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AD NUMBER
AD503958
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310**

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (31 Jul 69) FOR OT UT 692128

7 August 1969

**SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 6th Battalion,
56th Artillery, Period Ending 30 April 1969 (U)**

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate
benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and
may be adapted for use in developing training material.

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Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
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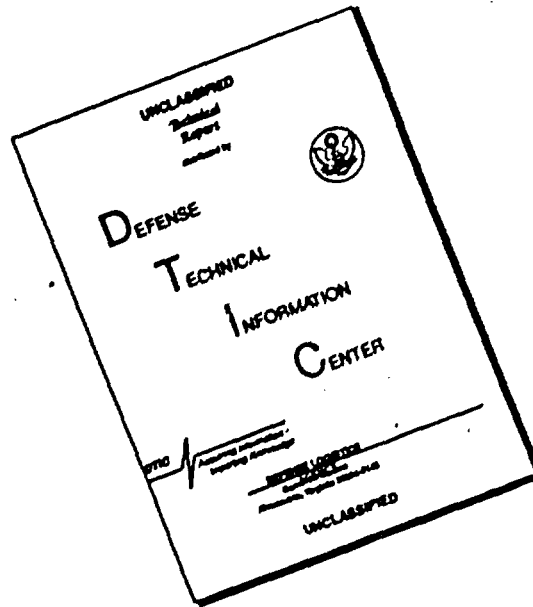
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6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery
APO San Francisco 96325

AVDF-ATRO

14 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery, for the period ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

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1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (U) Command: During the reporting period significant changes of personnel were accomplished. LTC J. A. Richard Guertin assumed command of 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery on 4 February 1969 from LTC William R. Warren. Major Richard A. Phalen assumed duties of Executive Officer on 21 April 1969 from Major Eddie E. Cardenas, Jr. CPT Horace Whitfield relinquished command of Battery D to CPT Richard M. Murray, Jr. on 25 March 1969.

b. (C) Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline.

(1) Personnel:

	COMMISSIONED		WARRANT		ENLISTED	
	AUTH*	ASGD	AUTH*	ASGD	AUTH*	ASGD
FEB	55	47	17	16	851	850
MAR	55	46	17	16	851	911
APR	55	45	17	17	851	918

*Approved manning level increase over current MTOE authorization.

(2) Administration: Increased emphasis, during the reporting period, was placed on public information releases. Features were accomplished on the sequence of HAWK engagement and the Civic Action program. Administrative activities were moved to a new building which allowed increased functional space.

(3) Morale: In cooperation with the Americal Division Special Services, S1 supervised the opening of a swimming area in front of Battalion Headquarters. This area is used by all batteries in the battalion and has greatly enhanced morale.

(4) Discipline:

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	Company Grade <u>Article 15</u>	Field Grade <u>Article 15</u>	<u>Summary</u>	Court Martial <u>Special</u>	<u>General</u>
FEB	15	0	0	0	0
MAR	25	2	1	1	0
APR	21	6	1	0	2

c. (U) Intelligence and Counterintelligence:

(1) During the reporting period, the S2 section continued to maintain accurate and current intelligence data for the battalion. Intelligence information available to this headquarters was updated every 24 hours by G2, Americal Division, and S2 Americal Division Artillery. Of prime concern were enemy sapper and rocket battalions operating in the Chu Lai area.

(2) Enemy activity in the battalion area was very light until TET, 23 February 1969. During the Post TET offensive, several 122mm rockets impacted within our area destroying one SEA hut and damaging two others. As a result of hostile action during this period, 14 casualties were suffered by the battalion and three HAWK missiles sustained minor damage. Repair of all damaged missiles was accomplished in two days.

(3) Through coordination with the 18th Military Police Brigade at Long Binh, the battalion was able to turn in seven dogs which did not have handlers. A plan has been adopted wherein sentry dogs will be employed only at Headquarters and Headquarters Battery and Battery D. Two dog teams assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Battery will be used on the southern perimeter of Subsector V, Chu Lai Defense Command, for which the battalion is responsible. Chu Lai Defense Command is a provisional unit responsible for the coordination of defense of Chu Lai base. Six dog teams will be employed at Battery D, located on Ky Hoa Island. This battery is not under Chu Lai Defense Command, and is responsible for its own ground defense. This plan assists in reducing the critical shortage of sentry dogs in RVN. A request for construction of adequate kennels has been approved and construction should be completed during the next reporting period.

d. (S) Plans, Operations, Training and Organization.

