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⑥ Lessons Learned,

HEADQUARTERS, 6TH BATTALION, 56TH ARTILLERY

① P7C

9 August 1966

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AD386112

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, [REDACTED]

Commanding Officer
97th Artillery Group (AD)
APO San Francisco 96307

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JAN 2 1967

① Operational rept. for period ending 31 Jul 66. P13

⑪ 9 Aug 66 ⑫ 22p.

1. (U) In compliance with AR 1-19 and USARV Regulation 870-2, the Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966 is herewith submitted.

2. (U-FOUO) Organization for combat.

UNIT

6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

Headquarters Battery

⑱ OACSFOR

⑲ OT-RD-660140

Battery A

Battery B

Battery C

Battery D

COMMANDER(S)

LTC James L Hollis

MAJ Herbert A Kitchen
(1 May 66-20 Jun 66)

1LT Stanley E Bozarth
(21-29 Jun 66)

CPT Charles C King
(30 Jun 66 -)

CPT James B McCoy

CPT Joe B Harvey

CPT William H Forster

CPT Edward S Graham, Jr.

SECTION I (C) Significant Organization or Unit Activities

1. (C) GENERAL

a. During the reporting period, the units of this battalion continued to accomplish their primary mission of providing air defense against low and medium altitude targets on the Bien Hoa, Long Binh, Saigon and Tan Son Nhut areas of the Republic of Vietnam. This was accomplished by maintaining highly operational sites in the Bien Hoa and Tan Son Nhut areas. Batteries A and C located at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, provide primary coverage for Saigon, Tan Son Nhut Air Base, and surrounding areas. Batteries B and D, located at Bien Hoa Air Base, provide primary coverage for Bien Hoa, Long Binh, and surrounding areas. The Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, located in

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Long Binh, provides command, administrative, operational and logistical support of the firing batteries.

b. There have been three (3) major changes of command in the battalion during the period of this report. All occurred in the Headquarters Battery. Major Herbert A. Kitchin, 069131, became the Assistant S-3 on 20 June; 1st Lieutenant Stanley E. Bozarth, 05416539, the battery executive officer, assumed command until Captain Charles C. King, 05400781, arrived in the battalion on 30 June and assumed command of the battery.

c. The results of the USARV Annual General Inspection conducted 25-28 April 1966 were received and the unit received a letter of commendation from the Deputy Commanding General, USARV, LTC Jean E. Engler. In his letter the General commended the battalion for its general appearance and condition. Specifically mentioned was the outstanding condition of personnel administration and maintenance of equipment.

d. The 1966 Savings Bond Campaign was vigorously launched and on 30 June 1966 the unit had achieved a 97.5% participation rate. Request for the Minuteman Flag was submitted on 3 July.

e. The battalion was recommended for the Meritorious Unit Commendation by the Commanding Officer, 97th Artillery Group (AD), on 25 July, for its outstanding accomplishments during the period 15 November 1965 to 30 June 1966.

f. The battalion has been very active in the civic action program throughout the reporting period. The villages of Phuc Lam and Khu Gia Vien in the Long Binh area have received particular attention. These villages have received repeated gifts of grain, cooking oil, flour and clothing. In addition to these gifts, the battalion surgeon has held weekly sick call in Phuc Lam, providing medical care for the villagers. In the village of Khu Gia Vien, the battalion has completed extensive renovation of the school house and landscaped the church yard. The firing batteries have individually given aid to several villages adjacent to their areas by distributing food, firewood and items of clothing.

g. Distinguished visitors during the period of this report include:

<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE OF EVENT</u>
MG George Forsythe	AC of S, USARPAC	2 May
EG Charles M Mount	Dep C of S, USARV	10 May
MG John C F Tillson III	AC of S, J-3 MACV	16 June
EG H L Moore Jr.	PM USARV	22 June
EG W D Crittenberger	II FFV Arty Cmdr	23 June
MG Michael S Davidson	CG, Designate USAC&GS Col	29 June

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COL Dan R Davis

Chief, Sys Spt Div,
HAWK Project Manager
MICOM

15 July

2. (C) PERSONNEL

a. During the period 1 May - 31 May 1966, this unit had an average total strength of 1044 as opposed to 858 authorized. Losses during this period numbered 140 with 298 gains during the same period. The bulk of personnel input has been in MOS 16D, HAWK Missile Crewman, and 16E, HAWK Fire Control System Crewman. These personnel have just completed basic and/or AIT. Requirements still exist for highly skilled technicians in long school trained MOS. Replacements for these type personnel have not been provided in the numbers requisitioned.

