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File 4

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 6TH BATTALION, 71ST ARTILLERY
APO 96377

AVGHH-00

12 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January
1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

AD386104

TO: Commanding Officer
97th Artillery Group (AD)
APO 96307

FROM: Assistant Chief of Staff
For Force Development
Washington, D.C. 20310

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1. (U) In accordance with USARV Regulation Number 870-2, dated 19 July 1966, subject: Historical Activities: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65), this report is submitted for the period 1 November 1966 to 31 January 1967.

SECTION I

Significant Organization Activities

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2. (C) General.

a. This organization consists of the following units with augmentation:

- (1) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery
- (2) Four (4) Firing batteries

b. Throughout the reporting period, the battalion remained deployed in a defensive posture in the Cam Ranh Bay/Nha Trang area, Republic of Vietnam, at the following locations:

- (1) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery CPO93239
- (2) A Battery CP107223
- (3) B Battery CPO81241
- (4) C Battery CPO54323
- (5) D Battery CPO57495

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The mission of the battalion continues to be that of providing air defense for both the Nha Trang and Cam Ranh Bay complexes.

The 35th Engineer Group continued construction of the Hon Tre complex, with special emphasis on the tactical area (CP135500) and the road connecting the tactical area with the cantonment area (CP110500). The beneficial occupancy date was again postponed, although some Air Force equipment was being replaced in the tactical area at the close of the reporting period. Road construction continued to require the greatest effort, due to the nature of the terrain and delays caused by prolonged periods of heavy rain. Engineer activity in the cantonment area was supplemented by personnel from this organization, who cleared brush from the prospective billeting area, constructed culverts for administrative area roads, and assisted in the prefabrication of buildings.

A base development plan for the Hon Tre complex was prepared by this headquarters and submitted for approval in December.

c. Self-help construction continued in the three permanent battery positions located on the Cam Ranh peninsula. Headquarters Battery completed the theater portion of the dayroom and the major construction of the battalion chapel, and began an MCC Club. A Battery built a three-bay motor pool building, a tactical generator building, and a supply room. An orderly room and an operations and maintenance building are in the preparatory stages. A new security dog training area also was constructed during the reporting period. E Battery completed seven buildings to house enlisted personnel and is in the process of building two additional billets. Construction and improvement of underground bunkers and radar shelters were begun. C Battery continued to occupy a temporary position, pending relocation to Hon Tre. The administrative site of D Battery, one of the tenant units at Camp McDermott in Nha Trang, still remains in tents. The projected date of implementation of the camp building plan has been moved from 1 November 1966 to 1 April 1967 in successive stages, and no date for completion of the project is in sight. D Battery built an assembly and service building on its tactical site.

3. (S) The entire 92 days of the reporting period were devoted to on-the-job training and normal tactical operations incident to this organization's air defense mission. No tactical movements were made. Administratively, elements of four firing batteries were flown to Tinian for HAWK annual service practice. Only one of the four aircraft required to transport battery personnel arrived at in-country departure airfields on time, although the schedule had been prepared and approved more than a month prior to the first departure date. Air Force personnel indicated that over-scheduling of airlift and unexpected maintenance problems caused the delays. The single airplane arrived as scheduled suffered an electrical malfunction which resulted in a three hour delay in Taiwan.

4. (U) Personnel. The battalion remained overstrength throughout the reporting period, with the number of excess personnel steadily diminishing. A problem with regard to a shortage of common MOS's, that of supply, mess, and motor personnel, has improved slightly. Certain critical, trained HAWK maintenance enlisted personnel continue to remain in short supply; valid requisitions have been submitted. With regard to officer personnel at the

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end of the reporting period the battalion was at full strength. Four officers are serving in positions which call for a lesser rank, due to a shortage of lieutenants and an excess of majors. Officer replacements are programmed to arrive just prior to the incumbents' departures.