(1) HAWK Battery for Thailand.

(a) Current information indicates that the planned deployment of Battery C, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery from Vietnam to Thailand is delayed until December 1970. As a result of the delay, USAFV recommended that the battery be either inactivated in country or returned to CONUS, pending deployment to Thailand upon completion of tactical site facilities at that location. The proposed concept called for the reactivation

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of the unit in CONUS approximately six months prior to deployment to Thailand. COMUSMACV, COMUSMACTHAI, CINCUSARPAC and CINCPAC concurred with the USARV proposal and on 28 February 1969, JCS directed that action be taken to inactivate the battery in country and retrograde the equipment to CONUS.

(b) On 12 March 1969, Department of the Army directed that Battery C be inactivated and equipment shipped by 1 June 1969.

(c) On 4 April 1969, COM7AF released Battery C from the air defense mission in the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut area. The battery is currently in the stand down phase of operations preparing HAWK peculiar equipment for retrograde to CONUS. Conventional equipment will be redistributed within RVN. Personnel are being reassigned in country with priority to filling existing shortages in 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery units, as well as Americal Division Artillery. Personnel within 30 days of DEROS on 1 June will be returned to CONUS.

(d) This battalion has been scheduled to receive the following items of new HAWK float equipment from CONUS on a direct exchange basis:

1. One continuous Wave Acquisition Radar (CWAR)
2. One Pulse Acquisition Radar (PAR)
3. One Range Only Radar (ROR)
4. One Battery Control Central (BCC)
5. One Set, Palletized Test Equipment

(e) Due to the impending inactivation of Battery C and the subsequent storage of its equipment at a CONUS storage area, this headquarters recommended that the new float equipment scheduled for shipment to RVN be diverted to the Battery C equipment storage area in CONUS. It was further recommended that like items of practically new HAWK equipment currently on Battery C property records, be laterally transferred to Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery for use as float equipment, and the older battalion float equipment be retrograded to CONUS from the battalion location at Chu Lai.

(f) The above recommendation was subsequently approved and will result in the following:

1. Savings in transportation costs of float equipment from CONUS to RVN.
2. Provide the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery with relatively new float equipment from Battery C.

(g) These items of battalion float equipment are currently being used at Landing Zone Oasis for Operation Western Pistol (See para 2).

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(h) Because of the equipment exchange, a dual shipment of retrograded items is necessary. Shipments will leave RVN through Saigon and Chu Lai aerial port facilities if the concept for aerial shipment is approved by Department of the Army. Maximum emphasis is being placed on property records management and accountability.

(i) The inactivation of Battery C offers AMC the opportunity to test selected areas of the Freighter Cargo concept and evaluate the overall plan for retrograde of equipment to CONUS. This concept tests areas, to include, the inactivation order, depth of equipment protection and packaging, cleaning and storage facilities at the staging area prior to shipment. As mentioned before, aerial shipment has been requested. This mode of transportation has many inherent advantages to include: lesser depth of pack for travel protection, point to point shipment with no re-handling or intransit storage and less deterioration of components than is experienced in sea transport.

(2) HAWK Radar Surveillance Detachment:

(a) Throughout a period of this report elements of the battalion have continued work on Western Pistol, a MACV directed joint Army/Air Force project. The annual Western Pistol report was covered in the ORILL for the period 1 November 1968 - 31 January 1969.

