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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**



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AGDA (M) <sup>IN REPLY REFER TO</sup> (26 Sep 69) FOR OT UT 693026

6 October 1969


**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery, Period Ending 31 July 1969 (U)**

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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:

  
ROBERT E. LYNCH  
Colonel, AGC  
Acting The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
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**2d Battalion, 35th Artillery**

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2D BATTALION, 35TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96376  
UIC W2AS

AVGAY-C

1 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer  
54th Field Artillery Group  
ATTN: AVGA-C  
APO San Francisco 96491

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery  
ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
APO San Francisco 96266

Commanding General  
II Field Force Vietnam  
APO San Francisco 96375

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

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

TO: DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ATTN: ACSFOR, DA  
Washington D.C. 20310

FOR OT UT  
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1 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

1. (C) Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

a. Personnel

(1) The 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery remains assigned to the 54th Artillery Group with the mission of General Support, II Field Force.

(2) During the reporting period, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery maintained a base camp at XUAN LOC, RVN, YT472096. Battery B maintained a base camp at NUI DAT, RVN, YS426665. Battery A and Battery C maintained no base camp but maintained supply and storage facilities with Service Battery. Service Battery continues to maintain a base camp within the LONG BINH POST area, YT056112.

(3) Command Changes: None

(4) Normal S-1 activities were conducted during the quarter.

(5) Personnel strength as of 31 July 1969:

UNIT	*MTOE			ASSIGNED		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
HHE	17	3	114	17	1	119
A	6	0	101	6	0	99
B	6	0	101	5	0	99
C	6	0	101	7	0	98
Svc	2	3	77	2	3	75
TOTAL	37	6	494	37	4	490

\*Authorized by MTOE 6-456E, 6-457, 6-459E, and General Order Number 274, HQ, USARPAC, dated 29 May 1968.

(6) Critical NCO Shortages:

MOS	TITLE	GRADE	AUTH	SHORT
13B40	Section Chief	E-6	18	14
13B40	Gunner	E-5	18	4
94B40	Mess Steward	E-7	5	3
76K40	Supply Sergeant	E-6	5	3

(7) Personnel Changes:

	OFF	WO	EM
Gains	18	3	258
Losses	8	4	136
Infusion	0	0	0
Transfer	4	0	33

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(8) Casualties:

Killed in Action	7
Wounded in Action	32
Missing in Action	0
Non-Battle Dead	0
Non-Battle Missing	0
Non-Battle Casualties	6

(9) Medical Service Statistics:

Total Patient Visits	457
Admitted to Hospital	49
Malaria Cases	5

(10) Punishments:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>EPC</u>	<u>SCM</u>	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>
HHB	2	0	6
A	0	0	4
B	2	0	3
C	0	0	6
Svc	1	0	16
TOTAL	5	0	35

(11) Awards and Decorations:

Silver Star	5
Bronze Star	23
Air Medal	11
Army Commendation Medal	16
Purple Heart	33

(12) Reportable Accidents:

Personnel: 1      Vehicle: 3

(13) R & R:

(a) Out-of-Country:

Hawaii	25	Australia	16	Singapore	1
Tripei	9	Manila	6	Hong Kong	6
Tokoyo	2	Bangkok	14		

(b) In-Country: Vung Tau 5

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
Reports Control Symbol CSFCR-65 (U)

## (14) Safety:

(a) Analysis: There were three accidents in the battalion during the reporting period. The one personnel accident reported in (12) above, a snake bite, occurred late in April and was not reported in the last quarterly report. The three vehicle accidents were investigated by American Military Police and Vietnamese authorities. In all cases the drivers were found not at fault.

(b) Corrective actions: No punishment was administered to the drivers in the vehicle accidents. However, commanders continue to stress the importance of the battalion driver safety education program and have placed emphasis on defensive driving. In the case of the snake bite, the Battery Commander has placed strict command emphasis on reptile control.

## (15) Commanders Notes:

(a) The battalion continued to move during the reporting period with a total of 34 moves. The M109 with its effective cross country mobility continues to be a highly effective weapons system for the Vietnam area of operation.

(b) In this reporting period the firing batteries have operated split between two separate fire support bases for the following periods; A Battery-28 days; B Battery-39 days; and C Battery-34 days. These splits have created an additional burden on resupply, maintenance and administrative support. Resupply and maintenance support for the most part has been accomplished by air, and administration has been kept at a base camp or attached to one of the battalion's non-moving batteries.

