

Operational Report

Lessons Learned

Headquarters 6/27th Artillery

Period Ending 31 July 1966

6TH ARTILLERY, 6TH BN 6200 31 JULY 1966

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CDC

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS
6TH BATTALION, 27TH ARTILLERY
APO San Francisco 96307

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UNCLASSIFIED

31 July 1966

AVGE-Y

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarter [redacted] ending 31 July 1966,
Reports Control Symbol [redacted]

THRU: Commanding Officer
23d Artillery Group
ATTN: AVGE-G
APO 96289

Commanding General
II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
ATTN: AVI-7A-G
APO 96227

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVC-BH
APO 96307

Commander - in - Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-MH
APO 96558

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

A32

ACTION COPY	
ACTION COMPLETE	DATE FOR _____
ACTION COMPLETE	DO NOT RETURN
ACTION OFFICER	

208-88

GROUP -4
DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS

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AVC66C 8244

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SECTION I

1. (G) Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

a. (U) Administration/Personnel

(1) The Battalion Headquarters is physically separated from its Personnel Section by approximately thirty miles. The Personnel Section completed a permanent change of station from Tan Son Nhut to Long Binh on 3 June 1966 and is presently co-located with Service Battery of this battalion. Although this separation causes loss of time in the transmission of paper-work between the two areas, many advantages in the processing of replacements are realized. This separation has not affected timely and accurate reporting procedures.

(2) The replacement of officer and enlisted personnel continues to be particularly effective. Replacements have been received, or are scheduled to arrive, as requested. This is especially noteworthy when considering the personnel turbulence during this reporting period.

(3) A high state of morale continues to exist within the unit. This condition can be largely attributed to maximum participation in the R&R program, three day pass arrangements, and to the availability of Special Service equipment.

b. (C) Intelligence

The following items mentioned in previous reports have been continued during the reporting period:

(1) An aggressive aerial observation program has been conducted, with observers flying 448 hours of visual reconnaissance. Approximately 14.3 per cent of these hours were at night, utilizing the STARLIGHT Scope when light conditions were favorable. The results of this aerial observation program have been sent in a daily intelligence summary (INISUM) to the 23rd Artillery Group and the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division. In addition, the results have been posted on the battalion activity overlay. This overlay provides a basis for accurate harassing and interdiction fires on VC base camps and communications routes. Using low level reconnaissance, the exact location of a major east-west supply route was determined in early July.

(2) An Order of Battle (OB) card file and current OB overlay have been maintained to provide the battalion with all available information on enemy troop movements and present locations.

c. (C) Training

(1) In order to deliver accurate and timely artillery fire, both firing battery and fire direction personnel must be completely knowledgeable of their job and fully capable of performing the related duties. To maintain the high level of efficiency necessary to accomplish this task, an intensive and continuous training program was aggressively pursued by

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AVGE-Y

31 July 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

the battalion. By vigorously following the program, an almost completely new battalion fire direction center was trained, thus eliminating a problem created when key personnel returned to COMUS thru normal rotation and school-trained replacements could not be obtained.

(2) During this period personnel of the battalion were afforded the opportunity to re-familiarize with their T028 weapon, obtain a new battle-sight zero, and become acquainted with all other small arms organic to their unit. In anticipation of the unit's T028 being augmented with the 81mm mortar, appropriate training was requested from the 1st Bn, 2d Infantry, 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division and provided to key firing battery personnel.

(3) Officers and enlisted personnel received training in the art of patrolling by participating in both day and night infantry company-sized patrols around the brigade perimeter.

(4) Under the battalion's direction, batteries established a two hour orientation program for replacements which explains Vietnamese customs and traditions in an effort to help the new individuals understand the complex situation present in Vietnam and allow them to more ably carry out their assigned duties.

d. (C) Operations

(1) 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (-) continued the mission of General Support/Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery. A/6/27th continued the mission of General Support/Reinforcing the 3rd Battalion, 319th Artillery at Bien Hoa until 9 June 1966 when the battery closed into a new position at Bear Cat and was given the mission of General Support/Reinforcing the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery. The move by A/6/27th was a permanent change in both location and mission. During the period 1 May through 31 July 1966, the battalion fired 11,468 missions, expending 10,767 8" and 4,884 175mm rounds.