(b) The following items of HAWK equipment are currently being used for this project:

1. Battery Control Central
2. Pulse Acquisition Radar
3. Continuous Wave Acquisition Radar
4. High Power Illuminator Radar
5. Range Only Radar

(c) The concept of operation requires that an Air Force controller be stationed in the HAWK Battery Control Central. This officer uses ground-to-air UHF radio and HAWK radar returns to vector Army and Air Force aircraft to the vicinity of unknown tracks. Friendly air crews attempt visual and/or photographic identification of unknown flying objects (UFO). The following types of aircraft have been used:

1. AC 119 - Shadow
2. AC 47 - Spooky

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3. A1E - Spad
4. UH 1 - Shamrock
5. OV 1 - Mohawk
6. UH 1G - Cobra
7. OH-6A - Cayuse

(d) Throughout this period a restricted flight area west of 12 Oasis (From the Cambodian border at YA 8200, east to ZA 1000, north to ZA 1040, west to the Cambodian border at YA 6840) has been in effect. 7th Air Force NOTAM 588 was distributed to all friendly agencies operating in the prohibited area. This NOTAM outlined the geographic limits of the prohibited flight zone and directed that all flights flying below 8000 feet and operating in that area from 1800 hours to 0600 hours coordinate in advance with the Control and Reporting Post (CRP) at Pleiku.

(e) The battalion commander directed that a special operations center, a combined manual AADCP and modified FDC, be organized for project Western Pistol. The operations center is collocated with the HAWK radar detachment and has communication links to Army ground surveillance and counter mortar radar sites, Air Force ground control radar, prime control and reporting post (GRP) radar at Pleiku and the Fire Support Coordination Center, 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. All sightings are reported to the CRP at Pleiku for correlation and possible identification.

(f) Since the operation began the HAWK radars have operated from 1800-0600 hours daily. The daylight hours are devoted to extensive equipment maintenance, which has resulted in a minimal amount of HAWK system downtime.

(g) Over 365 unidentified tracks have been received since the operation began, the majority of which have been detected by the pulse acquisition radar. However, positive identification of these aircraft has not, as yet, been established. A study of track data by 7th Air Force and battalion personnel indicates that the vast majority of tracks occur between 2300 and 0200 hours. Tracks are consistently observed following stream beds, valleys and appear to terminate in areas displaying characteristics of natural or prepared landing zones. Track characteristics show speeds from a normal 60 knots to in excess of 150 knots. Doppler returns associated with the HAWK tracking radar indicate aircraft of a rotary wing design.

(h) On several occasions when being directed to the vicinity of UFO's, friendly air crews have observed airborne red lights. However,

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the UFO's consistently out maneuvered the friendly aircraft resulting in the aircrew's inability to make a positive identification.

(i) On 9 March 1969, representatives from this headquarters coordinated with the Combined Intelligence Center, Vietnam (CICV). CICV provided information on enemy ground activity within the Western II Corps area of interest, in the form of a pattern analysis from 1 January to 31 March. The CICV data was correlated with track data generated by the Western Pistol Operations Center. Analysis of all available CICV intelligence for possible correlation with UFO track data indicates that UFO's appear to originate in known enemy base camps in Cambodia and, on numerous occasions, terminate in the vicinity of known or suspected enemy concentrations and supply points in the 4th Infantry Division area of operations.

(j) During this period, a team of personnel from the MACV Science Advisors Office conducted a series of tape recordings of audible doppler UFO signals being received by the HAWK tracking radar. These tapes were initially returned to CONUS for detailed analysis and comparison with known audible returns from friendly and Soviet aircraft. Initial results were inconclusive with two tracks having suggestive characteristics of Soviet helicopters. In an effort to obtain more positive identification through this method of analysis, the MACV team recently completed another series of tape recordings which have been returned to CONUS for further analysis. The results of these tape analysis are expected in the near future.

(k) In early April, a free fire zone for ground targets was established by 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. The zone is located in an area of high density UFO track activity and probable landing zones. Within the area, any target on the ground to include UFO tracks appearing to have landed, may be fired upon. Collocated with the detachment at LZ Oasis is an eight inch howitzer battery. These weapons immediately respond to fire missions initiated by the HAWK detachment commander. To date, the results of field artillery missions are inconclusive. It should be noted that field artillery adjustment of fire has been effected through the use of the Tactical Control Console in the Battery Control Central (BCC) by observing PAR returns of bursting projectiles. In the Western Pistol Operations Center, all track data is converted to polar coordinates by detachment personnel and is passed to the battery FDC in an extremely rapid manner.

