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### AD NUMBER

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### CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

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### LIMITATION CHANGES

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<th>Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.</th>
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<td>Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors; Administrative/Operational Use; 31 JUL 1969. Other requests shall be referred to Office of the Adjutant General (Army), Washington, DC 20310.</td>
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### AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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SECURITY MARKING

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery, Period Ending 31 July 1969 (U)

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, 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.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl as

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7th Battalion, 13th Artillery
AVGK-AA-C

31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS, CSFOR-65 (Rl) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Section 1, Significant Activities.
   a. (C) General

   (1) During the past quarter the battalion's mission remained that of general support of US, RVNAF, and FVNAF, reinforcing 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery. The battalion maintains responsibility for targeting and operating the Artillery Warning Control Center (AWCC) for the southern half of the Lee Area of Operations; however, since 1 July 1969, the responsibility for fire planning and clearance of fire has been limited to the Phu My District (southeast quarter) of the Lee AO. This was brought about by OPORD 12-69, Hqs 41st Arty Gp, which established an artillery control agency for Hoai An District (southwest quarter) of the Lee AO. The artillery control agency located at LZ Pony, is operated by the 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery. Throughout the quarter the battalion has remained attached to the 41st Artillery Group.

   (2) The battalion continued to support the 173d Airborne Brigade (Separate) with primary fire support for the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry and the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 503d Infantry. Fire support was also provided for the 41st ARVN Regiment.

   (3) The primary activities of the battalion in addition to its normal fire support functions were centered around support of pacification. The Phu My District Fire Support Plan was completed and distributed. The fire plan dated 11 May 1969, was developed by the battalion to support Phase I of the Pacification Program. It has since been updated by Change 1, dated 3 July 1969 to support Phase II of the Pacification Program which commenced on 1 July 1969. The primary change to the fire support plan was the inclusion of new defensive targets for the 28 Phase II hamlets designated. During the quarter 35 of the offensive targets listed in the fire support plan were fired in.

   (a) The battalion placed maximum emphasis on the Associate Battery Program, providing refresher training in observed fire procedures to Regional Forces (RF)/Popular Forces (PF), Revolutionary Development (RD) and
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Peoples Self Defense Force (PSDF) elements, and the conduct of communication reaction tests.

1 In the Associate Battery Program, Battery B of this battalion continues to assist the 3d Platoon, Battery B, 221st ARVN Artillery at LZ Orange, and Battery C continues to assist Battery C, 222d ARVN Artillery, LZ Crystal. Total visits to associate batteries increased from 20 to 58 for the quarter and total classes conducted increased from one to seventeen. Subjects for classes included boresighting, daily accuracy checks, use of wind cards, maintenance of howitzers and vehicles, precision registrations, computation of met data, laying and referring and destruction of ammunition. Batteries also assisted associate batteries in solving both maintenance and supply problems.

2 The program to provide refresher forward observer training for RF/PF and RD Team elements continued throughout the period. Liaison has been established to identify and locate PSDF personnel in order to include them in the program. A specific example of the program occurred on 26 May 1969, when the Battalion FO assigned to Phu My District conducted a class on observed fire procedures for all personnel of the 736th RF Company. At the conclusion of instruction, personnel of the 736th RF Co, under the supervision of the Battalion Forward Observer, fired in two defensive targets for the unit position. Battery C of this battalion provided fire support. In addition to the above, service practices were conducted for 28 RF/PF personnel.

3 During the quarter 305 communication reaction tests (dry) and 6 live fire reaction tests were conducted. The dry reaction tests are conducted to determine the time required for a fire mission originated at an RF/PF position to reach district headquarters. Dry reaction tests have averaged about three minutes. The live fire reaction tests determine the total time required to process a fire request. Time is measured from initiation of the fire request to rounds on the ground. The tests have averaged about 9 minutes.

(b) The battalion conducted two demonstrations for villagers of Phu My District.

1 On 26 May, a demonstration consisting of the firing in of two defensive targets by personnel of the 736th RF Company (para la3)(a) 2) was conducted for inhabitants of Phu Minh Hamlet. As a result of VC activity in the area during the morning the demonstration was poorly attended.

2 On 30 July, a demonstration was conducted for inhabitants of Van An Hamlet. The demonstration was also attended by personnel of the 23d RF Group, 32d PF Platoon and 46th RD Team. The demonstration consisted of marking rounds followed by a barrage and two service practices. The service practices were fired by a member of the 32d PF Platoon and 46th RD Team which are the elements responsible for the security and pacification of Van An. The demonstration was well attended. Battery C fired support.

