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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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BY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (1 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-674180

14 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th  
Battalion, 9th Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by  
USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in  
accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and cor-  
rective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of re-  
ceipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure  
appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current  
operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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CO, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 7TH BATTALION, 9TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96370

AVGAW-C

1 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer  
54th Artillery Group  
ATTN: AVGA-C  
APO 96376

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-PAC  
APO 96266

Commanding General  
United States Army Vietnam  
ATTN: AVHGC-DH  
APO 96375

Commander in Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO 96558

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

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DOD DIR 5200.10*

FOR OT RD DTK 5200.10  
674180

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1 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

**SECTION I**

**SIGNIFICANT HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT ACTIVITIES**

1. (C) Administration and Personnel.

a. The 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery remains assigned to the 54th Artillery Group, APO 96376, RVN.

b. Normal S-1 activities were conducted during the period 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967.

c. Personnel strength of the command on 31 October 1967 was:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOE AUTH</u>			<u>ASSIGNED</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Headquarters Battery	15	0	112	13	0	105
A Battery	6	0	106	6	0	101
B Battery	6	0	106	6	0	102
C Battery	6	0	106	6	0	102
Service Battery	2	3	70	2	3	68
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<u>35</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>500</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>478</u>

d. Critical MOS shortages:

(1) Asst Commo, LT, 0200

(2) IO, CPT, 51193

(3) Chief of Sections, E-6, 13B40 - 5

e. Personnel changes during this quarter include:

<u>GAINS:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>LOSSES:</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
	26	3	236		22	3	276

f. Casualties include:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed in Action	0
Wounded in Action	0
Missing in Action	0
Non Battle Dead	0
Non Battle Casualties	0

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g. Awards and Decorations presented to members of this command include:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Bronze Star (Valor)	2
1LT Jerald R. Popejoy, 05420341	
1LT John M. Urling, 05420356	
Bronze Star (Merit)	28
Air Medal	7
Commendation Medal (Valor)	5
PFC Micheal K. Gurley, US53445423	
PFC Willis Gladney, RA15803384	
1LT Paul I. Peterson, 05420348	
PFC Douglas J. Odlaug, US56411517	
1LT James E. Shaddix, 05420348	
Commendation Medal (Merit)	24
Legion Merit	1

h. Judicial and Non-Judicial action of units include:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>	<u>SUMMARY COURT</u>	<u>SPECIAL COURT</u>	<u>GENERAL COURT</u>
Headquarters, Battery	4	0	0	0
A Battery	8	1	0	0
B Battery	4	0	0	0
C Battery	10	1	0	0
Service Battery	8	0	0	0
TOTALS:	34	2	0	0

i. Pertinent medical service statistics include:

Total Patient visits (unit personnel)	1348
Admitted to hospital	9
Evacuated within country	0
Malaria cases	1

j. Reportable accidents include:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>VEHICLE</u>	<u>AIRCRAFT</u>	<u>PERSONNEL</u>
Headquarters Battery	1	0	0
A Battery	0	0	0
B Battery	0	0	0
C Battery	0	0	0
Service Battery	0	0	0
TOTALS:	1	0	0

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k. Educational opportunities for personnel of the unit are provided by USAFI extension courses and the Educational Center, Long Binh Post.

2. (U) Intelligence.

a. Battalion air observers flew 176 missions during the reporting period. Type missions flown were:

(1) Convoy cover.

(2) Reconnaissance.

(3) Aerial Observed fire missions.

b. No combat or reconnaissance patrols were conducted.

3. (U) Training.

During the rating period this battalion conducted training in FADAC operations for battery FDC personnel. The batteries conducted weapons familiarization training when facilities and missions permit. Formal type cannoner drill was conducted a minimum of 40 minutes per day in order to increase speed and improve accuracy of artillery fires. All batteries of the battalion are continuing on the job training programs. In addition, the batteries also conducted training in field sanitation, first aid, and sentry duty.

4. (C) Operations.

a. The beginning of the reporting period found Battery A located at grid YS 436975 with the mission of Direct Support to the 3d Squadron, 5th Armored Cavalry. Battery B was located at Xuan Loc with the mission of base camp defense. On 1 August 1967, Battery C displaced to grid YS 209934 for participation in Operation Forsythe. They were attached to the 9th Infantry Division, Direct Support, Company A, 2d Battalion, 39th Infantry.

b. Battery A displaced to grid YS 448860 on 6 August 1967, still with the mission of DS to the 3d Squadron, 5th AC.

c. On 10 August 1967, Battery C moved to Xuan Loc with the mission of General Support Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery.