b. Shortage List by MOS:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>MOS TITLE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>ACT</u>
05B	Radio Operator	14	11
05C	Radio Teletypewriter Operator	3	2
22J	HAWK Missile Mechanic	33	31
22K	HAWK Internal Guidance Repairman	8	6
23R	HAWK Continuous Wave Radar Mechanic	17	16
23T	HAWK Search Radar Repairman	10	7
25J	Opn Cen/Coder-Decoder Gp Rep	5	4
31E	Field Radio Repairman	2	1
31M	Radio Relay and Carrier Attendant	25	22
52B	Power Plant Operator-Mechanic	59	45
63C	Track Vehicle Mechanic	5	2
63F	Recovery Specialist	6	4
76D	Ordnance Supply and Parts Specialist	16	12
76G	Signal Supply and Parts Specialist	1	0
91B	Medical Specialist	12	10
91C	Clinical Specialist	1	0
95B (DCG)	Military Police	20	18

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c. Senior Enlisted Personnel: Input of personnel is sufficient to provide for an orderly transition of senior EM during the peak turnover of August and September 1966. Replacement for the Battalion Sergeant Major, who has rotated to CONUS, has been received. One First Sergeant has reported for duty and four (4) are presently on orders.

d. Officer replacements: At the present time the positions of Commo Officer (MOS 0200) and Automotive Maintenance Technician (MOS 631A) are vacant and no notification of replacements have been received. The incumbents of positions Unit Supply Technician (MOS 761A), Operations Officer (FDS) (MOS 1180, LT) and Air Defense Missile Systems Technician (MOS 251C) are scheduled for rotation during September 1966 and instructions pertaining to replacements have not been received. Concurrently there are seven (7) Lieutenants assigned to slots in TOE 44-237D scheduled for rotation in August and September, and notification pertaining to their replacements has not been received.

e. During the period fourteen (14) recommendations for award of the Bronze Star Medal, for meritorious service, and thirty-eight (38) recommendations for award of the Army Commendation Medal, for meritorious service, were forwarded to higher headquarters. Of the 270 recommendations for award of the USARV Certificate of Achievement forwarded, forty-one (41) have been approved.

3. (U-FOUO) INTELLIGENCE

a. During the period the activities of the Intelligence Section were devoted to handling personal security matters, maintaining current intelligence information on the air and ground threat, evaluating the unit's defenses both active and passive measures, and providing guidance and advice on matters of security.

b. Current intelligence information on the air threat was obtained from Air Order of Battle reports published by the 7th Air Force. Intelligence information on the ground threat was obtained through daily liaison visits to the II Field Forces Vietnam and the III Vietnam Corps.

c. Physical security of the battalion is considered adequate and the units continued to improve on their active and passive defense measures by installing inner perimeter fences, sandbagging of billets and improving existing defensive positions. Monthly ground defense exercises and defense evaluations were conducted by this and higher headquarters to insure that the units maintained their high degree of proficiency in the execution of their defense plans and application of procedures.

d. Liaison was effected with the Quan Trung Training Center and the HOC MON Sub Sector to establish procedures for the integration of Battery A into the defense of the area. The Vietnamese were very cooperative and offered their resources in the defense of the battery by providing ambush patrols, reaction forces and fire support.

e. During the reporting period the battalion granted two hundred and twenty-four (224) CONFIDENTIAL clearances, processed twenty-eight (28) requests for National Agency Checks and validated one hundred and forty-four (144) TOP SECRET/SECRET clearances.

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6. The obtaining of security clearances has not been a problem during the period. However, personnel who have recently graduated from school in MOS 16E (Fire Control Operator) and 17H (Fire Distribution Operator) do not possess the degree of security clearance required to allow immediate utilization in their MOS. To perform their duties, they must have access to the Tactical Standing Operating Procedures which are classified SECRET. Approximately three (3) months is required to obtain a SECRET clearance after arrival in Vietnam. Therefore, individuals with these MOSs cannot be fully utilized for approximately one quarter ($\frac{1}{4}$) of their tour.

4. (C) OPERATIONS

a. From 0545 hours (Zulu), 26 June 1966 until 1245 hours (Zulu), 5 July 1966, the defense acquisition radar was placed on surveillance and all firing batteries were raised to a five-minute state of alert (STATE I). All battery acquisition radars were also put on surveillance. A firing section of each unit was periodically released to a one-hour state of alert (STATE III) in order to allow essential maintenance services to be performed. Each unit received a cumulative total of 3 hours STATE III time, resulting in a battalion total of 12 hours STATE III time during the aforementioned period. The battalion experienced no battery non-operational time or loss of communications with higher or subordinate headquarters during this time. Overall battalion operational capability during this period is reflected by the 20,430.36 hours the battalion was operational out of 20,818.16 possible hours (98.1%).