(l) On the night of 10 April 1969, while flying in the friendly intercept aircraft, the battalion commander, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery and several members of the aircrew observed a UFO with outline characteristics of the M1-6 Hook. Again, on 20 April, another aircrew sighting was made and the UFO observed had characteristics of a M1-4 Hound. As of this date no photographic identification has been made.

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(m) This headquarters completed a study of all available ground and airborne UFO activity available since Operation Western Pistol began in late January. The study concluded that:

1. There is a great amount of nightly unidentified aircraft activity in the prohibited zone west of LZ Oasis.

2. The majority of unidentified tracks appear to be rotary wing, helicopter type aircraft.

3. It is highly probable that many of the unidentified aircraft are of enemy origin.

4. These aircraft are possibly being used to transport personnel and supplies to enemy elements operating in the Western III Corps area. The study recommended that:

a. Increased emphasis be placed on the use of searchlights in an attempt to visually or photographically identify tracks.

b. A comprehensive analysis be made of types of radar doppler returns in an effort to make a positive identification of unknown tracks in the prohibited zone.

c. Strong consideration be given to declaring the established 7AF prohibited zone a Free Fire Zone (ADIZ) for all aircraft, not identified as friendly, between the hours of 1800-0600 hours daily.

d. If the prohibited zone is declared a free fire zone, the following Air Defense Artillery weapons be deployed to engage unknown aircraft:

1) Twin 40mm Duster (collocated with searchlights and OPCON to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

2) Quad 50 cal Machine Gun (collocated with searchlights and OPCON to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

3) Vulcan 20mm Gun (collocated with searchlights and OPCON to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

4) With reference to employment of HAWK missiles, because of the current limited HAWK missile and tracking radar capability against rotary wing aircraft, a message be sent to CG, HICOM requesting possible assistance in modifying the HAWK system to engage helicopters.

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(n) The above mentioned study was forwarded to CG, IFFV Artillery on 22 March 1969. Copies were also furnished COMUSMACV; CG, USARV; CG, 4th Infantry Division; CG, US Army Air Defense Center and CO, Americal Division Artillery. Subsequent to completion of the study, the battalion commander and S3 have attended numerous conferences at MACV, USARV, 7AF, IFFV, CIGV, Americal Division, 4th Infantry Division and IFFV Artillery.

(o) After being briefed by representatives of this headquarters, CG, IFFV approved the conclusions and recommendations and subsequently forwarded a request to COMUSMACV for the free fire zone and ADA weapons for the Western Pistol prohibited area. These recommendations are currently being staffed at MACV and 7AF. A response to the IFFV message is expected in the near future.

(p) As a result of the pending inactivation of Battery C (see para (1) (a) above), the battery has been relieved of all Western Pistol responsibilities. The operation will continue as a battalion detachment with representatives from the remaining batteries operating under the supervision of the battalion S3.

(3) Other Operations: The battalion was involved in normal operations, training and support activities throughout the reporting period.

(a) Throughout the reporting period, emphasis was directed at improved operations through the conduct of daily air defense exercises, HAWK peculiar CMMI and Combat Readiness Evaluations of the HAWK firing batteries. In the area of air defense exercises (ADX), one problem was encountered during the reporting period. 7th Air Force suspended all ADX's conducted in the DaNang Subsector. Battalion initiated exercises were inadequate as they provided minimal training for Battalion Operations Central (BOC) personnel. As a result of this situation, operator proficiency declined. At the request of the battalion commander, the Control and Reporting Center resumed subsector ADX's and overall proficiency has improved.

(b) Unidentified Aircraft: During the reporting period, the HAWK air defense system alert status was increased on four separate occasions to track unknown aircraft entering the DaNang Air Defense Subsector. After accepting and tracking the targets received from the DaNang Control and Reporting Center, three tracks were subsequently identified as friendly. The fourth track to enter the system was a dual track. It entered the system from the north-east and proceeded into the outer edge of the ADIZ and was locked on by a unit of this battalion. The tracks quickly reversed and exited the subsector ADIZ. These tracks were not subsequently identified friendly and remained in an unknown status.