5. (C) Intelligence and Operations:

a. Intelligence. No significant activities for the period.

b. Operations and Training:

(1) The major training effort of the previous quarter culminated in HAHK annual service practice conducted in Okinawa. A thirty-five man crew from each of the four firing batteries participated in November and December. The battalion average score was 98.24%. Battery scores were A - 98.6%, B - 98.1%, C - 97.85%, D - 98.4%. Six target kills were registered as a result of eight missiles fired.

(2) Throughout the reporting period, continuing emphasis was placed on the units' capabilities to perform their assigned air defense mission. Personnel training and equipment functioning were frequently evaluated by a battalion team on an unannounced basis. The method of evaluation as prescribed by the new USARPAC Regulation number 350-44-6 placed new and unusually stringent requirements on a unit to maintain a combat ready rating.

6. (U) Logistics:

a. There has been no change in Class I supplies since the last reporting period. Type B rations still were issued three days per week. Ice and fresh vegetables continued to be in short supply.

b. Class III support remained excellent.

c. Class V support improved during the quarter. In addition to the prompt replenishing of expended small arms ammunition, signal grenades for the first time were issued in required quantities. The HAHK missiles withdrawn from the reserve stock during the last quarter for annual service practice were replaced.

d. There was little change experienced with regard to Class II and IV items. "Red Ball" reaction time continued to average 21 days. Construction lumber in nearly all sizes is difficult to obtain; valid requisitions remain in effect.

e. Road maintenance improved during the quarter. Considerable engineer effort on the D Battery road resulted in a more satisfactory and safer access to the tactical site. Drifting sand as a result of the monsoon winds temporarily closed one access road at B Battery but provided no long term ill effects. The road was cleared by a bulldozer from the 804th Engineer Battalion in about six hours.

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7. (C) Maintenance:

a. A Battalion CMI was conducted during the period to evaluate all phases of the maintenance program.

b. During the reporting period, the HAWK system's tactical equipment as reflected by the weekly STAPORT maintained a green status 90% of the time, with less than 1% of red status registered. Rigorous attention to proper maintenance procedures, preventive as well as recuperative, and the generally adequate supply of spare parts accounts for this record. D Battery is effectively cut off from resupply or technical assistance during the hours of darkness except by air support, which is not always timely. This, coupled with a few spare parts which are in short supply and difficult to stock, plus the time necessarily consumed in trouble shooting accounts for the major portion of the inoperable time.

c. The problem with regard to transportation to D Battery at night will become of even greater significance with the movement of C Battery to Hon Tre.

d. The problem with regard to 400 cycle tactical generators experienced in the preceding period has largely abated, due to the success of the repair by replacement system. Some difficulty was experienced this quarter in keeping operational the 45 kV, 60 cycle generators, which power the coder-decoder groups. A relatively small number of float 60 cycle generators compounds the problem. Administrative power in four of the five batteries has also caused a problem; the 100 kV, 60 cycle generators issued by Cam Ranh Support Command for this purpose deteriorate due to constant operation, and no repair parts are available at the support echelon. Commercial type power is expected within the next two quarters, the receipt of which should generally improve the status of 60 cycle power in this battalion.

e. The monsoon season which dominated the quarter climatically, with blowing sand and rain, added to the electronic maintenance problem. Plans were formulated for temporary wooden shelters to surround the collocated radars, pending acquisition of more permanent structures.

f. A monthly three-day period of deep preventive maintenance for HAWK equipment was implemented during this period. Special attention was given to soldered connections, and an anti-corrosion program was inaugurated.

g. While the resupply of HAWK system spare parts was generally excellent, periodic shortages of crucial items at times hindered the operational status of system radars. For a brief period, an abnormally large number of HPIR high voltage power supply failures made it difficult to keep enough of these items on hand. At the close of the quarter, HPIR mutator scanners were in short supply. These supply problems appear to be cyclical in nature, and do not indicate a need for other than a nominal increase in the stockage level of these parts.

