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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (15 Dec 67) FOR OT RD-670651

20 December 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th
Battalion, 15th Artillery, Period Ending 31 July 1967

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSEFOR OT 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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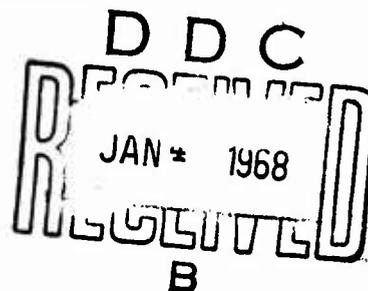
Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 7TH BATTALION, 15TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96368

AVGK-AB-C

8 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
Reports Control Symbol GSFORS-65 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL AND UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) ~~GENERAL~~:

a. During the reporting period (17 November 1966 to 31 July 1967) the following units were assigned to the battalion.

HQ and HQ Btry, 7th Bn, 15th Arty

Btry A, 7th Bn, 15th Arty

Btry B, 7th Bn, 15th Arty

Btry C, 7th Bn, 15th Arty

SVC Btry, 7th Bn, 15th Arty

b. The battalion is organized under TOB's 6-416E, 6-447E, and 6-449E as modified by TUSA CO 645, dtd 21 Nov 66. The CO adds a metro section and an extra liaison section and directs that the aviation section be organized at zero strength in personnel and equipment.

c. The battalion was alerted for overseas movement on 17 Nov 66 and the following phases of readiness established:

(1) Personnel On Station Date (POSD) - 3 Mar 67

(2) Equipment Readiness Date (ERD) - 15 May 67

(3) Personnel Readiness Date (PRD) - 4 Jun 67

d. At the time of alert, the battalion was attached to XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

e. POM preparation and movement overseas was conducted according to the following schedule:

Downgraded at 3 year Intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

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- (1) 17 Nov - 31 Dec 66. Completion of Advanced Individual Training for filler personnel.
- (2) 1 Jan - 17 Feb 67. Completion of Basic Unit Training.
- (3) 20 Feb - 24 Mar 67. Completion of Advanced Unit Training.
- (4) 25 Mar - 15 May 67. Completion of POM training and preparation of equipment for overseas movement.
- (5) 15 May 67. Road movement of wheeled vehicles to Charleston Outport for overseas shipment. Commencement of maximum leave period for all personnel.
- (6) 17 May 67. Rail movement of tracked vehicles and Z cargo equipment to Charleston Outport for overseas shipment.
- (7) 25 May 67. Rail movement of Red TAT equipment to Oakland for overseas shipment.
- (8) 4 Jun 67. End of maximum leave period, PRD.
- (9) 7-9 Jun 67. Air movement of main body from Pope AFB to Oakland Army Terminal.
- (10) 9 Jun 67. Main body departed Oakland for Vietnam aboard the USNS Walker.
- (11) 16-19 Jun 67. Advance Party in aerial transit from Pope AFB to Qui Nhon, RVN.
- (12) 19 Jun-1 Jul 67. Advance Party engaged in preparation for reception of main body into base camp vicinity Phu Cat AFB, RVN (BR 9040).
- (13) 1 July 67. Main body and Red TAT cargo arrived Qui Nhon and moved immediately to the Phu Cat base camp.
- (14) 2-8 Jul 67. Off loading of Z Cargo at Qui Nhon and shipment to base camp at Phu Cat.
- (15) 8-15 Jul 67. Battalion engaged in bringing all equipment to full combat readiness.

f. During the POM period, the following significant inspections, training tests and staff visits occurred:

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- (1) 5-7 Dec 66 - Defense Atomic Support Agency Technical Standardization Inspection satisfactorily completed.
- (2) 15-17 Feb - Firing Battery Tests satisfactorily completed.
- (3) 16-18 Mar - CONARC Nuclear Weapons Technical Proficiency Inspection satisfactorily completed. Inspection took place in the field during an extended field exercise.
- (4) 21-22 Mar - Battalion Operational Readiness Test administered by XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery satisfactorily completed.
- (5) 3-7 Apr - Fort Bragg Command Maintenance Management Inspection satisfactorily completed.
- (6) 10-14 Apr - Third US Army Command Maintenance Management Inspection satisfactorily completed.
- (7) 27 Apr - POM staff visit by G-3 representatives of CONARC and TUSA.
- (8) 1 May - HQ, XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg Final Readiness Inspection conducted.
- (9) 11 May - TUSA POM IG Inspection satisfactorily completed.
- (10) 25 May - Department of the Army POM IG Inspection satisfactorily completed.