4) The battalion received its semi-annual Command Inspection (CI) on 23 June 1969. The inspection was conducted by Hq, IFFORCEV Artillery. All
major areas inspected received a rating of satisfactory, which resulted in an overall battalion rating of satisfactory. The CI Team inspected all areas of Hq & Hq and Service Batteries to include an in-ranks inspection. The forward element of the team inspected communications, mess, CBR and conducted a battery evaluation at Battery B. The letter report of the inspection stated that "the battalion demonstrated a high state of proficiency and the personnel observed displayed a high degree of motivation and esprit."

Firing batteries made major improvements in the fire bases occupied. Objectives of the improvements were to improve perimeter security and provide additional protection for personnel and equipment. Projects consisted of rebuilding personnel bunkers for the firing sections, new cannon parapets and associated ammunition bunkers. The facilities constructed were protected by lateral and overhead cover consisting of three layers of sand bags. Cannon parapets were relocated to improve their direct fire capability. In Battery C, the berm along the inner perimeter was raised to increase protection of unit facilities against sniper fire. Battery B extended its perimeter outward approximately 15 meters by adding a triple row of concertina. Future improvements will include installation of perimeter lighting at both locations.

b. (C) Intelligence.

(1) The battalion received its semi-annual counterintelligence security inspection on 15 July 1969. This was the fifth consecutive inspection conducted without a major deficiency being noted in the battalion's intelligence security operations.

(2) The forward observers assigned to the battalion during the reporting period were deployed as follows:

(a) Battery A deployed its forward observers in support of Nha Trang defense. Consequently, these forward observers were not available for the battalion's utilization in the Lee Area of Operations.

(b) The battalion has one liaison section, three officer forward observer parties and three enlisted forward observer parties deployed with the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry.

(c) One officer forward observer party and one enlisted forward observer party were deployed with the 4th Mobile Strike Force Battalion, operating in the vicinity of the An Lao Valley northwest of Bong Son for a period of 26 days.

(d) One forward observer is deployed to Phu My District Headquarters in support of the Pacification Program and the RVNAF Artillery Assistance program. This observer conducts refresher training in the adjustment of artillery fire for the personnel of 81 RF/PF units, RD Teams and PSDF units throughout Phu My District.

(3) The battalion was assigned two additional ARVN interpreters during the reporting period, bringing the total assigned to four. One interpreter
continued to be deployed with the Phu My District forward observer. The other three are utilized in the battalion’s civil action, Volunteer Informant and Associate Battery Programs.

(4) The Battalion S2 attended the IFFORCEV Artillery Intelligence Seminar held on 16 July 1969, at IFFORCEV Arty Headquarters. The S2 gave a 30 minute presentation on forward observer training and utilization to those attending the Seminar.

(5) The battalion’s Volunteer Informant Program resulted in the recovery of 94 assorted items of ordnance for which $VN 30,000 was expended. The ordnance included 155mm, 105mm, 81mm and 60mm rounds, M-26 hand grenades, 40mm cartridges and homemade hand grenades and booby traps.

(6) The 270th Field Artillery Radar Detachment, with a general support reinforcing mission for this battalion, employed its AN/TPS-25 ground surveillance radar on the Duster Hill observation post (BR930745) at Landing Zone Uplift on 24 June 1969. A quick fire channel was established with battalion’s fire direction center. The radar is positioned to detect targets over a wide area of Phu My District. During the period 7-10 July, sixteen targets ranging from one individual moving to generator noise and 30 small vehicles were detected. The employment of this radar has greatly increased the target acquisition capability throughout Phu My District.

(7) Within the battalion’s area of operation the level of enemy activity was generally low for the reporting period. Landing Zone Uplift received five mortar attacks during the reporting period resulting in one US wounded and negative damage. On 19 May 1969, Landing Zone Salem received five satchel charges resulting in one US slightly wounded and a personnel bunker of Battery C damaged. The individual slightly wounded was assigned to the 1st Battalion (Mechanized), 50th Infantry. Enemy activity during the reporting period consisted of numerous booby traps used against maneuver elements participating in the pacification efforts, interdiction of lines of communication, highways QL-1 and TL-3A, using ambushes, mines and snipers, standoff attacks by fire, ground attacks in up to company strength against RF/PF, PSDF and RD Team locations and acts of terrorism in populated areas to disrupt the Pacification Program. These enemy activities are attributed to VC local force units.

c. (C) Operations and Training Activities.

