

UNCLASSIFIED
REF ID: A6617
AUTHORITY
E.O. 13526, DATE 7/23

Operational Report
Lessons Learned
Headquarters 6/27th Artillery
Period Ending 31 Oct 1967

27TH ARTILLERY, 6TH AV
ORIG 31 OCT 1967

100

DECLASSIFIED
NAID 735617
AUTHORITY
DCL NARA DATE 1/22

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVHQC-DST (31 Oct 67) 3d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 26 JAN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (A1SA) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning artillery officer refresher training, page 6, paragraph 3a: Concur. This refresher training is a key action in the reduction of casualties from our own fires. Presently, DA is programming company grade artillery officers who have been alerted for Vietnam to attend this course.

b. Reference item concerning artillery section chief course, page 7, paragraph 3b. Adoption of this recommendation will require an evaluation at Department of the Army level. Presently, there is a program in effect whereby units may annotate enlisted requisitions to request attendance of replacements, MOS 13B40, at the 8"-175mm Artillery Section Chief Course at Fort Sill enroute to Vietnam. This program was announced to USARV by DA unclassified message 72713 from EPED-C, 29 March 1967, Subject: Chief Section 8"-175mm (SP) Course; and unclassified message 22956, 11 April 1967, same subject. However, the program permits only the annotation of requisition items for duty as Chief of Section in 8"-175mm artillery units.

c. Reference item concerning maintenance float equipment, page 7, paragraph 5: Concur. Maintenance float for signal equipment is authorized on a fixed basis of 5% of the assets on hand. Every effort has been made to assure the availability of the authorized quantity of float. Some items are critically short and in these cases the total quantity of float is not on hand. Engineer and Ordnance items are also in critically short supply thereby causing shortages in the area of maintenance float.

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

RECEIVED
27 JAN A.M.
G3

J. S. NARATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

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FROM CLASSIFIED ENCLOSURES

copy furn:
HQ, 6th Bn, 27th Arty
HQ, II FFORCSV Arty

MFR: ORLL was staffed through:
DST LTC Riley/4882
G1 LTC Prillaman/4278 FD LTC Converse/4240
G4 LTC Phillips/4379
ACTION OFFICER: CPT ARNOLD/4485

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CH MS BR	
CH DOCT BR	Bl
CH TWG BR	
AIO	Bl

COI HAYWARD, ACOFS, G3
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AUTHORITY
DATE 7/23

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY
APO 96289

AVGE-YC

31 October 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

THRU: Commanding Officer
23d Artillery Group
APO 96289

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

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

Commander-In-Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C., 20301

SECTION I

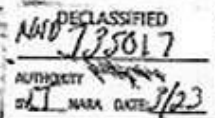
SIGNIFICANT HEADQUARTERS OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

- 1. (C) Administration and Personnel

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31 October 1967

PAGE-1C

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

a. The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remained assigned to the 23d Artillery Group. Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery rejoined the Battalion on 12 September 1967 after having been attached to the 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery for the period of 29 September 1966 to 11 September 1967. Battery "B", 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery was attached to this unit during the period 15 September through 14 October 1967.

b. Normal S-1 activities have been conducted during the period 1 August 1967 to 31 October 1967.

c. Personnel strength of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery on 31 October 1967 was less than authorized strength. One significant personnel shortage did exist during this period. Shortage existed in grades of E-6 and E-7, MOS 76Y40, supply sergeants on dates indicated below.

- (1) 1 - 20 September 1967 - one (1) E-6.
- (2) 20 - 25 September 1967 - two (2) E-6 and one (1) E-7.
- (3) 25 - 30 September 1967 - three (3) E-6 and one (1) E-7.
- (4) 1 - 10 October 1967 - replacements for three (3) E-6's received.

d. There are no critical MOS shortages.

e. There was one battle casualty (WIA) and one non-battle casualty during the reporting period. Neither casualty was serious.

f. Awards and Decorations presented to members of this command included three Bronze Star Medals (Service), one Bronze Star (Achievement); seven Air Medals, three Army Commendation Medals and sixteen Purple Hearts.

g. There is no significant R&R information.

h. There were no significant morale and disciplinary problems.

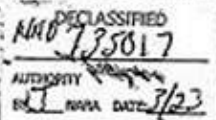
i. There were no medical activities significantly affecting morale, strength or operations.

j. There were no vehicle or aircraft accidents significantly affecting operations.

k. There were no significant changes in educational opportunities.

l. There were no significant religious services or problems.