2. (C) ~~INTELLIGENCE~~:

a. (C) Prior to overseas departure, disposition of classified material was made as follows:

(1) Special Weapons material was turned over to USAAMC, Fort Sill, Oklahoma, for safe-keeping.

(2) Remaining classified material not in the overseas theatre was destroyed or turned over to HQ, XVIII Airborne Corps Artillery for appropriate disposition.

b. During overseas movement classified material was secured by a field safe located so as to be under a 24 hour a day surveillance. Crypto material was secured by a 24 hour a day armed guard and placed in a locked safe inside a locked stateroom without portholes.

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c. At the time of overseas movement, more than 70% of assigned personnel had received final clearances of CONFIDENTIAL or higher.

3. (C) OPERATIONS AND TRAINING ACTIVITIES

a. Operations

(1) On 3 July, the battalion was attached to IFFORCEV Artillery and further attached to 41st Artillery Group. Mission assigned was general support of US, ARVN, and FVMAF forces operating in the ARVN II Corps Tactical Zone.

(2) On 5 July, the battalion received a mission of general support reinforcing the fires of 1st US Air Cavalry Divarty with the fires of Batteries A and B and reinforcing the fires of the Capitol ROK Infantry Divarty with Battery C.

(3) On 12 July, the battalion occupied a daylight psn vic LZ Hammond (BR 884525) and conducted an absolute fall of shot calibration of howitzers.

(4) On 16 July, the battalion less Service Battery and Headquarters administrative elements departed the Phu Cat Camp area and occupied tactical positions as follows:

(a) Btry A occupied position at Landing Zone ENGLISH (BS 878015) in the 1st Bde, 1st US Air Cav Div area of operations and received a modified mission of general support reinforcing the fires of the 2/19th Arty (105 towed).

(b) Btry B occupied position at LZ UPLIFT (BR 918750) in the 2nd Bde, 1st US Air Cav Div Area of Operations and received a modified mission of general support reinforcing the fires of the 1/77th Arty (105 towed).

(c) Bn HQ (-) also occupied position at LZ UPLIFT and established a forward CP.

(d) Btry C reinforced by 1 liaison party occupied position vic Binh Khe (BR685430) in the Capitol ROK Infantry Division TAOR and received a modified mission of general support reinforcing the fires of the 61 ROK Arty Bn (105/155 towed).

(5) From 16-31 July, Batteries A and B supported 1st Air Cav Division Operation PERSHING by fire.

(6) On 17 July, Btry B with no change in mission occupied

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position at LZ IVY (BR 8963) where it engaged known and suspected enemy targets to the west and southwest. At 1800 hours the same day, Btry B displaced to LZ CRYSTAL where it remained until the morning of 19 July continuing to engage targets to the west and southwest. On 19 July, Btry B returned to its LZ UPLIFT position.

(7) On 18 July, under the operational control of the 2/19 Arty, Btry A displaced to firing positions in the upper AN LAO valley vic BS 7411 where it engaged known and suspected enemy positions to the west. On 20 July, Btry A returned to its LZ ENGLISH position.

(8) On 31 July, with no change of mission, Btry C displaced to a position in the Vinh Thanh Valley vic LZ JUPITER (BR 616606) where it engaged known and suspected enemy positions to the west, north and east. Btry C returned to its Binh Khe position the same day.

(9) During operations during the reporting period, the Battalion fired a total of 8345 rounds in 1251 unobserved and 284 observed missions. The battalion received credit for 48 known enemy KIA.

b. Training

(1) During the POM period, the battalion conducted Advanced Individual, Basic Unit and Advanced Unit Training in accordance with ATP 6-100. Battery Tests were administered in accordance with ATT 6-586, and the Battalion ORT in accordance with ATT 6-415 modified.

(2) In addition to the POM training required by AR 220-10. and USCONARC Directive, the battalion conducted the following special POM training:

(a) Additional mines and booby traps training conducted with the assistance of technically qualified personnel of the 7th Special Forces Group (Abn).

(b) Vietnamese Village training conducted by personnel of the USA Special Warfare School.

(c) Additional small arms and crew served weapons training to include familiarization of all personnel with the M60 Machine gun and the familiarization of more than 50% of personnel with the 50 cal machine gun and the M79 grenade launcher.

(d) Additional training in field fortifications with emphasis on the construction of bunkers and howitzer emplacements.

(e) Training for appropriate personnel on the operation of the new family of radios, the maintenance and operation of the M548

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full tracked cargo carrier, and operation of RAWIN metro equipment (through cooperation with adjacent units).

(f) Cross training of the battalion survey section and selected battery personnel in FDC procedures.

