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Best Available Copy
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by COMARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

[Signature]

KEMETH G. WILKINSON
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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(Continued on page 2)
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 2D HOWITZER BATTALION, 35TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96257

AVGAY-CO

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-55 (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
5th Artillery Group
ATTN: AVG-C
APO San Francisco 96257

Commanding General
XX Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVFB-FA-C
APO San Francisco 96227

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVG-JH
APO San Francisco 96307

Commander-in-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOE-MH
APO San Francisco 96598

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

DEGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS,
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SECTION I

(3) Significant Organisation or Unit Activities.

a. Administration/Personnel. None

b. Intelligence. None

c. Training.

(1) Memorandums pertaining to a training program and gunnery procedures were published on 1 November 1966.

(2) On 3 November 1966, the four officers and ten enlisted men that attended Nuclear Weapons Refresher Training with the Eighth U.S. Army, Korea, returned to Vietnam. Overall impression of training received was excellent.

(3) On the job training and individual cross training continue in all sections of the battalion.

d. Operations.

(1) HQ and B batteries continued General Support II Field Force Vietnam and Reinforcing of the 18th ARVN Division Artillery from the Kuan Loc base camp. Battery C base camp is now located in the vicinity of Bien Hoa, coordinates XTO2147, General Support II Field Force Vietnam, Reinforcing 3/319 Arty. Battery A continued General Support II Field Force Vietnam and Reinforcing the 1/69 Artillery from the Nui Dat base camp. Service Battery (--) continued its support mission from Long Minh.

(2) During the quarter, elements of the battalion participated in thirteen (13) different field operations with the following breakdown by battery: Battery A, four (4) operations involving a total of thirty (30) days; Battery B, six (6) operations, fifty-three (53) days; Battery C, fifty (50) operations, sixty-three (63) days; and a Battalion HQ element accompanied Battery B on Operation Dan Tam 81 for twenty-three (23) days, and accompanied Batteries B and C on Operation Cedar Falls for sixteen (16) days. When not engaged in field operations, all batteries continued normal training, maintenance, area improvement, and provided fire support from their base camps.

(3) On 3 November, Battery D ended Operation Shenandoah West which had begun during the previous quarter and was discussed in the last report. Battery D was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and the only action during this period was redeployment to base camp.

(4) Battery A participated in Operations Tass and Haymen (combined), from 6 - 11 November. This was a search and destroy operation on Long Son Island, conducted by the 9th Royal Australian Regiment. The operation required deployment of one platoon to a forward firing position.

(5) On 5 November, Battery B was attached to the 1st Infantry Division and deployed to vicinity of Tay Minh to support Operation Attleboro.
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SECTION I (Cont'd)

a multi-division search and destroy operation. On 10 November, Battery C
was also deployed to Tay Ninh and attached to the 1st Infantry Division.
On 11 November, Battery B was attached to the 25th Infantry Division.
Battery B was returned to base camp on 26 November. On 30 November, Battery
C was attached to the 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division, with the mission
of base camp defense of Da Tiang, deploying on 5 – 6 January for a road
clearing operation, then to Lai Khe.

(6) On 2 December, Battery B was deployed in support of the
11th Armored Cavalry in an anti-ambush operation in the vicinity of Gia Ray.
The battery returned to base camp on 3 December, and was again deployed to
the 11th Armored Cavalry to support a search and destroy operation in the
vicinity of Courtenay Rubber Plantation. The unit returned to the base camp
on 6 December.

(7) Battery A participated in two search and destroy operations
with the 1st Australian Task Force; Operation Ingham, 11 – 28 November, and
Operation Canary, 4 – 14 December, both of which required the movement of one
platoon to a forward fire base while maintaining a fire support mission in
the base camp.

(8) On 6 December, Battery B and an operations element from
Headquarters Battery were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry for Operation
Dan Tam 87, a combined route security and search and destroy mission.
The battalion control element functioned as artillery control headquarters
for three batteries (Battery B, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery; Battery
C, 7th Howitzer Battalion, 9th Artillery; and Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron,
11th Armored Cavalry Regiment). Units returned to base camp on 30 December.

(9) Batteries B, C and elements of Headquarters Battery were
deployed to vicinity of Lai Khe on 6 January, and were attached to the 1st
Infantry Division for Operation Cedar Falls, a multi-division search and
destroy operation in the "Iron Triangle". Units were detached on 21 January.

(10) Ammunition expenditures for this quarter were as follows:

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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Battery A</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery B</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery C</td>
<td>619</td>
<td>643</td>
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Battalion Total: 5,581 Missions; 47,770 Rounds Expended
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SECTION II

Commander's Observations and Recommendations

Part I. Observations.

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

ARTILLERY GROUND CLEARANCE

ITEM: Establishment of one ground clearance agency.

