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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 3D BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY (U) (S)
APO 96318

11 AUG 1967

AVGG-PA-OP

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period ending 31 July 1967.
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

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SECTION I. (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) General: The organizational structure of the 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery (105mm SP) consists of a headquarters and headquarters battery, a service battery and three howitzer batteries. (Incl 1).

2. (U) Intelligence: Several observers were committed to aerial visual reconnaissance missions which resulted in sightings of numerous hamlets, trails, entrenchments, bridges, and suspected enemy personnel. Several of these locations have been used as harassing and interdiction targets by artillery units in the Pleiku area.

3. (C) Operations and Training Activities

a. Operations (includes 41 days of troop movement):

(1) From 1 May until 31 July the battalion was in direct support of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division and the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, 25th Infantry Division, for 92 days of operations.

(2) From 2 May thru 3 May Battery B provided fire support for Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, to Ban Ho Thout and return. Three howitzers from Battery C moved into Battery B base camp to support the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor during Battery B's absence.

(3) From 12 May thru 14 May Battery A provided fire support for a platoon from Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, to Ban Ho Thout and return.

(4) On 16 May Battery B moved to grid AR996607 to fire on suspected enemy locations in the vicinity of grids R9562 to AR9564 to R 9662 to AR9664. Mission was requested by II Corps CSCC and the rounds were adjusted by an observer from Battery B. No surveillance was obtained due to heavy jungle and terrain.

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(5) From 17 May thru 30 May Battery A occupied positions in the vicinity of Plei Me in general support reinforcing the 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery. On 230930H May a 3/4 ton truck from Battery A struck a mine at RA122226. There were no injuries. The vehicle was evacuated and salvaged. The battery fired defensive targets, registrations, neutralization, harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(6) On 26 May Battery B moved to grid AR945541 and fired 507 rounds HE on suspected locations of 2 VC (MF) battalions in the vicinity of grids AR9460 to AR9464 to AR9860 to AR9864. Intelligence was based on an agent report to II Corps CSCC. The VC battalions were to attack Pleiku in retaliation for injuries and damage incurred from Batteries B and C on 12 May. The firing was observed by a battery observer flying with a FAC. Surveillance of damage was impossible due to the heavy foliage.

(7) From 26 May thru 28 May Battery C moved two howitzers to grid AR916428 to support a joint ARVN/1st Battalion, 69th Armor operation. The missions fired were illumination and marking missions only.

(8) From 9 June thru 11 June Battery B moved to a position at grid AR941528 to support a 5 man LRRP and the scout platoon, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor.

(9) At approximately 100128H June the battalion base camp at Artillery Hill consisting of Headquarters and Service Batteries received a mortar attack. One round penetrated the roof of a troop billet and detonated on the floor causing injuries to seven enlisted men. Another round impacted on a road causing injuries to two enlisted men. Of a total of 15 rounds the majority landed in the vicinity of the officers' billets. Damage to material and equipment was minimal, and consisted of personal gear and equipment of four men and minor damage to five buildings.

(10) From 10 June thru 18 June Battery A moved to Plei Do Lim and occupied a firing position at grid AR886280 with the mission of providing direct support of one Popular Forces company and one Reaction platoon. During this period, Battery A fired defensive targets, illumination, registrations, harassing and interdiction missions.

(11) On 14 June a member of Battery A was slightly wounded during an enemy mortar attack on the base camp of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

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(12) From 16 June thru 15 July Battery C provided 3 howitzers which were moved to various positions due to the absence of Batteries A and B on other missions. At 161725H June Battery C moved two howitzers to Battery A base camp due to the departure of Battery A, 3d Battalion, 319th Artillery. On 17 June Battery C moved one howitzer to Battery A base camp, making a total of three howitzers from Battery C in direct support of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. On 18 June Battery C (Fwd) moved to Battery B base camp in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. At 200533H June Battery C moved to join Battery C (Fwd) at Battery B base camp to fire a landing zone preparation for the 4th Battalion, 503rd Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade. A total of 214 rounds were fired. Upon completion of the preparation, Battery C (-) returned to Battery C base camp. Battery C (Fwd) remained at Battery B base camp with the mission of direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. On 22 June Battery C (Fwd) moved two howitzers from Battery B base camp to a position at grid BR060472 to support the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. One howitzer remained at the battery base camp due to deadline status of the engine. On 23 June one howitzer moved from Battery C (-) to join Battery C (Fwd). On 25 June the howitzer at Battery B base camp was repaired and moved to Battery C (-). On 26 June Battery C (-) moved to Battery B base camp to cover extraction from the AO and then returned. On 27 June Battery C (Fwd) moved from grid BR060472, to Battery B base camp. Its mission was direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. On 29 June Battery C (Fwd) moved to a fire base camp at grid BR121550, with the mission of direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. Battery C (Fwd) returned to Battery B base camp on 30 June. Battery C (Fwd) moved on 4 July from Battery B base camp to Battery A base camp. On 13 July Battery C (Fwd) moved to Battery C base camp. They remained there overnight and on 14 July moved to Battery B base camp, with the mission of direct support of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armor. On 15 July Battery C (Fwd) returned to Battery C base camp. During this operation, Battery C fired registrations, LZ preparations, suspected enemy locations, illumination, marking rounds, defensive targets and harassing and interdiction missions.

