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

AGDA (M) (31 Aug 70)

OT-UT-702008

4 September 1970

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ (19) Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th
Battalion, 15th Artillery (U) (4) (U)

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*Operational rpt. for quarterly period
ending 30 Apr 70.*

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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.

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Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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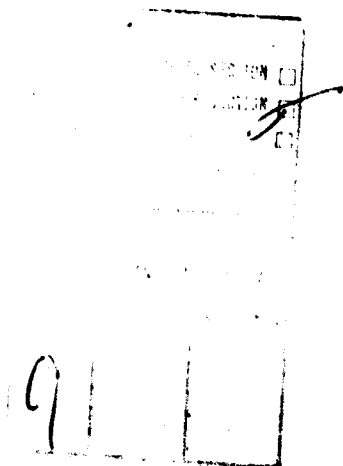
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
APO San Francisco 96294

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Commanding Officer
52d Artillery Group
APO San Francisco 96318

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

a. General:

(1) Throughout the reporting period the battalion continued its assigned mission of general support to RVNAF and FVMAF, with Battery A initially at LZ Pony (BR799831) and Battery B at LZ Two Bits (BR845945) supporting elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade and 4th Infantry Division in Dan Cuong - Lee AO. Battery C at Camp Radcliff (BR456462) continued to support elements of the 4th Infantry Division in Hines AO. On 10 February 1970, the battalion was detached from the 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery Battalion Group, which was dissolved and attached to the 52d Artillery Group at Pleiku. On 10 February 1970, the battalion forward tactical command post displaced from Camp Fidel to Camp Radcliff. Service Battery displaced from Camp Fidel (BR897405) on 26 February 1970, in accordance with Operation Metro Media to collocate with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery at Camp Radcliff. On 7 March 1970, LTC Joe S. Owens assumed command of the battalion from LTC Joseph W. Detyens in a ceremony conducted at Camp Radcliff. On 15 March 1970, the battalion assumed control of subsector Red, Sector 1, of the Camp Radcliff defensive perimeter from the 4th AW Battalion, 60th Artillery. On 23 March 1970, the battalion completed its battery movements under Operation Metro Media, with Battery A conducting a two day displacement to Dong Tre (BQ905704) in Phu Yen Province. On 24 March 1970, Battery A came under the operational control of the 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery at Phu Hiep (BQ250380); however, the battery mission remained unchanged. The battalion continues the special attachment of Radar Detachment Five (AN/MFQ-4) located at LZ Two Bits and retained the special attachment of Radar Detachment 255 (AN/MFQ-4), Camp Radcliff, until 20 April 1970. The battalion continued to retain the operational control

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AVFA-ATN-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

30 April 1970

of Battery A, 7th Battalion, ~~15th~~ Artillery at LZ Action until 8 April 1970, and retained the operational control of Battery C(-), 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery until 21 March 1970, at which time control reverted to the parent organization. On 20 April 1970, the battalion received a Command Inspection from I Field Force Vietnam Artillery and received a satisfactory rating.

(2) Headquarters Battery continued to provide communications, security, technical assistance and billeting for battalion headquarters personnel. An extensive personnel billets renovation program was started early in the reporting period and completed on 15 March 1970. The battery received a Command Maintenance Management re-inspection from IFFORCEV G-4 personnel of those areas found to be unsatisfactory during the previous 1st Logistic Command Maintenance Management Inspection. All areas received a satisfactory rating. An intensive maintenance program was implemented in preparation for the IFFORCEV Artillery Command Inspection. On 27 April 1970, Captain Lawrence J. Keller relinquished command of the battery to Captain Charles D. Shepherd.

(3) During the reporting period, Battery A at LZ Pony (BR799831) continued its assigned mission of general support to RVNAF and FVNAF. The battery continued to improve the firebase with the emplacement of additional perimeter wire, addition of four new perimeter lights, construction of a new guard bunker and helipad, re-planking of three gun firing pads and construction of a new duster firing position. An intensive firebase clean-up program was initiated and all fighting positions were reinforced with timber and sandbags in anticipation of increased enemy activity. A platoon from the 1st Battalion, 14th Infantry Division augmented the battery security force during a four week period. Aerial resupply of rations, POL and ammunition continued until 11 February 1970, with over two million pounds having been transported. On 9 February a platoon from Company C, 299th Engineer Battalion moved into the battery position and started working to open highway QL-3A. This enabled the battery to resume its own resupply activities via road. On 11 February 1970, Major General Walker, Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division toured the battery position and explored the feasibility of collocating a Brigade forward command post on the Landing Zone. On 28 February one of the battery 1/4 ton trucks, A-28, struck a 105mm boobytrap which detonated, destroying the vehicle and wounded two enlisted personnel, who were evacuated to the medical facility at LZ English. On the same day the LZ received seven rounds of 82mm mortar fire and the supporting dusters (M-42) engaged the enemy mortar positions. There were no friendly casualties or damage. On 12 March 1970, the battery received orders to displace on 23 March from LZ Pony to Dong Tre (BQ905704) to relieve Battery A, 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery in place. An extensive dismantling program was started in anticipation of construction requirements at Dong Tre, an isolated firebase which is

INCL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATM-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

resupplied almost totally by air. The battery displaced on 23 March and road marched to the 5th Maintenance Battalion at Phu Tai (CRO05219), where a technical inspection was conducted on all vehicles. Personnel from the maintenance battalion worked throughout the night making necessary repairs. The battery continued its road march on 24 March, closed Dong Tre without accident, incident or vehicle failure and came under the operational control of the 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery. The control of LZ Pony was assumed by the CO, 299th Engineer Battalion. On 31 March, the battery received seven rounds of 75mm recoilless rifle fire and ten rounds of 82mm mortar fire; however, there were no friendly casualties nor damage. Battery personnel continued to improve their defensive positions and started improving the firebase. On 11 April Captain John E. Caldwell assumed command of the battery from Captain Thomas A. Corsentino. On 17 April a request was submitted for engineer technical assistance and equipment support to upgrade the firebase and access roads. The battery received its first 175mm autofrettage gun tube (M113E1), number 3653B on 16 April 1970. During the reporting period the 8-Inch howitzers expended 2122 rounds on 368 missions and the 175mm guns expended 1904 rounds on 567 missions.