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8. (U) Communications. Considerable difficulty was experienced in keeping the AN/GRC-106 radios operational, due to the non-availability of spare parts at the organizational and support levels of maintenance. AN/VRC-12 radios received during the quarter have proven to be highly reliable, but PLL's for these radios have not been filled to date, thus forecasting a like problem with the frequency modulated equipment.

9. (U) Motor Transport. A considerable increase in emphasis on motor vehicle maintenance was instituted during this period. A strong roadside inspection program was inaugurated along with a compulsory daily motor stable program. As a result, the vehicle deadline rate increased substantially at the beginning of the program because roadside inspections caused motor personnel to be more exacting in enforcing deadline criteria. Increased maintenance during compulsory motor stables then caused the deadline rate to begin to decrease. As a result of this program, battalion motor vehicles are now in better condition than they were at the beginning of the period. The supply of automotive repair parts improved during the reporting period.

10. (U) Civic Action:

a. Headquarters Battery continued to provide assistance to the Montagnard village of Song Can. Working closely with AID personnel, the battery acquired and transported substantial quantities of metal roofing material and lumber for improvement of the village school and individual dwellings. The allotted rice ration was periodically purchased and distributed by battery personnel. Medical aid also continued, although preventive medical practices taught the village to reduce the incidence of skin disorders. This reduced the number of patients at weekly sick call.

b. C Battery continued to support the village and school of Thuy Trieu. Battery assistance was slowly decreased in preparation for the unit movement to its new location, and the village has begun to receive help from other units in the vicinity.

c. The village of Thon Truong Dong near Nha Trang continued to receive assistance from D Battery, particularly in the area of medical treatment. Because of the adequate support being provided by other units, the battery continued to search for a more needy project.

d. The battalion undertook a new project during the quarter, the preparation of an undeveloped area for occupancy by a large number of Nung refugees currently located in the vicinity of Saigon. Clearing of the central cantonment area and the construction of three buildings had begun at the close of the reporting period. An officer at this headquarters was assigned the primary staff duty of civic action officer and is responsible for the coordination of this and other civic action projects. Headquarters, A, and B Batteries each provides a detail of personnel to act as a security element as well as to actively engage in construction.

e. Because of the large military population in the Cam Ranh area and the relatively smaller number of Vietnamese, it is not possible for each battery to have a separate village for civic action purposes, with the exception of Headquarters Battery and Song Can, where a longstanding relation-

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ship has existed. The large number of military units, Korean as well as American, attempting to acquire civic action projects resulted in this battalion, with the assistance of MACV advisor personnel, going into the adjoining province to begin the Nung refugee project.

11. (U) The following distinguished officers visited this battalion on the dates as indicated:

- a. General H. K. Johnson, Chief of Staff, US Army, 29 December 1967.
- b. Brigadier General M. E. Gates, CG Cam Ranh Bay Support Command, 29 October 1966 (within the previous period, but not reported at that time).
- c. Colonel P. E. Hunt, Chief Missile and Nuclear Division, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff G-3, USARPAC, 12-13 November 1965.
- d. Colonel J. E. Bolt, Commanding Officer, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, Cam Ranh Air Force Base, 2 November 1966.

SECTION II

Commander's Observations and Recommendations

12. (G) Observations (Lessons Learned).

a. Personnel.

Advance Overseas Returnee Roster

Item: Errors were discovered in the maintenance of this roster.

Discussion: Improper annotation of unit rosters and failure to report changes as they occurred caused the majority of the errors. A system was inaugurated whereby relevant personnel data for each man was entered on index cards which were filed by DEROS month. Morning reports were checked daily and the file cards updated as necessary.

Observations: The new procedure eliminated errors which previously occurred in the preparation of the returnee roster. In addition, the file proved valuable in quickly obtaining information for other required records and reports.

Proficiency Pay Program

Item: No effective method for monitoring proficiency pay existed in the battalion.

Discussion: A complete survey of personnel records to determine the correctness of proficiency pay awards was made, which uncovered errors. A systematic procedure, consisting of individual cards for those authorized to draw proficiency pay, was instituted, upon which were entered the type of award and the effective date.

