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AVCS-70
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

31 October 1966

fires were received from the detachment at Thon Thach during this period. A Liaison Officer from this headquarters has been stationed at Xan Gat to assist in fire planning.

d. Other significant events during the period are as follows:

(1) "C" Battery was converted to a composite 6"/175mm Battery on 23 September 1966.

(2) This Battalion controlled the fires of two 105mm batteries and a 4.2 mortar platoon from 3 October to date of this report.

(3) A Liaison Officer was attached to the Special Forces detachment at Dong Koi on 27 October 1966 to conduct research of effects of heavy artillery through double and triple jungle canopy growth. The project began on 29 October 1966. Estimated completion date is 1 November 1966.

5. (U) Maintenance

a. To improve the overall maintenance posture of the Battalion, a comprehensive maintenance program was initiated in mid-September. Battery and Battalion Maintenance Sections were collocated to insure proper supervision and utilization of all available maintenance personnel. In addition, organized fowling motor stables are being conducted daily.

b. Maintenance records have been examined and instruction has been given on the proper methods of keeping records to all drivers and maintenance personnel. All log books are being maintained accurately as of 1 October 1966.

c. To assist in the establishment of an effective maintenance program, this organization solicited the assistance of the USAFV Readiness Assistance Team (RAT). The team spent four days with the Battalion instructing on proper maintenance procedures and assisting in establishing correct maintenance records and PLI's.

6. (U) Logistics

a. Supply: All classes of supply are becoming more readily available as port facilities are improved and better stock accounting procedures are implemented at the Consolidated Supply Depot, Saigon Support Command.

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*Volume 1
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96289
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AVGE-YU

31 October 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
23d Artillery Group
ATTN: AVGE-G
APO 96289

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVX-PA-C
APO 96227

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVG-DH
APO 96307

Commander - in - Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPCF-III
APO 96558

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

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SECTION I

(C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities

1. (U) Administration/Personnel

a. The mail routing arrangement has been revised. Formerly all batteries were serviced through APO 96307 in Saigon. Presently, each battery is serviced by the APO closest to the unit. It is estimated that mail will be delivered at least one day sooner under the present mail address arrangement.

b. Morale is higher this quarter. This is attributed to the increased operational and maintenance readiness posture, M&R Program, Special Services activities, and the newly implemented Battalion Building Program. Headquarters Battery M Club, shower facilities and one B&Q are completed. An extension of the Headquarters building is under construction. The goal of the building program is to move all personnel "out from under canvas" before 1 April 1967.

c. Each battery established an Enlisted Men's Council which will address enlisted grievances to the Battalion Commander. This council was instituted so that enlisted personnel could present common grievances and propose resolutions.

2. (C) Intelligence

The aerial observation program discussed in previous reports continued; however it has been seriously hampered by the nonavailability of the rotary wing aircraft normally assigned to this organization. Due to the nonavailability of the rotary wing aircraft, the two fixed wing aircraft had to be utilized for missions other than the observation program. These missions included command and control, parts resupply to return artillery to operational status, and staff visits to outlying units.

3. (C) Training

In order to deliver accurate and timely artillery fires, the following safety procedures have been implemented.

- a. Cannon tests and FOC tests were initiated.
- b. Cannoneers drill is conducted daily.
- c. Firing data is double checked at Battalion and Battery FOC.

d. The lay of the piece is checked by an officer or Chief of Firing Battery.

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31 October 1966

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e. Piece settings for each round is personally checked by the assistant XO or Chief of Firing Battery.

f. Prior to firing each round, the gunner reads back quadrant, deflection, and azimuth to the XO.