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(c) HAWK Maintenance Bulletin: During the reporting period, the electronics section instituted a maintenance bulletin on HAWK peculiar maintenance. The bulletin covers new procedures, recommendations and suggested improvements in both repair and shop operations, discusses newly discovered problems in the maintenance of HAWK peculiar equipment, and acts as a sounding board for future maintenance improvement suggestions. The bulletin also establishes battalion policy in the HAWK maintenance field. Three bulletins have been published to date.

(d) USARPAC CRE Team: On 12 February 1969, the USARPAC CRE (Combat Readiness Evaluation) Team evaluated all firing batteries of the battalion. The evaluation is designed to test the ability of the individual fire units to engage a hostile aircraft within a specified time period. Each firing battery was rated combat ready and superior in mission completion and crew performance. Since elements of Battery C were involved in Operation Western Pistol at LZ Oasis, the augmented assault fire unit (AAFU) at Tan Son Nhut was evaluated in that configuration. Battery C received a combat ready and superior crew performance rating. The chief evaluator commented that it was the best AAFU CRE that he had ever conducted. These results reflect a significant improvement over past annual evaluations by USARPAC.

(e) The following Standing Operating Procedures, concerning operations, were published during the reporting period.

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
Corrosion	12 Feb 69
Battalion Operations Central	23 Feb 69
CBR	5 Mar 69
CRC DaNang Operations	5 Mar 69
Chg #1 HAWK State of Alert	7 Mar 69

(f) Additional communications equipment was installed within the battalion network during the reporting period. An AN/GRC-106 radio was installed at the Battalion Operations Central, DaNang CRC, Battery C (Tan Son Nhut) and the HAWK radar detachment at LZ Oasis (Western Pistol). This net provides a reliable and responsive communications link with all areas of operations.

(g) Two battalion officers visited the 30th Artillery Brigade, Okinawa on 30 March 1969. An invitation was extended by the brigade commander to send observers to the Annual Service Practice (ASP). The

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two officers attended the final preparation phase and firing of the last ASP battery. While in Okinawa, maintenance and operations activities were discussed with members of the brigade and USAMICOM representatives. The mutual exchange of information was worthwhile.

e. (U) Logistics.

(1) During the reporting period, the supply section has placed major emphasis on maintenance of equipment and turn-in of vehicles.

(2) In November 1968, a letter was submitted through channels requesting that the battalion be authorized to turn in one hundred vehicles as excess to needs. The request was approved and turn-in was completed during the reporting period. This has reduced battalion mobility to approximately 50% but does not affect accomplishment of the air defense mission.

(3) In an effort to further improve the maintenance posture of the battalion, the battalion maintenance section and the battery maintenance sections were consolidated. This consolidation included maintenance, personnel and the prescribed load lists (PLL) for vehicles, trailers, engineer items (less HAWK peculiar), chemical, quartermaster, and small arms. The PLL for signal items (less HAWK peculiar) was included in the consolidation but maintenance for signal items remained with the communications and the VHF sections. Each battery retained one wheel vehicle mechanic to assist with operator maintenance and make minor repairs or replace parts.

(4) During the reporting period, the S4 was instructed to organize a ration procurement and distribution system. On 10 March, the battalion began operation of a ration breakdown point.

(5) Direct Support Platoon:

(a) On 18 February 1969, an inspection team from USARPAC arrived. The purpose of their visit was to determine the adequacy of missile maintenance performed by the DSP and depot personnel. Generally the inspection revealed that workmanship at Battalion DSP and depot rebuild should be improved. Primary deficiencies noted were cold solder joints, damaged components and solder splashes within the chassis. Much improvement has been noted in this area at DSP level as increased emphasis was placed on improved workmanship techniques and final inspection of repaired chassis. After a follow-up inspection by USARV on 16-18 April 1969, the inspection team chief commended battalion personnel for the outstanding improvements. The team noted that all deficiencies listed by the USARPAC team in February had been corrected. Presently, the battalion is conducting a 100% visual and electrical check of all ready missiles on site.

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(b) A problem area experienced during the reporting period was load testing of loader transporters. All loaders were overdue for load testing, however, the assigned support battalion did not have technically qualified personnel to conduct the testing. After much delay, a USATAC representative was located in Chu Lai. He conducted on the job training for support and battalion personnel. Load testing has been completed.

