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

AVGAW-C

11 10 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for quarterly period ending 31 July 1967.
Report Control Symbol CSFOR 65 (4)

AD 510423

THRU:

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

(18) OACSFOR

(19) OT-UT-670590

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

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

Commander in Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GFOP-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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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
Report Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

10 August 1967

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 May 1967 to 31 July 1967.

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

UNIT	TOE AUTH			ASSIGNED		
	OFF	WO	EM	OFF	WO	EM
Headquarters Battery	15	0	111	14	0	120
A Battery	6	0	106	6	0	109
B Battery	6	0	106	5	0	117
C Battery	6	0	106	6	0	111
Service Battery	2	3	70	2	3	82
TOTALS:	35	3	499	33	3	539

d. Critical MOS shortages:

(1) LNO, CPT, 51193

(2) Asst Commo, LT, 0200

(3) FO, LT, 1193

(4) SGT MAJ, E-9, 13Z50, (EDCSA, 11 Aug 67)

(5) Chief of Firing Battery, E-7, 13B40, (EDCSA, 12 Sep 67)

e. Personnel changes during this quarter include:

GAINS: OFF WO EM
6 0 155

LOSSES: OFF WO EM
8 0 111

f. Casualties include:

TYPE
Killed in Action

NUMBER
0

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<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Wounded in Action	3
Missing in Action	0
Non Battle Dead	0
Non Battle Casualties	8

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

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Bronze Star (Valor)	3
Bronze Star (Merit)	9
Air Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster)	3
Commendation Medal (Valor)	7
Commendation Medal (Merit)	44
Purple Heart	3

h. R & R Program schedules include the following:

(1) The in-country R & R program consisting of 3 day passes to Vung Tau has been utilized by 18 personnel.

(2) The out-of-country R & R included the following 5 day quotas:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Hawaii	14	9	6	29
Tokyo	18	13	8	39
Hong Kong	11	7	6	24
Bangkok	7	8	10	25
Taipei	11	12	12	35
Singapore	5	0	3	8
Penang	8	2	6	16
Manila	0	3	2	5
Kuala Lumpur	2	2	4	8

i. Battalion mail clerks pick up and deliver mail from AFO 96370.

j. Judicial and Non-Judicial action of units included:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ARTICLE 15</u>	<u>SUMMARY COURT</u>	<u>SPECIAL COURT</u>	<u>GENERAL COURT</u>
Headquarters Battery	3	0	2	0
A Battery	8	0	0	0
B Battery	3	0	0	0

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UNIT	ARTICLE 15	SUMMARY COURT	SPECIAL COURT	GENERAL COURT
C Battery	2	0	0	0
Service Battery	7	0	0	0
TOTALS:	23	0	2	0

k. Pertinent medical service statistics include:

Total Patient visits (unit personnel)	1855
Admitted to hospital	21
Evacuated within country	2
Malaria cases	0

l. Reportable accidents included:

UNIT	VEHICLE	AIRCRAFT	PERSONNEL
Headquarters Battery	0	0	0
A Battery	0	0	0
B Battery	0	0	0
C Battery	0	0	0
Service Battery	0	0	0
TOTALS:	0	0	0

m. The morale of the command is outstanding.

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

o. Religious services, both Protestant and Catholic are held on a regular basis.

p. The health of the battalion has remained very good. There have been no malaria cases nor fatalities during the quarter. Personal hygiene, prophylactic usage and frequent lectures on venereal disease have helped in lowering the VD rate.

2. (U) Intelligence.

a. Battalion air observers flew 177 missions during the reporting period. Type missions flown were:

- (1) Convoy cover.
- (2) Reconnaissance.
- (3) Aerial observed fire missions.

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b. No combat or reconnaissance patrols were conducted.

3. (U) Training.

a. Batteries have conducted training in rigging and air lifting equipment utilizing CH-47 Chinook helicopters.

b. The following periods of mandatory training for personnel were conducted during the reporting period.

(1) Character Guidance: 3 hours.

(2) Command Information: 12 hours.

(3) Civil Affairs: 1 hour.

(4) Code of Conduct: 1 hour.

(5) Physical Security Orientation: 4 hours.

c. All batteries of the battalion are continuing on the job training and cross-training programs.

4. (U) Operations.

a. The beginning of the reporting period found Battery C located at An Loc, coordinates XT 758874, attached to the 1st Infantry Division, with the primary mission of direct support to Task Force Dixie and base camp defense of Quan Loi. On six occasions portions of the battery were displaced to support search and destroy operations conducted by maneuver battalions of the 1st Infantry Division. On 15 May, Battery C displaced to Quan Loi, coordinates XT 813905, to provide base camp defense. On 6 July, Battery C was released from attachment to the 1st Infantry Division and displaced to Bear Cat, coordinates YS 167995.

b. Battery B remained at Xuan Loc until 5 May and then returned to Bear Cat, coordinates YS 167995. On 6 May, Battery B returned to Xuan Loc with the mission of base camp defense. The battery remained there until 17 May and then returned to Bear Cat.

c. Battery A and a control element from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery remained at Lai Khe, coordinates XT 767375, attached to the 1st Infantry Division with the mission of reinforcing 2nd Battalion, 33rd Artillery. On 15 May, Battery A and the control element displaced to Phu Loi to prepare for participation in Operation Dallas.

