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Operational Reports  
Lessons Learned  
6/27th Artillery  
Ending 31 July 1968

27TH ARTILLERY, 6TH BN OCL 31 JULY 1968

140

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DATE 7/23

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K SP 9-31

AVHHC-DST (6 Aug 68) 4th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSAA)  
Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 17 SEP 1968

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, and concurs with the report as modified by the preceding indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

W. C. ARNTZ  
1LT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy turn:  
HQ IIFV  
HQ 6th Bn, 27th Arty

17 Sep 68

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

ACTION OFFICER: MAJ KLINGMAN/LBN 4433

COL GIBSON, ACOFS, CSFOR-65 RECORD COPY RETURN TO AVHHC-DST

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

AVCS-YC

6 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSAA)  
Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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

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", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery remained attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.

(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 under the authorized strength until 1 July 1968. On that date the authorized strength of the battalion was changed in compliance with General Order Number 311, Headquarters, United States Army Pacific. As result of implementing this General Order, Headquarters Battery was slightly over the authorized strength and remained so until the end of this reporting period.

(4) There were no major personnel shortages in any MOS or grade until 1 July 1968. As a result of implementation of General Order Number 311 on that date the following shortages were created and continued to exist throughout the remainder of the reporting period:

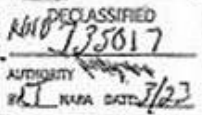
(a) Captains, Artillery Branch - 3.

(b) Lieutenants, Artillery Branch - 2.

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(5) During this period there were seven (7) battle casualties (WIA) and fourteen (14) non-battle casualties, one of whom died not as a result of hostile action.

(6) Awards and decorations presented to members of this command included eight Bronze Stars (Service), one Air Medal (w/4th, 5th, 6th OLC), eight Army Commendation Medals (five for Service, three for achievement), four Purple Hearts and one Certificate of Achievement (USARV).

(7) There is no significant R&R 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 sanitation and personal hygiene. The health of the command continued to be excellent during this reporting period.

(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) The liaison team consisting of one officer and one enlisted man of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery who were attached to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment during the previous reporting period remained attached until 11 May 1968. This liaison team assisted in fire planning and clearance of targets for the regiment.

(b) Operation "Het Roi", 11 May - 23 May 1968. On 11 May 1968, one platoon of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery was transported from Phuoc Vinh, RVN, to Tra Cu, RVN, by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft. The platoon was positioned immediately outside the Special Forces Camp at that location and provided direct support for Detachments A-352 and B-36, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. One forward observer from this organization and one forward observer attached to this organization from the 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery accompanied the maneuver elements and adjusted artillery fires as necessary. Additionally, the 6th Battalion,

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27th Artillery provided a liaison officer who performed the duties of fire support coordinator for the maneuver unit commander. The platoon was transported by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft on 23 May 1968, from Tra Cu to Phuoc Vinh where it rejoined its battery.

(c) Operation "Toan Thang", 30 May - 22 June 1968. On 29 May 1968, one platoon of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery was transported from Phuoc Vinh to Fire Support Base Saint Barbara by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft. On 30 May 1968, one platoon of Battery "A", 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery, located at Dong Xoai, RVN, was attached to the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery and transported by C-130 aircraft to Tong Le Chan, RVN. These two platoons provided direct support for Detachments A-334 and B-36, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. One forward observer from this organization and one forward observer attached to this organization from the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery accompanied the maneuver elements and adjusted artillery fires as necessary. The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery also provided a liaison officer who functioned as the fire support coordinator for the maneuver unit commander. On 7 June 1968, the platoon of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery located at Fire Support Base Saint Barbara was transported to Katum, RVN, by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft. Both platoons continued their missions and assumed the additional responsibility of reinforcing the fires of the 1st Platoon, Battery "B", 6th Battalion, 77th Artillery who was providing direct support to Detachment A-322, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. On 8 June 1968, the platoon of Battery "A", 5th Battalion, 42d Artillery, located at Tong Le Chan, was transported to Bear Cat, RVN, by C-130 aircraft where it rejoined its battery. On 25 June 1968, the platoon of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery located at Katum, was transported to Phuoc Vinh by CH-47 and CH-54 aircraft where it rejoined its battery. Throughout this operation the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery maintained a radio relay station atop Mount Nui Ba Den. The three men operating this station insured that continuous communication was maintained between all firing elements of the battalion and the supported maneuver units.