(4) During the reporting period, Battery B at LZ Two Bits continued its assigned mission of general support of RVNAF and FVMAF in the Lee AO. The battery continued to construct the new firebase, completing the emplacement of three rows of triple concertina wire and the installation of 38 lights around the perimeter. Self-help construction was completed on two guard towers, a metro section living fighting bunker, a radar section living fighting bunker, a mess hall, an aid station, two showers, two latrines, and two cluster (M-42) firing positions. Construction was started on a cluster living fighting bunker, a fire direction center and an orderly room. On 4 February 1970, one of the 8-Inch howitzers returned from an artillery raid to LZ Zager (BS878061) in support of the 3d Battalion, 506th Airborne Infantry. On 6 February radar detachment five, AN/MQ-4, completed its movement into the battery position. On 11 February Brigadier General Morris, Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade visited the site to inspect the progress of the construction effort. The battalion metro section arrived on 20 February and began providing electronic meteorological data to the artillery units in Binh Dinh Province. On 27 February the battery displaced two 175mm guns to LZ Beaver (BS765985) in the entrance to the An Lao Valley in support of the 173d Airborne Brigade. They supported until 8 March, when the operation in the northern An Lao Valley was terminated. The battery security forces were augmented by elements of the 173d Airborne Brigade while the guns were on the artillery raid and particularly during a period of increased enemy activity. Captain James D. Kalhoefer relinquished command of the battery to Captain Arun K. Bhalla on 21 March 1970. On 22 March one 175mm gun returned

INCL

3

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

to LZ Beaver in support of the 2d Battalion, 503d Airborne Infantry where it remained until 27 March. The battery received its first M113E1, autofrettage tube number 6521 on 27 March and a second tube number 6806 on 27 April. An enemy high point developed on 1 April when LZ Two Bits received 16 rounds of 82mm mortar and small arms fire. The enemy mortar positions were located by the radar section; however, they were not engaged by indirect fire due to their close proximity to populated areas. There were no friendly casualties or damage to the firebase. The Viet Cong entered a hamlet south of the firebase and a ground attack was anticipated; however, it failed to materialize. During the quarter four gun/howitzers were sent to quarterly maintenance at Phu Tai. On the 19th of April members of the IFFORCEV Artillery Command Inspection Team arrived to inspect maintenance, and on 20 April the IFFORCEV Artillery Battery Evaluation Team conducted an evaluation in which the battery received a satisfactory rating. During the reporting period the 8-Inch howitzers expended 1834 rounds on 208 missions and the 175mm guns expended 1194 rounds on 303 missions.

(5) Battery C, Camp Radcliff, continues its mission of general support of RVNMF and FVNMF in Hines AO. At the beginning of the reporting period, the battery was in a split configuration with two 8-Inch howitzers at LZ Schnell (BR366450) and two 175mm guns at Camp Radcliff. Engineer construction of the new heavy firebase at Camp Radcliff was continued by Company B, 20th Engineer Battalion. Construction of the first gun pad was completed on 7 February and the three remaining gun pads were completed on 20 February. Battery personnel continued to improve the position area and renovated an existing bunker into a functional fire direction center. The perimeter wire was reinforced and a number of temporary perimeter bunkers were constructed. Company D, 299th Engineer Battalion was tasked to provide technical assistance and equipment support to the battery in the construction of two-twenty man living bunkers and one latrine on the firebase. The battery orderly room and troop billets located approximately 600 meters from the firing battery area were completely renovated. On 9 February the USAFV Engineer visited the firebase to inspect the construction program. On 18 February the Chief of Staff, MACV and the Commanding General, Camp Radcliff toured the firing battery area. On 4 March, the 8-Inch howitzers closed Camp Radcliff bringing the battery together for the first time during this reporting period. The first 175mm autofrettage gun tube M113E1 (number 6799) was received on 28 March and a second autofrettage tube (number 6848) was received on 29 March 1970. The battery conducted an artillery raid on 8 April when an 8-Inch howitzer and a 175mm gun were displaced to Artillery Hill, (TA228533), Pleiku and placed under the operational control of the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. This platoon was visited by Major General Charles Brown, Deputy Commanding General, IFFORCEV on 12 April 1970. On 20 April the battery underwent a Command Inspection from IFFORCEV Artillery and received a satisfactory rating. On 25 April the raid platoon at Pleiku displaced to LZ Blackhawk (BR035535) with the mission of general support reinforcing the 4th Infantry

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Division. On 27 April 1970, a 175mm gun displaced from Camp Radcliff to LZ Action (BR264470) on an artillery raid in support of a 4th Infantry Division operation. During the reporting period, the 8-Inch howitzers expended 1386 rounds on 563 missions and the 175mm guns expended 2080 rounds on 596 missions.

(6) Service Battery remained at Camp Fidel (BR900400) until 26 February 1970, at which time the battery displaced to Camp Radcliff in accordance with Operation Metro Media and collocated with Headquarters and Headquarters Battery. The battery continues to provide personnel services and logistical support to the batteries of the battalion. On 2 February CW2 Karl G. Hoehl assumed his duties as the property book officer. A second observation helicopter, OH-58A, serial number 68-16749 was received on 6 February for issue to the battalion aviation section located at Camp Fidel. The ammunition section continued supporting the aerial resupply of Battery A from LZ English (BS875010) until 11 February. The program of maintaining of all battery supply sections under centralized control of the S4 in the Service Battery area terminated on 26 February when they returned to their respective battery control. Battery personnel worked throughout the reporting period on the renovation of the orderly room, billets, S-4 section, motor pool and small arms ammunition storage areas at Camp Radcliff.