(g) Training of selected personnel in the Vietnamese language, history, and culture through cooperation with the Fort Bragg Army Education Center.

(3) Shipboard training emphasized daily physical training, care and cleaning of weapons, fire direction center training, and training in radio telephone procedures for selected personnel.

(4) Training during the reporting period after arrival in Vietnam has emphasized FDC organization and procedures, cannoners' drill, maintenance of vehicular and radio equipment, and local security procedures. Weapons safety has been emphasized and all small arms and crew served weapons were proof fired before departure of firing elements from the Phu Cat Base Camp.

4. (U) LOGISTICS: The following major events not mentioned in paragraph 1 occurred in the logistics field during the reporting period.

- a. On 17 Nov 66, the Battalion was alerted for deployment to SEA.
- b. On 25 Nov 66, Special Project Code IPJ and COA 060D was assigned to the Battalion. All outstanding Requisition without firm delivery dates were cancelled and Requisitioned on 7 December 1966.
- c. On 7 December 1966, Showdown Inspection of all sets, kits and outfits was conducted as directed by XVIII Abn Corps, CMRI Inspection SOP. Shortages were placed on Requisition.
- d. On 5 Jan 67, new PLL was approved and requisitions submitted.
- e. On 9 Feb 67, turn-in of Aviation Section equipment completed.
- f. On 20 Feb 67, initial CMRI Inspection conducted consisting of Record Inspection and PLL records inspection. Submitted listing of major items due out and secondary items to Customer Assistance Section Director of Supply.
- g. On 28 Mar 67, turn-in of howitzers to post for annual service and installation of product improvement kits began.
- h. On 30 Mar 67, all Special Weapons equipment was turned in to 26th Ordnance.

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- i. On 30 Mar 67 all crating and packing equipment was ordered from Post Packing and Crating Section.
 - j. On 1 Apr 67, M548 Full Tracked Cargo Carrier was received.
 - k. On 3 May 67, all Gasoline Burning Cargo trucks were transferred and diesel Engine trucks were obtained.
 - l. On 16 May 67, last howitzer was returned from Post Tracked Vehicle Maintenance Facility.
 - m. On 20 May 67, 3ea CONEX with Metro Equipment departed Fort Benning and arrived Charleston Outport 23 May 67.
 - n. On 17 May 67, Unit ceases to accept equipment received at Fort Bragg, all receipted supplies be shipped by Special Project Section.
 - o. On 25 May 67, 8ea TAT Equipment departed Fort Bragg for Oakland Army Terminal.
 - p. On 9 Jun 67, all Station Property transferred to Host Unit.
 - q. On 20 Jun 67, Supply Accounts were established for Battalion with Qui Nhon Support Command.
 - r. On 21 Jun 67, 560th Ordnance Company assigned mission of maintenance, direct support of the battalion.
 - s. On 23 Jun 67, Tentage was drawn for billeting Main Body on arrival.
 - t. On 24 Jun 67, Self-Service Laundry and POL accounts established.
 - u. On 1 Jul 67, Main Party arrived, sand bags and concertina wire were available for protection.
 - v. On 4 July 67, Jungle fatigues issued to majority of battalion.
 - w. On 10 Jul 67, initial in-country logistics reports were forwarded to higher headquarters.
5. (U) CIVIL AFFAIRS
- a. On 6 Jul 67, 25 patients were treated by the battalion's Med Cap II Team.
 - b. On 25 Jul 67, the battalion adopted Van Son Hamlet (BR 922391) as a civil affairs assistance project.

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c. On 28 Jul 67, candy, soap and other personal hygiene items were distributed to the people of Van Son.

d. On 30 Jul 67, the battalion contributed lumber to Van Son Hamlet for the purpose of constructing furniture for the dispensary.

6. (U) PERSONNEL

a. During the POM period, the following major events in the personnel field occurred.

(1) 21 Nov 66, Officer and senior enlisted branch clearance requests and officer and enlisted personnel requisitions submitted to XVIII Airborne Corps.

(2) 24 Nov 66, Non-deployable personnel identified for re-assignment.

(3) 20 Feb-3 Mar 67, Company grade officers replacements reported for duty.

(4) 29 Mar 67, Unit Movement orders received.

(5) 30 Mar 67, Personnel rosters for attachment to movement orders completed.

(6) 15 Apr 67, STRAC folders for deploying personnel completed.

(7) 1 May 67, Change of Address cards completed.

(8) 7 May 67, Geneva Convention Cards prepared.

(9) 10 May 67, Personal affairs orientation and counseling on SGLI and dependent support completed.