DISCUSSION: On several occasions this unit was in a position with
the capability of firing into several areas of operation. This unit did not
have the capability of monitoring all radio command frequencies, therefore
it was impossible to maintain current unit locations. This task was made
more difficult due to the inability of the units to utilise a standard points
of origin system. The "standard points of origin system" is the selection of
arbitrary grid intersections and assigning them code names. The code name is
utilised as a starting reference and right, left, up and down shifts are given
to any desired point. This creates a rapid, simple method of encrypting unit
locations.

OBSERVATION: A single radio frequency with coordinated points of
origin for all units participating in the same operation would increase speed
and reliability of artillery.

ARTILLERY AIR WARFARE NOTIFICATION

ITEM: Establishment of one air warning net.

DISCUSSION: In order to properly effect aircraft notification of
artillery firing, this battalion has had to provide firing data to three
separate air warning stations.

OBSERVATION: Furnishing the data to all these agencies generates
an unnecessary delay in firing and seriously hampers the surprise element of
artillery fires. Providing firing data to only one aircraft control station
would eliminate excess radio transmission and save time.

ORGANIC AIRCRAFT

ITEM: Hardships created by lack of organic aircraft.

DISCUSSION: This battalion deployed to the Republic of Vietnam
loses any organic aircraft due to the Department of the Army deletion of the
air augmentation as listed in the TOE. This lack of aircraft has proven a
severe limitation in target acquisition, command and control, personnel move-
ment, communications and movement of critical maintenance parts.

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SECTION II (Cont'd)

OBSERVATION: This artillery battalion should be authorized an augmentation of two OH-1 type aircraft and one OH-13 or OH-23 aircraft.

a. Training and Organization. None
b. Intelligence. None
c. Logistics.

AN RADIO TRANSMITTER FAILURE

ITEM: Failure of Radio Set, AN/GRC-46.

DISCUSSION: Radio Set AN/GRC-46 has been utilized to operate CW. Experience has shown that the T-193 transmitter does not hold up under prolonged use. Deadline rate for this transmitter and repair time has been excessive.

OBSERVATION: Radio Set AN/GRC-46 is not sufficiently durable for sustained operation in a tropical environment.

CHANGING OF TUBES ON M109 HOWITZER

ITEM: Avoiding delays in changing tubes on the M109 SP howitzer.

DISCUSSION: This unit had the opportunity to change four howitzer tubes in a field location. Several delays were experienced due to the lack of the proper sling for lifting the tube into position. This sling is available in Fourth Battalion ordnance shops and no substitute is acceptable. It was also discovered that the tube can be put in upside down which prevents the recoil from operating.

OBSERVATION: Prior to any tube changes, all inexperienced ordnance personnel should be briefed by experienced battalion maintenance personnel on problems encountered.

Part II: Recommendations.

a. Location of Friendly Forces: The establishment of one agency to disseminate locations of all friendly forces operating in any operational area. This agency should use one coordinated point of origin system to simplify the encrypting of locations.

b. Aircraft Control Stations: It is recommended that the aircraft control stations be consolidated under one agency for each operation. All air warnings should be transmitted on a common frequency so that all aircraft need monitor only one frequency, regardless of area.
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SECTION II (Cont'd)

c. AM Radio Transmitters: Recommend this battalion be furnished a new series AM radio transmitter capable of operating for sustained periods in a tropical atmosphere.

WILLIAM H. PITTER
EWJ, Arty
Commanding
SUBJECT: Operation Report on Lesson Learned (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376 25 February 1967

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

1. (U) The quarterly report submitted by the 2d bn, 35th Artillery is considered adequate.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph B, Organic Aircraft. Artillery units in Vietnam are greatly hampered by the scarcity of aircraft. Due to widely scattered artillery batteries, command and staff visits are necessary daily. The terrain and cover make ground observation virtually impossible, and visual air reconnaissance becomes mandatory.

3. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph A.

   a. Up-to-date information on friendly unit locations does continue to be a critical problem for the artillery unit capable of firing into the areas of operation of different brigades and different divisions. Do not concur with the idea of one agency disseminating locations of all friendly forces directly to battalions; the volume of traffic in a multi-division operation would make this solution impracticable.

   b. Certain units are using point of origin codes. Concur that a standard code used by all units would simplify the task of keeping track of friendly unit locations.

4. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph B. Concur that one central AWC (Artillery Warning Control Center) for a given operation such as "Cedar Falls" is desirable. This central agency could direct incoming aircraft to sub-stations as necessary for a particular route of flight.

5. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph C. Concur with the need for a more dependable AM radio set. It is anticipated that issue in the future of the AN/ARC 122 will meet this need.

Charles M. Majell
CHARLES M. MIZELL
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding