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Operational Report
Lessons Learned
Headquarters 6/27th Artillery
Period Ending 30Apr1968

27TH ARTILLERY, 6TH AVN BDE 30 APR 1968

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E.O. 11652 DATE 3/23

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AVHCC-DST (30 Apr 68) 4th Ind (U) CPT Arnold/dls/LBN 4485
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSAA)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 18 JUN 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 quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.

2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
HQ II PFORCEV
HQ 6th Bn, 27th Arty

MPR: ORLL was not staffed due to lack of significant unresolved problem areas.

ACTION OFFICER: CPT Arnold/4485

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

AVGE-IC

30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSA) for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

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-DST
 APO 96375

Commander-In-Chief
 United States Army Pacific
 ATTN: GPOF-DT
 APO 96558

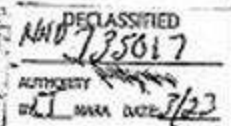
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
 Department of the Army
 Washington, D. C., 20301

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

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30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSAA)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

a. Personnel.

(1) The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remained assigned to the 23d Artillery Group. The organic batteries of the battalion were not detached during this period. Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery minus, located at Phuoc Vinh, RVN, was attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery on 7 March 1968. The remainder of the battery, one platoon, was attached to the battalion on 26 March 1968 upon its arrival at Banard, RVN.

(2) The S-1 Section continued to conduct an extensive inter and intra-battalion infusion program during the reporting period.

(3) During this reporting period the assigned personnel strength of the battalion was slightly over the authorized strength.

(4) There are no major personnel shortages in any MOS or grade in the organization; however, throughout this reporting period there has been a shortage of officers in the grade of captain. The organization is authorized twelve (12) officers in this grade. Shown below are the number assigned on the dates indicated:

(a) 1 Feb - 2 Mar 68 - 10.

(b) 3 Mar - 11 Mar 68 - 9.

(c) 12 Mar 68 - 8.

(d) 13 Mar - 17 Mar 68 - 9.

(e) 18 Mar - 31 Mar 68 - 11.

(f) 1 Apr 68 - 10.

(5) There were four (4) battle casualties (MIA) and one non-battle casualty during this reporting period.

(6) Awards and decorations presented to members of this command included three Bronze Stars (Service), three Air Medals (two w/OIC), two Army Commendation Medals and one Purple Heart.

(7) There is no significant R&P information.

(8) There were no significant morale or disciplinary problems.

(9) The Medical Section of the battalion has continued to conduct an extremely effective program of instruction relative to personal hygiene. The health of the command continued to be excellent during this reporting period.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSAA)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(10) There were no vehicle or aircraft accidents significantly affecting operations.

(11) There were no significant changes in educational opportunities.

(12) There were no significant religious services or problems.

b. Operations.

(1) During this period the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery participated in numerous operations and displaced units as indicated below:

(a) All batteries participated in countering the "TET Offensive" which began on 30 January and lasted until March 1968. The battalion provided a forward observer to II Field Force Vietnam headquarters and an officer who flew night "mortar watch" over the Long Binh - Bien Hoa complex.

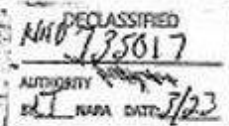
(b) On 9 February 1968, Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery moved from fire support base "Cannon King" at Loc Ninh, RVN, by motor march to Quan Loi, RVN. On the following day the battery moved by motor march to Bien Hoa, RVN, and occupied a firing position from which they could support elements in contact in the Long Binh - Saigon area. That night, the 8" howitzer platoon of Battery "C" was moved by motor march to Di An, RVN, to provide close support for elements of the 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 5th Infantry Division (ARVN), and the Capitol Military District. On 23 February 1968 the battery minus moved by motor march to Di An and joined the 8" howitzer platoon. On 10 March 1968, the battery moved to Phuoc Vinh, RVN, and occupied the position which it had occupied prior to leaving Phuoc Vinh in December 1967.

(c) Operation "Verdun", 19 March - 21 March 1968. One platoon of Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery was transported from Phuoc Vinh to Loc Ninh by C-130 and CH-54 aircraft. One platoon of Battery "C", 35th Artillery Battalion (ARVN) was placed under the operational control of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and was transported by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft from Ben Cat, RVN to Bu Dop, RVN. These two platoons provided direct support for elements of Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during the operation. One liaison officer and two forward observers from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery were attached to Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. The liaison officer functioned as the fire support coordinator and supervised fire planning. The forward observers accompanied maneuver units and adjusted fire as necessary.