(2) Three resupply convoys and the following seven tactical operations other than resupply were supported:

(a) Operation BIRMINGHAM - A/6/27th was attached to the 1st Infantry Division Artillery in support of this operation. (5 May-17 May)

(b) ABELAIBE I. (31 May-9 Jun)

(c) ABELAIBE II. (2 Jun-10 Jun)

(d) ABELAIBE III. (7 Jun-10 Jun)

(e) CHORR PAPUIS. (26 Jun-01 Jul)

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966,
Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

31 July 1966

(f) CEDAR RAPIDS II. (24 Jul-25 Jul)

(g) SPRINGFIELD (26 Jul-31 Jul)

(3) The battalion, with its mission of general support, continued to furnish artillery support to several Special Forces "A" teams. The liaison team stationed at a newly established camp during the last quarter actively enhanced the ability of the battalion to render invaluable support to the camp. During the period the battalion supported three airborne assault operations conducted by two of the Special Forces "A" teams with preparatory, "on call", and harassment and interdiction fires. As a result of artillery support during one of the operations, the Special Forces team obtained a confirmed twenty (20) body count with a possible forty (40) more.

(4) Other significant events during the period are listed below:

(a) On 8 June 1966 Service Battery (-) completed a move from Bien Hoa to Long Binh, a permanent change of location.

(b) On 19 June 1966 A/6/27th completed the conversion of one 8" Howitzer to a 175mm Gun.

(c) On 23 June 1966 the battalion fired its 30,000th round in Vietnam.

e. (U) Logistics

(1) This organization participated in three resupply convoys in conjunction with the 1st Sdc, 1st Infantry Division. In addition ammunition, spare parts and other critical items were received by aerial resupply.

(2) This unit, by active participation in the "Self-help program", has built four Quonset huts, eight pre-fab buildings, five general purpose tent floors, one mess hall, one HCO and EM club, one day room and one transit DOC. All construction was accomplished by troop labor with technical assistance from Engineer units. Building materials were obtained through normal supply channels after the items were approved by the area Self-help board. All structures were built in accordance with specified plans designed for this area.

f. (C) Aviation

(1) The battalion conducted an aggressive aerial observation program during the reporting period, flying over 448 hours of visual reconnaissance. In addition numerous administrative and command and control missions were flown between batteries of this organization and supported units.

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Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

(2) In general, most day flights yield only indications that activity has occurred within the area of operation and "live" targets are rarely seen.

(3) Night aerial surveillance flights have proven to be the most consistent and reliable source of information. In terms of live targets sighted, night surveillance flights have been far more productive than day-light flights.

g. (U) Civic Action

During the reporting period, the following civic action projects and activities were accomplished.

(1) Members from Bravo Battery, repaired the classroom furniture at the Phuoc Vinh School.

(2) A box of hospital supplies donated by the Albion Woman's Club, Albion, Michigan was given to the Phuoc Vinh dispensary for use in their work.

(3) A box of children's clothing donated by a relative of the Headquarters Battery Commander was given to the B-5, 1st Bde, 1st Infantry Division for distribution to the needy children in Phuoc Vinh.

(4) Vietnamese laborers were utilized to clean the classrooms and police the school yard in preparation for the beginning of classes at the Phuoc Vinh School.

(5) Two hundred pounds of soap were donated to an orphanage in Saigon.

SECTION II

1. (C) Section, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned).

a. (U) Personnel

(1) Averages in Enlisted Grade Structures.

(a) Item: Enlisted Promotions

(b) Discussion: This battalion departed COMUS with an excess of five E-6's. This situation developed when an augmentation of six forward observer sections, each authorized one Recon Sergeant (E5), were filled with E-6's. The excess in grade has created a bottleneck in the promotion system and a deterrent to morale.

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Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65 (U)

(c) Observation: It would be more desirable to fill vacancies with individuals one grade below that authorized by the TOSM, rather than to permit exceptions in the upward direction.

(2) Requisitioning of blank forms and publications.

(a) Item: Requirements for blank forms and publications.

(b) Discussion: Unusual difficulties arise when blank forms and publications are not readily available. The delay encountered from the time of submitting a requisition until receipt of these items appears to be excessive, when compared to the situation in CGSUS.

(c) Observation: Units must anticipate their requirements for blank forms and publications by at least three months.

b. (C) Operations

Support of Special Forces

(1) Item: General support artillery long range capabilities can be effectively utilized in support of Special Forces gaps and/or operations.

(2) Discussion: The battalion continuously renders support to outlying Special Forces "A" teams located in War Zone "D" at a distance of 24 to 29 kilometers from the 175mm gun positions. These teams periodically make contact with Viet Cong units moving through Zone "D" and request the battalion to place fire on the enemy. By immediate response to the calls for fire, the battalion effectively utilized the long range capabilities of the 175mm gun to inflict casualties upon the enemy. Through such cooperation and immediate action, the combined efforts of long range artillery and Special Forces "A" teams have hindered Viet Cong operations in that portion of War Zone "D" encompassed by the range of the 175mm gun, a region formerly used by the VC with impunity.