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Observation: The survey and file card system resulted in an efficient method for elimination of errors, and brought about a saving to the government.

b. Operations.

Moisture and Corrosion Control

Item: Climatic conditions increased the incidence of equipment malfunction.

Discussion: The heavy rains of the monsoon season caused a reevaluation of the system of moisture and corrosion control previously employed. Temporary shelters for the major items of equipment were constructed to protect the sensitive electronic components from driving winds and blowing sand. These shelters also provided protection during the performance of preventive and corrective maintenance. Additionally, repair parts and chassis were thoroughly cleaned, and a special varnish was applied to vulnerable connections.

Observation: Particular attention must be given to combatting the environmental effects of this locale on electronic equipment.

c. Training and Organization.

Annual Service Practice

Item: Considerable expense to the government and reduced personnel effectiveness due to transportation difficulties were results of conducting annual service practice at Okinawa.

Discussion: A great deal of time could be saved, and possibly the cost to the government could be reduced, by conducting HAWK annual service practice in Vietnam. More personnel could participate in, or witness, the practice if held locally.

Observation: Many tangible and intangible benefits could be derived from firing annual service practice in-country.

d. Intelligence - Negative

e. Logistics - Negative

13. (U) Recommendations.

a. That a more satisfactory system of support maintenance for 60 cycle generators be implemented.

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b. That a more permanent type of shelter for major items of
HAWA equipment be procured.

William H. Holcombe, Jr.

WILLIAM H. HOLCOMBE, JR.
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

Copies furnished:

Cmdr in Chief, USARPAC, ATTN: GFOP-MH
Deputy CC, USARV, ATTN: AVC-DH

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AVGH-CO (12 Feb 67) 1st Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January
1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 97TH ARTILLERY GROUP (AD), APO 96307

15 Mar 67

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFVN: AVHAG-DH
APO 96307

The following comments are provided in accordance with USARV Regulation 870-2 (Paragraphs refer to basic document):

1. Para 2 (C) General

2b - The current status of the Hon Tre Island project is as follows:

a. The AF CRF is operational.

b. C/6/71 is projected to move to Hon Tre commencing 27 March 1967.

2. Para 4 (U) Personnel - The following BAWK maintenance MOS's continue in a shortage status:

22J

23T

These shortages are a result of insufficient fill action against valid requisitions. This matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the USARV AG.

3. Para 5 (C) Intelligence and Operations

5b (2) - This headquarters forwarded recommended changes to USARPAC Regulation 350-44-6 on 15 January 1967. These recommendations asked for clarification on certain points in the regulation and also suggested changes. USARPAC indicated these recommendations would be considered when the regulation is revised during the 2nd quarter of 1967.

4. Para 7 (C) Maintenance

7d - The 71st Artillery has submitted 12 requisitions for 45kW, 60 cycle generators used to power the coder decoder group, a part of the battery terminal equipment. USAFEC has recognized these requisitions as valid and by message has recommended that 1st Logistical Command issue

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12 30KW, 60 cycle, generators which are due in Vietnam during March 1967 to the 97th Artillery Group and in turn to the 56th Artillery. The 30KW is a satisfactory substitute for the 45KW generator presently in use. On 11 February 1967 the 97th Artillery Group requested confirmation from the US Army Engineer Command whether commercial 60 cycle power would be provided to three batteries of the 71st Artillery. On 5 March 1967 the Engineer Command indicated by indorsement that the commercial power requested would be installed during the month of May 1967.

5. Para 12 (C) Observations

12c - This headquarters submitted a recommendation to MACV for Annual Service Practice to be conducted in RVN. The project is still under study at MACV.

