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AUTHORITY: 25 CFR 23
DATE: 4/27

Operational Report Lessons Learned Headquarters 6/27th Artillery Period Ending 31 Jan 1970

27TH ARTILLERY, 6TH BN OREL 31 JAN 1970

17 pages
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0800
24 MAR 1970

AVHGC-DST (14 Feb 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (VIC: WAISBA) Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 24 MAR 1970

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and comments of indorsing headquarters.
2. Reference item concerning "Basic Periodic Tests for M110 and M107", page 7, paragraph 2b; nonconcur. The information contained in the check sheet is essentially the same information as covered in Chapter 9, FM 6-94. If this field manual is not available in sufficient quantities, requisitions should be submitted for each gun section. As an interim measure to facilitate dissemination of the required procedures, the commander should locally reproduce these procedures. No action by USARPAC or DA is required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc

Cy furn
6th Bn 27th Arty
II FFV

[Signature]
L. D. MURRAY
CPT AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

MRF: ORLL was staffed through
OPNS: MAJ Dinges/4636
ACTION OFFICER: MAJ SAIN/jam/4433
CONCURRENCE/NONCONCURRENCE: Not required
Suitable for Commander's Notes: Yes/No

TO
NYS
10 APR 70

COL NEWMAN ACOFS G3
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AVFB-PAC (14 Feb 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for Period
Ending 31 January 1970. RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(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 6th Battalion,
27th Artillery and concurs with operations and lessons learned during
the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

for *Raymond W. Hill Capt*
R. G. PARRISH
LTC, FA
Adjutant

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AVFEC-RE-H (14 Feb 70) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (VIC: WALSA)
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 7 NOV 1970

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVFEC(DST), APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: OPOR-DC, 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 the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for the period ending
31 January 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
no

W. L. Boshans
W. L. BOSHANS
CPT, AGC
Asst. AG

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 HEADQUARTERS 6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY
 APO San Francisco 96289

AVFB-FA-BC

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC:
 WALSA) Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

1. (G) Operations: Significant Activities.

A. Command Group

(1) The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remained assigned to II Field Force 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	3
13E40	FDC Computer	10	4
52B40	Powerman	5	3
63A10	Mechanics Helper	8	0
71T20	Maintenance Data Sp	5	2
76Y40	Supply Sergeant	7	2
82C10	Chief of Survey Party	3	1
94A10	Cooks Helper	5	1
94E20	Cook	19	16

FDC PERSONNEL SHORTAGES

MTOB 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

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four gun configuration it is not considered feasible to further modify the MTOE; therefore, utilizing resources within the battalion to meet the additional requirement, survey qualified personnel (MOS 8200) 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 (3) 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 booster. The following is a breakdown of the R&R allocations:

SITE	NOVEMBER		DECEMBER		JANUARY	
	REQ	RECD	REQ	RECD	REQ	RECD
Hawaii	15	12	11	11	5	5
Tokyo	1	1	0	0	0	0
Hong Kong	2	2	1	1	0	0
Bangkok	12	10	11	11	9	9
Sydney	23	18	28	29	14	9
Taipei	2	2	0	0	1	1
Singapore	0	0	2	2	0	0
In Country	4	4	6	6	11	11

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

NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	JANUARY
10	11	12

(5) There were 2 WIA due to hostile action during the reporting period. This is a decrease of 3 WIA over the last reporting period.

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

- Two (2) Bronze Star Medals (Valor),
- Eight (8) Bronze Star Medals (Achievement),
- Sixteen (16) Bronze Star Medals (Service),
- One (1) Meritorious Service Medal,
- Thirty-seven (37) Army Commendation Medals (Achievement),
- Sixty-eight (68) Army Commendation Medals (Service),
- Four (4) Air Medals,
- One (1) Purple Heart,
- Two (2) Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry,

(7) Religious services were provided by chaplains from the 1st Cavalry Division (AM) for all units.

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, 6/27 Artillery, GS, II PFORCEV
- Battery B, 6/27 Artillery, GS, II PFORCEV
- Battery C, 6/27 Artillery, GS, II PFORCEV

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

(a) On 28 November, a platoon of 175mm Guns, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Quan Loi for an artillery raid in the vicinity of Grid XU 738063. The mission of the platoon was to engage hard targets in the "Flat Iron" area. The platoon expended 63 rounds of 175mm and returned to Quan Loi before nightfall the same day.