(d) On 4 June 1968, the Tactical Operations Center of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery displaced from Quan Loi, RVN, to Phuoc Vinh and assumed the responsibility of operating the Phuoc Vinh Fire Support Coordination Center and the Air Warning Control Center. On 9 June 1968, the battalion was relieved of these responsibilities and the Tactical Operations Center returned to Quan Loi.

(e) On 24 July 1968, the Tactical Operations Center of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery again displaced from Quan Loi to Phuoc Vinh and assumed the responsibility of operating the Phuoc Vinh Fire Support Coordination Center and the Air Warning Control Center. The Tactical Operations Center remained at Phuoc Vinh throughout the remainder of the reporting period.

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(f) Operation "China Boy II", 26 July 1968 - present. On 26 July 1968, one platoon of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery was transported from Phuoc Vinh to Bu Dop, RVN. The personnel and light equipment were transported by C-123 aircraft. The two 155mm howitzers were transported from Phuoc Vinh to Phuoc Binh, RVN, by C-130 aircraft. They were then transported to Bu Dop by CH-54 aircraft. The platoon established a firing position inside the Special Forces camp at that location and provided direct support to Detachments A-341 and B-36, Company "A", 5th Special Forces Group. Two forward observers were attached to this organization; one from the 1st Battalion, 27th Artillery, and one from the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery. These forward observers accompanied the maneuver forces and adjusted artillery fires as necessary. The 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery provided a liaison officer who performed the duties of fire support coordinator for the maneuver unit commander. Additionally, the battalion established and maintained a radio relay station atop Mount Nui Ba Ra. Two men operated this station and insured that continuous communication was maintained between all firing elements of the battalion and the supported maneuver units.

(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", 6/27 Arty	4899	4766	6452	
Battery "B", 6/27 Arty	4694	3847	7289	
Battery "C", 6/27 Arty	4800	3369	7618	
Battery "A", 2/11 Arty	4857	20532		
TOTALS:	19250	20532	11982	21359

### 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 one proficiency test to each of the firing batteries during this period.

(2) New in-country arrivals continue to be sent to the 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Jungle Devil School. This course of instruction

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contributes significantly to the newly arrived soldier's ability to perform security missions.

(3) Six enlisted men of the battalion attended a course of instruction on maintenance and operation of motion picture projectors during this period. These personnel were returned to their units and performed the additional duty of projectionist.

(4) Six enlisted men of the battalion attended a course of instruction on the M107 and M110 turret. Upon returning to their respective batteries these personnel were able to better diagnose and correct turret deficiencies. The preventive maintenance program of the firing batteries improved as a result of the training these personnel received.

#### d. Intelligence.

(1) During this period the Battalion S-2 Officer continued to exploit all previously established intelligence sources. The volume of intelligence information available increased a great deal during this period as a result of the establishment of a Battlefield Information Center and a Battlefield Information Control Center at Quan Loi. These agencies have been responsible for providing this organization with timely and accurate target intelligence. As a result of the increased volume of available information the Assistant Communications Officer has been given the additional duty of Target Intelligence Officer. This officer functions as the Assistant S-2 Officer and is responsible for maintaining liaison with the Battlefield Information Center and Control Center.

(2) The organic aircraft and aviators of this organization were detached during this period and attached to the Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group. One or two aircraft are allocated to the battalion daily depending upon the availability of aircraft. These aircraft are used for visual reconnaissance.

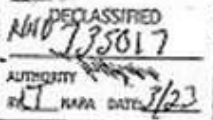
(3) The battalion has continued its program of attacking hard targets and is constantly revising its active target list based on current intelligence.

#### e. Logistics.

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

(a) Battery "A" was resupplied by convoy.

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

(c) Battery "C" was resupplied by convoy on one occasion, the remainder of the resupply was accomplished by aircraft.

(d) Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery was resupplied by convoy on one occasion, the remainder of the resupply was accomplished by aircraft. While elements of the battery were occupying isolated fire support bases, resupply was accomplished by aircraft. While located at Fire Support Base ' Saint Barbara this platoon was resupplied by convoy.