(1) Operations.

(a) The battalion conducted 92 days of continuous operations during the quarter for a cumulative total of 995 days of combat without major difficulties. The primary operation supported during the quarter was Operation Washington Green. The battalion also supported Operation Darby Maul I by providing two forward observer parties to the 4th Mobile Strike Force Battalion.

(b) During the quarter Battery A continued to account for all displacements experienced by the battalion. Battery A made eight road
displacements to provide support primarily for mobile strike forces and Recon School operations. These displacements required 47 days of split operations. Although continued split operations place a major burden on all battery sections, the missions were accomplished in an efficient manner and without incident.

(c) During the period all howitzers in the battalion were calibrated by the chronograph team of 41st Artillery Group. As a result of the calibration, howitzers were regrouped between Batteries B and C. Two guns per battery were exchanged. Howitzers involved were airlifted without incident. In response to continued emphasis on the employment of improved conventional munitions (ICM), the expenditure of ICM increased significantly. However, during the last month of the quarter ICM became of short supply and employment of ICM was restricted.

(d) With the receipt of the Rawin Set by the meteorological section, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, electronic mets became available on 28 May 1969. Receipt of the electronic met has been reliable and has eliminated the problem of lack of information due to a variance in the number of lines provided by visual mets because of ceiling and time of day. The electronic met is compatible with FADAC which eliminates the requirement to convert the visual met data into a form usable by the FADAC and precludes possible errors in computations.

(2) Training.

(a) Service Battery continued its key role in the battalion training program by conducting replacement training for 101 new members of the battalion.

(b) Batteries B and C received battery evaluations during the quarter. Btry B received two evaluations; one was conducted by 41st Artillery Group on 10 May 1969, resulting in a rating of unsatisfactory; the second was conducted by IFForceC Army on 23 June resulting in a rating of satisfactory. The evaluation team was favorably impressed by the performance of the battery and commented favorably on the knowledge of gunnery procedures and daily accuracy checks demonstrated by battery personnel. Btry C received one evaluation conducted by 41st Artillery Group on 24 May 1969, which resulted in a rating of satisfactory.

(c) During the period a battalion level battery evaluation team was formed. The purpose of the team is to conduct periodic evaluations of organic units with a view towards improvement of accuracy and reliability. Although overall firing battery operations are checked, primary emphasis is placed on accuracy checks, operation of the double check system both within the battery and between the battery and battalion FDC, and crew drill. In addition to the attainment of overall objectives, this program has resulted in improved battery reaction times.

(d) Two officers of this battalion attended the Fire Direction Officer Training Course (FDOTC) and one officer and five enlisted personnel attended the Forward Observer Training Course (FOTC).
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(e) Emphasis on safety continued throughout the quarter. The battalion's major safety project was conducted in conjunction with weapons safety month, 1-30 June 1969. Training, consisting primarily of classes and practical exercises, was conducted to insure that supervisors know the proper procedures for safely clearing all weapons assigned to the unit; that each individual is familiar with the safe handling of his individual weapon; and that each individual understands his responsibilities for safety within the chain-of-command.

d. (U) Logistics.

(1) The 5th Maintenance Battalion, Qui Nhon, (CR0923), continues to provide direct support for ordnance, engineer, and signal equipment.

(2) Major items of equipment received during the quarter included six howitzers, two 2½ ton vehicles and one 3/4 ton vehicle. The six howitzers were distributed two per firing battery.

(3) Command Maintenance Management continues to be a major area of command interest. Battery A received a CMHI reinspection conducted by IFFORCEV on 24 June 1969. All areas were rated satisfactory. Scores received were: vehicles and trailers, 86; signal equipment, 90; and weapons 90.

(4) Twelve battalion personnel representing Hqs, Svc, B and C Batteries attended a PLL class on 16 July 1969. The class was conducted by CW3 McCamant, IFFORCEV Arty S4 (Maint). The class covered organization and initial set up of unit PLL, document register, suspense file, record of demands, priority designators, etc. The class proved to be very beneficial to all who attended.

e. (U) Civil Affairs.