(3) Observation: All General Support Artillery units should establish and maintain close liaison with Special Forces detachments located within their range capabilities.

c. (C) Training and Organization

(1) Item: Training of firing battery and fire direction personnel.

(2) Discussion: Due to normal rotation and lack of school-trained replacements the battalion has found it necessary to conduct an intensive training program for firing battery and fire direction personnel.

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SECRET

AVKGC-DH (31 Jul 66)

4th Ind

22 NOV 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 July 1966 (RCS CSPOC-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATEN: AFPOC-OT
APO 96558

- The Operational Report-Lessons Learned submitted by the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for the quarter ending 31 July 1966 is forwarded herewith.
- Concur with the comments contained in the basic report and the preceding indorsements.
- Reference Section II, Part I, Paragraph 1a(2), Page 6: This headquarters is unable to evaluate properly the comments made in the discussion. Difficulties alleged are vague and not specific. Unit will be required to furnish particulars and specific instances where publications and blank forms were not readily available for issue.
- Reference Section II, Part II, Paragraph 2b, Page 8: The feasibility of implementing this recommendation is presently under study at 1st Logistical Command and this Headquarters.
- Reference Section II, Part II, Paragraph 2c, Page 8: A study is currently being made on the employment of Long Range Patrol Units in the tactical organizations of this command (USARV).

FOR THE COMMANDER:

R. J. THORNTON
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant Gen.

AVC66C 10654



*Return to Brown
in 1967*

This document may be regarded "UNCLASSIFIED" when separated from classified inclosure

RJA/A

11-085

NAVY PEARLER 1341 Record Copy - Return to AVKGC-DH

NAVY 135017
AUTHORITY
DATE 3/23

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DISPOSITION FORM UNCLASSIFIED

(AR 340-15)

3 - 6 Oct 66

OFFICE SYMBOL OR FILE REFERENCE

SUBJECT

AVHGC-DH

Indorsement of Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO AG S:(to G3P&O) 3 Oct
G3P&O S:(to G3D&H) 6 Oct
G3D&H

FROM ACofS, G3

DATE 1 Oct 66
MAJ Van Horn/cad/341 CMT 1

1. References:

a. DF, Chief of Staff, Subject: Indorsement of Operational Report on Lessons Learned, 23 April 1966.

b. (Attached as Inclosure 2) ORLL, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for period ending 31 July 1966.

2. Attached ORLL is forwarded for the review and comments needed for preparation of the USARV command indorsement which will forward the ORLL through CINCUSARPAC to ACSFOR, DA. Your review and comment should include the basic command report and all current indorsements, if any.

3. Inclosure 1 lists those problem areas described in the attached report and inclosure(s) which require comment/action by this headquarters; the responsible staff section has been cited in each instance. Additionally, comments pertaining to any part of the attached report are solicited from each addressee.

4. Comment(s) should be so composed (format; writing style) that each can be readily inserted directly into the USARV indorsement. The USARV command indorsement must indicate to higher headquarters that USARV has taken or is taking proper action in each specific area. Problem areas and recommendations to be addressed by the appropriate staff section should include:

a. Concur

Explain action being taken to correct the situation.
Recommend action required at higher headquarters.

b. Nonconcur

Explain why.
How can the problem be solved under existing directives.
Explain action being taken to insure that reporting headquarters

is properly informed.

5. Since the value of the ORLL's submitted every three months is largely dependent upon the timeliness of the information contained within each, it is necessary that the above suspense dates be met.

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2 Incl
as

John P. Brown
JOHN P. BROWN
Colonel, GS

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Portions of attached report which require comment by specific staff sections:

AG Section II, Para 1a(2), Page 6

G3P&O Section II, Para 1b

A copy of this report has been sent to G1, G2, and G4.

Incl 1
*

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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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NAVY 135017
AUTHORITY
DATE 1/23

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DISPOSITION FORM UNCLASSIFIED 9 Oct 66
(AR 340-15)

OFFICE SYMBOL OR FILE REFERENCE AVHGC-DH	SUBJECT Indorsement of Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (ORLL)
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TO G1 S:(to G2) 3 Oct G2 S:(to G4) 6 Oct G4 S:(to G3DH) 9 Oct G3DH	FROM ACofS, G3	DATE 1 Oct 66 MAJ Van Horn/cad/341	CMT 1
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1. References:

- a. DF, Chief of Staff, Subject: Indorsement of Operational Report on Lessons Learned, 23 April 1966.
- b. (Attached as Inclosure 2) ORLL, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for period ending 31 July 1966, with 3 Indorsements.