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(b) On 13 December, One (1) forward observer party was provided Team A, Special Forces Group 332 for operations in War Zone C. Operation terminated on 21 December 69.

(c) On 23 December, a platoon of 8" Howitzers, Battery C, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Phuoc Vinh to Thunder III (XT 738059). Battery Headquarters remained at Phuoc Vinh.

(d) On 27 December, a platoon of 8" Howitzers, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Quan Loi to LZ "Marge" (XU 738063). Battery Headquarters remained at Quan Loi.

(e) On 5 January, the liaison party which departed on 14 October 69 to the 3rd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment returned. On 6 January, the liaison party to the 2nd Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, which also departed on 14 October, returned.

(f) On 12 January, a platoon of 175mm Guns Battery C, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Phuoc Vinh to LZ "Jake". Also, a platoon of 8" Howitzers, Battery C, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Thunder III to LZ "Jake". Battery C Administrative Headquarters remained at Phuoc Vinh.

(g) On 13 January, a platoon of 175mm Guns Battery B, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Phuoc Binh (Camp Martin) for an artillery raid in the vicinity of Grid YU 183115. The mission of the 175mm platoon was to engage hard targets in the vicinity of the Bu Gia Mep airstrip. The platoon expended 148 rounds and returned to Camp Martin before nightfall the same day.

(h) On 17 January, a platoon of 175mm Guns Battery C, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from LZ "Jake" to Phuoc Vinh. Battery Headquarters remained at Phuoc Vinh.

(i) On 17 January, a platoon of 8" Howitzers, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from LZ "Marge" to Quan Loi. Also, a platoon of 175mm Guns, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Quan Loi to LZ "Jake". Battery Headquarters remained at Quan Loi.

(j) On 18 January, a platoon of 8" Howitzers, Battery B, 6/27 Artillery displaced by convoy from Phuoc Binh (Camp Martin) to LZ "Lee" (YU 427059). Battery Headquarters remained at Phuoc Binh (Camp Martin).

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(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	2366	3642	2134
Battery B, 6/27 Arty	3443	5356	3704
Battery C, 6/27 Arty	2220	3364	3792
TOTALS:	8029	12,362	9630

C. Training

(1) A vigorous cross training program of personnel was necessitated by extended-period operations at platoon level. The most significant skills developed in this program were Fire Direction and Unit Mess personnel.

(2) All available schools were utilized to upgrade assigned personnel through attendance at Officer Fire Direction, TAERS, PLL, Generator, and Armor short courses. Advanced training gained through these classes has enhanced unit operations.

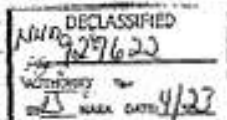
(3) Assigned survey personnel have significantly improved MGS skills during this period due to a command emphasis toward extending survey control throughout the Corps area.

(4) New arrivals in the unit have continued to receive in-country replacement training within seven (7) 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>
Geneva Convention	1	1
Safety	3	3
First Aid	1	1
Medical Care	1	1
Field Sanitation	1	1
Prevention of Heat Injury	1	1
Sentry Duty	1	1

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Character Guidance	3	3
Command Information	12	12
Physical Fitness	12	12
Weapons Firing	24	24

D. Intelligence.

(1) During the reporting period aerial observers of this battalion flew 174 VR missions consisting of 464 hours which resulted in 129 significant sightings and 78 fire missions.

(2) Target surveillance credited the battalion with 63 confirmed enemy killed by artillery (KBA) and 20 enemy possible killed by artillery (KBA). Continuing the attack against hard target complexes the battalion destroyed 174 bunkers and 19 huts, resulting in 19 secondary explosions.

(3) Survey operations during the reporting period established a total of 17 orienting stations and their orienting lines, 5 battery and platoon centers, 12 gun positions, 3 flash bases, and one 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, 6/27 Artillery throughout the period. Daily air resupply was also made to all platoons operating away from the battery command post during split battery operations (FSB Thunder III, FSB "Marge", FSB "Jake", and FSB "Lee").

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.

In the last quarter the S-5 Civic Action program has progressed in that the battalion has initiated more CA projects than ever before attempted by this unit.

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(a) **MEDCAPS/ICAPS:** The 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, principally the MACV team in Phuoc Vinh and the 3rd Bde, 1st Air Cavalry Division in Quan Loi. By this cooperation over 150 Vietnamese are treated per week.