(7) Battalion organization is shown in Inclosure 1 and 2.

(8) Battalion displacements are shown in Inclosure 3.

b. Intelligence.

(1) Enemy Situation:

(a) Enemy Activity: Enemy activity in AO Lee has fluctuated between high and low activity from week to week against US Forces during this reporting period. However, enemy attacks against RF/FF and ARVN Forces have been at a high level especially in the northern and western portion of Phu My District. COSVN Resolution 14 emphasized the need for an intensification of guerrilla warfare as the only way the VC/NVA will be able to attain their victory. The NVL, using the economy-of-force tactic, intend to strike at the very core of the Allied Pacification Program - the Vietnamese soldiers who provide security for their own people. To achieve this, the NVA units are breaking down into small elements and joining district and guerrilla forces. As a result of this tactic the enemy has increased his harassment of allied forces through local Viet Cong units under the leadership or advice of NVA personnel. On 5 April 1970, vicinity BR352645 elements of the 22d ARVN Division Task Force made contact with an

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATM-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 19th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

estimated three companies. Artillery, TAC Air and gunships provided fire support, resulting in 25 NVA KIA. Friendly losses were 9 KIA, 9 WIA, 2 APC's destroyed and 1 US gunship destroyed. The following day, vicinity BR850460, elements of the 41st ARVN Regiment, supported by artillery and gunships, made contact with a battalion size enemy force resulting in 80 NVA KIA, 1 NVA WIA CIA, 3 ARVN KIA and 15 ARVN WIA. On 14 April 1970, the 038 PF Platoon and PSDF of Truong Thuan Hamlet were surrounded by an estimated company size enemy force resulting in 7 PF KIA, 4 PSDF KIA, 5 PF WIA and 3 PSDF WIA.

An estimated 1500 NVA personnel have been reported to be located in the western portion of the 41st ARVN Regiment AO. The 52d Recon Company, 400th Sapper Battalion, 90th Engineer/Sapper Battalion, 51st Infantry Company and elements of the 500th Transportation Battalion, 551st Signal Battalion, 600th Medical Battalion, several elements of the 2d VC MF Regiment and a forward element of the 3d NVA Div Headquarters have been reported to be located in the Soui Ca Valley since mid-February. On 1 April 1970, LZ Moon came under a ground attack by an estimated 2 battalion size enemy force. The enemy penetrated the perimeter and temporarily over ran the ARVN Command Post. Artillery and gunship support resulted in 22 VC/NVA KIA. Friendly ARVN losses were 6 KIA, 23 WIA and 1 MIA. On 8 April vicinity CRO02687, a convoy of the 41st ARVN Regiment was ambushed by an estimated platoon size force resulting in 18 ARVN KIA, 4 ARVN WIA and 3 2 1/2 ton trucks heavily damaged. On 11 April 1970, vicinity Soui Ca Valley, 2 US helicopters were downed and destroyed.

In Tam Quan and Hoi Nhon District the 22d NVA Regiment is waiting for friendly troop redeployment before they completely commit their forces. The 9th NVA Battalion has taken the main blunt of the fighting with an estimated 50% loss in personnel; however, this battalion has been receiving replacements to bring it up to its original strength. In February 1970, it was discovered that the X503d LF Battalion had been deactivated and reorganized into the Hoi Nhon District unit. The 7th and 9th Battalions, 22d NVA Regiment have been acting as rear service units in the An Lao Valley, until recently when it was reported that these elements have moved into their preplanned position for attacks on the Allied Pacification Program in the near future. Proselyting among civilians in conjunction with the enemy military activities has increased since the last reporting period. NVA personnel have been placed into key positions with VC military and political structure which has produced a noticeable increase in VC enemy activities. Sapper personnel have been placed within VC units to increase their sapper training with greater emphasis on terrorist and sapper tactics.

(b) Enemy Units: The major enemy units reportedly located within and on the boundaries of AO Lee are listed below:

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ESTIMATED STRENGTH</u>	<u>REPORTED LOCATION</u>
HQ, 3d NVA Div	450	BR5192
200th AA Bn	350	BS6505
300th Arty Bn	350	BR8074
400th Sapper Bn	300	BR8377
500th Sapper Bn	350	BS6718
509th Tng Bn	400	BS7617
551st Signal Bn	400	BS7415
600th Med Bn	280	BS6326
700th Med Bn	280	BS7729
90th Sapper Bn	325	BR7964
2d VC MF Regt	300	BR6083
93d Bn	250	BR5267
95th Bn	175	BR7972
96th Bn	250	BR7470
16th NVA Regt	400	BR6868
7th Bn	300	BR6859
8th Bn	300	BR5366
9th Bn	250	BR6035
22d NVA Regt	300	BR7097
7th Bn	300	BR7990
8th Bn	250	BS8403
9th Bn	300	BS6303
403d Sapper Bn/MR5	300	BS7430
246th Tran Bn	300	BR4993
C-1 Co	60	BS915072
C-2 Co	60	BR958977
D-40 Sapper Co/HN	70	BS916073
D-22	60	BS813059
Fhu My DF HQ	20	BR801925
C-1	25	BR8672
C-2	60	BR9869
C-3	30	BR827637
C-4	40	BR8272

(c) Enemy attacks: Enemy attacks on friendly fire bases have consisted of stand-off mortar attacks, sapper attacks and ABFs.

(2) There are 142 personnel in the battalion who possess a secret or higher security clearance. During the period, 64 personnel with clearance were debriefed, 31 clearances were validated and 32 personnel were processed.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATM-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

for initial clearances.