b. A scenario for a film staff study of deployment of the HAWK system in Vietnam has been prepared in final form. A copy of the scenario has been accepted by the Pictorial Officer, Signal Office, United States Army, Vietnam, and filming is scheduled for 4 August 1966.

c. Training conducted during this period has been directed towards maximizing the operational efficiency of the battalion. Air Defense exercises have been conducted weekly. Operator training using the AN/TSC-21 Simulator has been conducted at each battery for a period of a week during each month. Results of the training effort have been tested by Pre-Annual Service Practice tests and Operational Readiness Evaluation (ORE). The battery scores received on the pre-ASP tests were 94.84%, 96.46%, 89.53% and 84.53%. The tests were conducted using USARPAC directives on ASP procedures and scoring. Five (5) Operational Readiness Evaluations were administered by 97th Artillery Group and fifteen (15) were administered by battalion headquarters. Eighteen (18) of the evaluations resulted in a battery status rating of superior or satisfactory and two (2) were rated non-operational.

d. The training program also included instructions on the AN/GRC-106

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Radio presented to forty (40) battalion personnel and five (5) 97th Artillery Group Headquarters personnel. The battalion is scheduled to receive the new radio in the near future. Classes on the 81MM Mortar have also been prepared during this period. The battalion has been authorized the mortars and is awaiting their arrival.

5. (C) LOGISTICS

a. Supply:

(1) Class I: Sufficient refrigerators were on hand during the period to allow the units to draw and serve class A rations. Except for fresh vegetables, food was plentiful and of good quality. Canned vegetables were issued as a substitute for fresh vegetables and initially were not well received by personnel eating in the mess halls; however, with a little ingenuity the mess stewards were able to make them more palatable.

(2) Class II & IV:

(a) Units are still experiencing difficulty in obtaining office machines and equipment. Typewriters have not been received, though they were requisitioned during the second quarter of FY 66. Some office desks were received during the period, but total requirements have not yet been filled.

(b) Mattresses and steel cots were received during the period. Sufficient quantities of these are now on hand for those personnel authorized by TO&E.

(c) Thirty-five (35) 2½-ton trucks and five (5) 5-ton tractors were laterally transferred to the 48th Transportation Group during the period, leaving the battalion with a shortage of these vehicles. Replacement requisitions have been submitted, but only one (1) M35A1 2½-ton truck has been received thus far. This shortage would affect the battalion's ability to rapidly deploy, should the need arise; however, this possibility is considered remote.

(d) Authority has been granted this unit to requisition and retain the items listed below. Requisitions were submitted concurrently with request for authorization.

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<u>FBN</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>QTY</u>	<u>UNIT DOC NO.</u>
5895-617-0029	Interrogator Set, AN/TPX-26	1 ea	6066-003
1095-726-5820	Pistol, Pyrotechnic AN-M8	6 ea	5333-003
1010-691-1382	Grenade, Launcher, M-79	30 ea	5333-004
5805-503-2616	Signal Assy, TA-207/P	1 ea	6006-009
1015-840-1836	Mortar, 81mm, w/mount	15 ea	6047-001
6115-542-6011	Generator Set, 45KW	1 ea	6046-001
1005-064-5808	Pedestal	30 ea	6137-001
1005-854-4463	Mount	30 ea	6137-002
1005-565-2797	Cover	30 ea	6137-003
5820-194-9928	Radio Set AN/PRC-6	25 ea	6138-001
6625-828-6410	Signal Generator, TS-452	1 ea	6207-002
6115-518-3499	Dummy load, electrical	2 ea	6006-008

All of the above items are essential to the accomplishment of this unit's mission. To date, none of the equipment has been received. Follow-up requests have been submitted and replies have indicated only that the items are "Due Out". Information on the availability dates of these items has not been furnished.

(3) Class III: No problems have been experienced with class III materiel during the period.

(4) Class V: Pyrotechnics (flares and illumination signal) have been in short supply throughout the period. These items are necessary to insure adequate site security. Requisitions have been submitted by units on a monthly basis with the following items being non-available:

1330-028-5914	Grenade, Rifle smoke violet
1370-028-5998	Signal, Illumination, Ground cluster red star
1370-028-5993	Signal, Illumination, Ground parachute green star
1370-028-6005	Signal, Illumination, Ground cluster white star

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(5) Repair Parts.

(a) Automotive: Twenty-seven (27) Redball Express requisitions were submitted and fifteen (15) were filled during the period. The average time from request to receipt has been twenty-three (23) days.

(b) Hawk: During the last quarter, the Technical Supply Section has taken up residence in a new metal, (20x100') prefabricated type building. This building provides better protection for the records and files of the section. There was no interruption of services during this move to the new building.