(b) The food distribution program is mainly in the An Loc Village area. By arrangement with the local Class I point at Quan Loi we are able to secure the excess perishables that are not utilized by the local U.S. Forces. These perishables are distributed to 2 schools, 2 orphanages, 1 hospital, 1 Hoi Chanh Center. In addition, when outlying batteries have an excess they also distribute to their local projects of 2 schools and 2 orphanages.

(c) In the construction area the TV room for the Binh Long Province Hospital was completed. Self-help construction has consisted of a duck pond and pen in Song Be and the starting of repair work on the school in Loi An Village (Quan Loi Base Camp).

(d) In other projects over 200 children were given Thanksgiving and/or Christmas dinners by batteries of this battalion. Also over \$250.00 worth of Christmas presents were given out to orphans in the 4 provinces in which the battalion operates.

(3) **Communications.** During the reporting period the battalion continued to operate its secure radio teletype net using the AN/CRC-142, with a station at each of the batteries located away from the Battalion Headquarters.

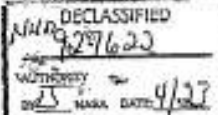
2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

- a. Personnel. None
- b. Operation. (Basic Periodic Tests for M110 and M107).

(1) OBSERVATION. Several problems were encountered while conducting the basic periodic test, in accordance with FM 6-94, due to the nature of the heavy artillery and field conditions.

- a. Confusion over use of embedded corrections.
- b. Positioning of the weapon.

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c. Tracking the plumb line.

(2) EVALUATION. A basic periodic test check list (incl 2) has been developed to eliminate problems encountered. Imbedded corrections, regardless of tube changes, should be applied in order to compensate for tube droop. Cant may be corrected by utilizing blocks to elevate the rear road wheel on the low side of the carriage. Elevations above 750 mls may be eliminated if the plumb line is too short. The use of the basic periodic test check list in conjunction with FM 6-94 produces valid test results.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That the basic periodic test check sheet be disseminated to all heavy field artillery units.

- c. Training. None
- d. Intelligence. None
- e. Logistics and Maintenance. None
- f. Organization. None
- g. Other. None

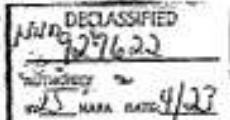
FOR *Judd H. Hrabal*
 DAN H. RALLS MAT, FA
 LTC, FA EXECUTIVE OFFICER
 Commanding

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DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific
- 3 - Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam
- 2 - Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery

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Battery Locations:

At present, the batteries of the battalion are located as shown below:

8" Howitzer Platoon, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery, XT 80999032, Quan Loi.

175mm Gun Platoon, Battery A, 6/27 Artillery, XT 62648136, LZ "Jake".

8" Howitzer Platoon, Battery B, 6/27 Artillery, YU 42550594, LZ "Lee".

175mm Platoon, Battery B, 6/27 Artillery, YU 14360726, Phuoc Binh.

8" Howitzer Platoon, Battery C, 6/27 Artillery, XT 62648136, LZ "Jake".

175mm Gun Platoon, Battery C, 6/27 Artillery, XT 97084965, Phuoc Vinh.

HMB, 6/27 Artillery, XT 80989031, Quan Loi.

Service Battery, 6/27 Artillery, YT 05381107, Plantation.

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QUARTERLY BASIC PERIODIC TEST

BATTERY: _____ DATE: _____
 M107 US # _____ TUBE # _____
 M110 US # _____ BREECH # _____
 C/S _____ XO _____

I. Preparation Prior to Performing Basic Periodic Test:

a. Positioning of weapon: Place the weapon to be tested on level portion of gun pad with spade down but not emplaced. Check to insure trunions are level by placing a gunner's quadrant on top of the recoil housing below the breech block. The tube should be at 0 QB. Tolerance 20 mils. If cant exceeds 20 mils, move the weapon to a different location and check again. Cant may be compensated for by blocking up the rear road wheel on the low side.

b. Gunner's Quadrant Test:

- (1) Inspect the shoes of gunner's quadrant and quadrant seats for burrs, nicks, and rust.
- (2) Perform the end-for-end test as prescribed in para 135, FM 6-94.
- (3) Perform the micrometer test as prescribed in para 136, FM 6-94.
- (4) Perform the comparison test of all gunner's quadrant's in the battery. Tolerance +, -, 0.4 mils from the average readings.