(c) The battalion headquarters at XUAN LOC came under a combined heavy indirect fire and ground assault on 18 May 1969 resulting in friendly casualties of 7 KIA and 18 WIA (figures reflect battalion casualties only). Enemy casualties, by body count, were 35 KIA and 1 WIA. An account of this attack and the lessons learned were forwarded to higher headquarters for possible publication as a Combat After Action Report. Also, on 7 June 1969 from 0345 hours until 0415 hours, Battery B received approximately sixty to eighty 82mm mortar rounds and an unknown number of RPG's in their position at FSB Bold. Fifteen battery personnel were wounded with nine men medically evacuated. Thirteen of the fifteen WIA were returned to duty in a short period of time.

(d) The shortage of 13B40, E6, Section Chief has become more critical (the battalion is currently short 14). Some of these positions are filled by instant NCO's, grade E5. In most cases these individuals are accomplishing their duties in an effective manner. However, the units are still handicapped by a lack of experience and background in artillery fundamentals.

(e) The battalion received its USARV Annual General Inspection during the period 8-10 July 1969. The inspection team visited each battery for a minimum of one half-day. In the evaluation of mission accomplishments only satisfactory or unsatisfactory ratings are awarded. The 2d Battalion 35th Artillery received a rating of satisfactory.

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## b. Operations

(1) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery was located at XUAN LOC, RVN YT472096, and provided normal support to the battalion in addition to providing for the XUAN LOC base camp defense. Headquarters and Headquarters Battery continues the operation of an Artillery Warning Control Center for all artillery firing in the XUAN LOC area. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery and Battery C, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery remain under the operational control for fires to 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery. Two liaison teams and one forward observer team were furnished during the reporting period. One liaison team supported the 52nd ARVN Regiment for a period of eight days and the other liaison and forward observer team supported ARVN units in the Bien Hoa tactical area of operation for the entire period.

(2) At the beginning of the reporting period Battery A was located at FSB CONCORD, YT03175, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, operational control for fires to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery. On 22 June 1969 Battery A moved three howitzers to FSB LIBBY, YT443283, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery, 199th Light Infantry Brigade. On 23 June 1969 Battery A moved three howitzers to FSB BOLD, YT635138, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 18 July 1969 Battery A moved three tubes from FSB BOLD to FSB CONCORD, YT03175, and the remainder of Battery A moved from FSB LIBBY to FSB CONCORD on 19 July 1969 and assumed its present mission of General Support II Field Force Operational Control for Fires to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery.

(3) At the beginning of the reporting period Battery B was located at NUI DAT, YS432672, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 10 May 1969 Battery B moved to XUAN LOC, YT472096, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 3 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers to FSB BOLD, YT635138, maintaining the same mission. On 10 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers from XUAN LOC to FSB MEGAN, YT094092, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, operational control for fires to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery. On 11 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB BOLD, YT635138, to FSB MEGAN, YT094092, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, operational control for fires to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery. On 11 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB MEGAN, YT094092, to NUI DAT, YS432672, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 1st Field Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery. On 13 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers from NUI DAT to FSB VIRGINIA, YS437797, maintaining the same mission. On 22 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers from FSB MEGAN, YT094092, and three howitzers from FSB VIRGINIA, YS437797, to NUI DAT, YS432672, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 1st Field Regiment Royal Australian Artillery. On 29 June 1969 Battery B moved three howitzers to FSB FLINDERS, YS520890, maintaining the same mission. On 13 July 1969 three tubes displaced from FSB FLINDERS and moved back to NUI DAT. On 17 July 1969 Battery B moved three tubes from NUI DAT to FSB HORSESHOE, YS495620, conducted a one day artillery raid and returned to NUI DAT prior to darkness. On 22 July 1969 Battery B moved three tubes to FSB HORSESHOE, conducted a two day artillery raid and moved back to NUI DAT on 24 July 1969.

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On 31 July 1969 Battery B again moved three tubes to FSB HORSESHOE, conducted a one day artillery raid and moved back to its present position at NUI DAT.

(4) At the beginning of the reporting period Battery C was located at BLACKHORSE, YS465982, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. On 9 May 1969 Battery C moved four howitzers to FSB MAC, YT374270. On 12 May 1969 Battery C moved four howitzers to FSB KEENER, YT478340, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 15 May 1969 Battery C moved the two remaining howitzers from BLACKHORSE to FSB KEENER, YT478340. On 10 June 1969 Battery C moved to XUAN LOC, YT472096, maintaining the same mission. On 11 June 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers to FSB BOLD, YT635138, maintaining the same mission. On 15 June 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers from XUAN LOC to BLACKHORSE, YS465982, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery. On 22 June 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers from BLACKHORSE, YS465982, to FSB CONCORD, YTO33175, with the mission of General Support II Field Force, operational control for fires to 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery. On 23 June 1969 the remaining three howitzers moved from FSB BOLD, YT635138, to join the main body of the Battery at FSB CONCORD, YTO33175. On 18 July 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers from FSB CONCORD to BLACKHORSE, YS440970, and assumed the mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing the 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 19 July 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers from FSB CONCORD to FSB LIBBY, YT443283, with the mission of General Support II Field Force Reinforcing 2d Battalion, 40th Artillery. On 20 July 1969 the three howitzers at FSB LIBBY were displaced to FSB KEENER, YT477338 with no change in mission. These three howitzers moved back to FSB LIBBY on 22 July 1969. On 25 July 1969 Battery C again moved three howitzers from FSB LIBBY to FSB KEENER with no change in mission and moved back to FSB LIBBY on 27 July 1969. On 29 July 1969 Battery C moved three howitzers from BLACKHORSE to XUAN LOC, YT472096, and assumed a mission of General Support II Field Force, Reinforcing 18th ARVN Division Artillery. At the end of the reporting period Battery C continues to operate as a split Battery.