(3) During this reporting period, the battalion provided two officers as air observers until 23 April 1970. One air observer was stationed at LZ English with the 173d Airborne Brigade and the other air observer was stationed at both Camp Radcliff and Dong Tre to be used as required. On 24 April 1970, the battalion sent one forward observer team to Pleiku to be deployed by 52d Artillery Group in the Dak Soang battle area and hold one party in reserve for deployment upon request.

(4) The battalion did not participate in the Volunteer Informant Program because of a change in fund custodians and area of operations; however, an aggressive program is forecast for the future.

(5) The Meteorological Section was assigned the mission of 356 weather soundings during the past quarter of the year and accomplished 335 of the weather soundings. The weather soundings which were missed were due to inclement weather. The Meteorological Section is presently operating at LZ Two Bits. The move to LZ Two Bits was completed on 20 February 1970.

(c) Plans, Operations and Training:

(a) Plans:

(1) OPORD 1-80 (Gypsy Rover II) published to implement Operation Motro Media was completed on 25 March 1970. All objectives of the order have been met except for the firebase improvements at Dong Tre and the completion of the construction projects at both the Camp Radcliff and LZ Two Bits firebases.

(b) The Defense Plan for Camp Radcliff tasked the battalion on 15 March 1970, to assume control of subsector Red, Sector 1 of the Camp defense perimeter. This plan was implemented and is under constant revision.

(c) The battalion developed and published a Defense Plan for all organic and attached units at Camp Radcliff on 5 April 1970. This plan establishes the policies, procedures and techniques to be used in the defense of the base camp area within the Camp Radcliff perimeter.

(2) Operations:

(a) Of the 267 battery days available in this reporting period, 257 battery days were used to provide heavy artillery support for tactical operations and

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, NCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

10 battery days were used for tactical displacements.

(b) On 10 February the forward tactical command post located at Camp Fidel (BR897404) was closed out and displaced to Camp Radcliff (BR460482). The battalion did not operate a technical fire direction center due to the remote disposition of its organic batteries, but continues to maintain the capability to provide technical fire direction as required. The battalion fire direction center monitors fire mission requests sent to Battery B, Battery C and a platoon of Battery A, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery. Air advisories are posted and grid clearances are obtained as required.

(c) Organic Unit Tactical Displacement note Inclosure 3.

(d) OPCON Unit Tactical Displacements: On 1 February the battalion displaced a 155mm howitzer platoon of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery from Camp Radcliff to remain overnight at Camp Fidel. On 2 February the platoon displaced to LZ Two Bits and was airlifted to LZ Abby (BR747818) in support of the 4th Infantry Division, where it remained for 14 days. On 16 February the platoon was airlifted to LZ Suzie (BR576909) and a second platoon from Battery C road marched to LZ Two Bits for airlift into LZ Suzie. The battery minus remained at LZ Suzie until 18 March, when it was airlifted to LZ Challenge (BR629820) and on 20 March it was airlifted to LZ Hardtimes (BR613607) to road march into Camp Radcliff. On 21 March the battery minus departed enroute to Artillery Hill (ZA228533) under the control of its parent organization.

(3) Training:

(a) The battalion continued training in fire direction, firing battery, safe driving, maintenance, communications, security, field sanitation, safety, perimeter defense and command information. With the exception of safe driving and command information, training was conducted at section level.

(b) All newly assigned personnel continue to receive an intensive operational and administrative orientation briefing at both battalion and battery levels. In addition, all in-country (RVN) training for newly assigned personnel is now being conducted by the 4th Infantry Division Training Company at Camp Radcliff and has been proven successful with twenty-seven personnel trained to date.

(c) During the period five officers graduated from the IFFORCEV Artillery FO and FDO School at Nha Trang and one NCO graduated from the FO School at Nha Trang. Four EM graduated from the Combat Leadership Course of the 4th

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AWFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Infantry Division at Camp Radcliff. Two EM graduated from the Ranger School of 4th Infantry Division in Camp Radcliff. Four EM graduated from the Generator Operator and Maintenance Course sponsored by 52d Artillery Group, Fleiku.

d. Logistics:

(1) During the reporting period, the S-4 and Ammunition sections performed normal support functions.

(2) Significant items received during the period were:

Antenna Group AN/GRA-50	1 ea
Cable Telephone WD1/TT DR-8	30 ea
Compressor 5cfm 175 psi	1 ea
Gen set GED 3KW 400 cy	2 ea
Helicopter OH-58A	1 ea
Mount Tripod M122	3 ea
Radio Set AN/GRC	1 ea
Switchboard SB 22	1 ea
Test Set Batteries	6 ea
Tool Kit General Mech	3 ea
Trailer Ammo	1 ea
Trailer Cargo 3/4 ton	2 ea
Truck Cargo 5 ton	8 ea
Watch, wrist	34 ea
Truck 3/4 ton	2 ea
Truck 1/4 ton	1 ea
TO&E Equipment T-in FWT	
Chassis, M110	2 ea

(3) The following is a list of additional material received for B Battery under Operation Metro Media:

Roofing Paper	37 rl
Connection Receptacles	378 ea
Toggle Switch	79 ea
Barbwire	300 rl
Lumber 8X8	1,270 BF
Box Circuit	43 ea
Lumber 10X20	38,720 BF
Rebar #4	1,110 lb
Engineer Stakes	312 ea
Nail 16D	3000 ea

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(4) Ammunition Resupply: As a result of Metro Media, B Battery and C Battery are now each near enough to an Ammunition Supply Point that they can easily resupply themselves. Battery A is OPCON to the 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery and is resupplied by that unit. However, Service Battery continues to respond in a timely manner to requests for assistance in moving ammunition during raids or other times when assistance is required.

e. Civil Affairs:

(1) The battalion has participated in no major civil affairs projects during the period due to the revision of the civil affairs program and the displacement of organic batteries.