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d. After spending the night of 10 August 1967 in Bien Hoa, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery moved to Fire Support/Patrol Base "Hotel" grid YT 103208. The mission of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery (-) was General Support, II Field Force Vietnam, reinforcing 1st Infantry Division Artillery (1st Battalion, 5th Artillery). This operation was a search and destroy mission conducted by the Vietnamese 5th and 6th Marine Battalions into the eastern portion of AO Strike, which is controlled by the 1st Infantry Division. The Headquarters element directly controlled the fires of Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. Battery C, 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery and through cooperation and coordination controlled the fires of the Vietnamese Marine 105mm Artillery Battery.

e. On 11 August 1967, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to grid YS 455895. Again on 12 August 1967, Battery A moved to grid YS 444866. Their mission continued to be DS to the 3d Squadron, 5th AC.

f. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to Bearcat on 15 August 1967, with the mission of base camp defense.

g. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery was released from the Vietnamese Marine operation in AO Strike and returned to Bearcat with the mission of base camp defense. On 17 August 1967, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to grid YT 205125 with the mission of GSR to the 18th ARVN Division Artillery with a priority of fires to ARVN Cavalry and 52d ARVN Rangers. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery returned to a base camp defense role at Bearcat on 18 August 1967. On 21 August 1967, Battery B was attached to the 9th Infantry Division to participate in Operation Akron II. Initially they moved to grid YS 435962. On 22 August 1967 Battery B displaced to grid YS 361943, and on 24 August 1967 to grid YS 230803, and finally on 25 August 1967, to grid YS 228800. On 25 August 1967, Battery B displaced again to Bearcat with the mission of base camp defense.

h. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to grid YT 024151 with the mission of GSR to the 1st Infantry Division Artillery. They were under the operational control of the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery.

i. On 2 September 1967, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to Blackhorse grid YS 444978 for the purpose of base camp defense. Battery B was attached to the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On the same day, Battery C returned to Bearcat with the mission of base camp defense.

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j. Operation Emporia IV: On 4 September 1967, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to grid YT 435299 to participate in Operation Emporia IV. Their mission was GSR to the 1st Squadron, 11th ACR. On 8 September 1967, Battery B displaced to Blackhorse grid YS 432974 to provide base camp defense. They were attached to the 3d Squadron, 11th ACR. On 12 September 1967, the battery moved to Xuan Loc where they were under the operational control of the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery.

k. On 5 September 1967, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery moved to Bearcat and Battery C moved to Xuan Loc both with the mission of base camp defense. The next day, Battery A displaced to grid YS 228803 to participate in Operation Akron II, where their mission was DS to the 3d Squadron, 5th AC.

l. On 9 September 1967, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery moved to AO Strike where they were GSR to the 9th Division Artillery and under the operational control of the 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery.

m. Operation Uniontown: On 11 September 1967, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery proceeded to grid YT 081158 in DS of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, 1st Infantry Division, to participate in Operation Uniontown. Two howitzers displaced to grid YT 138132 on 15 September 1967, and returned on the same day. On 16 September 1967, two howitzers were again sent to the same coordinates and returned the same day. On 21 September 1967, two howitzers displaced to grid YT 114220. All these moves were in direct support of 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. On 15 September 1967, Battery A assumed the mission of DS to the 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry of the 9th Infantry Division. On 2 October 1967, the Battery moved to grid YT 033172 still DS to the 2d Battalion, 47th Infantry. On 18 October 1967, three howitzers moved to grid YT 102209 with the mission of DS to the Special Forces and ARVN units. On 27 October 1967, the three howitzers returned to their original location.

n. Operation Quicksilver III: On 13 September 1967 Battery B, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery took part in an airmobile operation to grid YT 708023 to participate in Operation Quicksilver III. They were GSR to the 18th ARVN Division. On 14 September 1967, Battery B returned to Xuan Loc where they were under the operational control of the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery. On 20 September 1967, Battery B moved to grid YT 548061, where their mission was again GSR to the 18th ARVN Division. On 20 September 1967, the Battery returned to Xuan Loc for base camp defense. On 15 October 1967, Battery B moved to grid YT 447254, where their mission was GSR to the 18th ARVN Division. On 17 October 1967, Battery B returned to