(d) Operation "Tamatta Shansu", 23 March - 27 March 1968. The platoon of Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery located at Loc Ninh was transported by C-130 and CH-54 aircraft to Dong Xoai, RVN. The platoon of

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Battery "C", 35th Artillery Battalion (ARVN) at Bu Dop was transported by C-123 and CH-54 aircraft to Chi Linh, RVN. These two platoons provided direct support for elements of Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. The fires of these two platoons were reinforced by Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, located at Phuoc Vinh. One liaison officer and two forward observers were again attached to Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. The liaison officer performed the duties of fire support coordinator. The forward observers accompanied the maneuver units and adjusted artillery fires as necessary. Upon the termination of this operation:

(1) The platoon from Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery was transported from Dong Xoi to Phuoc Vinh by C-130 aircraft.

(2) The platoon from Battery "C", 35th Artillery Battalion (ARVN) was returned to Ben Cat by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft. Upon arrival the platoon reverted to the operational control of Battery "C", 35th Artillery Battalion (ARVN).

(e) On 28 March 1968, one platoon of Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery which had been attached to the 2nd Battalion, 13th Artillery at Nha Ehe, RVN, was transported to Bunard by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft. This platoon was positioned to provide direct support for the maneuver elements conducting operation "Rapid Fire VIII". However, the concept of operation was changed after the platoon was positioned. The platoon remained at Bunard and provided direct support for Detachment A344, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. The platoon leader functioned as the fire support coordinator for the detachment commander until 15 April 1968, when the mission of the platoon changed to general support. The platoon was transported by C-130 aircraft on 22 April 1968 from Bunard to Phuoc Vinh where it rejoined its battery.

(f) Operation "Thrasher II", 11 April - 14 April 1968. The 8" howitzer platoon of Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery displaced from Camp Martin to Song Be, RVN, moving by motor march on 11 April 1968 and returning to Camp Martin on 14 April 1968. The platoon provided close and continuous fire support for Detachment B-36, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group during this operation. Additionally, the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery provided a liaison officer who performed the duties of fire support coordinator for the detachment commander. A forward observer from this organization accompanied the maneuver elements and adjusted artillery and aerial fires as necessary.

(g) On 14 April 1968 a liaison team consisting of two officers and five enlisted men from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery was attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment for an operation in the northeast portion of the III Corp Tactical Zone. This liaison team assisted in fire planning and clearance of fires for the regiment. The liaison team was reduced to one officer and one enlisted man on 24 April 1968 and remains attached to the regiment.

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 for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(2) The following number of missions were fired with total amounts of ammunition expended as indicated:

UNIT	MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED		
		155MM	175MM	8"
Battery "A"	5870	5391	7578	
Battery "B"	4907	5323	6605	
Battery "C"	3605	2168	6414	
Battery "A" 2/11 Arty	2699	9610		
TOTALS:	16,881	9,610	12,882	20,597

c. Training.

(1) The battalion continues to administer Specialist Tests for gun section personnel, fire direction center personnel, and all incoming company grade officers. The battalion has administered proficiency tests to two firing batteries.

(2) New in-country arrivals continue to be sent to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Jungle Devil School. This course of instruction contributes significantly to the newly arrived soldier's ability to perform security missions.

(3) Three (3) officers and eight (8) enlisted men of the battalion attended a course of instruction on FADAC for a period of one week at Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group. These personnel were returned to their units at the end of the course and immediately began to use the FADAC computers in the conduct of fire missions.

d. Intelligence.

(1) The Battalion S-2 Officer continued during this period to maintain close liaison with the Sector S-2 Officer of Binh Long Province and the S-2 Officer of Special Forces Detachment B-33, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group at Hon Quan, RVN. The Battalion Liaison Officer has been stationed in Song Be, RVN. He maintains close liaison with the Sector S-2 Officer of Phuoc Long Province and the S-2 Officer of Special Forces Detachment B-34, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group also located in Song Be.

(2) During this period two O-1 aircraft and pilots were assigned and one O-1 aircraft was allocated to the battalion on a daily basis by the 23d Artillery Group. These aircraft have been used for and have improved the battalion visual reconnaissance program considerably.



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for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

(3) The battalion has continued its program of attacking hard targets and is constantly revising its active target list based on current intelligence received from maneuver units and target acquisition agencies.

c. Logistics.

(1) During this reporting period resupply of this organization was accomplished in the following manner:

(a) Battery "A" and Battery "C" were resupplied by convoy.

(b) Battery "B" was resupplied exclusively by aircraft.

(c) Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery was resupplied by convoy, except that the platoon which was airlifted into Loc Ninh, Dong Xoai, and Banard was resupplied by aircraft.

(d) 2nd Platoon, Battery "C", 35th Artillery Battalion (ARVN) was resupplied exclusively by aircraft while under the operational control of this organization.