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31 October 1967

AVGE-YC

SUBJECTS Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSPOR-65) (U)

2. (C) Intelligence:

a. Comprehensive pre-IG inspections plus routine inspections were made during the reporting period. These inspections included physical security, security of classified information and counter-intelligence.

b. The Battalion has instituted a program of attacking hard targets using information obtained from its revised target filing system and liaison with Special Forces Camps.

c. Other information pertinent to intelligence.

(1) One intelligence seminar was conducted at Phuoc Vinh, RVN, by this organization during this period. Representatives from four Special Forces "A" Detachments, one "B" Detachment, from 1st Battalion, 5th Artillery, and from the 23d Artillery Group attended. Background information and current intelligence information was exchanged.

(2) Officers from Battery "B" are attending daily briefings being conducted by Commanding Officer, Special Forces Detachment B-33, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group at Song Be, RVN.

(3) Officers from Battery "A" are attending weekly briefings being conducted by Commanding Officer, Special Forces Detachment B-34, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group at Hon Quan, RVN. Significant intelligence has been obtained from these briefings and has been made available to units of this organization.

3. (C) Training:

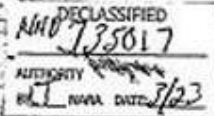
a. The Battalion continues to administer Specialist Tests for gun section personnel, Fire Direction Center personnel and all incoming Company Grade Officers.

b. New in-country arrivals continue to be sent to 1st Infantry Division Jungle Devil School. This course of instruction contributes significantly to the newly arrived soldiers ability to perform security missions in the vicinity of his battery area.

4. (C) Operations:

a. During this reporting period the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery assumed the responsibility for supporting three more Special Forces "A" Detachments. These detachments are located at Bu Dop, Duc Phong, and Banard. Additionally, this organization participated in the following operations:

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSPOR-65) (U)

(1) On 15 September 1967; Battery "B", 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery was air lifted from Bien Hoa, RVN, to Phuoc Binh, RVN. This was the first air lift of a 175MM gun battery to be conducted in this theater. The move was accomplished in twelve hours and the battery was attached to this organization upon landing at Phuoc Binh, RVN. Twenty-seven (27) C-130 sorties and nine (9) C-124 sorties were required to accomplish the task.

(2) On 15 September 1967, Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery arrived at Bien Hoa, RVN, completing its move from Hue, RVN. This move was accomplished by sea lift, using seven LCU's from Hue to Danang, RVN, where the unit was reloaded into one LST for transport to Newport, RVN. The unit moved from Newport to Bien Hoa by motor march.

(3) Operation "WARMUP", 21 September - 29 September 1967. Two forward observers were attached to Sigma Operations, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group for the duration of this operation. They accompanied the maneuver units and adjusted fires of this organization's guns within the area of operations. They also served alternately as fire support coordinators for the force commander.

(4) Operation "SHORTSTOP", 8 October - 25 October 1967. One liaison officer and one forward observer were attached to Sigma Operations, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. The liaison officer functioned as the fire support coordinator and supervised fire planning for 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery who supported this operation. The forward observer accompanied maneuver units and adjusted fire as necessary.

(5) Operation "RAPID-FIRE-TWO", 21 October - 28 October 1967. One liaison officer was attached to Detachment B-33, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. He functioned as the fire support coordinator for the force commander and planned fires for elements of the 2nd Battalion, 32nd Artillery and 2nd Battalion, 77th Artillery who provided fire support for the operation.

(6) During the period 8 October - 14 October 1967, personnel of Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery were transported by aircraft from Bien Hoa, RVN, to Phuoc Binh, RVN; where they relieved personnel of Battery "B", 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery in place. Concurrently, personnel of Battery "B", 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery were transported by aircraft to Bien Hoa, RVN and relieved Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery in place.

b. The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition expended.

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UNIT	MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED	
		8"	175MM
Battery "A"	6,935	4,115	5,519
Battery "B"	1,334	509	1,375
Battery "C"	2,622	4,404	4,484
Battery "B" 7/8th Arty	736	- -	1,841
TOTAL	11,627	9,028	13,219

5. (C) Logistics:

a. During this reporting period resupply of this organization was accomplished in the following manner:

- (1) Battery "A" and Battery "C" were resupplied once by convoy, the remaining supplies being delivered by aircraft.
- (2) Battery "B" has been resupplied exclusively by aircraft since arriving at Phuoc Binh, RVN. Prior to that the battery was resupplied by road when in position at Bien Hoa, RVN.
- (3) Battery "B", 7th Battalion, 8th Artillery was resupplied exclusively by aircraft while attached to this organization.

b. The M113 armored personnel carriers organic to this organization have been replaced by M548, tracked cargo carriers.

