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THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED
SUBJECT: Operational Report, for Quarterly period ending 31 June 1966.

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THRU: Commanding Officer
52nd Artillery Group
APO 96395

TO: See Distribution

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MAI 2 4 1968

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (c) During the majority of the period 1 May to 31 July 1966, the firing batteries were detached from the battalion and placed under the operational control of various major US units in order to provide additional fire support for those units operating throughout the I Corps Tactical Zone. Battery A supported the 3d Brigade of the 7th Infantry Division on Operation PHIL KIA. Battery A moved the Long and Neutral of the I Corps Zone providing fire support for the 1st Brigade of the I Corps and Division on Operations ABCY W, GOMA II, SIVAK, and BROMO. Battery B supported the 1st Airborne Division Operations DAVy GRAB, GORLY HAB, HIY CAY, and KIL KIL. Battery C supported the 1st Airborne Division on Operations DAVY GRAB, GORLY HAB, HIY CAY, and KIL KIL. In support of these various operations, the batteries expended a total of 2,721 rounds of 155mm ammunition.

2. (b) While the firing batteries were employed in the above mentioned operations, the remainder of the battalion initiated the construction of a permanent cantonment area, the firing units of 1 May 1966. In July, plans were approved to expand the existing area to eventually accommodate the entire battalion. A total of 12 buildings, to be constructed, and various elements of the battalion were approved for construction. The construction of these buildings and various other installations within the cantonment area were to be accomplished using troop labor under a contract labor program. On 10 June 1966 the battalion 1/4 section drew the initial building materials to start the construction program. As of 31 July the battalion has drawn over 150,000 feet of various size lumber, 2,600 bags of cement and adequate roofing and screening material to construct 10 of the cantonment buildings. Primary emphasis was on troop billets to provide adequate...
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shelter for personnel prior to the advent of the monsoon season. Selected
offices and mess halls were also among the buildings programmed for early
completion. Today, 10 buildings are complete and 17 are expected to be
completed prior to 1 September 1966. As part of the area development pro-
gram, a well has dug and is now in the process of being converted to pro-
vide an additional water supply for the base camp. This will diminish the
battalion's dependence on external and less pure water sources and will
eliminate the numerous times consuming water runs made each day. An additional
phase of the base camp development has been the design and installation of
electrical power lines which will provide adequate power, utilizing existing
generators to service the entire base camp area. Throughout the Self-Help
Construction Program, unit troop labor and organic materials have been
utilized. However, technical support has more than adequately been provided
by engineer personnel located within the 15th N csak Support Detachment.

3. (c) Specialized training was emphasized during the period for
selected members of the firing batteries, to familiarize them with Fire
Direction techniques. To enhance this training, a formal four week course
of instruction was administered at the base camp by battalion headquarters
personnel. The course of instruction consisted of 32 hours of lecture and
applicable periods of instruction, covering the following areas: Construction
and use of the 6400 mill firing chart employed by the battalion for
operations in Viet Cong precision bomb registrations using the new tech-
registration method; computation of target range and the evaluation of
velocity error (V) corrections; use of logarithmic tables with Hamel and
Center of Impact Registrations; obtaining and application of data used
with special software; the care and use of equipment pertaining to fire
direction centers; numerous hours on standard junior procedures and
the application of these procedures in extensive team drill. The course was
terminated and highlighted by a live short service practice conducted
in the Phu Cat mountains (co-ord GR 920 970), with fire being concentrated
on those areas known to be Viet Cong strongholds. On the completion of
the course, these personnel were returned to their respective firing batter-
ies and now provide adequate depth to the battery Fire Direction Centers.
The battalion also provided an instructional radar team to the 15th Air
Cavalry Division to assist in training the divisions newly acquired counter
mortar radar detachments. This team traveled to all N csak and provided the
knowledge and practical experience acquired by the battalion counter mortar
radar detachment during operations MACV HO V and MACV HO I.