(1) The battalions civil affairs program continues to assist in the implementation of the overall Pacification Program. During the reporting period, 1,150 ammunition boxes, 800 sand bags, 200 pounds of cement, 45 engineer stakes, 1 roll of barbed wire and 24 2½ ton truck loads of scrap lumber were provided for the following projects:

(a) Construction of school furniture for the Hay Tay Village School (BR805845).

(b) Construction of a new market place and the installation of a power distribution system in Phu My.

(c) Construction of living quarters in the Diem Tieu refugee Hamlet.

(d) Construction of homes for families in Phu My whose homes were burned by the Viet Cong.
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(2) The battalion donated 700 English-Vietnamese language textbooks to the high schools in Phu My District.

(3) The battalion medical section still provided medical services to local Vietnamese civilians at the civilian aid station which is manned and supported equally by this battalion and the 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery. There were three MEDCAP missions conducted by the battalion's medical section in conjunction with Phu My District Headquarters and the other US units located at LZ Uplift.

f. Personnel.

(1) The battalion's personnel status fluctuated between 96 and 102% of authorized strength during the quarter. Total input for the quarter was 115 (101 EM; 14 Off). Forty-seven personnel (44 EM; 3 Off) extended their foreign service tours. At the present time this battalion has the following critical MOS shortages:

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<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94B40</td>
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<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13Z50</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
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(2) 306 Home Town News Releases were made from the battalion to help tell the Army Story.

(3) Recommendations for awards were increased by 15% during this quarter. Eighty per cent of departing personnel received awards.

g. Other. During the reporting period seven dignitaries visited the battalion (Incl 3).

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

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) OBSERVATION. Personnel bunkers constructed of dirt-filled ammunition boxes do not provide adequate protection for personnel as they will not withstand the nearby explosions of satchel charges.

EVALUATION. During a satchel charge attack, a satchel charge exploded near the forward wall of a personnel bunker constructed of dirt-
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filled 105mm ammunition boxes two layers thick. The resultant explosion blew a 4' x 6' hole in the forward wall and a 6' x 8' hole in the rear wall. The explosion splintered boxes of the forward wall causing submissiles which were found throughout the interior of the bunker.

RECOMMENDATION: That walls of personnel bunkers be constructed of beams (a minimum of 4 in. thick) protected by three layers of sandbags or two layers of dirt-filled ammunition boxes.

(2) OBSERVATION: During a propelled satchel charge attack on a position area, during the hours of darkness, detonations of the propelling charges were observed and thought to be enemy mortar rounds landing.

EVALUATION: At first light the battery conducted a reconnaissance of the area and determined that the explosions which had been thought to be enemy rounds impacting were in truth the detonation of the propelling charge. During the reconnaissance, the launch positions with catapult and electrical detonating devices were found.

RECOMMENDATION: That fire be placed in area of detonation of "short rounds" during a satchel charge attack. Friendly unit must of course determine that this area is clear for fire.

c. Training. None

d. Intelligence.

OBSERVATION: Operations in Vietnam often necessitate employment of elements for which forward observer requirements have not been planned.

EVALUATION. At 1830 hours, 25 May 1969, this battalion operating in a general support mission, received a request for a forward observer and reconnaissance sergeant to support an unplanned, immediate CA. Since all assigned forward observer personnel were already deployed, the Bn S2 and a wireman from Hq Btry communications platoon, trained in forward observer procedures, were deployed to support the operation. The party was equipped, briefed, and made the CA, approximately 90 minutes after receipt of the request for forward observer personnel.

RECOMMENDATION: That forward observer personnel in excess of those assigned and authorized by TOE be trained in forward observer procedures and that equipment from other than forward observer sections be earmarked so that quick reaction missions can be supported.

e. Logistics. None

f. Organization. None

g. Other. Communications

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OBSERVATION. The AN/PRC-25 radio should not have a battery (BA-386) installed when being used in the vehicular mounted configuration as an AN/VRC-53.

EVALUATION. When an AN/PRC-25 radio being used in the vehicular mounted configuration as an AN/VRC-53 contains a weak or dead battery (BA-386) it will emit a whistling sound whenever the radio is turned on. This noise will interfere with other FM radios in the near vicinity regardless of their frequency.

RECOMMENDATION. Insure that the batteries are removed from the AN/PRC-25 radio when it is used in the vehicular mounted configuration as an AN/VRC-53.

3. (U) Section 3, Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

None.