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Xuan Loc for base camp defense. On 18 October 1967, Battery B proceeded to grid YT 550114 and returned to Xuan Loc the same day. The mission continued to be GSR to the 18th ARVN Division.

o. On 22 September 1967, Battery C, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery participated in Operation Richmond. They were located at grid YT 590402 and were GSR to the 3d Squadron, 11th ACR. On 28 September 1967, Battery C returned to Bearcat where they were GSR to the 9th Division Artillery. On 1 October 1967, Battery A moved to grid XT 906070. Their mission was GSR to the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division Artillery. On 4 October 1967, Battery C moved to Lai Khe grid XT 75743716 with the mission of GSR to the 1st Division Artillery and base camp defense. On 29 October 1967, the Battery moved from Lai Khe to Bien Hoa grid YT 029090 with the mission of GSR to the 9th Division Artillery with a priority of fires to the Dong Nai sensitive area.

p. The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition listed below:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>AMMUNITION EXPENDED</u>
A Battery	4,141	8,852
B Battery	3,605	13,432
C Battery	3,452	12,718
TOTALS:	11,198	35,002

5. (U) Logistics.

a. Logistical activities for the period of this report consisted of normal resupply of this Battalion. Approximately 13,398 miles were traveled by Service Battery elements in support missions and 728 tons of ammunition were transported by the ammunition train.

b. The quantity of ammunition transported during this period from the ammunition supply point was 687 tons.

6. (U) Civic Action.

a. Food packages were distributed to the Queen of Peace Orphanage, Bien Hoa.

b. The Battalion Surgeon and Medical Section treated approximately 900 people while participating in the MEDCAP program in the villages of Long Thanh, Phouc Nguyen and Nuoc Trong. In conjunction with the MEDCAP program, soap was donated to needy personnel living in the Bearcat area.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
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SECTION II  
PART I, OBSERVATION

1. (U) Personnel and Administration. NONE
2. (U) Intelligence. NONE
3. (U) Training and Organization. NONE
4. (C) Operations:

ITEM: Effective Use of Artillery by ARVN.

DISCUSSION: Considerable experience was gained by the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery in supporting ARVN operations during this reporting period. During recent operations ARVN units have been reluctant to use artillery in direct support of their maneuver elements. On several occasions, this battalion had tried to convince both the American advisors and the ARVN commanders on the value of artillery in contributing to highly successful operations.

OBSERVATION: Through the efforts of American commanders and advisors, ARVN commanders are now beginning to show increased interest in the use of artillery in supporting their operations. It is hoped that the eventual effect will be that ARVN commanders will begin to utilize their own artillery more effectively.

ITEM: Utilization of Survey.

DISCUSSION: The Battalion increased its use of survey to a marked degree during the reporting period. By judicious use of air transportation, the Battalion Survey Team has been moved to battery positions to establish control. It had been found that within this Battalion's area of operations good use can be made of the survey data available and on many occasions survey can be brought in to even remote battery positions.

Unless the firing battery is established near a survey control point, the coordinates of its location are usually obtained from a map inspection. The establishment of directional control had been the most important survey requirement encountered. The directional control may be established by four general methods: Azimuth gyro, traverse, astronomical observation, and simultaneous observation. The latter two are being used most frequently by this unit.

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OBSERVATION: Traverse is the slowest method of establishing directional control. Traverse operations may introduce up to 0.1 mil error for each angle turned and the traverse must "close" to guarantee any accuracy at all. This is a problem where there is little or no previous survey control. The security of the survey party could also be a major problem, as the party often may spread over a large area and each member must concentrate on his work and not on the surrounding area. Hence, at least a squad of infantry would have to be attached for their security.

The azimuth gyro creates problems when used to establish directional control during operations due to the sensitivity of the equipment. The equipment is large and bulky and affected easily by rough handling. Difficulty has been encountered by moisture condensing in the control indicator box. In addition, the operation of the azimuth gyro is affected by ground vibrations, moving vehicles, the firing of howitzers, and particularly by wind or air vibrations caused by helicopters.

Astronomical observations such as sun shots or star shots require a minimum of equipment and personnel. Two survey personnel may be dropped with the advance party and have an accurate azimuth established for the fire support base within an hour. These observations are dependent only upon the line of sight to celestial bodies.

Simultaneous observations is the fastest method for establishing or extending directional control. The battalion has used this method to provide directional control to one or more batteries at the same time. Once a battery has control, it may provide it to adjacent batteries.