(2) As a part of the civic action program, 4000 pounds of edible waste from the battalion mess hall was provided to local villages and the Phuoc Thieu Orphanage at An Khe for their animals. Twenty-six orphans were treated by the battalion medical section, 2000 board feet of usable lumber was provided to the orphanage and 50 gallons of POL for maintenance and operation of the orphanage's generator was provided. Battery A established a medical program in cooperation with Dong Tre Regional Forces Medics and thus far have treated twenty-seven people. The battery provided four truck loads of ammunition cratings to a local parochial school to be used in the construction of desks and chairs. Sixty boxes of candy were provided to the children at Easter. Mess hall edible waste is provided to the local villagers for their domestic animals.

f. Personnel:

(1) During the reporting period, personnel and administrative operations continued on a relatively stable basis. Assigned losses for the period were 181 personnel while gains were 131 personnel. Critical personnel shortages existed in 13B40 E-6, 13Z50 E-8, and 71T20 E-4. At the conclusion of the reporting period, the strength of the battalion was 87% of assigned versus authorized

(2) The established goal of the Public Information Program of this battalion is 100% coverage, which requires at least one hometown news release per individual who is assigned to this battalion, who is promoted, or who receives an award. The purpose of this program is to insure that all personnel are appropriately recognized by the news media for their accomplishments and activities. During the reporting period, the battalion prepared and forwarded more than 196 hometown news releases.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(3) The battalion has continued its vigorous awards and decorations program. The purpose of this program is to recognize deserving individuals for valor, achievement and service. The battalion forwarded 131 recommendations for awards and received 56 approved decorations which were either presented or forwarded to the individual's new duty station.

(4) The following is the breakdown of awards by category:

FORWARDED:

COA	18
PH	5
AM	9
ACM	59
BS	39
ACM "V"	0
SM	1

RECEIVED:

COA	4
PH	5
AM	6
ACM	21
BS	19
ACM "V"	1
SM	0

g. Other:

(1) Maintenance

(a) During this reporting period, the following M110 howitzer chassis were retrograded/received:

<u>BATTERY</u>	<u>RECEIVED</u>	<u>RETROGRADED</u>	<u>DATE</u>
B	12AT78	12Z433	23 April 1970
C	12AU73	12FG60	30 April 1970

(b) The battalion established a consolidated motor pool at Camp Radcliff for Headquarters, Service and C Battery. Each battery was assigned an area of responsibility and a maintenance bay. A system of centralized vehicle dispatch was established under the supervision of the battalion motor officer. An intensive maintenance program was implemented with an organized motor stables period in which all personnel are required to attend and perform pre-scheduled first echelon maintenance on section vehicles. A new auto Maintenance Technician, CW2 J.E. Hoover, arrived on 26 February 1970, to assume his duties as the overall supervisor on shop operations. He initiated an accelerated program to improve the maintenance management procedures throughout the battalion, but has been hindered to a large degree by the shortage of experienced PLL Clerks, TAERS Clerks and difficulty noted in receipt of repair parts. The maintenance of all equipment continues to be of prime concern throughout the battalion.

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(c) Difficulties have been experienced in replacing the following items requisitioned with an O2 IFD:

Fan Tower pulley (MWO 9-2300-216-40/5) for M110 Howitzer
Vehicle batteries and electrolyte
Gun/Howitzer loader rammers and repair parts

(2) Medical: During the reporting period, the Battalion Surgeon visited all batteries treating individuals as needed and performing field and mess inspections. All five batteries relocated with only a few minor injuries and no loss of continual medical care. In support of the anti malaria program the testing of the urine for chloroquin salt continued to increase in positive results; however, there is still a reluctance on the part of certain individuals to take their prophylaxis pill every week. The medical section has been up to strength for the past month. Medical cases treated for the reporting period were as follows:

Malaria	3
Minor Injuries	199
Hospitalized Injuries	3
Neuropsychiatric Cases	9
Veneral Diseases	12
Dermatological Disorders	115
Diarrheas	33
URI	39
Injuries (IRHA)	3
Misc. Illnesses	360
FUC	5
Infectious Hepatitis	0
Man Days Lost on Quarters	14
Man Days Lost on Hospital	33
Immunizations	386
Total Cases Treated	1073

(3) Communications: The communications section continued to support the battalion with signal maintenance, signal PLL, wire communications, switchboard operation, radioteletype communications, AM voice communications, FM retransmitting facility, distribution service and special support as required. On 6 March 1970, Captain Knapp assumed the duties of Communications Officer and First Lieutenant Sweeney assumed the duties of Assistant Communications Officer. On 24 March 1970, the communications section provided a FM retransmitting station near Qui Nhon to insure communications support for the movement of Battery A to

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

Dong Tre (BQ905704). On 31 March 1970, Captain Knapp assumed the duties as COMSEC Officer and custodian. A retransmitting site at LZ Uplift continues operation to facilitate communications with Battery B and the Liaison to the 173d Airborne Brigade. Numerous problems have been experienced with the RTT's AN/GRC 142, in that there have been lengthy delays experienced in the repair of the power supply, PP-4763/GRC, and the Modem, MD 522A/GRC. This has significantly reduced the communications capability of the unit. A continuing problem exists in obtaining FM frequencies which are useable and free of interference from other stations. On 28 April the battalion changed its FM communications system from one command net and six fire nets to a system of three command nets and three quick fire nets as directed by the CO, 52d Artillery Group.