(c) Tech Supply

1. Line items stocked	9245
<u>a.</u> ASL	8589
<u>b.</u> Fringe assets	656
2. Total requisitions received during period	2013
3. Total ASL items at zero balance	1190 (13.8%)
4. Requisitions filled from stock	1551
5. Customer requisitions passed to CONUS NIEP	518
6. CONUS receipts processed for customer requisitions (passed)	2228
7. Stock replenishment requisitions fwd to NIEP	1463
8. CONUS receipts processed for stock (ASL)	2118
<u>a.</u> Excess serviceable lines shipped to CONUS	1049
<u>b.</u> Unserviceable lines shipped to CONUS	136
9. Demand accommodation and satisfaction	
<u>a.</u> % demand received that match ASL	90.0%
<u>b.</u> % demand satisfied from available stock assets	85.6%

f. (U) Civil Affairs.

(1) During the reporting period this battalion continued pacification activities in its assigned area of responsibility for civic action, Ky Hoa Island. The MEDCAP II program continued to offer medical treat-

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ment to the 6300 inhabitants of Ky Hoa. Over 1500 patients have received medical treatment within this period. To improve the personal cleanliness and health of the islanders, 200 pounds of surgical soap was distributed and four midwife kits were provided to the people.

(2) Materials and supervision have been provided to the people of Hoa An village to build an extension on the maternity hospital.

(3) The General Walt scholarship program has been initiated on Ky Hoa. Presently, nine secondary school students are being considered for 500\$ VN grants per month.

(4) Customary red envelope gifts were distributed during TET. A total of 47,000\$ VN was contributed. The red envelope distribution improved relations with the people of Ky Hoa significantly.

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

a. (U) Personnel: Omitted.

b. (U) Operations:

(1) Bonus effect on rocket impact:

(a) OBSERVATION: Miscellaneous objects stored or placed around living quarters become lethal fragments on rocket impact.

(b) EVALUATION: During the post-TET offensive of 1969, a SEA hut in this battalion received a direct hit by a 122mm rocket. Individuals living in the SEA hut had various items; i.e., mirrors, glasses, bowls, etc, placed within the hut. When explosion of the rocket occurred, the mentioned items were hurled about the hut and became secondary missiles.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That individuals dispose of all unnecessary items which could provide bonus effect to a rocket explosion. Necessary items, such as mirrors, can be stored in a manner which does not present a danger to personnel.

c. Training: None

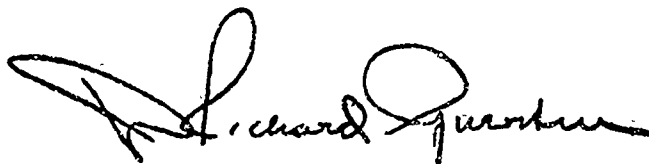
d. Intelligence: None

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e. Logistics: None



J.A. RICHARD GUERTIN
LTC, ADA
Commanding

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SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (6th Battalion, 56th Artillery) (U)


DA, Headquarters, Americal Division, APO 96374 7 JUN 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96375

1. (U) Forwarded herewith is the subject report of the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery for the period 1 Feb-30 Apr 69.

2. (U) This Headquarters concurs with the observations and recommendations contained in the basic communication.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


KENNETH W. PARKER
1LT, AGC
Asst AG

AVHGC-DST (14 May 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery, for the period ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 8 JUN 1969

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

(U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn:
6th Bn, 56th Arty
Americal Div

GPOP-DT (14 May 69) 3d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 6th Bn, 56th Arty for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS GSFOR-65 (RL)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 11 JUL 69

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)		2c. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	
HQ, OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310		SECRET	
		2d. GROUP	
		4	
3. REPORT TITLE			
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Hq, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery			
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)			
Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Feb 69 to 30 Apr 69.			
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)			
CO, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery			
6. REPORT DATE		7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
14 May 69		19	
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.		8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
a. PROJECT NO.		692128	
c. N/A		8b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
d.			
9. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT			
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES		12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY	
N/A		OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C 20310	
13. ABSTRACT			

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