4. (d) During the reported period morale within the battalion was
excellent. The battalion sent 150 personnel on both "in" and "out" of
country R&R. This constituted approximately 24 of the average present
for duty strength during the period. Through personal liaison and coordi-
nation with the Special Services Office in Qui Nai, the following addi-
tional morale and welfare activities were enjoyed by battalion personnel:

a. USCF correspondence courses and course material.
b. Deep Sea Fishing Trips.
c. USAF Variety shows.

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shelter for personnel prior to the advent of the monsoon season. Selected offices and mess halls were also away; the buildings progressed for early completion. However, 10 buildings are complete and 17 are expected to be completed prior to 1 September 1965. As part of the area development program, a tall van dug in and is now in the process of being extended to provide an additional water supply for the base camp. This will diminish the battalion's dependence on external and less pure water sources and will eliminate the numerous time consuming water runs made each day. An additional phase of the base camp development has been the design and installation of electrical power lines which will provide adequate power, utilizing existing generators to service the entire base camp area. Throughout the HCM-1 Help Construction Program, unit troop labor and organic facilities have been utilized, however, technical support has more than adequately been provided by engineers personnel located within the Qui Nhon Support Center.

3. (C) Specialized training was emphasized during the period for selected members of the firing batteries, to facilitate them with Fire Direction techniques. To enhance this training, a formal four week course of instruction was administered at the base camp by battalion headquarters personnel. The course of instruction consisted of 34 hours of lecture and application periods of instruction, covering the following areas: Construction and use of the 600 mill firing chart employed by the battalion for operations in Viet Nam; precision type registrations using the 590 chart registration method; computation of range corrections and the evaluation of velocity error (VE) corrections; use of logarithmic tables to determine and correct of 600 mill Registration; obtaining and application of data used with special mission; the care and use or equipment peculiar to fire direction centers; numerous hours on standard practice procedures and the application of these procedures in extensive team drill. The course was terminated and highlighted by a live short service practice conducted in the Hu Cat mountains (bound 930 570), with fire being concentrated on those areas known to be Viet Cong strongholds. On completion of the course, these personnel were returned to their respective firing batteries and now provide adequate depth to the battery Fire Direction centers.

The battalion also provided an instructional radar team to the 1st Air Cavalry Division to assist in training the division's newly acquired counter mortar radar detachments. This team traveled to Bien Hoa and provided the knowledge and practical experience acquired by the battalion counter mortar radar detachment during Operations UNS HO V and UNS HM I.

4. (U) During the reported period morale within the battalion was excellent. The battalion sent 1,040 personnel on both "in" and "out" of country R.R. This constituted approximately 21% of the average percent for duty strength during the period. Through personal division and coordination with the Special Services Office in Qui Nhon, the following additional morale and welfare activities were enjoyed by battalion personnel:

a. USAF correspondence courses and course material.

b. Deep Sea Fishing trips.

c. USA Variety shows.
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d. Vietnamese language instruction.

e. Various athletic activities to include basketball, softball, and volleyball on courts and diamonds constructed within the base camp under the Self-Help Construction Program.

The battalion also had numerous awards for valor and meritorious service presented to individuals which are listed below:

Bronco Star with Valor
1st Lt David B. Drake

Army Medal of Commendation with Valor
1st Lt James T. Hittman

Air Medal
Lt Col Charles C. Vignor
Capt Robert R. Brown
Capt Charles R. Smith
1st Lt Denis P. Smith

Bronco Heart
1st Lt David B. Drake
1st Lt Denis P. Smith
Sp4 Charles Tillman

SECTION II

COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (C)

Part I Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. ITEM: Typewriters

DEFINITION: Battalion administration, to include the S-2 section and the personnel section, are authorized a total of three typewriters. Experience has shown that this is not an adequate number.