2. Attached ORLL is forwarded for the review and comments needed for preparation of the USARV command indorsement which will forward the ORLL through CINCUSARPAC to ACSFOR, DA. Your review and comment should include the basic command report and all current indorsements, if any.

3. Inclosure 1 lists those problem areas described in the attached report and inclosure(s) which require comment/action by this headquarters; the responsible staff section has been cited in each instance. Additionally, comments pertaining to any part of the attached report are solicited from each addressee.

4. Comment(s) should be so composed (format; writing style) that each can be readily inserted directly into the USARV indorsement. The USARV command indorsement must indicate to higher headquarters that USARV has taken or is taking proper action in each specific area. Problem areas and recommendations to be addressed by the appropriate staff section should include:

a. Concur

Explain action being taken to correct the situation.
Recommend action required at higher headquarters.

b. Nonconcur

Explain why.
How can the problem be solved under existing directives.
Explain action being taken to insure that reporting headquarters is properly informed.

5. Since the value of the ORLL's submitted every three months is largely dependent upon the timeliness of the information contained within each, it is necessary that the above suspense dates be met.

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2 Incl
as 50/66

John P. Brown
JOHN P. BROWN
Colonel, GS
ACofS, G3

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Portions of attached report which require comment by specific staff sections:

- G1 Section II, Para 1a(1), Pages 5 and 6
Section 2, Part II, Para 2a, Page 8
Para 2a, 2nd Ind
- G2 Section II, Para 1d, Page 7
Section 2, Part II, Para 2c, Page 8
Section 2, Part II, Para 2d, Page 8
Para 5, 1st Ind
Para 2c, 2nd Ind
- G4 Section II, Para 1e(1) and (2), Page 7 and 8
Section 2, Part II, Para 2b, Page 8
Para 3, 1st Ind

A copy of this report has been sent to AG and G3P&O.

Incl 1

[Handwritten Signature]
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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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12201
AUTHORITY
DATE 3/23

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AVHAG-AS (1 Oct 66)

SUBJECT: Indorsement of Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO: G3

FROM: AG

DATE:

CMT: 2

ATTN: P&O

MAJ Christian/plm/366

1. (U) Reference is made to Section II, Paragraph 1a(2), page 6.
2. (U) This office is unable to properly evaluate the comments made in discussion above since no difficulties have been reported to this headquarters. Difficulties alleged are vague and not specific. It is not known if the complaint refers to publications support from publications centers in CONUS, Japan, or this headquarters.
3. (U) Unit will be required to furnish full particulars and specific instances where publications and blank forms were not readily available for issue.

2 Incl
nc

S. A. Mackenzie
 S. A. MACKENZIE
 Colonel, AGC
 Adjutant General

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INCLOSURE

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AVHGC-PO (5 Oct 66)

SUBJECT: Indorsement of Operational Reports - Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO: G3 FROM: G3, P&O DATE: 7 Oct 66 CMT: 2
ATTN: D&H MAJ Toreson/jhb/364

1. Reference is made to Section II, para lb.
2. General support artillery long range capability utilized in support of Special Forces has been noted. Concur in value of liaison between such artillery units and Special Forces detachments located within their range capabilities.
3. No action necessary at this or higher headquarters.

Benjamin Hill
 BENJAMIN H. HILL
 Colonel, GS
 Chief, P&O Division
 Office, ACoFS, G3

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AUTHORITY
DATE 7/23

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AVHGD-PO

SUBJECT: Operational Reports-Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO G3DH

FROM ACofS, G4

DATE 18 OCT 1966 CMT 2
LTC Skoglund/gfv/439

1. Reference Section II, para 1e(1), page 7. Concur. Recent reports from other units substantiate the discussion at para 1e(1) (b).
2. Section II, Part II, para 1e(2) and para 2b. Concur in the concept of contact teams. However, the TOE authorizations in DS/GS units for artillery repairmen will not permit dissipation of this repair capability at the battery level and permit adequate repair capacity at the support level concurrently. To provide better contact team support, the battery or battalion requiring assistance in isolated areas could assist by providing transportation to bring the support personnel and repair parts to the site.
3. Para 3, 1st Ind. Concur in the concept for the same reasons as above.

J. A. Graf
 J. A. GRAF
 Colonel, GS
 AC of S, G4

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BASIC LETTER

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