1. During the report period, the Technical Supply received from the firing batteries, 4341 requisitions and submitted 5895 requisitions to the 79th Ordnance Detachment and the 85th Ordnance Battalion. A total of 4661 parts were received and 3519 were issued to the batteries.

2. Lack of repair parts has continued to be critical in the following areas:

a. Loader-Transporters: One of the two loader-transporters which was non-operational at the close of the last period has been returned to operation. One loader-transporter is still non-operational for a boom support assembly. This assembly had an expected delivery date of 31 March on the AMC-139 report as of the last report date. This date has been revised and the new expected delivery date is now 22 August.

b. Scoop loaders (Clark Model 175 AN-23):

(1) The scooploader which was reported in the last report as needing only a hydraulic pump to return it to operation has been transferred from the 79th Ordnance Company to the 178th Engineer Company for repairs. After a complete inspection of the scooploader, the 178th determined that the engine needed replacement and has placed the engine on requisition effective 3 July. No advice has been given to the 178th as to the expected delivery date of the engine. In addition to the engine, several other small parts were placed on requisition at the same time for this item.

(2) The tires that were on order at the time of the last report have been received.

b. Maintenance:

(1) Automotive: A very low deadline rate has been maintained during the period due to establishment of higher standards of maintenance by the battalion. The average deadline rate has been 2.6%. The major single cause of vehicle deadline has been cracked crossmembers; six (6) vehicles deadlined for this deficiency resulted in eighty-nine (89) non-available days.

(2) Hawk: The technical repair shops of the Direct Support Platoon processed 1241 maintenance requests during the period. Of these requests, 695 were for repair of individual chassis and 404 were for repair of major pieces of equipment. The remaining 142 requests were for repair of test equip-

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ment and other miscellaneous jobs. The following is the present status of the problem areas reported in the preceding command report:

(a) Generators, 45KW, 60 cycle (tactical): The difficulty experienced in the previous quarter with actuators for these generators still continues despite continued conscientious efforts on the part of the using units to insure that the hydraulic fluid is kept clean. Due to slow supply action on the actuators for these generators, it has been impossible for the supply of replacement items to keep up with the demand. Battery B is in the process of conducting an experiment which may solve this problem. The experiment, which is being conducted at the request of Mr. Fred Procopio, USAMEC, Director of Maintenance Section, 1st Logistical Command, consists of placing a filter in the hydraulic line which leads to the actuator. The experiment began on 12 July and, to this date, the generator has 500 hours operational time without actuator failure. This short period of time does not afford information upon which to base a concrete determination of the effectiveness of the filter. It is expected that the determination will be made during the next quarter. Since proper fan belt adjustment procedures have been initiated, the failure of fan belts has ceased to be a problem area.

(b) Generators, 45KW, 400 cycle (tactical): The actuator problem on these generators is essentially the same as on the 60 cycle generators mentioned above; however, a sufficient supply of new actuators is on hand to allow continued operation of the generators that fail while the faulty actuators are being repaired. The exciter power supply problem that was being experienced on these generators in the last quarter is non-existent this quarter. During the last two months there have been no exciter power supply failures in the battalion. The backlog of faulty exciter power supplies that existed at the time of the last report was alleviated by the receipt of sufficient parts to repair and rebuild the faulty units. There are enough parts on hand to rebuild six more of these power supplies if the need should arise.

(c) The "Repair by Replacement" program on generators is progressing very satisfactorily. To date, nine generators have been replaced at the end of the 6000 hour period. The criteria of placing the requisition for the replacement of the generator at the end of 2000 hours has proved itself to be ideal. It has worked out so far, that each time a generator has reached the 6000 hour mark, there has been a replacement on hand to exchange for it. A new problem has shown itself during the last quarter. The problem is that of melting potting compound and the moulding around joints where cables branch off in the launchers. The melting is not restricted to any one type of cable. The trouble has been experienced in all cables in the launcher with the exception of the inter-vehicular cable. Upon investigating, it was determined that eleven (11) launchers in the battalion were experiencing this trouble in varying degrees. Complete new sets of cables have been placed on order for these launchers and, to date, five (5) launchers have been completely recabled. There are six sets of cables still on order, and these will be installed in the other six (6) launchers as soon as they arrive. A close watch is being maintained on the other launchers in the battalion to insure prompt action if the same problem should arise in them. The defective cables were manufactured by Nortronics Corporation, and the replacement cables received to date were manufactured by Precision Cable and Assembly Company. To date, the new cables

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have been holding up well, and a close observation will be kept on these for early detection of similar failures, should they occur.

c. Construction:

(1) Engineer Troop Effort: The 159th Engineer Group was assigned the mission of supporting the battalion in development of administrative and tactical sites for Hq, A, B and D Batteries; however, the commitments of the 159th Engineer Group were so heavy that repeated delays were experienced, and actual engineer troop support to date has been minimal.