(5) Move Summary:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>BATTERY A</u>	<u>BATTERY B</u>	<u>BATTERY C</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
May	0	1	4	5
June	2	7	4	13
July	2	7	7	16

(6) Fire Mission Summary:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>BATTERY A</u>		<u>BATTERY B</u>		<u>BATTERY C</u>		<u>BATTALION TOTAL</u>	
	<u>Msns</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Msns</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Msns</u>	<u>Rds</u>	<u>Msns</u>	<u>Rds</u>
May	264	5726	399	5459	527	10,566	1190	21,751
June	359	6032	350	4828	288	5841	997	16,701
July	627	6234	387	4618	724	5874	1738	16,726

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### c. Training:

(1) Newly arrived personnel receive a one week training program at the 199th Light Infantry Brigade's Redcatcher Training School. Quotas allocated this battalion by the 199th Light Infantry Brigade have been sufficient to accommodate all newly assigned personnel.

(2) Newly assigned Lieutenants receive a six day course in fire direction procedures and rules of engagement. This course is presented by the 54th Artillery Group. During this reporting period one officer from this battalion successfully completed the course.

(3) Course I, II, and III, Military Justice Act of 1968, and Manual for Courts-Martial, United States, 1969, revised, was presented to the officers of battalion headquarters on 11 July 1969. These courses were presented by Captain Michael A. Burke JAG Officer, II Field Force Vietnam and fulfilled the requirements of DA Circular 350-84. A total of 16 officers attended the presentation.

### d. Intelligence:

(1) The battalion continued its visual reconnaissance program in that portion of Long Khanh Sector assigned to the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery by the 54th Artillery Group. The visual reconnaissance program achieved the following objectives:

(a) Acquired intelligence through planned and thorough aerial visual reconnaissance. A total of 33 sightings were reported.

(b) Recommended targets for attacks by artillery and requested tactical air support when needed. A total of 26 targets were recommended for attack. All of these targets were heavily damaged or destroyed by artillery fires.

(c) Adjusted artillery fires within the assigned visual reconnaissance area.

(d) Conducted registrations for artillery units located within the battalions area of operation and furnished convoy coverage for all tactical moves of units of this battalion.

(e) Visually checked reports of enemy sightings.

(2) During the period a total of 245 hours and 98 missions were flown by artillery AOs of this battalion

(3) Person to person contact has continued between the S2 section this headquarters, and intelligence gathering sources in the Xuan Loc area to include:

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AVGAY-C 1 August 1969  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
 Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

- (a) 18th ARVN Division
- (b) Long Khrnh Sector Headquarters
- (c) National Police Headquarters
- (d) U.S. Advisers to National Police
- (e) S2, 54th Field Artillery Group

e. Logistics:

- (1) Monthly vehicle availability percentage:

TYPE VEHICLE	PERCENTAGE OF AVAILABILITY			
	May	June	July	Qtr
M109	99.0	96.6	99	98.2
M548	94.0	96.0	93	94.0
M578, VTR	84.0	73.0	91	82.0
M577, GP	93.0	97.0	99	96.0
Wheeled Vehicles	90.0	94.0	93	92.0

- (2) Ammunition resupply by rounds provided by Service Battery.\*

	May	June	July	Total
HE	19,984	14,830	16,365	51,179
WP	176	752	463	1,391
ILL	1,948	2,250	128	4,326

\*Excludes those drawn by firing batteries direct from ASP.

- (3) Miles traveled by Service Battery Ammunition Trains:

May	June	July	Total
16,431	11,491	12,518	40,440

- (4) Number of aerial resupply missions flown in support of firing batteries:

Class I-IV	May	June	July	Total
	71	76	18	165

- (5) Approximate tonnage of Class I-IV resupply handled by Service Battery:

Class I-IV	May	June	July	Total
	36	30	40	106

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f. Organization: No Change

g. Other

(1) Communications

During the reporting period, the following number of teletype messages were handled by the Battalion Communications section:

	May	June	July	Total
Transmitted	67	58	64	189
Received	213	201	184	598

(2) Civic Action: Medcaps:

	May	June	July	Total
Medcaps	0	0	0	0
Patients Treated at Battalion Aid Station	34	75	83	192

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

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) Defense against sapper attacks.

