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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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Lessons Learned

HEADQUARTERS,

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

2D HOWITZER BATTALION, 35TH ARTILLERY

APO San Francisco 96376

11

AVGAY-C

9

11 November 1967

SUBJECT:

Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967.  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

AD 394059

THRU:

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

12 15 p.

18 OACSFOR

THRU:

Commanding General  
II Field Force Artillery Vietnam  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
APO San Francisco 96375

19 OT-RD-674070

THRU:

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

THRU:

Commander-In-Chief  
United States Army Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-OT  
APO San Francisco 96558

TO:

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

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## SECTION I

### Significant Headquarters or Unit Activities

#### 1. (C) Administration and Personnel

a. The 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery remained assigned to the 54th Artillery Group. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Battery B base camp at XUAN LOC, YT473097. Battery A maintained a permanent base camp at NUI DAT, YS428665. Battery C received verbal approval of Commanding General IIFORCEV to establish a permanent base camp at BIEN HOA, YTO25148 on 25 September 1967. Service Battery maintained a permanent base camp at LONG BINH, XTO56116.

#### b. Command changes:

(1) Captain George Benjamin assumed command of Headquarters Battery from Captain George Kent on 9 August 1967.

(2) Captain Jean O Kendeigh assumed command of Battery A from Captain Carl L Freeman on 20 August 1967.

(3) Captain Hartmuth D Guenther assumed command of Battery C from Captain Craig L Jensen on 20 August 1967.

(4) Captain Johnson E Pennywell assumed command of Service Battery from Captain Jean O Kendeigh on 18 August 1967.

(5) 1LT Alden L Roberson assumed command of Headquarters Battery from Captain George Benjamin on 2 October 1967.

c. Normal S1 activities were conducted during the period 1 August 1967 through 31 October 1967.

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

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOE AUTH</u>			<u>GO AUTH*</u>			<u>ASSIGNED</u>		
	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
HQ Battery	15	0	112	15	1	129	14	1	112
Battery A	3	0	117	5	0	121	5	0	109
Battery B	3	0	117	5	0	121	5	0	110
Battery C	3	0	117	5	0	121	5	0	123
SVC Battery	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>82</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>97</u>
TOTALS	27	3	545	33	4	574	32	4	551

\*General Order Number 80, HQ, 5th US Army, dated 20 April 1966, authorized the strengths shown. The pending MTOE for this unit reflects these figures.

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e. The following critical NCO shortages exist:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
13B40	Gunner	E-5	24	8
13E40	Recon Sergeant	E-5	8	4
36K40	Wire Team Chief	E-5	10	3

f. Personnel changes during this quarter included:

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>
Gains	15	1	91
Losses (DEROS)	14	1	142
Infusion	0	0	0

g. Casualties included:

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Killed In Action	0
Wounded In Action	8
Missing In Action	0
Non-Battle Dead	0
Non-Battle Missing	0
Non-Battle Casualties	0

h. Pertinent medical service statistics included:

Total Patient Visits (Unit Personnel)	695
Admitted to Hospital	31
Evacuated within Country	38
Malaria Cases	1

i. Judicial and Non-Judicial Punishment:

SPC-2          SUM-1          ART 15-26

j. Reportable Accidents:

Personnel-2          Vehicle-1

k. Awards and Decorations Presented to Members of the Command:

Silver Star - 0	Army Commendation Medal(V) - 0
Legion of Merit - 0	Army Commendation Medal(M) - 12
Bronze Star(Valor) - 0	Army Commendation Medal(A) - 9
Bronze Star(Achievement) - 4	Purple Heart - 6
Bronze Star(Merit) - 26	Purple Heart (OLC) - 0
Air Medal(Merit) - 8	
Air Medal(OLC) - 2	

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## 2. (C) Intelligence

a. The battalion continues its mission to provide aerial observers for visual reconnaissance in the XUAN LOC area. The area of responsibility is generally limited by the range of the 175mm guns. The average number of missions and hours flown per day is four missions and nine hours respectively. The battalion has two (2) O-1 aircraft allocated on a daily basis utilizing one O-1 in the morning and the other in the afternoon. The battalion has also observed artillery fire on special targets received from IIFORCEV Arty.

b. The camp perimeter has been reconstructed. The berm was straightened at the north end of the compound and one guard post eliminated. New wire was laid at the north end of the compound. The tall grass between the outer and inner protective fences was cut. 140 new trip flares have been placed at the north end of the compound. Four bunkers have been constructed and relocated for better visibility and coverage.

c. On September 14th, this year, the S2 Section received a semi-annual security inspection by 54th Artillery Group with a rating of satisfactory.

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## 3. (U) Training

a. The scheduling of mandatory subjects for the batteries is accomplished by battalion operations due to the frequent operational commitments of the batteries. While on operations, suitable subjects are integrated into the normal performance of duties. To maintain, improve and expand job skills within the battalion, on the job and cross-training are being given continuous emphasis.

b. During the period 5-9 September, seven members of this unit attended FADAC operator and maintenance technician courses of instruction at BAE CAT. Upon return to their respective batteries, these individuals taught the remainder of their FDC Sections the operation of the FADAC.

c. During September, the Battalion S4 Section conducted classes in PLL procedures and stockage levels to battery PLL clerks and supply personnel.

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## 4. (C) Operations

a. At the beginning of the reporting period the battalion was deployed and executed missions as follows:

(1) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery was located at XUAN LOC, grid YT473097, provided normal support to the battalion, and was responsible for base camp defense.

(2) Service Battery was located at LONG BINH, grid YTO56116, and provided normal support to the battalion.

(3) Battery A was located at grid WS978399, attached to the 9th Infantry Division in General Support of the 9th Infantry Division Artillery during Operation CORONADO II.

(4) Battery B was located at FS/PB grid YT380265, in Direct Support of the 3d Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, during Operation EMPORIA II.

(5) Battery C was located at BIEN HOA FS/PB grid YTO24147, in General Support Reinforcing the 1st Infantry Division Artillery.

b. Battery A departed field location, grid WS978399 on 2 August 1967, was loaded on barges and moved to their base camp at NUI DAT, YS42866, closing on 4 August to assume the mission of General Support IIFORCEV Arty Reinforcing the 1st Bn, 83d Artillery.

c. On 3 August 1967, Battery B displaced to a FS/PB at grid YT580393, further displacing to a FS/PB at YT587042 on 5 August to support a clearing operation along Highway 20 in Long Khanh Province. Battery B deployed to a FS/PB at grid YT389262 on 16 August, returning to XUAN LOC base camp on 17 August with no change in mission.

d. On 9 August, Battery A displaced to a field location at YS 464779, General Support Reinforcing the 1st Australian Task Force on Operation BALLARAT. Battery A returned to base camp at NUI DAT on 11 Aug.

e. On 11 August, Battery C moved from BIEN HOA FS/PB to FS/PB HOTEL, YT101208, General Support Reinforcing the 1st Infantry Division Arty and under the operational control of the 7th Battalion 9th Artillery. Battery C returned to BIEN HOA on 16 August.

f. On 21 August, Battery B made a night road march to be in position at FS/PB at YS357945, to fire the next morning. The battery was in Direct Support of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment and attached to the 9th Infantry Division. On 25 August, Battery B's mission changed to General Support Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery and moved to a FS/PB at YS361865 for two days before returning to base camp at XUAN LOC on 27 August, General Support IIFORCEV Artillery Reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division.

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g. On 25 August, Battery A moved from a base camp to a FS/PB at grid YS228803 on Operation RILLY II with the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery until 28 August when the mission was changed to Direct Support of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment. On 2 September, Battery A and Headquarters, 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment underwent a mortar attack of 25-30 rounds at their position. Counter mortar, self-illumination and direct fires were fired.

h. On 4 September, Battery B moved from base camp in XUAN LOC to a FS/PB at YS228803 to relieve Battery A in place with a mission of Direct Support to the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment. Battery A returned to base camp at NUI DAT, YS428665 with the mission of General Support IIFORCEV Artillery Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 83d Artillery.

i. On 9 September, Battery C moved from BIN HOA FS/PB to a FS/PB at grid YT209127 for Operation QUICKSILVER II with a mission of General Support IIFORCEV Reinforcing the 18th ARVN Division. A liaison team of one officer, one NCO and one enlisted man was dispatched with the 43d ARVN Regiment, 18th ARVN Division. Battery C returned to its FS/PB at BIN HOA on 11 September and assumed the mission of General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery.

j. On 18 September, Battery A moved from base camp to a FS/PB at YS463779 as General Support Reinforcing the 1st Australian Task Force for Operation AKROF II while Battery B moved from a FS/PB at YS228803 to a FS/PB at YS361865. On 21 September, Battery A returned to its base camp at NUI DAT and resumed a mission of General Support IIFORCEV Artillery Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 83d Artillery. Battery B moved to a new FS/PB at YS428886 still in Direct Support of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment. On 22 September, Battery B displaced to a FS/PB at YS445868 and returned to FS/PB BROWN, YS228803 on 23 Sep with no change in mission.

k. On 25 September, Battery C attached one howitzer and crew to the 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery to participate in the RIVERINE Test.

l. On 25 September, Battery A moved from base camp to FS/PB at YS453779 to provide fires and illumination along route 2 in support of the 1st Brigade, 9th Infantry Division and the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment on AKROF II. Battery A returned to base camp on 28 September.

m. On 29 September, Battery A moved from base camp to a FS/PB at YS493618 on Operation KINMORE with a mission of General Support IIFORCEV Reinforcing the 4th Royal Australian Artillery Regiment as the 3d RA Cavalry Regiment moved along route 23. Battery A returned to base camp on 1 October.

n. On 30 September, Battery C moved from base camp to FS/PB BROWN, YS227608, and relieved, in place, Battery B, of its mission of Direct Support of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry Regiment. Battery B moved to BIN HOA FS/PB and assumed a mission of General Support IIFORCEV Artillery Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery.

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o. On 14 October, Battery B departed BINH HOA FS/PB to board barges at Newport, XS8994, for the trip south to French Fort at RACH CAT, YS894616. Battery B was attached to the 9th Infantry Division and assumed a mission of reinforcing the 2d Battalion 4th Artillery with priority of fires to the 3d Battalion, 39th Infantry on Operation ENTERPRISE.

p. On 25 October, Battery C was released from the 9th Infantry Division and returned to its base camp at BINH HOA, General Support Reinforcing the 9th Infantry Division Artillery. While in base camp, Battery C moved two howitzers and FDC to FS/PB HOTEL, FT102208 on 29 October to support the 9th Infantry Division operations in that area.

q. Total missions and rounds fired by the battalion from 1 Aug to 31 Oct are as follows:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL MISSIONS</u>	<u>TOTAL ROUNDS</u>
Battery A	4286	13,954
Battery B	3857	16,782
Battery C	<u>7000</u>	<u>12,557</u>
TOTALS	15,143	50,294

5. (U) Logistics: None

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## 6. (U) Civic Actions

a. During the period 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967 the Battalion Civic Action MEDCAP Team concentrated its activities in the assigned sector of Long Khanh Province, with particular emphasis on the village of TAN LAP which consists of five (5) hamlets. Local GVN, RF/PF and civilian leaders worked closely with the team to coordinate activities. All projects were a joint effort, with US Personnel providing material and technical assistance as required.

b. The MEDCAP Team, headed by the Battalion Surgeon, treated 225 patients through visits to TAN LAP. Approximately six of these patients were admitted to the province hospital at XUAN LOC, or required follow up action of some nature. An immunization program for school children was implemented at TAN LAP. 245 children have received DTP and smallpox immunizations. In addition, approximately 50 Vietnamese civilians were treated in the field by battery medics during this period. During this period the Battalion MEDCAP Team began using a helicopter for MEDCAP visits. This method of travel was a great improvement over the previous mode of travel, i.e. armed convoys. It provided greater security, less coordination, and required fewer security personnel.

c. The village of TAN LAP received assistance in the form of fortification material, lumber, cement, school supplies, soap and food items.

d. The Civic Action Team assisted the XUAN LOC Orphanage through the contribution of food items and soap.

## 7. (U) Communications

a. Telephones used in the battalion restricted areas have been modified to prevent the inadvertent transmission of classified information.

b. One AN/GRC-46, Radio Teletypewriter Set was modified for secure teletype communications.

c. Supply of communications repair parts continues to be extremely limited.

## SECTION II

### Part I-Observations

1. (U) Personnel and Administration: None

2. (U) Intelligence: None

3. (U) Training and Organization: None

4. (C) Operations:

a. ITEM: Designed load carrying capability of Cargo Carrier, M548.

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b. **DISCUSSION:** Experience has shown that the M548 cannot carry maximum payloads over unfavorable jungle terrain. The cargo carrier was designed to carry 88 full service rounds.

c. **OBSERVATION:** This load causes the M548 fuel system to break down while moving uphill on muddy jungle trails. Alternate loading tests have shown that the M548 is capable of moving in this environment when loaded with only 60 full service rounds.