(2) The United States Army Vietnam Readiness Assistance team visited all organic elements of the battalion during the period. They provided suggestions and recommended several improvements to the implementation of the Army Equipment Records System and other phases of material readiness.

f. Aviation. The following aviation missions, listed by sorties, were flown during this reporting period:

	<u>Cmd & Control</u>	<u>Recon</u>	<u>Artz Adj</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>Cargo (tons)</u>	<u>Hours</u>
FIXED WING	321	261	46	35	6	377
ROTARY WING	14	17	6	23	2	37
TOTALS:	335	278	52	58	8	414

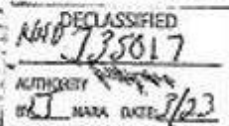
g. Civic Action. The following civic action projects have been accomplished during this reporting period by this organization.

(1) The Quan Loi school has been renovated and remains continually under repair.

(2) Upon the return of Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery to Phuoc Vinh, the school at Phuoc Vinh was again placed under repair.

(3) The battalion medical section has conducted three MEDCAPs and has treated one hundred-seventy-nine (179) patients during this period in the An Loc - Quan Loi area.

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h. Communications.

(1) During this period the sole user VHF circuit between Battery "C" at Loc Ninh and the Battalion Headquarters at Quan Loi was terminated.

(2) A new VHF sole user circuit was established between Quan Loi and Phuoc Vinh. This circuit is the primary means of communication used for command and fire control between the Battalion Headquarters and Battery "C", 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and Battery "A", 2nd Battalion, 11th Artillery.

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

* a. Personnel. None.

b. Operations.

(1) Operational Control of ARVN Artillery Units.

(a) OBSERVATION. A U. S. Army advisory team consisting of qualified artillerymen should accompany ARVN artillery units which are under the operational control of U. S. Army artillery units.

(b) EVALUATION. Experience indicates that the presence of a U. S. Army advisory team, which includes qualified artillerymen, in the position area of an ARVN artillery unit under the operational control of a U. S. Army artillery unit reduces the time consumed and problems involved in affecting coordination and control. Problems involving coordination are further reduced when advisory team personnel are bilingual. Absence of a U. S. Army advisory team in the ARVN position area results in numerous problems arising due to a lack of understanding of techniques used and frequent delays caused by lack of effective communication.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That an advisory team consisting of qualified U. S. Army artillerymen accompany ARVN artillery units which are under the operational control of U. S. Army artillery units.

(2) Airmobile Operations Involving ARVN Artillery Units.

(a) OBSERVATION. ARVN artillery units conducting airmobile operations which are controlled by U.S. Army artillery units should be augmented with U. S. Army personnel who are responsible for coordinating details of the operation; or, time permitting, responsible for providing cadre type training for ARVN personnel conducting the operation.

(b) EVALUATION. This organization has been responsible for conducting three (3) airmobile operations involving an ARVN artillery unit.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WA18AA)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

Because ARVN artillery units seldom have the opportunity to conduct airmobile operations they require technical assistance in order to effectively conduct these operations on short notice. When adequate time is available cadre training, rather than technical assistance, should be given to the ARVN unit as this will eliminate the need for continued technical assistance.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That U. S. Army personnel who are qualified to provide technical assistance and train ARVN troops be attached to ARVN artillery units programed to conduct airmobile operations being controlled by U. S. Army artillery units.

(3) Use of Aerial Observers.

(a) OBSERVATION. Artillery units supporting Special Forces operations being conducted in dense jungle areas should provide aerial observers on a continuing basis when the supported unit is moving in order to insure continuous communications with the supported unit.

(b) EVALUATION. It has been determined that aerial observers, flying over forward observers accompanying Special Forces elements in dense jungle can insure that the supporting artillery maintains communications with the forward observer. The aerial observer is also capable of assisting the forward observer in the adjustment of artillery and aerial fires. Lack of an aerial observer reduces the communications capabilities due to the fact that forward observers are required to carry light radios, FRC-25 with short antennas, in order to move more rapidly on foot.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That artillery units supporting Special Forces operations being conducted in dense jungle areas provide an aerial observer on a continuous basis when the supporting unit is moving.

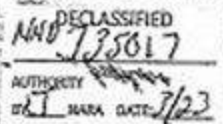
c. Training.Heavy Weapons Training.

(1) OBSERVATION. Heavy artillery batteries operating in a counter-insurgency environment should maintain well trained heavy weapons crews.

(2) EVALUATION. Experience indicates that heavy artillery batteries are required to be ready to move from well defended base camps to isolated fire support bases on short notice. Battery personnel must be well trained as crewmen for 81mm mortars, 90mm and 106mm recoilless rifles in order to insure that the battery is capable of furnishing disciplined close defensive fires.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That heavy artillery batteries operating in a counter-insurgency environment maintain well trained heavy weapons crews at all times.

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30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (VIC: WAJSSA)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

d. Intelligence.Intelligence Collection Agencies.

(1) OBSERVATION. Artillery battalions should maintain close liaison with Special Forces units, district, village, and police chiefs located within the tactical area of interest of the battalion.