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d. Operation Dallas: On 16 May, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery moved to coordinates XT 954250 with the mission of General Support 1st Infantry Division reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, Battery C, 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery and the Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment occupied positions adjacent to Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and were General Support, 1st Infantry Division reinforcing 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. On 17 May, the Howitzer Battery, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment displaced and was relieved of the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. Platoon B Light Horse Assault Artillery occupied positions at approximate coordinates XT 954360 with the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. On 22 May, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, Platoon B, Light Horse Assault Artillery, and the elements of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery moved to coordinates XT 926283. Battery C, 6th Battalion, 6th Artillery displaced and was relieved of the mission of reinforcing the fires of the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery displaced to coordinates XT 986323 with the mission of reinforcing 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery. On 24 May, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery moved to coordinates XT 927281 with the mission of reinforcing the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. At approximately 2100 hours, Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and units co-located with the battery received approximately 100 rounds of 60mm and 82mm enemy mortar fire. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery fired the counter mortar program until the mortar attack ceased. A search of the suspected mortar position was made with no surveillance. On 25 May, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery displaced from coordinates XT 927281 and was released from the mission of reinforcing the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery. On 1 June, Headquarters and Battery A, 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery were released from the reinforcing mission to the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery and attachment to the 1st Infantry Division and moved to Bear Cat, coordinates IS 169996.

e. Operation Akron: On 18 May, Battery B was attached to the 9th Infantry Division and given the mission of direct support to the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry for a road clearing operation. The battery displaced to coordinates XT 229946 to support the maneuver elements. On 8 June, Battery B displaced to coordinates IS 305933 and assumed the mission of general support 9th Infantry Division, reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery. On 21 June, Battery B displaced to coordinates YS 437960 to provide fire support in defense of 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment base camp. On 24 June, the battery again displaced to coordinates YS 461922 in direct support of the 3d Squadron, 5th Cavalry. It remained there until 26 June when it displaced back to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment base camp to provide fire support for base camp defense. On 30 June, Battery B was released from attachment to the 9th Infantry Division and displaced to Xuan Loc, coordinates YS 473095 to provide artillery support for base camp defense.

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f. On 2 July Battery B was released to the 7th Battalion, 9th Artillery and returned to Bear Cat. On 8 July Battery B was displaced to Xuan Loc with the mission of base camp defense. On 17 July, it was released and returned to Bear Cat. On 29 July the battery again returned to Xuan Loc and remained there through the end of the reporting period.

g. On 26 July, Battery C was attached to the 9th Infantry Division, with the mission of direct support to the 52nd ARVN Battalion. The battery was displaced to coordinates YT 284100 and remained there until it was released from attachment on 31 July.

h. Operation Paddington: On 9 July, Battery A was attached to the 9th Infantry Division with the mission of General Support 9th Infantry Division reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 11th Artillery and displaced to coordinates YS 454896. On 10 July, the battery was airlifted to coordinates XS 619800 to support the Vietnamese Marine Task Force. On 15 July, Battery A was airlifted to coordinates YS 436975 and was given the mission of Direct Support to the 3rd Squadron, 5th Cavalry. The battery remained there through the remainder of the reporting period.

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

<u>NAME</u>	<u>NUMBER OF MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>AMMUNITION EXPENDED</u>
A Battery	3,396	18,022
B Battery	2,153	11,699
C Battery	1,372	8,931
TOTALS:	6,921	38,652

5. (U) Logistics. Logistical activities for the period of this report consisted of normal resupply of the battalion. Approximately 20,000 miles were traveled by Service Battery elements in support missions and 505 tons of ammunition were transported by the ammunition trains.

6. (U) Civic Action.

a. Building supplies were distributed to the villagers of Hauoc Nguyen and a roof was built for the village school. Food packages were distributed to the Queen of Peace Orphanage, Bien Hoa.

b. The Battalion Surgeon and Medical Section treated approximately 500 people while participating in the MEDCAP program in the villages of Long Thanh, Phuoc Nguyen and Nuoc Trong. In conjunction with the MEDCAP program soap was donated to needy personnel living in the Bear Cat area.

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SECTION II PART I, OBSERVATIONS

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

ITEM: Countermortar Firing Data.

DISCUSSION: In order to insure that artillery in a fire support patrol base can promptly initiate countermortar fires, it is advisable to send the charge, quadrant and deflection for each countermortar target to the howitzer section. If each section has several countermortar targets the priority in which they are to be fired should also be sent. In the event the fire support patrol base receives mortar fire, the program can be initiated even though the fire direction center may be neutralized or communications destroyed, etc.

OBSERVATION: Firing data on countermortar targets assigned to batteries should be computed and sent to the appropriate howitzer section in order to reduce the response time when under mortar attacks.

SECTION II PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration. NONE
2. (U) Intelligence. NONE
3. (U) Training and Organization. NONE
4. (U) Operations: Firing data on countermortar targets assigned to batteries should be computed and sent to the appropriate howitzer section in order to reduce the response time when under mortar attack.

Wallace E. Nickel
WALLACE E. NICKEL
LTC Artillery
Commanding

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
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HEADQUARTERS, 54TH ARTILLERY GROUP, APO 96376

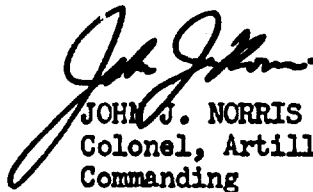
17 August 1967

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 the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery is considered adequate.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I paragraph 4, Counter Mortar Firing. The 54th Artillery Group strongly concurs with the need for autonomous operation of each howitzer in case of mortar attack, until definite information can be obtained as to enemy mortar and rocket positions.

3. (C) Reference Section II, Part II. The 54th Artillery Group concurs with all recommendations of the 7th Bn, 9th Artillery.


JOHN J. NORRIS
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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