(2) All of the howitzers of Battery "A", 2d Battalion, 11th Artillery were replaced during this reporting period with newly manufactured howitzers. The replaced howitzers are presently being rebuilt by support maintenance units.

f. Organization. During this period the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery was organized in compliance with General Order 311, Headquarters, United States Army Pacific, dated 20 June 1968. As a result of implementing this order the battalion is now organized as indicated below:

- (1) Headquarters and Headquarters Battery - TOE 6-436G, MTOE 6-436G, USARPAC 1/68.
- (2) Batteries "A", "B", and "C" - TOE 6-437G, MTOE 6-437G, USARPAC 1/68.
- (3) Service Battery - TOE 6-439G, MTOE 6-439G, USARPAC 1/68.

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

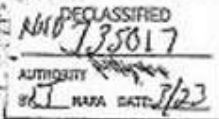
- (1) The An Loc Montagnard Boarding School and the Phuoc Vinh School have been renovated and remain continually under repair.
- (2) The Quan Loi School is continually under repair. Members of this organization have provided labor and equipment to build a playground for the use of the kindergarten age children.
- (3) The battalion continues to sponsor the An Loc Boy Scout program. The troop has increased in size during this period from twenty to seventy-five boys.
- (4) The battalion medical section has conducted four MEDCAPs and has treated 655 patients during this period in the Quan Loi/An Loc area.

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

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AVGE-4C 6 August 1968  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSA) (UIC: WALSA)  
 Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

- a. Personnel. None
- b. Operations.

(1) Survey of Individual Artillery Pieces.

(a) OBSERVATION. Survey control should be extended to each artillery weapon located in a firing battery position area.

(b) EVALUATION. Experience indicates that members of artillery gun/howitzer sections who are manning their primary weapons during mortar and rocket attacks are among the first to observe muzzle flashes of hostile weapons. An accurate direction to the muzzle flash can be determined by section personnel when survey data is available for each weapon position. This direction can be used to assist in establishing the location of the hostile weapons. If the flash is observed by members of two or more sections who are manning their respective weapons, intersection of the target can be rapidly accomplished either manually or by using the M18 gun direction computer (FADAC).

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That survey control be extended to each artillery weapon located in a firing battery position area, and that this data be stored in memory in the FADAC computer.

(2) Use of the M18 Gun Direction Computer (FADAC).

(a) OBSERVATION. The M18 gun direction computer M18 (FADAC) can be used to determine firing data when planning fires at intervals between two points.

(b) EVALUATION. Tests have indicated that firing data for planned fires at intervals between two or more points is more accurate and more rapidly obtained when using the M18 gun direction computer (FADAC) rather than the M10 plotting board. The method used to determine the firing data is simple and requires relatively little operator training. Enter the grid coordinates of the two points and obtain an azimuth from one point to the other using the survey capabilities of the computer. Enter into the computer a fire mission using the grid coordinates of the point from which direction was determined as the target location. Enter the direction previously determined as the "Observer Direction". Obtain firing data to the point entered as the "target". Observer corrections of AID should now be entered using the amount based on the number of intervals involved.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That the M18 gun direction computer FADAC be used, when available, to determine firing data for artillery fires planned

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALSA) (RI)  
 Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

at intervals between two points.

(3) Protective Devices for Emplaced Collimators.

(a) OBSERVATION. Collimators which have been emplaced and are being used as a reference should be protected in such a manner as to preclude personnel from accidentally disturbing them.

(b) EVALUATION. Experience indicates that during periods of reduced visibility firing battery personnel walking or running in the position area often inadvertently run into positioned collimators. When this occurs it is necessary to reposition the collimator and verify the lay of the piece; thus, increasing the time required to respond to a fire request. To preclude this occurrence it is necessary to position devices around the collimators which serve to warn personnel of their presence and prevent them from being disturbed. A circular shield formed by welding two sections of eighteen inch culvert material together can be placed over the collimator to perform this function. Sandbags positioned around the shield will increase the stability and further reduce the possibility of unintentional disturbance.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That protective devices such as described above be positioned around emplaced collimators to preclude their being inadvertently disturbed.

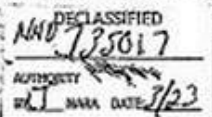
(4) Preparation of Building Materials for Rapid Use.

(a) OBSERVATION. Prior to execution of operations involving movement of an artillery firing unit into a new fire support base, building materials which accompany the unit should be inspected and prepared for their intended use.