(2) EVALUATION. It has been found that each of these agencies have their own intelligence networks and sources of intelligence information concerning Viet Cong/North Vietnamese Army activities. Information obtained from these sources with regard to squad and platoon size units enables the battalion to conduct target analysis and attack on these units. Lack of liaison with these agencies results in the battalion not having timely information about these units and precludes the delivery of timely and accurate fires being delivered against them.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That a liaison program be established to include Special Forces units, district, village, and police chiefs located within the tactical area of interest of the battalion.

e. Logistics. None.f. Organization.Technical Fire Direction at Battalion Level.

(1) OBSERVATION. A heavy artillery battalion operating over extended distances should perform tactical rather than technical fire direction at battalion level.

(2) EVALUATION. Two years of continuous combat over extended distances indicated that a more rapid response to fire request would be possible if the battalion fire direction center concerned itself with tactical fire direction and the battery fire direction centers generated the firing data. A one month test period during which only tactical fire direction was conducted at battalion level confirmed this to be correct. The battalion operations center however should continue to maintain the capability of performing technical fire direction in order to insure that no firing battery will be rendered ineffective as a result of losing its fire direction center through enemy action or natural catastrophe.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. That technical fire direction be accomplished at battery level and tactical fire direction be accomplished at battalion level when a heavy artillery battalion is operating over extended distances.

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30 April 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WA188A)
for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

g. Other. None.

Eugene J. O'Grady
 EUGENE J. O'GRADY
 LTC Artillery
 Commanding

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AVUB-C (30 April 1968) 1st Ed
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (BIC, 441844)
 For Period Ending 30 April 1968, RGS-GEFOR-65 (RT)

Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, APO 96269, 22 May 1968

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, AFHQ, ANFB-PAC,
 APO 96266

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for the period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.
2. Pertinent comments follow.
 - a. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2a(1). Nonconcur. It is standard practice for MICOV Advisers to be provided to the ARVN Artillery units when they are under operational control of US units or participating in a combined operation with US units. Recommend that close liaison between the US advisers already with the ARVN units and the US units involved be established.
 - b. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2b(2). Nonconcur. Artillery units from the 5th ARVN Division conduct approximately two airmobile operations each week. If US personnel were attached during the conduct of an airmobile operation there would be a handicap due to the language barrier for the US personnel to do the practical work. Recommend increased emphasis be placed on the training of ARVN Artillery units in airmobile operations.
 - c. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2b(5). Nonconcur. This procedure provides excellent communications relay and observer coverage for the unit on the ground; however, it is not feasible to provide aircraft with observers for all special forces operations from the resources available to the group. Aircraft can be made available on short notice to be utilized when a unit is in contact or when communication with the ground element has been lost for a period of time. Forward observers habitually carry the AT-274 antennae and employ it when the unit is stationary.
 - d. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2c. Concur. At this time the Group has two batteries which are located in isolated fire support bases and have on many occasions been required to defend their position utilizing their own resources. These batteries have been augmented with 81mm mortars and 90mm and 106mm recoilless rifles.
 - e. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2d. Concur. Valuable information can be obtained by making frequent liaison visits to these agencies. If possible, wire and radio communications should be established.
 - f. Reference Section 2, paragraph 2e. Concur. However, a training

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AVCR-4 (30 April 1968) 1st Ed 22 May 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 21st Artillery (VIC: W113AA)
For Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCE-03PCB-65 (2)

Program must be maintained to insure that the battalion fire direction center personnel retain a high degree of proficiency in tactical fire direction procedures.

3. Sig code for Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development should read: 20310.

HAROLD G. DEARNESS
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

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AVFC-340 (1 May 68) 2nd Ind
Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-DECR-65)

Da, HQ, II FURGER Artillery, APO 96266

THRU: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, APO 96266
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, AFVN: AVFC-340,
APO 96375
Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific, AFSP: GROP-01,
APO 96358

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

1. (S) The quarterly report of the 6th Battalion, 270th Artillery (VIC: VA15AA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. (S) Reference Section 2, paragraphs 2c(1), 2c(2), and 2c(5). Concur with 1st Indorsement.
3. (S) Reference Section 2, paragraphs 2c, 2d, and 2f. Concur with recommendations of report and comments of 1st Indorsement.

CHARLES CANTRELL
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

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AVISG-01 (30 April 1968) 3rd Ind
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WAISAA)
 for Period Ending 30 April 1968, ROS GSFOR-65 (RI)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 18 JUN 1968

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

Commander, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GFOR-02, APO 96358

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

1. Subject report is forwarded.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the attached Operational Report - Lessons
 Learned of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and concurs with the report,
 subject to the comments contained in the 1st and 2nd Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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O. B. FORY
 1LT, AGC
 Asst AG

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