(a) OBSERVATION. Four lessons learned were gained from the attack on Husky Compound, XUAN LOC, 18 May 1969.

1. A bunker is not the best place to be during a sapper attack. Although a well constructed bunker can sustain a direct hit by an 82mm mortar round, the sapper is trained to fire his RPG or 75mm at the apertures of the bunker, thus preventing the defender from participating in the final protective fires. Well prepared foxholes in the vicinity of the bunkers are more effective fighting positions as they are less likely to be a target for crew served weapons and small arms employed by the attacking force.

2. It is vital for personnel manning bunkers and/or foxholes during a mortar attack to stay alert for a ground attack and to return fire immediately. Accustomed to mortar attacks without a ground attack, the defenders did not immediately return fire and generally crouched in their bunkers for additional protection. It was in this manner that the sappers were able to approach the final distance to the berm and force their way into the compound.

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1 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
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3. One of the keys to an effective defense against sapper attacks is illumination. The sapper is trained to operate in the dark and once he penetrates the perimeter wire, he relies on confusion among the defenders and their inability to differentiate between the defender and the attacker. Thus, periodic illumination (at varied intervals) will assist in the detection of approaching sappers, and continuous illumination, once the assault has begun, will greatly assist the defenders.

4. It is very necessary to establish and practice alternate means of communication throughout the perimeter. Lack of sure backup communications increases the confusion and reduces the defensive capability.

(b) EVALUATION. The above lessons learned are basic and vital to an effective defense against sapper attacks.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Defense planning for fire support bases should include all of the above lessons learned.

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics:

(1) Rubber floor mats for the M109.

(a) OBSERVATION. The current rubber floor mat being used in the M109 is unsatisfactory in the rainy season. These mats clog up easily, are readily damaged due to repeated cleanings, and are difficult to replace through supply channels. The use of cyclone fence as a floor mat has proven highly successful. Cyclone fence provides much better footing, is easy to clean and is easy to obtain through normal supply channels.

(b) EVALUATION. Cyclone fence has proven a better floor mat for the M109 during the rainy season.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. The use of cyclone fence as a floor mat for the M109 should be encouraged.

f. Organization: None

g. Other: None

*William A. McSpadden*  
WILLIAM A MC SPADDEN  
LTC, FA  
Commanding

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AVGA-CO (1 Aug 69) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 2d Battalion, 35th Field Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 54TH FIELD ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96491 20 August 1969

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, ATTN: AVFB-FAC  
APO 96266

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Quarterly Operations Report - Lessons Learned from the 2d Battalion, 35th Field Artillery and considers that it adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the period.
2. (C) Reference Section II, para b(1), Defense against Sapper Attacks. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs. In addition, since the 18 May 1969 sapper attack at Xuan Loc, protective wire screening material has been installed in front of all manned bunkers within the Group to prevent the sapper from firing his RPG or 75mm into the apertures of the bunkers. Counter-sapper training programs were organized and continued periodic countersapper training is being conducted by all units within the command.
3. (U) Reference Section II, para e(1), Rubber Floor Mats for M109 Howitzers. The 54th Field Artillery Group concurs with the use of cyclone fence as a floor mat in lieu of the rubber floor mat in the M109 howitzer during the rainy season for safety and operational efficiency of crew members.



V. G. EVANS  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

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AVFB-FAC (1 Aug 69) 2d Ind

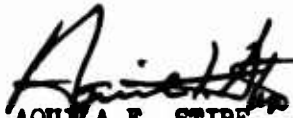
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery  
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266 8 7 AUG 1969

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE, APO 96266

The quarterly report of the 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery adequately  
reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



AQUILA E. STIPE  
Major, FA  
Adjutant

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AVFBC-RE-H (2 Sep 69) 3rd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969  
Reports Control Symbol OSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 1 SEP 1969

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DF, APO 96558

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

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -  
Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 35th Artillery for the period  
ending 31 July 1969.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



B. G. MACDONALD  
ILT, AGC  
Asst AG

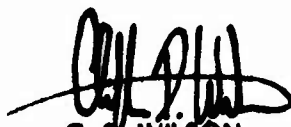
AVHGC-DST (1 Aug 69) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1969,  
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 12 SEP 1969

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned  
for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 2d  
Battalion, 35th Artillery and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
C. D. WILSON  
1LT, AGC  
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TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,  
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



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