(10) 15 May 67, Spectacle and hearing aid screen completed.

(11) 31 May 67, Medical and Dental checks completed.

(12) 1 Jun 67, Immunizations completed.

(13) 5 Jun 67, Last of non-deployable personnel departed unit, POR check-lists (DA Form 631) completed.

(14) 6 Jun 67, Post clearance completed.

(15) 8 Jun 67, Military personnel records packed for yellow TAT shipment.

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b. During the voyage overseas, the following personnel actions took place:

- (1) Personnel records closed out and re-opened.
- (2) Foreign service tour dates entered on all personnel records.
- (3) June pay-rolls made up.
- (4) Completed Geneva Convention Cards - issued to all personnel.

c. Significant personnel activities since arrival in-country have included:

- (1) 21 June - Requisition for local regulations submitted.
- (2) 7 Jul - Requisition for replacement of early ETS personnel submitted.
- (3) 15 Jul - Requisition for local blank forms submitted.

SECTION II

COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (C) OBSERVATIONS:

a. Item. Organic Aviation Support

Discussion. This unit currently depends on higher and adjacent headquarters for the provision of aviation support for artillery observation and command and control. This poses difficulties in that the road distance between batteries is 110km and aviation support is frequently unavailable. A letter has been submitted requesting this unit be authorized to fill its organic aviation section.

Observation. Lack of an organic aviation section hampers the effectiveness of command and control of heavy artillery when distances between deployed batteries is extensive.

b. Item. FM Communications Over Extended Distances

Discussion. During the 18-20 July operation of Btry A in the An Lao Valley, direct FM Communications between the battery and battalion headquarters was not possible because of large hill masses. A radio

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relay was achieved by stationing personnel and radio equipment on an intermediate crest but this solution was not completely satisfactory because of the time loss, increase of radio traffic and increased possibility of misinterpretation associated with voice relay. An MTOE requesting the addition of automatic FM retransmission equipment is being prepared by this organization.

Observation. Automatic retransmission FM radio equipment would enhance the efficiency of command and control of heavy artillery during operations over extended distances in mountainous terrain.

c. Item. Training of AM Radio Operators.

Discussion. During the early weeks of tactical operations in country, this organization experienced several failures of AM radio communications. Although some equipment failures were involved, investigation of the problem revealed that operator error and failure was the cause of much of the difficulty. Although the operators had received the normal training program and had participated with the organization in field training exercises prior to deployment, the relatively short distances involved in the training area led to primary radio communication reliance being placed on FM.

Observation. Units deploying to Vietnam should place emphasis during field training exercises on the activities of AM radio personnel to include message handling procedures and installation of specialized antennas.

d. Item. Extensive howitzer deadline in support maintenance.

Discussion. The howitzers of this organization were turned in for annual servicing and installation of a product improvement kit on 28 Mar and were not returned to the battalion until 16 May, the day prior to rail shipment to the Charleston Outport. The cause of this extended deadline lay in large part in the fact that the sudden workload overwhelmed the shop facilities of Fort Bragg, a post of low tracked vehicle density. The extended deadline had adverse impact on battalion operations and training in that no section training was possible between the end of March and the in-country receipt of the howitzers on 9 July, a period of 15 weeks. Further, no opportunity for pre-deployment calibration of howitzers existed.

Observation. The establishment of a maintenance task force at an appropriate command level to assist tracked vehicle shop installations forced into sudden overload by requirements of deploying units would minimize the adverse effects described above.

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e. Item. Late Arrival of Officer Fill.

Discussion. The bulk of the company grade officer fill did not arrive in the battalion until 3 March, two weeks after the battery tests and less than three weeks before the battalion ORT. This late arrival had adverse impact on the early stages of POM preparation and training and did not give the officers themselves an opportunity to familiarize themselves thoroughly with their duties before entering a significant phase of the battalion training cycle.

Observation. If possible, the POSD for alerted units should be established at least 120 days prior to PRD instead of the 90 days established for this organization.

f. Item. Arrival of Voyage Staff.

Discussion. This unit was designated to provide the initial voyage staff of 250 personnel for the trip overseas. The Bn XO was selected as the Senior Unit Commander. Official notification was not received until 2 days prior to movement date. The voyage staff embarked aboard the USNS Walker only six hours prior to the arrival of the first of the remaining units. Insufficient time was available to organize the voyage staff to adequately prepare for the receipt of the remaining units.