(2) The civilian construction firm of Raymond, Morrison and Knudson was awarded a contract to construct the administrative and tactical site for Battery C. Work began at this site in June, but frequent stoppages have been encountered due to the monsoon rains.

(3) Self Help Effort: When the 159th Engineer Group realized their commitments were too great, this unit was authorized to draw construction materials for the project. During the period the unit has completed the following: Battalion Headquarters (20x100'), Orderly-Supply Room (20x70'), Personnel Administration (20x50'), Message Center/Crypto Facility (20x20'), Dispensary (20x50' Prefab), Maintenance Facility (20x100' Prefab), EM Club (40x70'), Dog Kennels (20x60'), Battalion Supply (20x70'), two showers and two latrines, and twenty-one (21) concrete pads for troop billets (15 ea 20x70', 6 ea 20x40').

d. Construction Materials: Although the availability of construction materials was generally adequate during the period, the items listed below have not been available, from either the Engineer Class IV Depot or the 1st Log Command Supply Division:

- (1) Electrical Insulators
- (2) Doorlock Sets
- (3) Hinges
- (4) Wood Screws
- (5) AWG 6 Electrical Wire
- (6) Shower Heads

e. Repair and Utilities:

(1) Repair and Utilities facilities in the Long Binh area have not been adequate during the period; however, 1st Log Command is expanding the facilities available, and it is anticipated that support will improve as this progresses. Of twelve (12) work requests submitted during the period, only two (2) have been completed.

(2) The unit has been furnishing electrical power with its tactical

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generators. Although the available power has been adequate, these generators are precision equipment and are part of the unit's maintenance float stock. Efforts have been made to obtain other power equipment by letter request and requisition; however, neither the equipment nor information on its availability has been provided.

(3) A well has been authorized for each of the battery sites. To date two have been started, one (1) each at Headquarters and C Batteries, neither of which is operating due to lack of pumping equipment.

SECTION II: (C) Commanders Observations and Recommendations

1. (C-MHA) Part I: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. ID Card Replacement

(1) Item: ID Cards (DD Form 2A)

(2) Discussion: The importance of replacing lost, mutilated or expired ID Cards is a timely project which must be accomplished with little delay. There are a great number of cards which must be replaced immediately which cannot be done due to the individuals' travel from unit, to UPO and then on to Tan Son Nhut Airbase for pictures, fingerprinting and lamination.

(3) Observation: A mobile photo, fingerprint and lamination laboratory should be set up and operated in the area surrounding Saigon with a schedule to be followed, thus enabling all units in the area to have members needing ID Cards at a designated spot at a given time to accomplish this.

b. Vietnamese Laborers/Usage

(1) Item: Utilization of Vietnamese nationals for site construction and heavy labor.

(2) Discussion: Indigenous personnel who may be employed may be grouped into two (2) categories: (a) Skilled laborers, such as carpenters and masons; (b) Common laborers. Both categories have proved valuable. Skilled laborers provide experienced help in areas not covered in depth by US military personnel. Common laborers provide the necessary work force to build earthworks and perimeter defenses and assist in basic site construction. Work details work best when formed in groups of ten (10) to fifteen (15) with an American supervisor for each detail.

(3) Observation: Employment of local nationals for site construction releases US military personnel to accomplish their primary mission and at the same time creates good will and strengthens the economy and provides needed skills for site construction.

c. Intelligence/Security Clearances

(1) Item: Lack of SECRET clearances.

(2) Discussion: Personnel being assigned in MOS 16E (Fire Control Operator) and MOS 17H (Fire Distribution Operator) do not have a high enough

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security clearance to allow them to work in the Battery Control Centrals and Battalion Operations Central respectively.

(3) Observation: Personnel being trained in these MOS's be processed for a SECRET clearance while attending school.

d. Chemical/Protective Ointment Kit

(1) Item: Deterioration of Protective Ointment Kit.

(2) Discussion: Protective Ointment Kit M5A1 (FSN 6850-138-4425) and one of its contents, Protective Ointment M5 (FSN 6850-664-3647), both contents of the protective mask case, are subject to more deterioration in tropical climate.

(3) Observation: Inspection and replacement of this kit and its components is required more frequently in Vietnam.

e. Chemical/M-17 Protective Masks

(1) Item: Deterioration of the rubber flutter valves in the M-17 Protective Masks.