6. (C) The following aviation missions, listed by sorties, were flown during this reporting period.

	<u>Cmd & Control</u>	<u>Recon</u>	<u>Arty Adjustment</u>	<u>PAK</u>	<u>Cargo (tons)</u>	<u>Hours</u>
ROTARY WING	96	64	2	101	.5	142:00
FIXED WING	163	207	101	40	1.0	424:30
TOTAL:	259	271	103	141	1.5	566:30

7. (U) The following civic action projects have been accomplished during this reporting period by this organization.

- a. The Phuoc Vinh school has been continuously under repair.
- b. A Lunar Party was given by this organization for four hundred children at the Phuoc Vinh school.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSPOR-65) (U)

c. The battalion medical section has conducted eleven MEDCAPS and has attended one hundred sixty-six patients during this period.

d. A Boy Scout Troop has been organized in Phuoc Vinh.

8. (C) Communications:

a. During this period three VHF circuits, two-sole user, and one-common user, from Phuoc Vinh to Phuoc Binh were obtained from 595th Signal Support Company. These circuits are the primary means of communication used for command and fire control between the Battalion Headquarters and Battery "B".

b. AN/GRC 106 radios were placed in operation in the Battalion Fire Direction Center at Phuoc Vinh and the Fire Direction Center of Battery "B" at Phuoc Binh. They serve as a backup for VHF and FM radios because of the isolated location of Battery "B".

SECTION II

PART I, OBSERVATIONS

1. (U) Personnel and Administration - NONE.

2. (C) Intelligence:

ITEM: Target Acquisition.

(1) DISCUSSION: The 1st Infantry Division is more actively seeking targets by aerial means within the range capabilities of this organization's firing elements. Direct coordination between the 1st Infantry Division Artillery and this organization has been affected to insure rapid passage of target intelligence and aircraft flight plan information. This coordination has resulted in this organization being better able to plan the attack of these targets.

(2) OBSERVATION: Direct and early coordination must be made with target acquisition agencies operating within the organization's range capability in order to insure prompt utilization of target intelligence.

3. (U) Training and Organization.

a. ITEM: Artillery Officer Refresher Training

(1) DISCUSSION: Company Grade Officers who have attended Artillery Officer Refresher Training Course at USAAMS, Fort Sill, or a comparable course elsewhere are better prepared to assume assigned duties than those who have not attended this course.

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AVGE-YC

31 October 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSPQR-65) (U)

(2) OBSERVATION: Company Grade Officers who have not attended a comparable course should attend this course prior to arrival in RVN.

b. ITEM: Artillery Section Chief Course

(1) DISCUSSION: Chiefs of gun sections who have attended the Artillery Section Chief Course at USAAMS, Fort Sill, are better prepared to assume assigned duties than those who have not attended the course.

(2) OBSERVATION: All personnel in grades E-5 and E-6, MOS 13B40, should attend this course prior to arrival in RVN.

4. (U) Operations.

ITEM: Extended attachment.

(1) DISCUSSION: Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery was attached to the 2nd Battalion, 94th Artillery from 29 September 1966 until 11 September 1967. During this attachment the battery was located in numerous field positions in the vicinity of the Demilitarized Zone, RVN, a distance of four hundred miles from this battalion. The condition of the equipment of this battery upon return from attachment was unsatisfactory. Available information indicates that adequate maintenance and supply support was not made available to the battery.

(2) OBSERVATION: Attachment of small units for long periods of time, involving extended distances, is not desirable. When unavoidable, the organization to which the unit is attached must insure that adequate maintenance and supply support are made available to the unit.

5. (C) Logistics.

ITEM: Maintenance Float Equipment.

(1) DISCUSSION: Direct and general support elements presently supporting this organization currently lack an adequate stockage of numerous engineer, ordnance, and signal float equipment. This lack of equipment results in a loss of efficiency among elements of this organization when TOE equipment is evacuated for repair.

