSB Bunard. During the period February through April, the battalion successfully completed USARV CMMI's of all batteries with ratings of satisfactory.

F. Organization. None

G. Other.

(1) Medical. The health of the command continues to be good. Emphasis was placed on sanitation and the prevention of malaria through classes conducted by the Battalion Surgeon. Classes were also presented on venereal diseases. The medical non-effective rate was minimal.

(2) Civic Action. This battalion does not have the personnel or equipment in the present configuration to handle all aspects of a full MEDCAP/ICAP program; therefore, the battalion pursues joint action with other units. At present, the battalion medical section at Phu Loi coordinates with the 23d Artillery Group in conducting MEDCAPS at Gadston. Approximately 100 Vietnamese are treated weekly. Battery C medics at Phuoc Vinh treat Vietnamese of Phuoc Vinh village on a weekly basis. This is conducted on a battery level with no assistance from other units at that location. Medical personnel of Battery B at Song Be conduct MEDCAPS twice weekly in villages in that vicinity. Approximately 120 Vietnamese are treated weekly and it is felt that these programs are most successful.

(3) Communications. During the reporting period the Battalion Headquarters moved from Quan Loi to Phu Loi. This move extended the range of the battalion FM communications to the point that it was necessary to establish a permanent relay on Mai Ba Ra. Communications improved; however, to increase both range and transmission capabilities, it was necessary to install a retransmission capability at the relay site. This has greatly

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aided in improving FM communications and has doubled the range of our FM capabilities.

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

A. Personnel. None

B. Operations.

(1) Verification of artillery lay.

(a) OBSERVATIONS. In a 6400 mil environment where artillery pieces are relayed and an aiming point re-established for each azimuth, extreme care must be taken as there is no real check of the lay by the gun other than by azimuth markers.

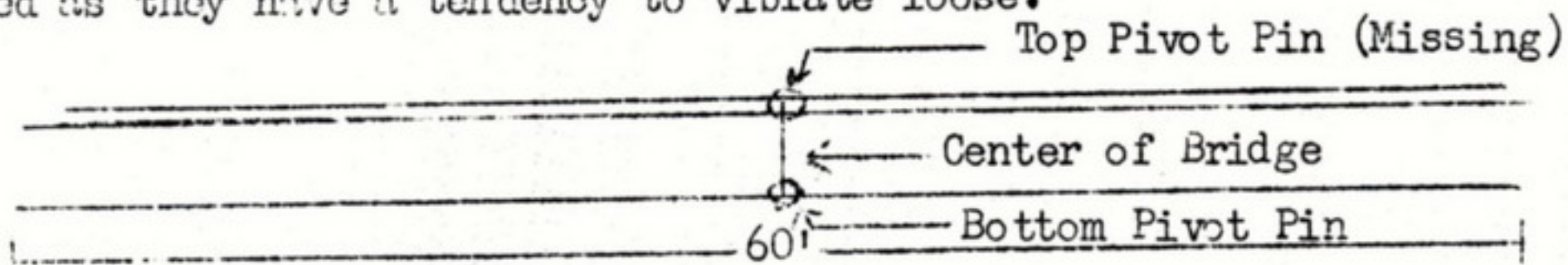
(b) EVALUATION. It is the responsibility of the Battery Executive to lay the battery for direction. In many areas this is done mechanically and without conscious consideration of the final results. An objective examination of the 0-3200 mil line of the Aiming Circle and a quick check of the line of metal with a compass will provide an accurate and responsible check of the work with the Aiming Circle.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That all battery officers be reminded of their responsibilities in laying and referring and that they be encouraged to make a habit of an objective check of the lay at frequent intervals.

(2) Checks on AVIB.

(a) OBSERVATION. This battalion narrowly missed a serious accident due to a missing pivot pin on an AVIB.

(b) EVALUATION. The AVIB has two (2) critical pivot points when emplaced (see diagram). These pivot pins should be checked each time the bridge is emplaced as they have a tendency to vibrate loose.



(c) RECOMMENDATION. That all convoy commanders and responsible personnel concerned with use of AVIB be briefed on this hazard and that an officer personally check the pins prior to loading the bridge.

(3) Fan Bolts for M107/M110 Track

(a) OBSERVATION. Many of the problems presently existing with the fan

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belts on the M107/M110 can be alleviated by proper installation and maintenance.

(b) EVALUATION. Proper installation of fan belts calls for pre-stressing by running the engine at 12,000 RPM (approximate) for five minutes and then readjusting the tension. In addition, belts will last much longer if drivers are cautioned against excessive racing of the engine to reduce strain on the fan belts.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That concerned personnel review proper installation procedures and that all drivers and Section chiefs be advised of the adverse effects of sudden acceleration.

#### (4) Underground Field Fortifications.

(a) OBSERVATION. When occupying fire support bases, it is necessary to construct both personnel bunkers and storage bunkers. Terrain permitting, the underground bunker provides the best security for both personnel and ammunition.

(b) EVALUATION. Because of the additional heavy equipment required for protective bunkers, i.e., heavy timbers, culverts, PSP, engineer stakes, etc., extra transportation must be available. A minimum of two five ton trucks is required for this transportation. With the number of vehicles presently assigned by MFOE, it is impossible to secure sufficient vehicles to transport the battery equipment plus the additional material required for bunkers and storage revetments.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That each firing battery be authorized two five ton trucks to transport the additional materials required when occupying a fire support base.

(5) Towing capabilities are minimal when heavy artillery batteries are operating at platoon level.

(a) OBSERVATION. It has been noted during platoon level operations that towing capabilities are inadequate.

(b) EVALUATION. Due to the shortage of M578's, heavy artillery units must depend on the primary weapon as a towing means. Tow cables have proven inadequate when towing distances exceed 1 kilometer. At present, no tow bars are authorized for the firing batteries.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS. One tow bar for each heavy artillery platoon be authorized.



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(6) Improvement of FM Radio Communications

(a) OBSERVATION. Due to the increased communications range, normal FM communications were not satisfactory within this battalion.

(b) EVALUATION. It was necessary to improve the battalion FM communications to maintain control of our firing elements. To aid in this improvement, a relay was placed on Nui Ba Ra, Song Be. This proved helpful, but still did not provide the maximum in communications for control of all elements. Radio set AN/VRC 49 was installed at the relay site giving this battalion retransmission capabilities. This has proved a great aid in communications and has doubled our broadcast range.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. It is recommended that each heavy artillery battalion be issued one radio set AN/VRC 49 to aid and improve long range communications.

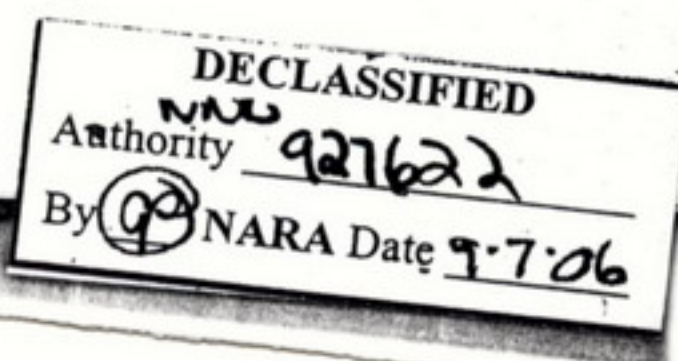
- C. Training. None
- D. Intelligence. None
- E. Logistics and Maintenance. None
- F. Organization. None
- G. Other. None

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