(4) Survey: The Battalion Survey Section continues to furnish the units of the battalion with necessary survey information. Surveys performed by the battalion survey teams were as follows:

- (a) Radar position at LZ Two Bits.
 - (b) Metro position at LZ Two Bits.
 - (c) Azimuth established at LZ Suzie.
 - (d) Azimuth established at LZ Beaver.
 - (e) Battery center and azimuth established at LZ Schueller.
 - (f) Battery center and azimuth established at Dong Tre.
 - (g) Relocated battery center and orienting station at C Battery, Camp Radcliff.
 - (h) Established a declination station at C Battery, Camp Radcliff.
 - (i) Established grid locations for each gun pit of C Battery, Camp Radcliff.
 - (j) Established declination station at LZ Two Bits.
2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluation and Recommendation:
- a. Personnel: None
 - b. Intelligence: None
 - c. Operations:

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(1) Firing Pad Construction for Self Propelled Heavy Artillery.

(a) Observation: In general, firing pads for heavy self propelled artillery are constructed out of a single or double layers of either 3 inch by 10 inch, 4 inch by 10 inch or similar size timber. These timbers must be replaced at least once a year or sooner depending on the sub-pad drainage system and a 6400 mil firing environment causing excessive wear. It takes approximately two days to construct the pad once the material is available. It also requires considerable transportation effort to move the bulky timbers, either by air or by road, to a firing site.

(b) Evaluation: The requirement to transport bulky timbers, difficulty in obtaining suitable materials and man hours expended in pad construction can be significantly reduced by using 2 ft by 6 ft matting, steel landing, none perforated which can be placed on a prepared surface in a matter of two or three hours. An experiment was conducted by this unit to determine the feasibility of using the matting and it proved to be a very practical and suitable substitute for timbers. It held up well under the weight and turning of the gun/howitzer; however, it is desirable to insure that worn track pads are replaced regularly. The matting is particularly well suited for use during lengthy artillery raids, since it can be easily transported and emplaced with a minimum of effort and recovered for future use.

(c) Recommendations: That the heavy self propelled artillery unit be authorized to draw matting, steel landing, none-perforated through normal supply channels for the surfacing of both temporary and permanent firing pads.

(2) Use of Propelling Charge M86A1 (M86E1) Lots IND-1-19 Through IND 1-77 with 175mm Gun.

(a) Observation: It has been noted that in certain IND Lots produce an extremely large muzzle blast which can cause damage to the firing pits and injury to personnel during some 3 firing; however, this is not a basis for turn-in as an unserviceable lot.

(b) Evaluation: It is noted in TM 9-1300-203, dated April 1967 with changes two through eight, that flash reducer XM-5 will be used only when these lots are fired at some 3, but if it is not available, personnel will wear ear plugs and turn in the direction opposite to the muzzle. This does not preclude damage to the firing pad and bunkers nor does it eliminate the resultant missing effect. The flash reducer XM-5 is not available in Vietnam.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVMA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(c) Recommendation: The IND Lot producing an excessive muzzle blast be used only for zone 1 or 2 and that another lot, with less muzzle blast, be used for zone 3.

d. Organization:

(1) Battery Fire Direction Center:

(a) Observations: The organization of a heavy artillery battery fire direction center is generally not adequate from the standpoint of personnel authorization for counter insurgency environment where the battery is often in a split configuration.

(b) Evaluation: The current TOE authorization of six fire direction personnel MOS 13E20, (Two SP5 and four SP4) is barely adequate for a twenty-four hour operation when the battery is located on one firebase under the technical and tactical control of a battalion fire direction center. However, when the battery is split and the platoons are widely separated the battery fire direction center must also split its personnel to provide in many cases tactical as well as technical fire direction. This requires that additional personnel, normally untrained, must be obtained from other sections within the battery just to meet minimum manning requirements and to provide the characteristic double check system. This augmentation of personnel can be satisfactorily accomplished for limited periods, but over extended periods it is highly unsatisfactory, creates a burden on the battery, and detracts from established proficiency of the fire direction center.

(c) Recommendation:

(1) That a realistic review of the battery fire direction center organization and personnel authorization be conducted in view of the typical employment of heavy artillery batteries in a counter insurgency environment.

(2) That this review be conducted by comparing twenty-four hour manning requirements as outlined in FM 6-40 for a manual fire direction center against the TOE manning level.

(3) That at least two additional personnel, MOS 13E20, be authorized for each battery fire direction center.

e. Training: None

f. Logistics:

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(1) Heavy Artillery Loader-Rammer Assemblies.

(a) Observation: A continuing operational problem exists in the loader-rammer mechanism of both the 8-Inch howitzer and the 175mm gun. In one battery three out of four assigned weapons experienced loader-rammer problems throughout the reporting period.

(b) The primary cause of the problem appears to be the rammer solenoid valve which was replaced by MWO 9-2300-216-30/6 dated 24 September 1965. The old solenoid valve allowed for a throttling of the rammer gear to adjust the speed of the ram. The old valves (pilot-operated-type) were manufactured by Republic Manufacturing Company (Part number 9-1961-10). The replacement valve (gate-type) is manufactured by Parker Aircraft Company (part number 1374-589537). This MWO apparently caused an undue amount of strain on the head shaft pinion and drive shaft spur gear which tends to bend the rammer casing and renders the rammer inoperative. This can be substantiated by the operational status of the loader-rammers of this units' weapons during the reporting period. Three of the weapons are equipped with the MWO and had inoperative loader-rammers. The one weapon without the MWO applied had a fully operational loader-rammer assembly throughout the period. This was accomplished with no noticeable sacrifice in uniformity of the ram.

(c) Recommendation: That MWO 9-2300-216-30/6 dated 24 September 1965 be revoked and that the old Rammer Solenoid valve manufactured by Republic Manufacturing Company (9-1961-10) be reinstalled in all heavy artillery pieces.

(2) Establishment of a Repair Parts Authorized Stockage List (ASL)

(a) Observation: During the displacement of a tactical unit from one direct support maintenance unit area of responsibility to another, it is noted that there is a significant delay in the establishment of a repair parts ASL by the new DSU technical supply.