CONCLUSION: The S-2 section should be authorized a typewriter. The personnel section should be supported by the typewriter: one additional for the finance and one for the records clerk.

b. ITEM: Promotional Spaces

DEFINITION: Authorization for increased enlisted strength over TES without a concurrent authorization to promote above TES creates a promotion block. This in turn affects initiative.

CONCLUSION: Authorization for increased enlisted strength over TES should always be accompanied by authorization to promote over TES.

c. ITEM: Split platoon operations, such as those experienced by "A" battery on Operation PAUL JAMES, "C" battery on Operation JOHN VI, and "C" battery on all operations throughout the period, plus the need for a twenty-four hour capability in both platoons, have increased the battery requirement for FDC trained personnel beyond the TES assigned strength.
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DISCUSSION: To meet the increased need for personnel trained in FDO techniques, the Battalion initiated a four week school in the base camp area for cannonners who showed an aptitude for gunnery. Using available equipment and materials, the men were given instruction in fire direction with particular emphasis on procedures used in Vietnam. At the conclusion of the course, the students were returned to their units and an evaluation of their abilities was furnished the Battery Commanders.

CONCLUSION: Artillery units deploying to Vietnam should anticipate this requirement and in addition to continuing training for non-FDO personnel, should bring the necessary instructional material (Pt. 311 notes and lesson plans in particular) to accomplish further training in Vietnam upon arrival.

d. IRC: Prefabrication of Buildings

DISCUSSION: The Self Help Construction Program utilizes relatively unskilled troops to perform all phases of construction to blueprint standards. Unless the construction program is under unified supervision, waste of material and poor standards may result. The control of all materials was consolidated under one individual qualified in carpentry. Further, a permanent crew was assigned to construct side, end and rafter sections for the buildings using prefabrication forms to insure uniform production. Once prefabricated, an entire building was issued to the battery concerned and a standard structure could then be erected.

CONCLUSION: Prefabrication proved to be a successful method of overcoming waste of material and time. Utilization of carpenter and material must not be left to chance.

e. IRC: Hand and Power Tools for Construction

DISCUSSION: The FCS of a combat unit does not include sufficient carpentry tools to permit construction on the scale required by a self-help program. An engineer unit is normally assigned the requirement of support, both technically and logistically, but experience has proven that self-help construction projects preclude the loaning of tools except in a limited number.

CONCLUSION: Units preparing for movement to this theater of operations should procure through supply channels a large number of local tools. Appendix should be placed on claw hammers, hard axes (both ones to sharpen them), and an adequate number of steel rectangular planes and carpenter's levels. If funds allow, it is recommended that each artillery or battery sized unit purchase several heavy duty skill saws, with a minimum of three (3) extra blades, and adequate extension cords per unit.

f. IRC: Repair Parts

DISCUSSION: A great percentage of down time of the 191... battery is due to frequent breakdown of the firing mechanism safety latch plunger FS 1025. Addition of the safety latch plunger to the 2nd edition HII will
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**DISCUSSION:** To meet the increased need for personnel trained in FDC techniques, the Battalion initiated a four week school in the base camp area for cannonors who showed an aptitude for gunnery. Using available equipment and materials, the men were given instruction in fire direction with particular emphasis on procedures used in Vietnam. At the conclusion of the course, the students were returned to their units and an evaluation of their abilities was furnished the Battery Commanders.

**OBSERVATION:** Artillery units deploying to Vietnam should anticipate this requirement and in addition to commencing training for non-105 155 personnel, should bring the necessary instructional material (reference notes and lesson plans in particular) to accomplish further training in Vietnam upon arrival.

d. **ITEM:** Prefabrication of Buildings

**DISCUSSION:** The Self Help Construction Program utilizes relatively unskilled troops to perform all phases of construction to blueprint standards. Unless the construction program is under unified supervision, waste of material and poor standards may result. The control of all materials was consolidated under one individual qualified in carpentry. Further, a permanent crew was assigned to construct side, end and rafter sections for the buildings using prefabrication forms to insure uniform production. Once prefabricated, an entire building was issued to the battery concerned and a standard structure could then be erected.