JOHN M. BROWDER
LTC, Field Artillery
Commanding

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AVUK-00 (31 July 69) 1st Ind (U)


DA, Headquarters, 41st Artillery Group, APO 96368 14 Aug 1969

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFA-AT-D, APO 96350

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery and concurs with the report.

RAY L. BURNELL JR.
Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding

Cy Furr;
CO, 7/13 Arty
DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96390  29 AUG 1969

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

1. This headquarters concurs with the subject report.

2. Reference paragraph 2b1: There is a continuous program for training forward observers at the I FPORLV Artillery Forward Observer School at An Khe. The purpose of the school is to orient trained officers in HSVN techniques and to train enlisted personnel in forward observer procedures. The enrollment of school is 12 personnel per week.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JAMES N. BRILL
Lieutenant Colonel, FA
Adjutant
CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-GC-HIST (31 Jul 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DI, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 27 SEP 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

1. (U) This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding endorsements and concurs.

2. (C) Reference para 2b(1) RECOMMENDATION: Recommend that all units consult FM 5-34 Engineer Field Data or FM 5-15 Field Fortifications for guidance prior to constructing bunkers.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

FREDERICK E. HOLLAND
LT AGO
ASST AG

CF:
1 - I FFORCEV Arty
1 - 41st Arty Gp
1 - 7/13 Arty

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AVHUC-DST (31 Jul 69) 4th lrt
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for Period
Ending 31 July 1969, ROB, CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report–Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 7th
Battalion, 13th Artillery and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. B. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
7/13th Arty
1 FFV
GPOP-DT (31 Jul 69) 5th Inf (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 7th BN, 13th Arty for Period Ending
31 July 1969, RCR CHFOR-63 (RL) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 15 OCT 69

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

[Signature]

D. A. TUCKER
CPT, AGC

AND AG
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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for Period Ending 31 July 1969, HCB, CSFOR-69 (R) (U)

FIKING BATTERY TACTICAL DISPLACEMENTS

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FIKING BATTERY LOCATIONS

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CONFIDENTIAL
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS, CSFOR-69 (K1) (U)

VISITS BY SUPERINTENDENTS TO 7TH BN, 13TH ARTY (U)

1. Visit by Col Trimble - 16 May 69
   a. Col Trimble - CO, 37th Tactical Fighter Wing
   b. Battery C, 7th Bn, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control
   d. Col Trimble received a tour of the battery facilities and observed a firing demonstration.

2. Visit by BG Sidle - 26 Jun 69
   a. BG Sidle - CG, IFFORCEV Arty
   b. Hqs, Btry C, 7th Bn, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control
   d. BG Sidle was given an update briefing by the BN CG after which he toured Btry C. He presented two Army Commendation Medals and one Certificate of Achievement to battery personnel.

3. Visit by Col Carroll - 29 Jun 69
   a. Col Carroll - DCO IFFORCEV Arty
   b. Hqs, 7th Bn, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control
   d. Col Carroll made his farewell visit to the Bn. He met Bn Staff Officers and lunched with the Bn CO.

4. Visit by BG Sidle - 2 Jul 69
   a. BG Sidle - CG, IFFORCEV Arty
   b. Btry B, 7th Bn, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control
   d. BG Sidle was given a short briefing and tour of battery facilities. He then presented the Army Commendation Medal to one member of the battery.

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5. Visit by Col Hawthorne - 5 Jul 69
   a. Col Hawthorne - DCO Designate IFFORCEV Arty
   b. Hqs Btry and B Btry, 7th Br, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control

   d. Col Hawthorne made his initial visit to the battalion. At battalion headquarters he was given an orientation briefing by the Battalion Commander and then conducted on a tour of the battalion fire direction center. He later received a tour of facilities at B Btry.

6. Visit by MG Russ - 20 Jul 69
   a. MG Russ - DCG, IFFORCEV
   b. LZ Uplift
   c. Command and Control

   d. MG Russ received a briefing on the LZ Uplift perimeter and a tour of the perimeter bunkers.

7. Visit by Col Siobert - G3 IFFORCEV
   a. Col Siobert - G3 IFFORCEV
   b. Hqs Btry and B Btry, 7th Br, 13th Arty
   c. Command and Control

   d. Col Siobert made his initial visit to the battalion. He received an orientation briefing and a tour of the battalion fire direction center. He later received a tour of position area and facilities of Btry B.
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 May 69 to 31 July 69.

CO, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery
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