4. (C) Operations

a. 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (-) continued the mission of general support reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery. Task Force Haymaker ("B" Battery) deployed to ICTZ on 23 September 1966. "B" Battery closed Cam Lo on 2 October 1966 and assumed the mission of general support reinforcing the 3d Battalion, 18th Marines. The Task Force was attached to the 2d Battalion, 94th Artillery on 15 October 1966. During the month of October, Battery "A" was released from their mission of general support reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery and assigned the mission of general support reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 77th Artillery. Additionally, Battery "A" was assigned the mission of general support reinforcing the 54th Artillery Group. During the period 1 August 1966 to 31 October 1966, the Battalion fired 6093 missions, expending 6610 8" and 4180 175mm rounds.

b. The resupply convoys and the following seven tactical operations were supported:

- (1) Grayson (1 Aug - 4 Aug)
- (2) Evansville (5 Aug - 6 Aug)
- (3) Gallup (16 Aug - 21 Aug)
- (4) Amarillo (23 Aug - 2 Sep)
- (5) Lincoln (8 Sep - 12 Sep)
- (6) Longview (24 Sep - 30 Sep)
- (7) Tulsa (2 Oct - 15 Oct)

c. The Battalion continued to provide artillery support for Special Forces "A" teams located within range of the 175mm guns. During this period the Battalion supported six airmobile operations conducted by Special Forces teams located at Song Koi and Lon Cat. Few requests for

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fires were received from the detachment at Xom Thanh during this period. A Liaison Officer from this headquarters has been stationed at Xom Gat to assist in fire planning.

d. Other significant events during the period are as follows:

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b. Maintenance records have been examined and instruction has been given on the proper methods of keeping records to all drivers and maintenance personnel. All log books are being maintained accurately as of 1 October 1966.

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(1) Class I: All units are now receiving adequate rations. "A" rations are issued for at least two meals daily. Refrigeration facilities are still insufficient. There are seven sixty-five cubic foot reach-in refrigerators, five chest freezers and five ice machines on order for this organization.

(2) Class II: Direct exchange of individual clothing has not been effective until this past month due to inadequate supply. Now, all personnel are being issued replacement clothing.

(3) Class IV: Barrier materials are plentiful. Construction materials for troop containment are not being released for self-help projects. Engineer construction of troop billets will not be started for many months. After a year in country, troops are still in tents with pierced steel plank flooring as well as locally fabricated floors.

(4) Class V: Munitions are adequate and are stockpiled in sufficient quantity to suffice until the next resupply convoy. The RSK is secured one week in every six weeks.

b. Self-Help Construction: Additional buildings for administration, clubs, dayrooms and troop billets will be erected as materials are made available.

c. Maintenance of Artillery: Field maintenance of the self-propelled howitzers (8") and 175mm guns has shown some improvement since a direct support maintenance team has been attached to the Battalion Maintenance Section.

d. New Property Book: In September the Battalion H-4 Section established a separate property book and accompanying records for "B" Battery, 6/27th Artillery, which was deployed to I Corps. This battery was augmented with liaison, medical, survey and maintenance personnel and equipment. This equipment was transferred from other batteries within the Battalion.

7. (C) Aviation

a. During the reporting period, the Battalion Aviation Section flew 494 hours in the two O-1 observation aircraft. Visual reconnaissance and artillery adjustment missions accounted for 364 hours and command and control and administrative flights totaled 130 hours.

b. The section operated without its U-13 helicopter for the entire quarter due to maintenance problems and the loss of one helicopter

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pilot. As a result, it was necessary to utilize the C-1 aircraft for certain command and control and administrative flights therefore reducing our reconnaissance time from the previous quarter.

- c. Night reconnaissance missions were continued with good results although they were minimized by the consistently bad weather during most of this period.
- d. One new fixed wing aviator joined the section and three aerial observers were qualified during this period.

8. (U) Civic Action

The following civic action projects were accomplished by the Battalion during the reporting period.

- a. Individual bags of candy and cookies were presented to each child at the Phuoc Vinh elementary school as a gift from the Battalion in celebration of their Mid-Autumn Festival holiday.
- b. Personnel from the Battalion cut the grass and policed the grounds around the elementary school on several occasions.
- c. Personnel from the Battalion repaired the classroom furniture at the elementary school prior to the school opening in August.
- d. Pencils, tablets and other miscellaneous school supplies were presented to the headmaster at the elementary school for use by the teachers and children.