(b) Evaluation: In general, provisions are not made in advance for the exchange of demand data and, therefore, it will take the tactical unit at least three demands within 180 days in order for the new DSU technical supply to establish a repair parts ASL.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th
Artillery for period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

(c) Recommendation: That upon notification of a pending move by the supported unit and a change of DSU Technical supply support for that unit, provisions be made by the supporting maintenance facility to transfer demand data from the records of the old technical supply to the new supporting technical supply unit. This will enable the new technical supply unit to establish its repair parts ASL and will ultimately provide more responsive repair parts support to the tactical unit.

g. Communications: None

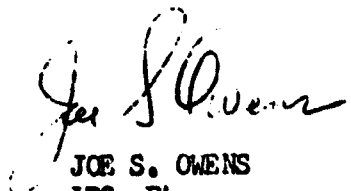
h. Material: None

i. Other: None

4 Inclosures

as

Incl 3 w/d HQ DA


JOE S. OWENS
LTC, FA
Commanding

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AVFA-ATK-OP (30 Apr 70) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th
Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970,
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, HQ 52nd Artillery Group, APO 96318 11 May 70

TO: Commanding Officer, IFFORCV Artillery, APO 96350

1. Concur in contents of basic report and recommendations.
2. This indorsement is unclassified when separated from basic correspondence.


R. E. DINGEMAN
Colonel, Field Artillery
Commanding

AVFA-AT-D (30 Apr 70) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operation Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion,
15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65
(R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96350

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

This headquarters has reviewed subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned
and 1st Indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



WALTER J. MEHL
Lieutenant Colonel, ADA
Adjutant

cf:
CO, 7th Bn 15th Arty

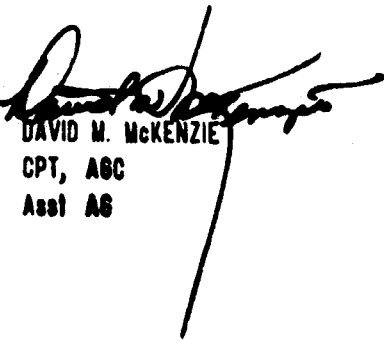
AVFA-GC-HIST (30 April 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion,
15th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS, CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO S.F. 96350 28 MAY 1970

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsements and concurs.
2. Reference firing pad construction, paragraph 2c (1); concur. The use of matting, airfield, M8A1 would be expeditious and economical. Recommend that this type of matting be authorized for this purpose.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


DAVID M. McKENZIE
CPT, ASC
Asst AS

CF:
1 - CG, I FFORCEV ARTY (LESS ORLL)
1 - CO, 52D ARTY GP (LESS ORLL)
1 - CO, 7TH BN, 15TH ARTY (LESS ORLL)

AVHGC-DST (30 Apr 70) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion,
15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 19 1970

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 30 April 1970 from Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery and comments from indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Firing Pad Construction for Self Propelled Heavy Artillery", page 15, paragraph c(1): nonconcur. Steel landing mat, specifically M8A1 Matting, is a USARV command controlled item designed for airfield surfaces. Units desiring to secure this item for purposes other than airfields are required to submit complete justification for consideration on a case by case basis.

b. Reference item concerning "Use of Propelling Charge M86A1", page 15, paragraph c(2): concur. If cited recommendation is not considered the most desirable, lots of this series should be returned to supporting ASP and replaced with another lot. Concurrent with this action, Reducer Flash, Propelling Charge XM5, for 175mm gun, FSN 1320-926-4107-D493 should be requisitioned in sufficient quantity to issue one for one with aforementioned lot series. Unit has been so advised.

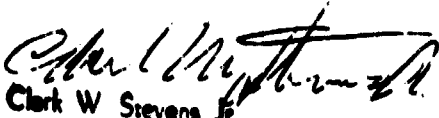
c. Reference item concerning "Heavy Artillery Loader-Rammer Assemblies", page 17, paragraph f(1): concur. Recommend that USAWECOM explore the feasibility of rescinding MWO 9-2300-216-30/6 and also determine if the MWO is causing problem cited.

d. Reference item concerning "Establishment of a Repair Parts Authorized Stockage List (ASL)", page 17, paragraph f(2): nonconcur. There are no practical means for the transfer of a using unit's demand data from one DSU to another. This limitation need not result in a situation in which it takes a tactical unit 3 demands in 180 days before the new DSU stocks an item. Prior to the displacement of a tactical unit from one DSU's area of responsibility to another's, the displacing unit must provide the new DSU a copy of its PLL. It is the new DSU's responsibility to edit this PLL and compare the PLL to its stockage list. Valid Federal Stock Numbers which are not currently stocked at the DSU but appear on the unit's PLL are to be added to the DSU stockage list immediately. Unit has been so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

22

Cy furn:
HQ, I FFORCEV
HQ, 7th Bn, 15th Arty


Clark W. Stevens Jr.
Captain, ALC
Assistant Adjutant General

GPOP-DT (30 Apr 70) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period
Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 17 JUL 70

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:



L.M. OZAKI
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CONFIDENTIAL

WFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

1. (C) During the reporting period (1 February 1970 - 30 April 1970), the following units were assigned to the battalion:

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
Service Battery, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery

2. (C) Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery was placed under the operational control of the 6th Battalion, 32d Artillery on 24 March 1970 and remains under their control.

3. (C) Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery remained under battalion control until 8 April 1970, when a 175mm gun and an 8-Inch howitzer became temporarily attached to 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery and remains attached to that battalion at the close of this reporting period.

4. (C) Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery remained temporarily attached to this battalion until 4 April 1970, when two howitzers departed and were temporarily attached to 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. Two other howitzers from the battery departed on 8 April 1970, and were also temporarily attached to 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. One platoon remains temporarily attached to 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

5. (C) At the beginning of this period, a platoon of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery was temporarily attached to the battalion. On 16 February another platoon became temporarily attached to the battalion forming Battery C(-), 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery. The battery minus remained temporarily attached to the battalion until 21 March 1970.