(2) Discussion: The rubber flutter valves in the M-17 Protective Mask tends to deteriorate and become sticky under the climatic conditions experienced in Vietnam. The greatest deterioration has occurred in masks issued to individuals and which are stored in the tents in which the troops are billeted.

(3) Observation: The masks must be inspected weekly and the valves replaced at the first sign of deterioration.

f. Engineer/Construction

(1) Item: Ventilation duct on tropical type buildings.

(2) Discussion: The ventilation duct on top of tropical type buildings, as designed by the engineers, cannot be constructed in such a manner as to prevent blowing rain from entering the building. Several attempts were made at redesigning this duct, but all attempts met with unsuccessful results.

(3) Observation: By omitting the ventilation duct and capping off the roof with corrugated tin sheets, treated at the seams with tar, the problem of leakage was solved. It should be noted that there was no appreciable loss in draft or ventilation caused by this modification, and a saving in labor and material was realized.

g. Engineer/Generators, 45KW, 400 Cycle

(1) Item: Shorting due to moisture in the "Hercules" power plugs.

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(2) Discussion: During heavy rains, several of the 45KW, 400 cycle generators developed short circuits, resulting in a loss of power to the tactical equipment. Investigation revealed that moisture was introduced through the air intake on the generator. The moisture from the air collected behind and around the "Hercules" power outlets causing the short circuits. After disconnecting these outlets, short circuits during rainstorms have been reduced approximately 90%.

(3) Observation: Short circuits of 45KW, 400 cycle generators during rainstorms may be substantially reduced by disconnecting the "Hercules" power outlets.

h. Ordnance/Launcher Control Unit (HAWK)

(1) Item: Launcher Control Units shorting out from moisture.

(2) Discussion: Moisture has accumulated on the electrical components inside the Launcher Control Units causing numerous problems, i.e., Launcher going to standby when placed in remote, personnel receiving electrical shocks when touching bare metal, erratic response to handwheels in both azimuth and elevation. There are several steps that can be taken to minimize the moisture inside of the LCU.

1. Tape the pressure equalizer valve with water proof tape.
2. Place small bags of dessicant inside the LCU.
3. Place synthetic rubber cement FSN 8040-262-9011 around all external screws.

(3) Observation: To preclude the entry of water, all units stationed in an area where heavy rains are prevalent should be urged to adopt the precautions stated above.

i. Ordnance/Melting Cables

(1) Item: Melting of interconnecting cables in HAWK Launchers, XM78E3.

(2) Discussion: The insulating compound in the cable heads of the launcher and the compound that forms the joints where cables branch off has been melting to an excessive degree in the launchers of this organization. Absence of this insulation could, and has in many cases, caused short circuits and equipment malfunctions.

(3) Observation: Early replacement of the melted cables can be facilitated by a vigorous inspection program of all launchers where high temperatures and humidity prevail.

j. Ordnance/Drainage of Operators Compartment, Loader Transporter XM501E2.

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9 August 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

(1) Item: Water standing in the operators compartment of the Loader Transporter XM501E2.

(2) Discussion: After rain, water has been left standing in the operator's compartment, especially under the steering levers and transfer case. At present no drainage exists in these locations.

(3) Observation: Drilling $\frac{1}{4}$ inch holes in the two locations mentioned above would permit better drainage of the operator's compartment.

k. Ordnance/Vehicle Lubrication

(1) Item: Excessive wear on lubrication points of the $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck, M151.

(2) Discussion: During extreme dry or wet weather it seems that lubricating of the M151 every 1000 miles does not prevent undue wear.

(3) Observation: Lubrication of $\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck M151 every 500 miles would reduce wear at lubrication points.

l. Medical/Typhus Immunisation

(1) Item: Epidemic Typhus Immunization.

(2) Discussion: USARV Regulation 40-7, 2 Nov 1965 does not require epidemic typhus immunization. Persons traveling on R&R must have had epidemic typhus immunization within one year in order to enter R&R countries.

(3) Observation: Update epidemic typhus immunization on people planning to go on R&R.

m. Signal Battery Deterioration

(1) Item: Deterioration of dry batteries for the IM-174 and AN/PDR-27 Meters.

(2) Discussion: Dry batteries of all types tend to deteriorate very rapidly under the climatic conditions experienced in Vietnam. The stock on hand of most types of batteries are rotated through normal usage. However, the IM-174 and AN/PDR-27 have received use only for inspection and training in Vietnam. The batteries for these instruments deteriorate faster than the stock is normally exhausted through use.

(3) Observation: Store the batteries in as cool and dry an area as is possible. The batteries should be inspected at least monthly for signs of leakage, rust, or other deterioration. Also, the batteries should be placed in the meter and checked for proper voltage output on a monthly basis.