**OBSERVATION:** Prefabrication proved to be a successful method of overcoming waste of material and time. Utilization of manpower and material must not be left to chance.

e. **ITEM:** Hand and Power Tools for Construction

**DISCUSSION:** The TO2 of a combat unit does not include sufficient carpentry tools to permit construction on the scale required by a self help program. An engineer unit is normally assigned the requirement of support, both technically and logistically, but experience has proven that engineer construction projects preclude the loading of tools except in a limited number.

**OBSERVATION:** Units preparing for movement to this theater of operations should procure through supply channels a large number of hand tools. Emphasis should be placed on claw hammers, hand saws (with files to sharpen them), and an adequate number of steel measuring tapes and carpenters levels. If funds allow, it is recommended that each company or battery aided unit purchase several heavy duty Still saws, with a minimum of three (3) extra blades, and adequate extension cords per saw.

f. **ITEM:** Repair Parts

**DISCUSSION:** A great percentage of down time of the 105mm howitzer is due to frequent breakdown of the firing mechanism safety latch plunger FSN 1025. Addition of the safety latch plunger to the 2nd echelon ILL will

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result in immediate availability of this item at unit level. Presently, replacing the safety latch plunger is a 2nd echelon responsibility. Since direct support units for the 155mm howitzers are normally not immediately available, a training program was initiated whereby unit personnel were instructed on the simple operation of replacing the safety latch plunger.

CONCLUSION: By adding the safety latch plunger to the 2nd echelon
FULL more realistic demand data could be compiled and the item would be
stocked in sufficient quantity to minimize delays.

c. ITEM: Potable water shortage in the Field

DISCUSSION: During extended field operations it has been found that
one water trailer is not enough to supply the batteries with sufficient potable
water. This problem is often multiplied when elements, such as major sections,
infantry elements, and searchlight Platoons are attached and must be supported.
Additional hardships are experienced when firing batteries operate away from
the parent unit. When a firing battery is further placed in split operation,
that is two Platoons of the battery are in separated firing positions, the
problem is severely magnified. With only one water trailer available these
elements have to do the best they can with 5 gallon water cans.

CONCLUSION: This situation can be remedied by issuing an additional
water trailer to units of this size. Another possibility is the availability
of a collapsible rubber tank similar to the one used to transport gasoline.

h. ITEM: Disinfecting of medical instruments

DISCUSSION: Because of the climate in this particular area, it has
been noted that the use of "Hypochlorite Solution", the usual disinfectant in which
instruments are disinfected, causes rust on the instruments in a very short
period of time.

CONCLUSION: This situation can be corrected using "Isopropyl
alcohol", a disinfecting solution easily obtained in the theater.

i. ITEM: AM radio communications

DISCUSSION: The equipment available to the location, the AN/CRC-30,
has a peak output of less than 100 watts. It has been found that during the
time from 2000 hours until 0500 hours, this output is insufficient to override
the atmospheric phenomena in Vietnam and AM radio messages either fail to reach
their destination or arrive hopelessly garbled. The only solution that has been
to attempt to route AM traffic during daylight hours and to use nocturnal
messages utilizing the equipment of units nearby that possess a greater output.

CONCLUSION: The feasibility of providing all units that must rely
on AM communications with the more powerful unit, the AN/CRC-70, should be
explored to alleviate the present AM difficulties in Vietnam.

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Part II Commanders Recommendations

None

[Signature: Charles G. Wickham]
Lt Col
Arty
Corps Wading

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AVTA-AR-52-00 (10 Aug 66) 1st Inf
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966
RCS(OSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 52D ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96295, 19 August 1966

TO: Headquarters, Department of the Army, ATTN: ACSFOR, Washington,
D.C. 20310

1. Forwarded.

2. Concur in commander's observations. Report is considered adequate.

O. T. TAL backing
C. L. TOEBECH
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding