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30 Nov 1980, DoDD 5200.10; OAG D/A ltr 29 Apr 1981

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AVFA-AT-D (8 Nov 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR (R1) (U)

DA, HQ, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350 8 DEC 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached Operational Report with indorsement and concurs with the basic report and recommendations as indorsed with the following comments and exceptions:

a. Reference: Para 2a(1), page 4. Upgrading of the S1 clerk position is being considered in pending MTOE action.

b. Reference: Para 2a(2), page 5. R&R Status of Infused Personnel. When an individual departs for R&R, a file copy of his orders will be placed in his field 201 file. This control copy of orders will give notice to each battalion in which a person is reassigned, that the infused person has taken R&R. This system will be properly disseminated to all Artillery units within this command. It is further recommended that this system be established throughout USARV.

c. Reference: Para 2a(3), page 5. The goal of USARV is to infuse a person only once; however, shortages in certain MOS's sometimes cause a person to be infused more than once. USARV Reg 614-9, para 5, does ensure that infusing undesirables is not accomplished during infusion. Sending replacements from the pipeline to the "hump" unit is not considered desirable, as the replacement personnel would create an additional hump the next year. I FFORCEV is the controlling agency of all infusion within I FFORCEV Artillery.

d. Reference: Para 2e(1), page 7. Non concur. Obtaining approval for float equipment increases the organizational mission with no authorization for additional personnel. The addition of two aiming circles per firing battery is being considered in pending MTOE action.

e. Reference: Para 2e(2), page 7. This headquarters will coordinate required engineer support with I FFORCEV Engineer Officer.

f. Reference: Para 2e(3), page 8. Non concur. There is no special authorization for 05 requisitioning required in the instance cited. Authority is granted by para 4-1, d and Section B, Appendix II, AR 735-35 w/C1. Any zero balance must be requisitioned with Urgency of Need designation B or IPD of 05.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GERALD G. YOUNG
LTC, Artillery
Adjutant

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6th Battalion, 84th Artillery

HEADQUARTERS
6th BATTALION (155mm) (Towed) 84th ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96294

AVGK-AK-3 8 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1 (C). Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

a. (C) General. The 6th Battalion 84th Artillery is attached to the 41st Artillery Group. As of the first day of the reporting period, the battalion was deployed with the battalion TAC CP and C Battery in KYLO VALLEY (vic BQ 925 586) in support of the 26th Capital ROK Infantry Regiment and the 4/503d Airborne Infantry. The battalion controlled the fires of one 8"/175mm battery and one 105mm battery in addition to its own 155mm battery. B Battery was temporarily attached to the 5/27th Artillery and split in vicinity of BAO LOC (vic ZT 191 781) and PHAN THIET (vic AN 729 135) with the mission of GS US, FWMAF, RVNAF. A Battery remained at LZ TOM (BS 897 088) with the mission of GS US, RVNAF, FWMAF.

b. (C) Operations and Training Activities.

(1) Plans. Current plans for the battalion are:

(a) To keep three highly mobile firing batteries capable of providing fire support anywhere in the II CTZ on a short notice.

(b) To be prepared to deploy a TAC CP capable of controlling the fires of several batteries of different calibers anywhere in the II CTZ.

(c) To conduct training as outlined by USARV, IFFORCEV and IFFORCEV Artillery training directives, plus a detailed section training program.

(2) Operations.

(a) On 4 August 1968, the battalion TAC CP and C Battery redeployed from KYLO VALLEY and occupied a fire base, LZ STRIKE II, north of TUY HOA (vic CQ 130 531) to support the 4/503d Airborne Infantry and the 47th ARVN Regiment.

FOR OT UT
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INCL 1

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DOD DIR 5200.10

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Bn 8th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CHFOR-65 (R1) (U)

c. Training. None.

d. Intelligence. None.

e. Logistics.

(1) Availability of Aiming Circle Float.

(a) OBSERVATION. Artillery firing batteries are experiencing problems in keeping two operational aiming circles on hand.

(b) EVALUATION. The artillery battery is authorized two aiming circles. When one becomes inoperative and is turned in for repairs, delays are experienced in getting it repaired or replaced. Result is that the battery is operating with only one aiming circle which hinders assurance of correct lay, and which would handicap accomplishment of the mission if the remaining aiming circle became inoperative. Problem would be obviated if the DSU maintained a float of aiming circles and exchanged them for defective ones turned in for repair.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That DS units maintain a float of aiming circles for artillery units.

(2) Engineer Support.

(a) OBSERVATION GS Artillery units need direct support from engineer units.

(b) EVALUATION. It is the nature of operations in this AO that GS artillery units make frequent moves and occupations of new firebases. The defensibility of the firebases (berms, parapet construction) and provision for adequate non-temporary sanitation facilities (e.g., drainage) require engineer equipment and assistance beyond the capability of the artillery battery and battalion. Because many moves can not be planned nor projected well in advance, engineer units in the AO must alter existing priorities and commitments if they are to assist the combat unit. This often requires much negotiation with the result that many days elapse before the support is provided.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That engineer units be designated and assigned missions to provide direct support, as required, to artillery batteries displaced to new firebases.

AVGK-AK-3 8 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Bn 84th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

supported operation BAEK MA 9 of the 9th ROK Infantry Division.

(m) On 17 October, the battalion TAC CP and C Battery departed NHA TRANG and stopped overnight at C Battery's position at LZ STRIKE II, north of TUY HOA. The Battalion TAC CP continued the move and closed AN KHE on 18 October 1968.

(n) On 17 October 1968, C Battery again came under the control of the 6/32d Artillery. On 18 October 1968 it deployed to DONG TRE (vic BP 912 700) in support of the 173d Airborne Brigade with the mission of GS US, FWMAF, VNAF.

(o) On 29 October 1968, C Battery, minus three guns which stayed at DONG TRE, moved to LZ STRIKE II (vic CQ 130 531). The Battalion FDC departed from AN KHE to join C Battery (-) at LZ STRIKE II. C Battery platoon at DONG TRE is supporting an operation of the 4/503d Airborne Infantry and C battery (-) at LZ STRIKE II is supporting the 47th ARVN Regiment.

(p) Number of moves, miles traveled, and rounds fired by the battalion for the period 1 August through 31 October 1968:

BATTERY	MOVES	MILES TRAVELED	ROUNDS FIRED
A	7	484	10,697
B	11	474	7,862
C	5	245	13,520
TAC CP	8	667	
			32,079

(q) During this quarter, the battalion conducted 92 days of operations. No major difficulties were encountered in any of the tactical or administrative moves.

(3) Training. During this reporting period, training has been conducted daily with emphasis placed on safety, maintenance, and section training.

c. Logistics. The logistical support plan for the battalion in its present configuration provides that the firing batteries draw Class I, II, III, and V from the forward support area nearest their field location; and the headquarters and service batteries draw Class I and II from the 304th S&S battalion in AN KHE, and Class V from the AN KHE ASP. All Class IV for the

AVGK-AK-3 8 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Bn 84th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

battalion is drawn from the 19th S&S battalion in QUI NHON. In the last two (2) weeks of the reporting period noticeable improvement has occurred in the class II area of PLL, which up to this time caused this battalion to be rated C-4 on the monthly FORSTAT report. No major problems were encountered in any other class of supply. (See Sec 2, c, (3).

d. Personnel. The major personnel programs for this quarter were the processing of awards, infusion, and the R&R program.

(1) A total of 78 requests for awards were submitted, 22 of which were approved with 56 still pending. The average period of time to obtain approval on an award for valor is 30 days; for meritorious service: 60 days.

(2) The purpose of the infusion program is to have no more than 25% of the battalion's strength rotate during any one month (March 1969 is the critical month). At present, infusion is half completed with 107 personnel yet to be infused to arrive at the 25% goal.

(3) In this reporting period 215 personnel have departed for R&R.

e. Artillery. The battalion is equipped with the M114A1 towed 155mm howitzer. The towed 155mm howitzer is highly mobile with relatively little maintenance problems. The areas in which some maintenance problems have developed are the forging of panoramic telescopes and leakage of the recoil system.

2. Section 2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel.

(1) Rank of Battalion S-1 Clerk

(a) OBSERVATION. The battalion S-1 Clerk, MOS 71B20, is authorized the rank of E-4, whereas his duties and responsibilities are commensurate with those of Battery Clerks, MOS 71H30, with the authorized rank of E-5.

AVGK-AK-3 8 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Bn 84th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

(b) EVALUATION. In tactical deployment, firing batteries are often too concerned with mission oriented activities to maintain their own administrative records. The S-1 clerk, therefore, is required to perform administrative duties for three firing batteries in addition to managing correspondence for the battalion headquarters.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That the position of S-1 clerk be upgraded to an E-5 position.

(2) Information on R&R Status on Infused or Transfered Personnel.

(a) OBSERVATION. No method exists to specify or indicate that persons infused or transfered into a unit have or have not been given an R&R.

(b) EVALUATION. This unit has been undergoing an infusion program since its arrival in the RVN in March 1968. The records of most of those infused into the unit do not indicate whether or not they have been on R&R. Complications result and lengthy communications with the previous unit are necessary over long distances to validate the status of the individual.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That a uniform method be established to annotate the records of persons infused or transferred to indicate if the individual has been on R&R.

(3) Improvement in Technique of Infusion.

(a) OBSERVATION. The current methods of infusion can be improved.

(b) EVALUATION. Present techniques of infusion have caused problems. This battalion arrived in the RVN in March 1968 at full strength. The infusion program underway is aimed at reducing the March 1968 DEROS "hump" to not more than 25% of the battalion strength. Experience thus

far has been less than satisfactory, e.g., several men have been received who have been doubly infused (this is the second time they have been moved; generally, their records are not outstanding). In addition, soldiers from both the losing units are usually unhappy at leaving their units and friends. Many of the problems experienced thus far could be obviated by sending replacements from the pipeline to the "hump" unit and the selection by higher headquarters of personnel from the "hump" unit to be transferred to other units in the RVN. The number of soldiers unhappy at leaving their unit would be halved, and the passing of problem soldiers on to another unit would be eliminated.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That the technique be adopted of sending replacements from the pipeline to the "hump" unit and selection by higher headquarters of personnel from that "hump" unit for infusion to other units.

b. Operations.

(1) Determination of Azimuth by Plotting Board.

(a) OBSERVATION. A quick and accurate means of determining a direction for laying an artillery battery is needed. If survey data is not available when an artillery battery moves into a new position, the magnetic needle of the aiming circle must be utilized to determine a direction. Experience has shown that shell fragmentations and metallic objects typically found on firebases tend to cause the magnetic needles to be inoperative or inaccurate. Humidity and dust, characteristic of the RVN, make magnetic needles sticky after a short time in country. A plotting board method of astronomic observation is now being evaluated by S3, 6/84th Artillery, for the Survey Division of the Target Acquisition Department at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

(b) EVALUATION. The plotting board method of determining a direction requires less than five minutes. It uses the same principles as an astronomic observation but with a lesser degree of accuracy. Equipment required is an M-2 Aiming Circle with a sun filter, the plotting board, and an associated ephemeris. Either the sun or stars can be used in conjunction with the plotting board. The results of the first series of experiments sent to Fort Sill indicated that the plotting board was accurate to within three mils of survey data.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS. This system be adopted by all units in the RVN, as it yields a rapid solution of acceptable accuracy. All firing batteries should be issued an Azimuth Plotting Board and then trained in its use.

SUBJECT: Operational Report of [illegible] for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CHFOR-65 (R1) (U)

c. Training. None.

d. Intelligence. None.

e. Logistics.

(1) Availability of Aiming Circle Float.

(a) OBSERVATION. Artillery firing batteries are experiencing problems in keeping two operational aiming circles on hand.

(b) EVALUATION. The artillery battery is authorized two aiming circles. When one becomes inoperative and is turned in for repairs, delays are experienced in getting it repaired or replaced. Result is that the battery is operating with only one aiming circle which hinders assurance of correct lay, and which would handicap accomplishment of the mission if the remaining aiming circle became inoperative. Problem would be obviated if the DSU maintained a float of aiming circles and exchanged them for defective ones turned in for repair.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That DS units maintain a float of aiming circles for artillery units.

(2) Engineer Support.

(a) OBSERVATION GS Artillery units need direct support from engineer units.

(b) EVALUATION. It is the nature of operations in this AO that GS artillery units make frequent moves and occupations of new firebases. The defensibility of the firebases (berms, parapet construction) and provision for adequate non-temporary sanitation facilities (e.g., drainage) require engineer equipment and assistance beyond the capability of the artillery battery and battalion. Because many moves can not be planned nor projected well in advance, engineer units in the AO must alter existing priorities and commitments if they are to assist the combat unit. This often requires much negotiation with the result that many days elapse before the support is provided.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That engineer units be designated and assigned missions to provide direct support, as required, to artillery batteries displaced to new firebases.

AVGK-AK-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report [illegible] for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS [illegible] (U)

(3) Priority Requisitions.

(a) OBSERVATION. [illegible] required to fill requisitions with issue priority designator (IPD) codes of 1P.

(b) EVALUATION. The 6/84th Artillery has been classed C-4 (combat ineffective) in the monthly FORSTAT report since August 1968 due to a low percentage of fill for PLL. The battalion PLL was revised in August 1968 in accordance with AR 735-35 and new requisitions were submitted at that time. To date, the filling of requisitions with issue priority designator (IPD) codes of 1P has been very slow.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That a C-4 unit be allowed to requisition PLL items utilizing an IPD code of 2P.

f. Organization. None.

g. Other.

(1) Effectiveness of Radio Teletype Operator.

(a) OBSERVATION. Some [illegible] prototype operators (RTO) lacked proficiency in operating procedures, causing unnecessary delays in traffic handling.

(b) EVALUATION. Radio teletype equipment, AN/GRC-46B, was not received by this unit until after the unit training cycle was completed, just a few days prior to shipment from CONUS to RVN. Equipment of a similar nature was not available at Ft. Irwin, causing the operators to lose much needed training. Subsequent operations in Vietnam were difficult at the outset as a result of this lack of training, and operator training in country was complicated by operational requirements. Consequently, many operators acquired poor operating practices necessitating a complete retraining program during the first [illegible] months.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Recommend that units forming for deployment to a combat zone be provided with equipment necessary for operator training far enough in advance of deployment that an adequate training program can be completed.

3. Section 3. (U) Headquarters, Department of the Army Survey Information.

This battalion has no escape, evasion, or survival information or lessons learned not previously reported.

AVGK-AK-3 **CONFIDENTIAL** 8 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Bn 84th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

David W Fereb ee J

DAVID W FEREBEE JR
LTC Artillery
Commanding

2 Incl
1 Organizational Chart 1 Aug 68

2 Organizational Chart 31 Oct 68

DISTRIBUTION:

2-CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT APO 96558

3-DCG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC (DST) APO 96375

6-CO, 41st Arty Gp

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGK-CO (8 Nov 68) 1st Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, 41st Artillery Group, APO 96368 13 November 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFA-AT-D, APO 96350

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and concurs with all comments/ recommendations, with following comment: Reference paragraph 2b(1), Section 2, page 6. I do not concur with recommendations as stated in view of the fact that this method of azimuth determination is still under evaluation. This headquarters will take appropriate action upon receipt of results of final evaluation from the 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery and/or the Survey Division of the Target Acquisition Department at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

Joseph C. Kiefe Jr.
JOSEPH C. KIEFE JR.
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

CC: CO, 6/84 Arty

AVFA-AT-D (8 Nov 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR (R1) (U)

DA, HQ, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350 3 DEC 1968

TO: Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT, APO 96350

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the attached Operational Report with indorsement and concurs with the basic report and recommendations as indorsed with the following comments and exceptions:

a. Reference: Para 2a(1), page 4. Upgrading of the S1 clerk position is being considered in pending MTOE action.

b. Reference: Para 2a(2), page 5. R&R Status of Infused Personnel. When an individual departs for R&R, a file copy of his orders will be placed in his field 201 file. This control copy of orders will give notice to each battalion in which a person is reassigned, that the infused person has taken R&R. This system will be properly disseminated to all Artillery units within this command. It is further recommended that this system be established throughout USARV.

c. Reference: Para 2a(3), page 5. The goal of USARV is to infuse a person only once; however, shortages in certain MOS's sometimes cause a person to be infused more than once. USARV Reg 614-9, para 5, does ensure that infusing undesirables is not accomplished during infusion. Sending replacements from the pipeline to the "hump" unit is not considered desirable, as the replacement personnel would create an additional hump the next year. I FFORCEV is the controlling agency of all infusion within I FFORCEV Artillery.

d. Reference: Para 2e(1), page 7. Non concur. Obtaining approval for float equipment increases the organizational mission with no authorization for additional personnel. The addition of two aiming circles per firing battery is being considered in pending MTOE action.

e. Reference: Para 2e(2), page 7. This headquarters will coordinate required engineer support with I FFORCEV Engineer Officer.

f. Reference: Para 2e(3), page 8. Non concur. There is no special authorization for 05 requisitioning required in the instance cited. Authority is granted by para 4-1, d and Section B, Appendix II, AR 735-35 w/C1. Any zero balance must be requisitioned with Urgency of Need designation B or IPD of 05.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GERALD G. YOUNG
LTC, Artillery
Adjutant

AVFA-GC-OT (8 Nov 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 12 DEC 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

(C) This headquarters has evaluated subject report as indorsed and makes the following comments or recommendations:

a. Reference paragraph 2a(1), page 4, Rank of Battalion S1 Clerk. This headquarters will make its evaluation and recommendation upon receipt of the MTOE.

b. Reference paragraph 2a(2), page 5, R and R Status of Infused Personnel. Recommend that USARV analyze and implement a system whereby the procedure of including R and R orders in an individuals 201 files is accomplished.

c. Reference paragraph 2b(1), page 6, Determination of Azimuth by Plotting Board: Nonconcur for reasons given in the 1st Indorsement.

d. Reference paragraph 2e(1), page 7, Availability of Aiming Circle Floats. This headquarters will evaluate and make appropriate recommendations upon receipt of the MTOE.

e. Reference paragraph 2e(2), page 7, Engineer Support: Nonconcur. Engineer units within II CTZ are assigned to a general support mission within an area of operation. Combat support missions as described are to receive first priority over operational support, mission essential requirements (MER), lines of communications (LOC) and base development and revolutionary development projects per letter, AVHEN-MO, Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, 21 August 1968, subject: Engineer Effort and Resources. Requests for such combat support can be made directly to the engineer battalion or through I FFORCEV Artillery to I FFORCEV Engineer as proposed by CG I FFORCEV Artillery in paragraph e, 2d Indorsement to basic letter.

f. Reference paragraph 2e(3), page 8, Priority Requisitions: Nonconcur for reasons stated by I FFORCEV Artillery's 2d Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

J. M. BARNES
LT, AGC
Asst AG

Cy furn:
I FFORCEV Arty

AVHGC-DST (3 Nov 68) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 6 JAN 1969

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 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery.

2. Reference item concerning information on R&R status on infused or transferred personnel, page 5, paragraph 2a(2); and 3d Indorsement, paragraph b: Concur. USARV Regulation 28-5, Welfare, Recreation and Morale, Out-of-Country Rest and Recuperation Program, dated 23 February 1968, is currently being revised. Included under the responsibilities delegated the major subordinate commanders is the requirement to place a copy of an individual's R&R orders in the temporary records section of his 201 file.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W. C. ARNTZ
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
HQ I FFV
HQ 6/84 Arty

GPOP-DT (8 Nov 68) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 6th Bn, 84th Arty for Period Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96559 13 JAN 1969

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.

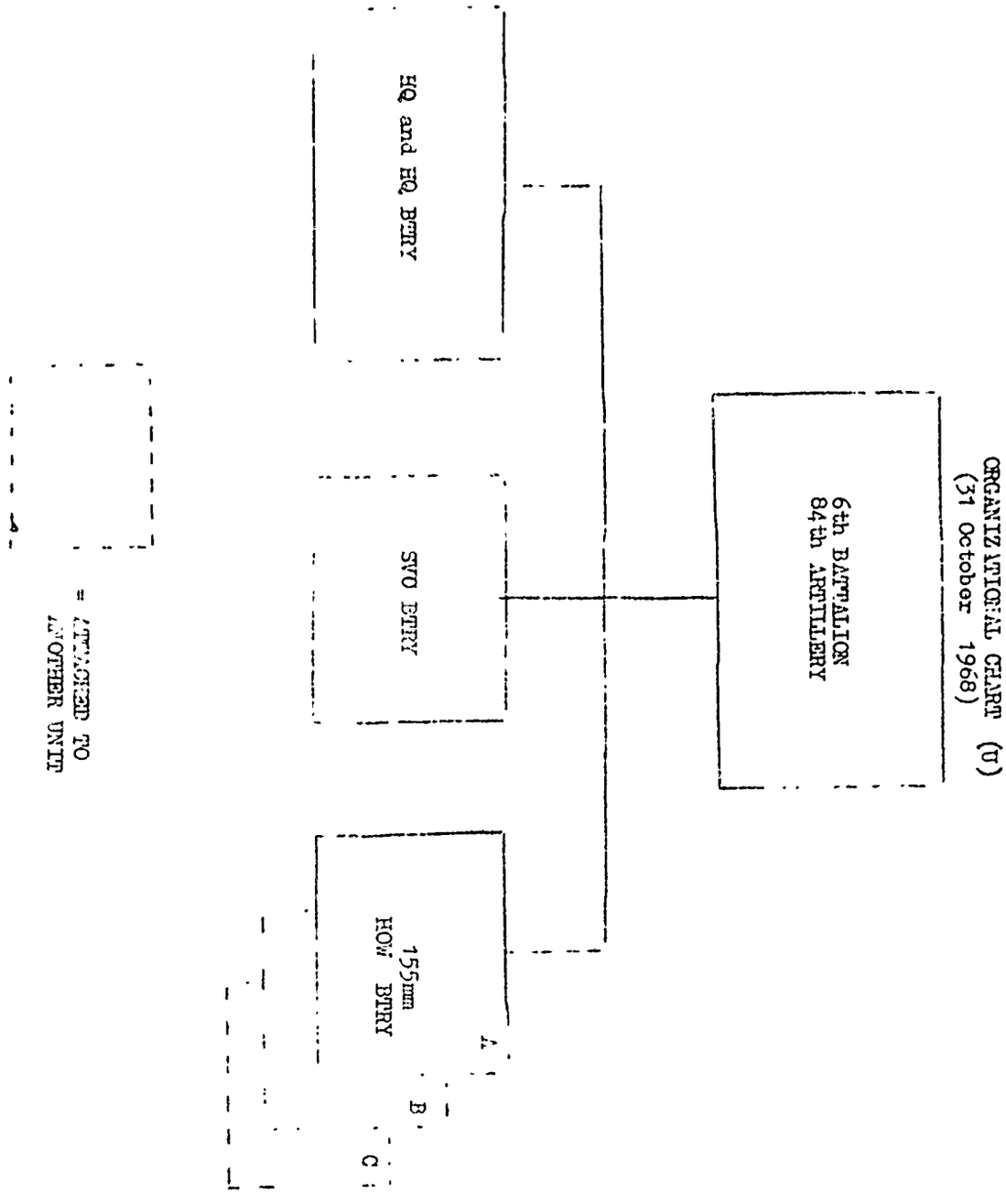
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (U)
(1 August 1968)

Inclosure 1

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART (U)
(31 October 1968)



Inclosure 2

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DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hq, 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery, Period Ending 31 October 1968 (U)

4 DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 68

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

CO, 6th Battalion, 84th Artillery

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13 ABSTRACT

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Security Classification

The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Lessons Learned Index:

ITEM 1

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ITEM 2

SUBJECT TITLE _____

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ITEM 3

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PAGE # _____

ITEM 5

SUBJECT TITLE _____

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* Subject Title: A short (one sentence or phrase) description of the item of interest.

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