6. Para 13 (U) Recommendations

a. 13a - USAFEC generator project officer stated in a meeting held at USARV that the Army will no longer procure 45KW, 60 cycle, generators. Only 30KW and 60KW varieties will be in the supply system. As stated in paragraph 7d, it is planned that 12 30KW generators are due in country in the near future and will replace those 45KW generators providing tactical power for the coder-decoder group. Once the 30KW generators are received, a repair by replacement program similar to the one in effect with HAWK peculiar 400 cycle generators would be the ideal solution to generator maintenance problems. USAFECG is aware of the tactical 60 cycle maintenance problem and also the Group's recommendation that a repair by replacement is desired.

b. 13b - This headquarters has prepared a request under the ENSURE program for a rigid support shelter to protect major items of HAWK equipment from the severe weather conditions experienced in RVN. It is felt that these shelters will improve the maintenance capability of the HAWK units.

Robert C. Hart, LTC Artz
FREDERD J. DAISY
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVHOC-DST (12 Feb 67) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 12 MAY 1967

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

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 71st Artillery as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. (U) Reference Paragraph 4, Pages 2 and 3, and Paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement, concerning shortages of H&M maintenance personnel: action has been taken by this headquarters to ensure that the assigned strength in listed MOS's is adequate. The 97th Artillery Group is authorized 66 personnel in MOS 22J and 31 in MOS 23T. The projected assigned strengths during 4th Quarter FY 67 in these MOS's are 73 and 32, respectively.

b. (U) Reference Paragraph 6a, Page 3, concerning the supply of ice and fresh vegetables: Contact with the unit by this headquarters on 29 March indicated that this problem area no longer exists.

c. (U) Reference Paragraph 6d, Page 3, concerning Red Ball Express reaction time and supply of lumber: A reaction time of 21 days is considered acceptable in view of the limited intra-BVN distribution assets. Lumber is presently arriving in BVN in sufficient quantity to meet known requirements. The movement of Class II and IV supplies is influenced by the quantity of higher priority supplies being moved. This problem will be partially solved by the upgrading of the highway system throughout the country.

d. (C) Reference Paragraphs 7b, 7c, and 7g, Page 4, concerning spare parts for the H&M system other than the power supply: Continued demands based on maintenance problems peculiar to unit's weapons system and locality should serve to increase stockage of the few spare parts which the unit currently finds difficult to stock. The unit's maintenance program is considered highly acceptable.

e. (C) Reference Paragraphs 7d and 7g, Page 4; Paragraph 13a, Page 7; and Paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement, concerning the H&M system power supply: Actions taken and proposed in 1st Indorsement are considered a satisfactory solution to the power supply problems.

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f. (U) Reference Paragraph 8, Page 5, concerning spare parts for radios: Concur in the observation that this has been, and remains a problem area, both for the AM and FM radios. This headquarters, Customer Assistance Office Vietnam, Army Material Command, and US Army Electronics Command are combining their efforts to locate, redistribute, and speed the flow of repair parts for the AM/FRC-104, with appreciable success. A shortage of modules continues; however, the 1st Logistical Command has established dues-in and practices continuous follow-up action through channels to NICP's.

g. (U) Reference Paragraph 3, Page 2, and Paragraph 12c, Page 7, concerning annual service practice: Headquarters, MACV Confidential letter, 25 March 1967, subject: Hawk Annual Service Practice (U), approves proposal to establish a Hawk missile range at Son Tre Island and conduct annual service practice at that location. This headquarters will request necessary authority to conduct this service practice from USARPAC. Upon receipt of such authority, a formal plan with specific firing dates will be established.

h. (U) Reference Paragraph 13b, Page 8; and Paragraph 6b, 1st Indorsement, concerning shelters for major items of HAWK equipment: Action taken by the indorsing headquarters is considered appropriate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


E. L. KENNEDY
CPT, AGC
Agst Adjutant General

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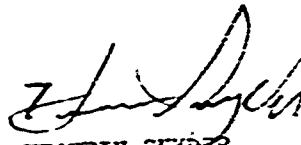
GPOP-OT (12 Feb 67) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 6th Bn, 71st Artillery (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 3 JUN 1967

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



HEINRICH SYDNER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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