(13) From 17 June thru 15 July Battery B occupied positions at ZB185032, AR783891 and ZB154158. The initial mission was to provide artillery coverage for supply convoys of the 173rd Airborne Brigade for a period of two days. The mission was changed to general support of the 4th Infantry Division, Forward, provide artillery coverage for convoys, and provide artillery support for one company of engineers repairing and building bridges. The battery fired a total of 2191 rounds on defensive targets, registrations, suspected enemy locations and harassing and interdiction missions.

(14) From 28 June thru 2 July Battery A moved to position at grid ZL853095 to support an operation of the 3d Battalion, 12th Infantry, 4th Infantry Division. Battery A fired two preparations, registrations, defensive targets, marking rounds, illuminations, harassing, and interdiction missions.

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(15) From 4 July thru 13 July Battery A occupied positions at ZA171213 and ZA178131 in direct support of the 2nd Battalion, 8th Infantry. Battery A fired registrations, marking rounds, defensive targets, harrassing and interdiction missions, in support of the operation.

(16) From 19 July thru 23 July Battery B split, sending 3 howitzers, Battery B (Fwd), to a position at grid BR015487 in direct support of the 4th Infantry Division Exploitation Platoon. During this operation, Battery B (Fwd) fired registrations, defensive targets, counter mortar programs, marking rounds, and harrassing and interdiction missions.

(17) On 20 July Battery A split and sent three howitzers to Ben Blech (AQ9861) and return in support of convey security operations of Troop A, 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry.

(18) From 25 July thru 26 July Battery B split sending two howitzers to a position at grid BR121549 to support an operation of the 1st Battalion, 69th Armer.

(19) On 26 July Battery B moved to a position at grid ZB1560B in general support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. Battery B will remain in this position for an extended period of time. They have fired registrations, harrassing, and interdiction missions to date.

(20) On 25 July Battery C split, sending 3 howitzers, Battery C (Fwd), to Battery B base camp to support the 1st Battalion, 69th Armer during the absence of Battery B.

b. Training:

(1) Training in all required mandatory subjects was conducted at battery level. In addition, subjects of command interest such as artillery crew proficiency and fire direction/gunnery procedures were conducted at each howitzer battery field location. A mandatory training program for newly arrived CONUS replacements has been implemented and training is accomplished at base camp within seven days after arrival in the battalion.

(2) Familiarization firing and battlesight zero of individual and crew served weapons were conducted during the reporting period.

(3) The 52d Artillery Group Firing Battery Evaluation Team visited Battery A and B during the reporting period. Both units received high ratings.

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(4) A special class on rules of engagement was presented to all officers and all personnel concerned with fire planning, fire direction, and adjustment of fire.

(5) Two noncommissioned officers attended a four day patrol school conducted by the 4th Infantry Division.

(6) As some form of training was conducted by some element of the battalion each day, ninety-two days of training were conducted.

SECTION II. (U) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I Observations (Lessons Learned)

(U) Logistics:

Item: Because of time/distance considerations, periodic maintenance of howitzer battery vehicles is being performed in the battery field location. This maintenance is of primary importance to self-propelled artillery.

Discussion: The howitzer batteries of the battalion are located a great distance from the base camp and, because of operational requirements, it is infeasible for the tracked and wheeled vehicles to return to the battalion maintenance area for periodic services. A team of maintenance technicians together with an M-88 vehicle tank retriever and shop van with parts trailer has been assembled from the battalion maintenance section and has been sent to each howitzer battery in its field location. The team has allotted one month to each battery to perform the scheduled maintenance service as well as to provide technical assistance to the battery maintenance personnel. If the battery displaced for operational requirements, the team moves with it and continues its mission with minimum interference of unit operations.

Observation: The forward maintenance support team concept is very successful in accomplishing its intended mission. It has been in operation approximately two months covering two howitzer batteries under the most stringent operational requirements and weather conditions and has encountered no major problems in the accomplishment of all periodic services.

Part II. Recommendations: None

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DELVIN S. FREEMAN
 LTC, Artillery
 Commanding

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1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96318, 8 August 1967

TO: Commanding General, I FFORCEV ARTILLERY, APO 96350

1. Forwarded.
2. Concur with contents of basic report.

1 Incl
no

T. E. Fitzpatrick Jr.
T. E. FITZPATRICK JR.
COL, Arty
Commanding

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ORGANIZATION

30 BATTALION 6TH ARTILLERY

FOE 6-315D

FA HQ/ BN
105TH SP
OFF 37 WO 3 EMI 487

HQ AND HQ BATTERY
OFF 14 EMI 106

FA HQ/ BTRY
OFF 7 EMI 102

SVC BTRY
OFF 2 WO 3 EMI 73

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