Inclosure 1

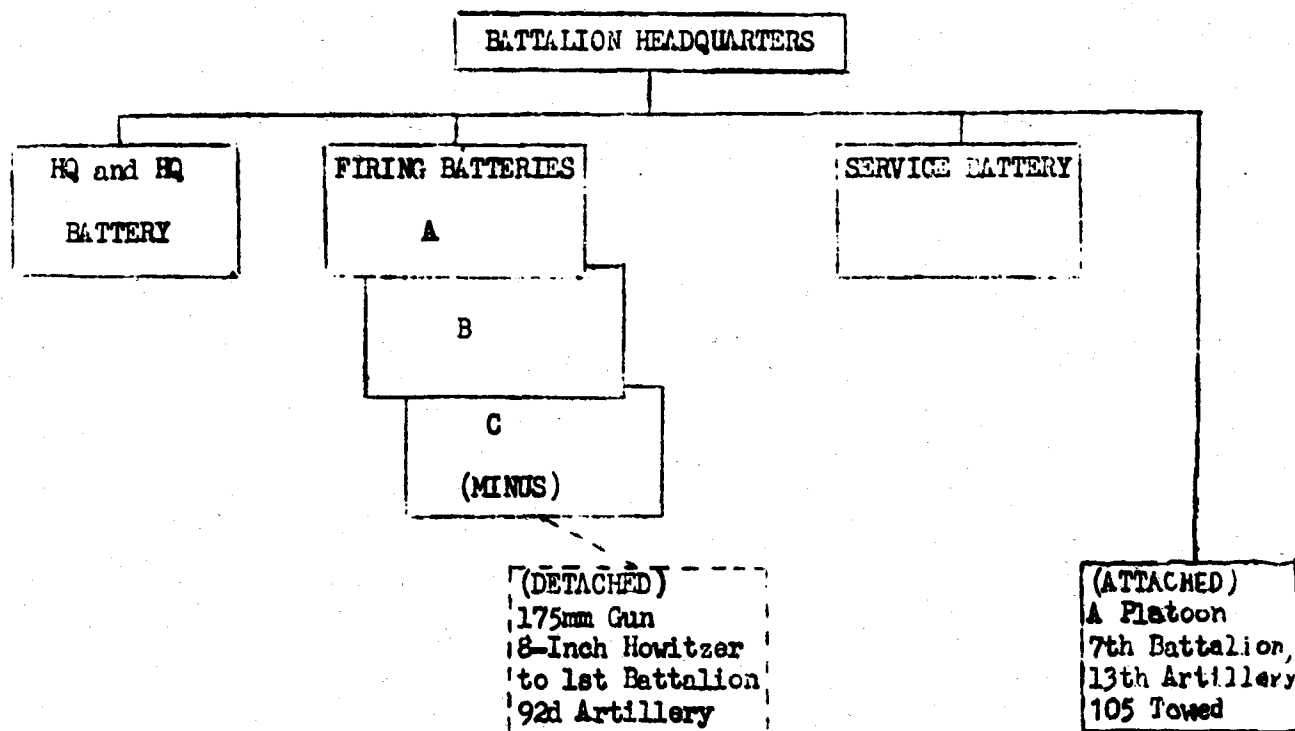
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1VFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

7TH BATTALION, 15TH ARTILLERY
175MM, 8-INCH SELF PROPELLED
ORGANIZATION AS OF 30 APRIL 1970



~~Enclosure 2~~

CONFIDENTIAL

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AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65, (R2) (U)

VISITS BY DIGNITARIES TO THE 7TH BATTALION, 15TH ARTILLERY

1. (C) Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery - 5 February 1970
 - a. Colonel Hall, Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery.
 - b. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.
 - c. Command visit to inspect firebase construction, area police and emplacement of MPQ-4 Radar.
2. (C) USARV Engineer - 9 February 1970
 - a. Brigadier General Tarbox, USARV Engineer
 - b. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.
 - c. Orientation visit to observe the firebase construction.
3. (C) Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade - 11 February 1970
 - a. Brigadier General Morris, Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade.
 - b. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.
 - c. Visited the firebase to inspect the completion of engineer requirements.
4. (C) Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division and Commanding Officer, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division - 11 February 1970
 - a. Major General Walker, Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division and Colonel Yow, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division.
 - b. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.
 - c. Liaison visit inspecting site for possibility of moving command post, 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division to firebase area.
5. (C) Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery - 12 February 1970
 - a. Colonel Hall, Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery.
 - b. Batteries A and B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery
 - c. Command visits inspecting perimeter security and construction projects.

26

~~Inclosure 4~~

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVFA-ATN-C

30 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery for Period Ending 30 April 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

6. (C) MACV Chief of Staff and Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division - 18 February 1970.

a. Major General Dolvin, MACV Chief of Staff and Major General Walker, Commanding General, 4th Infantry Division.

b. Battery C, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery

c. Orientation visit.

7. (C) Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery - 11 March 1970

a. Colonel Hall, Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery.

b. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

c. Command and control visit.

8. (C) Deputy Commanding General, IFFORCEV - 12 April 1970

a. Major General Brown, Deputy Commanding General, IFFORCEV.

b. Battery C Platoon, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery, Artillery Hill, Pleiku.

c. Command and control visit.

9. (C) Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery - 22 April 1970

a. Colonel Hall, Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery.

b. Battery B, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

c. Command and control visit.

10. (C) Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery - 28 April 1970

a. Colonel Hall, Commanding Officer, IFFORCEV Artillery.

b. Battery A, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery.

c. Command visit.

~~Inclosure 4~~

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UNCLASSIFIED
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Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb to 30 Apr 70.

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

CO, 7th Battalion, 15th Artillery

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13. ABSTRACT

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