QB (M137 Mount)	QUADRANT #1	#2	#3	#4	AVERAGE
225					
625					
1025					

c. Positioning of Plumb Line: Tie a length of single strand communications wire (WD 1) to the muzzle of a M107 not being tested and position the weapon in line with and 15 feet from the muzzle of the weapon under test.

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QUARTERLY BASIC PERIODIC TEST, Con't

Elevate the tube to max QE extending the WD1. Attach a weight to the WD1 to provide a stable plumb line. (Sway in the line may be dampened by placing weighted end in a large bucket of oil.)

d. Application of the Imbedded Correction: Although technically the imbedded correction is valid only for the original cannon assembly (breach and tube) the procedures of this battalion will be to apply the imbedded correction regardless of tube changes in order to compensate for tube droop.

(1) Place the value of the imbedded correction on the gunner's quadrant.

(2) Place gunner's quadrant on the quadrant seats of the M137 mount and level the longitudinal and cross-level bubbles.

(3) Zero all counters. The centerline of the bore is now level and parallel to the sights with the sight scales all reading zero. N.B. This procedure is to be utilized during daily bore sighting as well as on Basic Periodic Test.

II. Test of the Telescope Mount M137:

a. Plumb Line Test:

(1) Install bore sights in the tube and parallax shield in panoramic telescope.

(2) Sight through the tube at 0 QE on the plumb line.

(3) Center the elevation and cross-level bubbles.

(4) Place the hairline of the panoramic telescope on the collimator taking up the correct sight picture, set deflection counter to read 3200.

(5) Elevate the tube in 100 mil steps. When necessary, traverse the tube to put bore sights back on plumb line. Take up correct sight picture by using the azimuth knob to return vertical hairline and the elevation knob to return the horizontal hairline. Record reading below: *Elevations above 750 may be eliminated if plumb line is too short.

ELEVATION	150	250	350	450	550	650	*750	*850	*950	*1050	*1150
AZ DEVIATION											
ELV BUBBLE DEVIATION (GRADUATION)											
CROSS LEVEL BUBBLE DEVIATION											

(6) Elevate the tube to each quadrant listed below. At each quadrant:

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(a) If necessary traverse the tube to return the bore sights on to the plumb line.

(b) Level both mount bubbles after recording variation below.

(c) Take up correct telescope sight picture by using azimuth knob if necessary. Record deviation below:

QUADRANT ELEVATION	150	250	350	450	550	650	750	850	950	1050	1150
AZ DEVIATION (mil)											
ELV BUBBLE VARIATION											
CROSS-LEVEL VARIATION											

(7) Tolerance: 0.5 mil in azimuth.
 0.5 graduation in either bubble.

b. Cross-Level Setting Test:

- (1) Level the mount in both directions.
- (2) Sight on the plumb line.
- (3) Turn the elevation knob of sight through maximum extent of elevation.
- (4) Note if the verticle hairline deviates from the plumb line by more than 0.5 mil.

c. Elevation Counter Test:

- (1) At each of the elevations listed below place the gunner's quadrant on the quadrant seats of the mount.
- (2) Using the elevation knob, center the bubble of the gunner's quadrant.
- (3) Cross level the mount.
- (4) Record the elevation counter reading below:

GUNNER QUADRANT	0	225	626	1025	1155
ELEVATION COUNTER					

(5) Tolerance +,- 0.5 mil but consistent.

d. Longitudinal Level Setting Test:

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QUARTERLY BASIC PERIODIC TEST, con't

- (1) Move the tested weapon so that the panoramic telescope with a setting of 1600 mils comes in line with the plumb line i.e., turn track 90 degrees.
- (2) With parallax shield in place take up correct sight picture of vertical hairline coincident with plumb line.
- (3) Turn cross level correction knob through it's entire range.
- (4) Record deviation from plumb line.
- (5) Tolerance 0.5 mil.

c. Panoramic Telescope Test:

- (1) Sight on distant aiming point.
- (2) Record azimuth counter dial reading.
- (3) Rotate the head through 6400 mils to reading above.
- (4) Check sight picture to see that cross hairs have returned to aiming point.
- (5) Tolerance 1.5 mils.

Components which fall out of tolerance are to be job ordered to the Maintenance Contact Team.