(2) OBSERVATION: Direct and general support engineer, ordnance and signal units supporting this organization should re-evaluate maintenance float equipment requirements.

6. (C) Other.

ITEM: Revetment of firing pads.

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WAGE-YC

31 October 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) (U)

(1) DISCUSSION: Firing pads must be reveted on all sides by firm materials which will absorb the shock of recoil during firing without becoming misshapen. Particularly during the wet season the gun/howitzer spades tend to loosen the revetment materials during prolonged firing. This causes the spades to be buried and results in the chassis attempting to override the spade.

(2) OBSERVATION: Firing pad revetments of laterite and/or gravel must be firmly anchored by heavy timbers. These timbers (6"x6") should extend ten feet from the pad at sixty degree angles and be secured to "dead men" (6"x6") positioned ten feet underground. The "dead men" should be connected to adjacent "dead men" by 3"x8" lumber, interlocked at the surface and extending four feet in depth.

SECTION II

PART II, RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1. (U) Personnel and Administration.
 NONE.
- 2. (U) Intelligence.
 NONE.
- 3. (U) Training and Organization.
 NONE.
- 4. (U) Operations.
 NONE.
- 5. (U) Logistics.

That heavy duty generators be issued firing batteries occupying base camps. Availability of these generators would negate the necessity for using TOE generators in base camps and would therefore reduce maintenance costs and insure a higher availability rate for TOE generators.

Robert J. Haras
 ROBERT J. HARAS
 LTC, Artillery
 Commanding

DECLASSIFIED
AUTHORITY
DATE

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Operational Report (GCS-2570-55) UIC: WATSEA (1)
Artillery, 2nd Artillery Group, Fort Bliss, New Mexico 1967
2nd Artillery Group, 2nd Artillery Group, Fort Bliss, New Mexico, ATTN: ATSS-PAC,

Operational Report for the period 1 October 1967 from Headquarters, 2nd Artillery Group, Fort Bliss, New Mexico.

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2(2). "8-25" should read "8-31".
Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2(3). "8-31" should read "8-30".
Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2. Correct.

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2. Correct. Company Grade personnel should be assigned to field artillery units within 30 days of their departure for REB should attend a

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 2. Correct. Those personnel assigned to field artillery units 27 months prior to their departure for REB should be assigned to their primary REB should be assigned to their primary REB at Fort Hill.

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 4. Correct. Provisions must be made for adequate maintenance and support when small units are detached from their parent unit for extended periods of time.

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 5. Correct. It is recommended this matter be considered at higher headquarters.

Section II, Part I, Paragraph 6. Correct.

Section II, Part II, Paragraph 7. Correct in principle; however, heavy duty equipment requires repair parts and operators not normally available to artillery units. If this issue were resolved, the addition of trained gunner/operator personnel and PMA for maintenance would be required.

ROBERT J. WOOD
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFB-FAG (31 Oct 67) 2nd Ind
 SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (ROE-CSPOR-65) UIC: WALBAA (U)

DA, Headquarters, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96266, 6 December 1967

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266
 Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST
 APO 96375
 Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
 APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,
 Washington D.C. 203101

1. The quarterly report of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reported period.

2. The following comments pertain to the attached Operational Report - Lessons Learned: a. Section II, Part I. Observations:

(1) Paragraph 3a and 3b. Concur. This headquarters is aware of a current Department of the Army policy which assigns company grade officers and 13B40's to refresher courses at Fort Sill prior to assignment in Vietnam. This program enables personnel to be effective immediately upon arrival in country. This program should be expanded.

(2) Paragraph 5. Concur.

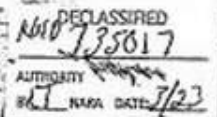
(3) Paragraph 6. Nonconcur. A standard blueprint for gun pads is not considered appropriate. The design and construction of gun pads should vary depending on the terrain and type soil available in the area.

b. Section II, Part II. Recommendations:

Paragraph 5. Nonconcur. Units should initiate a request for additional generators in those instances where TOE generators are inadequate to meet power requirements.

RAYMOND P. MURPHY
 Brigadier General, USA
 Commanding

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AVHGA-PA

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report - Lessons Learned
for 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery

TO: G3

FROM: G1

DATE: 2 JAN 1968 CMT 2
LTC Prillaman/kkl/4278

Reference item concerning artillery officer Refresher Training, paragraph 3a, Section II, Part I, page 6: Concur with the observation. This refresher training is a key action in the reduction of casualties from our own fires. It is understood that DA is programming company grade artillery officers who have been alerted for Vietnam to attend this course.