## SECTION II

### PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration. NONE
2. (U) Intelligence. NONE
3. (U) Training and Organization. NONE
4. (U) Operations:

a. American commanders must continue to stress the importance of artillery to the ARVN commanders and advisors so that ARVN artillery units will be used more effectively in support of ARVN operations.

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AVGAW-C

1 November 1967

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b. A known azimuth base should be established in each base camp for use in simultaneous observations. As long as the batteries do not move out of radio range of the base camp, this method will be the quickest and easiest method of establishing control. If good communications are not established, astronomical observations will be the next desired method. Both methods require a minimum of personnel, equipment, and time when compared to traverse or the azimuth gyro. The battalion should train and utilize their organic survey parties so that as a minimum, accurate directional control can be provided to the firing elements.



ROBERT C. BRECKENRIDGE  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

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13  
AVGA-C (1 Nov 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65, (UIC) WFTJTTOA

HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376

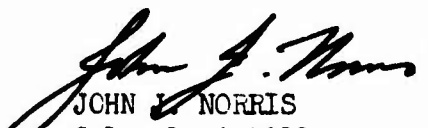
29 Nov 1967

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFB-FAC,  
APO 96266  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH,  
APO 96375  
Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,  
APO 96558

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

1. (U) The quarterly report submitted by 7th Bn, 9th Artillery is considered adequate.
2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, para 4, Effective use of Artillery by ARVN. The 54th Artillery Group has taken specific action to encourage better utilization of artillery by ARVN Commanders. This action includes:
  - a. 54th Artillery Group continues to participate in a 9th Infantry Division Contact Training Program for artillery units of the 18th ARVN Division.
  - b. The 7th Bn, 9th Artillery has established an outstanding working arrangement with the 18th ARVN Division by exchanging Artillery Liaison Officers and Forward Observers during Operation Santa Fe while on a mission of Direct Support to the 43d Regiment.
  - c. Frequent staff visits and briefings between the 54th Artillery Group, 18th ARVN Division, and US Advisors to the 18th ARVN Division are held to further develop the working relationship already established between US and ARVN Artillery.
3. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, para 4, Utilization of Survey. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with the employment of survey methods used by the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery. Other units of the Group have found these methods to be effective and are now using them in much the same manner.
4. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, Recommendations. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with all recommendations of the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery.

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Declassified after 12 years  
DOD DIR 5200.10*

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JOHN L. NORRIS  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

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AVFB-FAC (1 Nov 67) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (U)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV Arty, APO 96266 12 DEC 1967


THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH,  
APO 96307  
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,  
APO 96558

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

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery  
(UIC: WFPJTTOA), adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned  
during the reporting period.

2. (C) Section II, Part I, paragraph 4, Use of Survey. Added em-  
phasis should be placed upon the use of the azimuth gyro as a means of  
establishing directional control. This would provide the unit with the  
capability of establishing accurate direction under all weather and visi-  
bility conditions. Although the equipment is bulky, heavy, and sensitive  
to external disturbances, it is being used effectively by other artillery  
units. Units that do employ the azimuth gyro have developed confidence in  
the equipment through training of instrument operators, employment of  
proper techniques, and experience in its use. This matter has been brought  
to the attention of subordinate units.

3. (U) Section II, Part II, paragraph 4a and b. Concur. Note  
paragraph 2 above.

  
RAYMOND P. MURPHY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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DOD DIR 5200.10*

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AVFBC-RE-H (1 Nov 67)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 October 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (UIC-WDFU TO) (U)

DA HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 18 DEC 1967

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96375  
Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

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

1. Subject report is forwarded.
2. This command has reviewed the attached report and concurs with the comments and recommendations as modified by the preceding Indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
as

  
R. E. VANESGAUSE  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (1 Nov 67) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 27 DEC 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery (DFUT) as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as indorsed. Report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. S. NAKATSUKASA  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

cc: HQ, 7th Bn, 9th Arty  
HQ, II FFORCEV

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GPOP-DT(1 Nov 67) 5th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 October  
1967 from HQ, 7th Bn, 9th Arty (UIC: WFTJAA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 12 JAN 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding  
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

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1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate & Inst)

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310

2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Confidential

2b. GROUP

4

3. REPORT TITLE

Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery

6. REPORT DATE

1 November 1967

7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

16

7b. NO. OF REFS

8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.

b. PROJECT NO.

N/A

8a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

674180

8b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

N/A

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310

13. ABSTRACT

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