Observation. That the Senior Unit Commander be selected at least two weeks prior to embarkation to allow for adequate planning time. A nucleus of the voyage staff to include the Senior Unit Commander, Executive Officer, Adjutant, Sergeant Major, PMO, and Mess Officer should arrive at port at least two days prior to embarkation.

g. Item. Non-receipt of Mail

Discussion. This unit was originally scheduled for deployment to Pleiku, but was diverted to Phu Cat approximately ten days prior to departure from CONUS. Apparently the APO at San Francisco and Seattle were not aware of this change and continued to send the unit's mail to Pleiku. The Pleiku APO received the mail but held it because they did not know the unit's location. Numerous phone calls were made to in-country APO's and letters forwarded to the APO's in San Francisco and Seattle. It was approximately three weeks before mail began to flow to the correct APO.

Observation. The APO's at Seattle and San Francisco should be notified immediately when a unit is diverted so that mail to the unit will not be delayed.

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2. (U) RECOMMENDATIONS:

a. That this organization be authorized to organize its aviation section at full strength in personnel and equipment. A letter requesting this change has been submitted through appropriate channels.

b. That the TOE of this organization be modified to authorize FM radio retransmission equipment for use when the organization is required to operate over extended distances in mountainous terrain. An MTOE requesting this change is currently under preparation.

c. That commanders of organizations preparing for deployment overseas emphasize training at AM radio teletype operators to include extensive practical work in message handling procedures and communicating over extended distances using special types of antennas.

d. That units diverted to new in country locations during the PQI take positive action to assure timely notification of the change is received by the APO's at San Francisco and Seattle.

Robert B. Hankins
ROBERT B HANKINS
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July
1967 Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS 41ST ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96368, 11 August 1967

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

1. (U) In compliance with I Field Force Vietnam Reg 1-3 dated 23 March 1967, the Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 31 July 1967 from 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery is approved and forwarded.

2. (U) Regraded Unclassified when separated from classified inclosures.



S.H. WHEELER
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFA-AT-D (8 Aug 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967, RCS CSFOR-65 (UIC WAIMA)(7th Bn, 15th Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96350 22 August 1967

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

1. Concur in the observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication.

2. The Commanding Officer 7/15 will be advised that the policy established by DA to deploy Combat Support and Combat Service Support units to RVN with aviation sections at zero strength, the present DA moratorium on submission of MTOE's to fill requirements of these units, and the existing shortage of aircraft preclude action at this level to alleviate the problem. CINCUSARPAC has recommended that DA review existing criteria for aviation sections of Combat Support units. Artillery units will be notified when the DA moratorium has been lifted.

3. The requirements outlined in paratrapph 5a(1)(C), USARV Reg 1-19 will be emphasized for future reports.

4. 7th Bn, 15th Arty UIC is WAIMA.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

t/LEO E. ELLIS
LTC, Arty
Adjutant

AVFA-GC-OT (30 August 1967)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967 RCS CSFOR-65 (UIC WAIMA) (7th Bn, 15th Arty) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350

10 Sep 67

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96375

Concur with the recommendations of the basic communication as modified
by the 2d Indorsement.

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as

s/B. L. Chenault
t/B. L. CHENAULT
2LT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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AVHGC-DST (8 Aug 67)

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 963752

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 1967 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery (ALMA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning aviation support for artillery units, paragraph 1a, page 9 and paragraph 2, 2d Indorsement. Concur with requirement for aircraft for artillery units; however, current DA policy is that non-divisional Combat Support (CS) and Combat Service Support (CSS) units deploying to RVN will have their aviation sections at zero strength and no aviators or aircraft will be requested for these units. Therefore, CS and CSS units must be provided aviation support from current assets on a priority basis. No action by USARPAC or DA is recommended.

b. Reference item concerning non-receipt of mail, paragraph 1g, section II, page 11: Concur with recommendation contained in paragraph 2d, section II. Postal Officers of Army Postal Activities will be reminded of their responsibility, as outlined in paragraph 17d, AR 65-2, to report the arrival of a unit at their APO to this headquarters so that notification can be made to the Military Mail Terminals at San Francisco and Seattle.

3. (U) Unit will be notified of actions and comments by routine indorsement which returns this report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]
E. L. GUNN, JR.
Adjutant General

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DOD DIR 5200.10

CONFIDENTIAL L

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GPOP-DT(8 Aug 67) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
from HQ, 7th Bn, 15th Arty (UIC: WALMAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 4 DEC1967

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

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

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Confidential	
		2b. GROUP 4	
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 May - 31 July 1967			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO; 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery			
6. REPORT DATE 8 August 1967		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 18	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 670651	
b. PROJECT NO.		9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
c. N/A			
d.			
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			

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