Reference Section II, Part I, para 3b(1) and (2). Adoption of this recommendation will require an evaluation at Department of the Army level. Presently, there is a program in effect whereby units may annotate enlisted requisitions to request attendance of replacements, MOS 13B40, at the 8"/175 mm Artillery Section Chief Course at Fort Sill enroute to Vietnam. This program was announced to USARV by DA unclassified message 72713 from EPED-C, 29 March 1967, Subject: Chief Section 8/175 (SP) Course, unclassified message 22946, 11 April 1967, same subject. However the program permits only the annotation of requisition items for duty as Chief of Section in 8"/175 mm Artillery units.

2 Incl
nc

Theodore S. Bell
THEODORE S. BELL
Colonel, GS
ACofS, G1

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SEPARATED FROM
CLASSIFIED INCLOSURE

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AVHGD-PO (23 Dec 67)

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery

TO: ACofS, G3

FROM: ACofS, G4


DATE: 29 DEC 1967 GMT 2

LTC Phillips/mjr/4379

1. Reference item concerning maintenance float equipment, paragraph 5, page 7. Concur. Maintenance float for signal equipment is authorized on a fixed basis of 5% of the assets on hand. Every effort has been made to assure the availability of the authorized quantity of float. Some items are critically short and in these cases the total quantity of float is not on hand. Engineer and Ordnance items are also in critically short supply thereby causing shortages in the area of maintenance float.

2. Reference item concerning heavy duty generators, paragraph 5, Section II, Part II, page 8. Your attention is directed to paragraph 2b of 2d Indorsement. Recommend this item be referred to USARV Engineer for comment. The generators referred to in comment are not TOE and relate to base camp power.

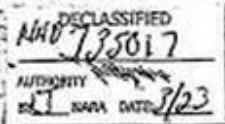
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H. B. BOYLE, JR.
Colonel, GS
ACofS, G4

3

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AVHOC-DST

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Reports-Lessons
Learned for Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery

TO: Doc Br

FROM: C, DST Div

DATE: 24 Dec 1967 CMT 2
LTC Riley/rbw/LEN 4882

Reference item concerning artillery officer refresher training, page 6, paragraph 3a, and 2d Indorsement, paragraph 2(1). Concur in subject training due to ~~unique~~ methods of artillery employment in RVN.

LAT

2 Incl

nc

Lewis B. Tixier
LEWIS B. TIXIER
Colonel, GS
C, DST Div

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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

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DECLASSIFIED
 AUTHORITY
 DATE 3/23

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AVHGC-FD (6 Jan 68)

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report-Lessons Learned
 for 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery


TO: G3, DST

FROM: G3, FD

DATE: 10 JAN 1968
 LTC Converse/jhr/4240

Reference item concerning heavy duty generators para 5, page 8. The need for generators to replace TOE equipment cannot be justified. Generators are in short supply in USARV; depot stocks would not support the request contained in the ORLL. Concur with par 21, 1st Ind in that trade-off spaces would have to be identified along with submission of MTOE to support the addition of equipment. This headquarters would not favorably consider MTOE action. G-4 comment will confirm availability data on generators.

2 Incl
 as


 EUGENE F. FORRESTER
 Colonel, GS
 Chief, FD Div

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DECLASSIFIED
 AUTHORITY
 DATE 8/23

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AVHGD-PO
 SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (ORLL)

TO: G3DH

FROM: G4

DATE:

22 APR 1967 CMT 2
 MAJ Cummings/jad/439

1. (C) Reference Section I, Subparagraph 5c, Page 11; and Paragraph 3, 1st Indorsement, as pertain to shortage of generators: A critical shortage of 15KW generators in-country does exist due to a slippage of CONUS production schedules. Recommend continuing action be taken to expedite production.

2. (C) Reference Section I, Subparagraph 5d, Page 11; and Paragraph 4, 1st Indorsement, as pertain to a shortage of sand bags: Although, at the date of subject ORLL a shortage of sandbags did exist as stated, present supply of this item is adequate to release all priority requirements. No further action required by this of higher headquarters regarding this matter.

2 Incl
 nc

James Holt
 J. A. GRAF LTC
 Colonel, GS
 ACoS, G-4

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 DOD DIR 5200.10

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