(b) EVALUATION. Experience obtained while conducting numerous operations involving the establishment of new fire support bases has indicated that units often have problems attempting to meet minimum requirements for overhead protection of personnel and ammunition prior to darkness on the day of the operation. In order to reduce the time required to build the required structures, detailed plans should be drawn indicating the type and dimensions of required building materials. The building materials should be cut, notched and welded as appropriate to insure rapid assembly. Structures should be uniform with respect to size and materials required in order to insure maximum efficiency is obtained during construction.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Building materials accompanying artillery firing units occupying new fire support bases should be inspected and prepared for use prior to movement of the unit.

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## c. Training.

Inspection of Ammunition Components.

(1) OBSERVATION. Officers newly assigned to medium and heavy artillery units should be given training upon arrival at their new units to improve their skill in inspection and maintenance of ammunition components.

(2) EVALUATION. Experience indicates that officers newly assigned to medium and heavy artillery units are usually not proficient with respect to inspection and maintenance of ammunition components. These officers must be given detailed training while on the job by experienced officers in order to insure that they are capable of supervising and instructing their subordinates. The unique inspection procedures for the 175mm propelling charges require that officers assigned to units equipped with weapons of this caliber receive particularly detailed instruction.

## d. Intelligence.

Target Intelligence Sources.

(1) OBSERVATION. Artillery battalions should establish and maintain direct liaison and communications with all intelligence collection agencies within their range capabilities.

(2) EVALUATION. It has been determined that intelligence collection agencies frequently obtain intelligence information which they do not disseminate until the reliability of the source and accuracy of the information has been determined. This information is often related to a fleeting type target which must be attacked rapidly if the attack is to be accomplished successfully. Direct liaison and communication will make available this unrated intelligence information which will allow a rapid target analysis and attack.

## e. Logistics.

Welding of Tracked Vehicle Fuel Tanks.

(1) OBSERVATION. Pump type fire trucks should be used to assist in flushing fuel from tanks of tracked vehicles prior to welding these fuel tanks.

(2) EVALUATION. In order to reduce the hazard of fire while welding the fuel tanks of tracked vehicles it is necessary to drain all fuel from the tanks and to flush them with water to eliminate inflammable fumes. The tanks

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must be completely filled with water in order to insure that all fumes and vapors are removed. In order to reduce the time required to accomplish this task large mobile water tanks and water hoses should be used. Fire trucks, when available, best meet these requirements.

f. Organization. None.

g. Other. None.

*Richard S. Bullock*

RICHARD S. BULLOCK  
 LTC Artillery  
 Commanding

## DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 Commander-In-Chief, United States Army Pacific
- 3 Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam
- 6 Commanding Officer, 23d Artillery Group

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AVGE-C (6 August 1968) Lot 1st  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (1st) (1st)  
Period Ending 31 July 1968, APO 96265 (71)

Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group APO 96265, 22 August 1968

TO: Commanding General, II Marine Force Vietnam Artillery, APO 96265,  
APO 96265

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 31 July 1968 from this battalion, 27th Artillery.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

- a. Reference paragraph 2b (1). The ability to observe enemy units or  
fleets depends upon local terrain and surrounding position. The decision  
to survey each bowler and/or gun must be made on an individual unit basis.
- b. Reference paragraph 2b (2). Concur. No comment.
- c. Reference paragraph 2b (3). Concur. No comment.
- d. Reference paragraph 2b (4). Concur. No comment.

*Harold J. Deakens*  
Harold J. Deakens  
Colonel, Artillery  
Commanding

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HQ 6th Bn, 27th Art.

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AVFB-FAG (6 Aug 68) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RGS-CSFOR-65)

DA, HQ, II FFORCEV Artillery, APO 96266

TERU: 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 96588

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

1. (U) The quarterly report of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (MHC; WAISAA) adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. (U) Reference Section II, para 2 b (1). Survey of Individual Artillery Pieces. Concur with para 2 a of 1st Indorsement.
3. (U) Reference Section II, para 2 b (2). Use of the M88 Gun Direction Computer (FADAC). Concur.
4. (U) Reference Section II, para 2 b (3). Protective Devices for Emplaced Colimators. Concur.
5. (U) Reference Section II, para 2 b (4). Preparation of Building Materials for Rapid Use. Concur.

CHARLES CANTRELL  
 Brigadier General, USA  
 Commanding

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AVFBC-EE-H (6 Aug 68) 3rd Ind  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (WIG: WALSAA)  
 Period Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ II FPCICSV, APO San Francisco 96266

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

Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPCP-OT, APO 96558

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 and concurs with the Operational Report-  
 lessons learned of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for the period ending  
 31 July 1968, as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
 no

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