SECTION II

1. (C) Section II, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. (U) Personnel

(1) Finance

- (a) Item: Accurate and punctual payment of service members.
- (b) Discussion: Pay complaints have been identified by sources outside the Battalion.
- (c) Observation: Pay complaints must be identified expeditiously at battery level. These complaints will be directed to the S-1 section for action.

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(2) RMR Policy

(a) Item: Decentralization of in-country pass approval.

(b) Discussion: Authority to approve 3-day, in-country passes was formerly retained by this headquarters. This negates a battery commander's ability to approve passes in recognition of individual achievements.

(c) Observation: Extending approval authority for passes to the unit commanders will enhance the responsiveness of battery personnel to the unit commander.

b. (C) Operations

Positioning of heavy artillery.

(1) Item: Enemy forces are using existing roads and trails outside the range capabilities of heavy artillery units.

(2) Discussion: The Battalion renders continuous support to outlying Special Forces Camps. Numerous requests for fire support have been received outside the range of the 175mm gun. Road conditions and lack of security have prevented moving units out of base camps. Therefore, the VC have determined the limitations of our heavy artillery units.

(3) Observation: Heavy artillery units should be displaced frequently to vary range capabilities.

c. (C) Intelligence

(1) Accurate and timely intelligence reports.

(a) Item: Intelligence reports received at this headquarters continue to be old and outdated. The only useful purpose of these old reports is for the card file and intelligence map.

(b) Discussion: Intelligence reports must be accurate and timely to enable the heavy artillery units to perform accurate firing on these targets. Many of the missions fired are unobserved and the effect cannot be adjusted to compensate for inaccurate locations.

(c) Observation: Continued emphasis is required on accurate and timely intelligence reports.

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(2) Observation period.

(a) Items: The most effective aerial observation periods for moving targets appear to be early morning just prior to daylight and early evening just prior to beginning of darkness and continuing for about two hours.

(b) Discussion: Most of the moving targets, i.e. vehicles, personnel, etc., have been detected by this unit during the early morning and early evening hours. Use of the starlight scope in the O-1 observation aircraft enables the observer to detect camp fires, lights and moving objects during darkness without alerting the targets to his presence.

(c) Observation: Full use should be made of the advantages of darkness and use of the starlight scope to observe the enemy activities without being seen by him.

2. (c) Section II, Part II, Recommendations.

a. The procurement and allocation of wooden firing pads for M107 and M110 pieces should be expedited in the interest of operational maintenance and serviceability of the weapons systems.

b. Heliborne fire teams should be dispatched to target areas following heavy artillery concentrations to determine accurate post strike surveillance of target. This procedure would insure that the engaged target had actually been destroyed and would identify residual elements of the target remaining after the end of mission.

c. Star and Red Base reports should be forwarded directly to the artillery battalion controlling fires in the range of the identified target. This procedure would speed reaction time of firing units by enabling firing pieces to relay on target and units to compute firing data while target clearance is being processed.

EDWARD C. O'CONNOR
Major Artillery
Commanding

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AVHGC-DH (31 Oct 66) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 October 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 21 JAN 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1966 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Reference Paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement: Referenced items are not available in RVN or CONUS. It is estimated that these items will be available in CONUS about 1 February 1967.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

MEMO FOR RECORD

R. J. THORNTON 18 Jan 67
1st Lt. AGC
Asst Adjutant General

ORLL was staffed to:

GL Para 2, LTC Skoglund/439.

No further coord is necessary. Back up papers are attached to record copy. Action Officer: LTC Heard.

LTC HEARD WCH, A341, Record Copy - Return to AVHGC-DH

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO G3DH FROM G4 DATE 11 JAN 1967 CMT 2 (U)
LTC Skoglund/giv/439

Requisitioned items identified in para 4, 1st Ind, will be issued as they become available to the 1st Logistical Command.

DUANE S. CASON
Colonel, GS
AC of S, G4

2 Incl
nc



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