2. (C) PART II: Recommendations

a. PERSONNEL REPLACEMENT (OFFICER): Recommend a closer observation be kept on assignments and cancellation of assignments of officer personnel. Orders assigning personnel to this unit have been cancelled without the unit's

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966, Reports
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being informed of the cancellation. This situation has occurred primarily wherein order issuing agencies below Department of the Army level have issued orders without furnishing a copy of these orders to this unit. This resulted in the false assumption that personnel were scheduled to arrive to fill vacancies on a specific date; whereas, they actually had been diverted without our knowledge.

b. PERSONNEL REPLACEMENT (Highly Skilled Enlisted Personnel): Recommend a vigorous program be instituted to insure critical personnel with high skill MOS are provided to the units in the combat zone when a shortage exists. Apparently the world wide Army needs for these personnel are not in consonance with programming of these personnel.

c. INTELLIGENCE: That personnel being trained in MOS 16E (Fire Control Operator) and 17H (Fire Distribution Operator) be processed for and granted a SECRET clearance prior to being assigned duty in Vietnam.

d. SUPPLY: (1) That a Table of Allowance be established for units stationed in Vietnam.

(2) That sufficient quantities of office machines be made available.

(3) That ammunition supply points establish a "due out" system for ammunition orders so that units making request will be assured of receiving items required. Present system of "fill or kill" requires personnel to be at ASP when item is on hand.

James L. Hollis
JAMES L. HOLLIS
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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AVAAA (16 Aug 66)

1st Ind

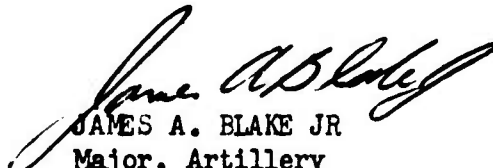
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the Period 1 May
1966 to 31 July 1966. (RCS CSG PO-28 (R1))(U)

HEADQUARTERS, 97TH ARTILLERY GROUP (AD), APO 96307 16 Aug 66

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVC, APO 96307

(U) This headquarters concur in the report contained in the basic
letter.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JAMES A. BLAKE JR
Major, Artillery
Adjutant

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOB DIR 5200.10

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97GPC 750-66

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AVHGC-DH (16 Aug 66)

2d Ind

05 SEP 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the Period 1 May 66 to 31 Jul 66. (RCS CSCPO-28 (R1)) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

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

1. (U) Basic document returned for compliance with para 2 and 3, unclassified message, AVHGG 21590, Subj: Indorsement of Operational Reports, Lessons Learned, 180255 Aug 66.
2. (U) Message in para 1 above was distributed after 1st Indorsement was made by Headquarters, 97th Artillery Group (AD).
3. (U) Unit preparing basic report has not complied with para 6d, Appendix II to USARV Reg 870-2, dated 19 Jul 66.
4. (U) Request attached ORLL be returned to this headquarters with appropriate indorsement by 10 Sep 66.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. J. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

AVGH-A

3rd Ind (U)

S: 9 Sep 66

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

5 Sep 66

TO: Commanding Officer, 6th Battalion, 71st Artillery, APO 96312

For compliance with para 3, 2nd Ind, and return to this headquarters NLT 9 Sept 66.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



DUANE D. MILLER
MAJ, Artillery
Adjutant

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97GPC 728-66

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AVGHFC (9 August 66)

4th Ind (U)

06 Sep 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the Period 1 May 66 to
31 Jul 66. (RCS CSGPO-28 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 6TH BATTALION, 56TH ARTILLERY, APO San Francisco 96491

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

1. (U) Paragraph 6d, Appendix II, USARV Reg 870-2, dated 19 July 1966, was complied with by this headquarters.

2. (U) A classified document receipt, DA Form 1204, signed by Major Ronald E. Synder, XO G3, on 10 August 1966, and addressed to Deputy Commanding General; United States Army, Vietnam; ATTN: AVHGC; APO 96307; reflects that 3 copies of basic document were received by USARV on 10 August 1966.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


DAVID W. BAUER
Captain, Artillery
Adjutant

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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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AVGH-CO (9 Aug 66) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the Period 1 May 1966
to 31 July 1966 (RCS CSGPO-28 (R1))(U)

HEADQUARTERS, 97TH ARTILLERY GROUP (AD), APO 96307 11 September 1966

TO: Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

(C) Following comments are furnished in compliance with par 4, 2nd Ind (Paragraphs refer to basic document):

2 (C) Personnel

2b. Requisitions have been submitted and validated for all MOS shortages. There has been a substantial increase in most of the common MOS skills; however there is still a shortage in some hard skill MOS's. Three school trained EM possessing MOS 23T (HAWK Search Radar Repairman) arrived during this period, which helped to alleviate a critical problem area. DA has indicated that there is a critical shortage world wide. It is anticipated that in most MOS, normal requisition procedures will restore a temporary imbalance due to a peak in rotation as a result of a September 1965 arrival in country.