5. (U) **Logistics:** None

6. (U) **Civic Actions:** None

7. (C) **Communications:**

a. **ITEM:** AM radio transmitter failures. This item was listed in the previous operational report and continues to be a problem.

b. **DISCUSSION:** Experience has shown that the T-195 transmitter does not last under prolonged use. Downtime rate for this transmitter and repair time have been excessive. Attempts to cool the transmitter by improvised fans and overhead heat shielding have been unsuccessful.

c. **OBSERVATION:** Radio set, AN/GRC-46 is not sufficiently durable for sustained operation in a tropical climate.

## SECTION II Part II-Recommendations

1. (U) **Personnel and Administration:** None

2. (U) **Intelligence:** None

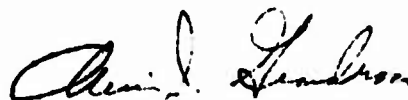
3. (U) **Training and Organization:** None

4. (C) **Operations:** Recommend that the M548 carry only 60 full service rounds when operating in unfavorable jungle terrain.

5. (U) **Logistics:** None

6. (U) **Civic Actions:** None

7. (C) **Communications:** Recommend that radio set AN/GRC-46 be replaced with RTT set AN/GRC-142.



ALVIN J. GLEDRON  
LTC, Artillery  
Commanding

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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 67

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

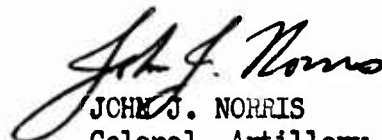
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,  
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report submitted by 2d Bn, 35th Artillery is considered adequate.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, para 4, Carrying Capability of Cargo Carrier, M548. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with the reduction of the load carrying capacity of the M548 to sixty (60) full service rounds when operating over unfavorable terrain. Immediate steps are being taken to have our units submit an Equipment Improvement Recommendation (EIR) on the inadequate data contained in the M548 Technical Manual.

3. (C) Reference Section II, Part I, para 7, AM Radio Transmitter Failures. This problem was reported in the last ORLL by this headquarters. Headquarters United States Army Vietnam in their indorsement to United States Army Pacific, stated that the AN/GRC-142 and 122 are scheduled for issue starting 1st QTR FY 68. Directives by the 54th Artillery Group have been sent to all subordinate units to minimize down time while awaiting the issue of the new equipment.

4. (C) Reference Section II, Part II, Recommendations. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with all recommendations of the 2d Bn, 35th Artillery.

  
JOHN J. NORRIS  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

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AVFB-FAC (1 Nov 67) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967,  
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (UIC) WFTJTTOA

DA, Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96266 **13 DEC 1967**

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, 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, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery (WFTJTTOA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

2. (U) Reference Section II, Part I, paragraph 4 of ORLL. Concur with comments in paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement, requiring units to submit an Equipment Improvement Recommendation (EIR).

3. (U) Paragraph 3, 1st Indorsement should read 1st Qtr, CY 68.

4. (U) Reference Section II, Part II, paragraph 4 and 7 of ORLL. Concur. In addition, this headquarters has directed that all units experiencing problems as described by the 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery, expeditiously submit an Equipment Improvement Recommendation (EIR).



RAYMOND P. MURPHY  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding

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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

21 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 1st and 2nd Indorse-  
ments.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
as

  
R. E. WAMBSGANS  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (1 Nov 67)

4th Ind (U)

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

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 9 JAN 1968

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, 2d Howitzer Battalion, 35th Artillery (A2SA) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comment follows: Reference item concerning communications, Section II, Part I, paragraph 7; Section II, Part II, paragraph 7; and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 3: Concur. The components of the AN/GRC-46 are included in the Closed Loop Support program. In this program, items with a high mortality rate are rebuilt in CONUS and exchanged in RVN. The objective is to improve the quality of the set.

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Copies furn:

HQ, 2d Hwtz Bn, 35th Arty  
HQ, II FFORCEV

*C. S. Nakatsukasa*

C. S. NAKATSUKASA

Captain, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

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GPOP-DT(1 Nov 67) 5th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending  
31 Oct 67 from Hq, 2d Bn, 35th Arty (UIC: WA2SAA)  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 25 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

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