2d. All officer replacements have now arrived with the exception of Unit Supply Technician (MOS 761A) and Operations Officer (FDS) (MOS 1180, LT). This shortage is not considered critical.

2e. All 270 recommendations for award of the USARV Certificate of Achievement have now been approved.

3 (C) Intelligence

3f. The problem of SECRET security clearances for MOS 16E (Fire Control Operator) and 17H (Fire Distribution Operator) was discussed recently with a representative of the United States Army Air Defense School, Fort Bliss, Texas during a liaison visit to this headquarters. The School is aware of the problem and is taking corrective action.

5 (C) Logistics

5a(2)(a). It is suggested that the shortage of office machines and equipment, typewriters and office desks could be alleviated by authorizing appropriate Tables of Allowances for units in Vietnam. This would provide for equitable distribution.

5a(2)(c) and (d). The battalion as well as this headquarters will continue to pursue an aggressive supply replenishment program with appropriate follow-up action. However, it is recognized that other type

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5th Ind (Cont)

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned for the Period 1 May 1966 to 31 July 1966 (RCS CSGPO-28 (R1))(U)

units will have a higher priority for certain items that are in short supply, i.e. trucks for transportation companies, mortars, grenade launchers and pyrotechnics for combat units.

5a(5)(b)2a and b. This headquarters has initiated follow-up action on these items.

5c. Construction:

Provision of Engineer support and civilian contract construction must compete with other priority projects. More rapid progress has been observed recently. This effort is continually monitored by this headquarters.

5d. Construction Materials:

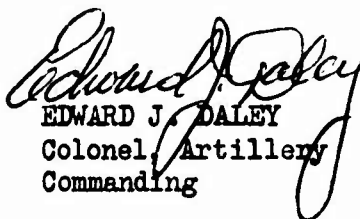
The problem area is under investigation by this headquarters.

5e. Repair and Utilities:

The problem area is under investigation by this headquarters.

Section II. (C) Commanders Observations and Recommendations.

All of the commanders observations and recommendations are considered valid. This headquarters will initiate action to accomplish the objectives indicated. Those actions which are beyond the capability of this headquarters will be forwarded to Hq, USARV with specific recommendations.


EDWARD J. DALEY
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVHGC-DH

6th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Period Ending 31 July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

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

03 OCT 1966

1. (U) The Operational Report-Lessons Learned submitted by the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery is forwarded herewith.

2. (U) This headquarters concurs with the basic report and 5th Indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

3. (U) Reference Paragraph 2, 5th Indorsement: Personnel strength status as shown in referenced paragraph has been verified. (Note comment by the Commanding Officer 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery in Part II, Paragraph 2b, PERSONNEL REPLACEMENT.)

4. (U) Reference Paragraph 2a, Part II: Officer replacement procedures are currently being reviewed at this headquarters. New procedures developed from this review will include the notification of units concerned when diversions are made.

5. (U) Reference Paragraph 2d(1), Part II: Present Tables of Allowance are applicable to units in Vietnam. Increases and/or decreases to Tables of Allowance can be obtained by use of the procedures as shown in the appropriate Table of Allowance.

6. (U) Reference Paragraph 2d(2), Part II: Officer machines continue to be in short supply in Vietnam. Over 5,700 type-writers are due in as of September 1966. Action is being taken to expedite receipt of these items still critically short.

7. (U) Reference Paragraph 2 d(3), Part II: Establishment of a due out system for ammunition is not feasible at the present time. Units who have urgent requirements must have priority over those with a routine resupply request.

FOR THE COMMANDER



R. J. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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10-14

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GPOP-OT(9 Aug 66)

7th Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 2 DEC 1966

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

1. (U) This headquarters concurs in basic report as indorsed.
2. (C) Reference Section I, paragraph 5a: Page 6 - Lack of document numbers and specific information precludes this headquarters from initiating follow-up on shortages. Launcher M79 and Mortar 81mm are in critical short supply and the possibility of this unit receiving these weapons in the next six months is remote because of shortages in Infantry units. Pyrotechnic items are in short supply.
3. (U) Reference Section I, paragraph 5b: Pages 8 and 9 - HAWK units in RVN have more than the normal quantities of maintenance float items. Operational Readiness Reports (STAPORTS) submitted weekly do not indicate that either 60 cycle or 400 cycle generators limit the unit's operational availability.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


D. A. HARRISON
Capt, AGC
Asst AG

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