

CONFIDENTIAL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 6TH BATTALION, 56TH ARTILLERY
APO 96491

AVGHFCO

8 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 RCS: CSFOR-65 (U)TO: Commanding Officer
97th Artillery Group (AD)
APO 96307

1. (U) Reference: a. AR 1-19

b. USARV Reg 1-19

2. (U) Organization:

UNIT

6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

COMMANDERSLTC Peter B. Farrell
(5 Sep 66 - 18 Aug 67)LTC John Evanchick
(19 Aug 67 -)

HNB

CPT James E. Sorenson
(1 Jul 67 -)

Battery A

CPT John G. Williamson
(11 Jul 67 -)

Battery B

CPT Leroy Woods
(10 Jun 67 - 4 Aug 67)

Battery C

CPT Gerald R. Sullivan
(5 Aug 67 -)

Battery D

CPT Thomas H. Delay
(1 Aug 67 -)CPT Richard A. Thomas
(10 Jun 67 -)67th Radar Detachment (Ground Surveillance) - None Authorized
- Attached to HNB

C-151-67

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C-150Z-17 Cys

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
DOD DIR 5200.10

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31 October 1967 (RCS: CSFOR-65) (U)76th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) CW2 Pope G. Morris
Attached to Battery D (Jan 67 - 5 Sep 67)

At present, none

79th Field Artillery Detachment (Radar) WO1 Andrew C. Michell Jr.
Attached to Battery C (1 Jul 67 -)

SECTION I: (C) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (C) GENERAL:

a. The battalion continued its assigned mission of providing combat ready US Army Air Defense units in the defense of assigned areas, Republic of Vietnam.

b. This unit changed Battalion Commanders and two of the five subordinate commanders during the reporting period.

c. Upon the arrival of the new Group and Battalion Commanders, several site improvement studies and evaluations were made to determine if present sites were best located and configured for maximum tactical effectiveness. All units, with the exception of Battery C, were found to be well located and configured. It was determined that Battery C had a launcher masking problem and that in some instances minimum separation distances for equipment were not met. A study is currently underway to determine the best practical method of solving these problems.

d. Savings bond participation: 88.1%

e. The main civic action effort continues in the Nhon Trach District in Bien Hoa Province. The primary emphasis during this reporting period has been in the hamlet of Dat Moi. Construction of a 2 Km road into the village to allow Lambretta traffic is underway. When completed, this will allow motorized transport of goods to and from the village. The MEDCAP program continues its weekly visits to three villages in the district. While this activity is supported by the battalion, Battery A has a program in the villages of Don Song and San Thoi (Hoc Mon Sub-Sector). Battery B continues to support the Ho Nai Orphanage in Tan Hiep. In addition, the organization of Protestant Men of the Chapel in the battalion supports five orphans of the Ben Cat Orphanage through World Vision International.

f. Distinguished visitors were:

<u>VISITOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
BG Moore	USARV Provost Marshall	13 Sep 67
MG Brown	CG, Fort Sill	14 Sep 67
BG Murphy	CO, II FFV Arty	22 Sep 67
MG Pearson	J3, MACV	18 Oct 67

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2. (C) PERSONNEL:

a. During the quarter, this organization had an average total assigned strength of 945. The total authorized strength is 858 (40 Officers, 15 Warrant Officers, 803 EM). There were 337 losses and 267 gains for a net loss of 70 personnel.

b. During this quarter, the 76th and 79th Field Artillery Detachments (Radar) attached to the battalion had an additional 32 EM assigned because of an addition of four radars.

c. The 67th Radar Detachment (Ground Surveillance) was attached to the battalion during the quarter. The detachment has an assigned strength of 19 EM.

d. Critical MOS Shortages:

MOS	TITLE	AUTHORIZED	ASSIGNED	LOSSES		
				AUG	SEP	OCT
36C	Lineman	5	2	0	0	0
52B	Pwr Gen Equip Op/Mech	59	31	3	0	2
63A	Veh Mech Helper	16	4	1	0	0
76R	Msl Rep Parts Sp	15	6	0	0	0

3. (C) INTELLIGENCE:

a. During the reporting period, the intelligence activities were devoted to military and physical security, obtaining current intelligence information, evaluating the battalion security measures and providing guidance on matters of security, safety and CBR defense.

b. Current intelligence information on the ground threat was obtained by daily liaison visits to II FFV, 98th Advisor Headquarters, III Vietnam Corps, and spot reports from battery intelligence sources. All incidents and intelligence reports originating within a ten kilometer radius of each battery and the civic action base camp are plotted and recorded. Incidents occurring within one kilometer each side of main supply routes are included in the plotting and recording procedure. A weekly intelligence summary of the incidents and intelligence reports is published to include a graphic map of each area considered with incidents plotted on the map. This intelligence summary is distributed to each battery and to 97th Group S2.

c. Physical security posture of the battalion is good.

(1) Mortar bunkers and perimeter defense bunkers have been completed and are continually being improved.

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(2) During the monsoon season, the growth of vegetation in the perimeter clear zones has been rapid; however, defoliant, waste oil and burning have been used with some degree of success. When available, heavy engineer equipment has been used to scrape vegetation from clear zones but this is not feasible when tanglefoot emplacements and other barricades have been constructed.

(3) The sentry dog teams at each battery, with the exception of Headquarters Battery, patrol inside the battery perimeter. To prevent the dogs from false-alerting on posted guards inside the perimeter, stationary guard posts have been established at perimeter bunkers. At Headquarters Battery, the sentry dog teams patrol just outside the perimeter in the vicinity of the Battalion Operations Center.

d. During the reporting period, there were 77 Confidential clearances granted, five requests for background investigation and 110 Top Secret/Secret clearances validated. The obtaining of security clearances has not presented any problems.

e. Safety: There has been a slight increase in the number of vehicle accidents within the reporting period. This was attributed to the influx of newly assigned personnel not familiar with local driving conditions. This problem is alleviated by Command emphasis on defensive driving habits. This program is carried out on a weekly basis at the Command Information classes. The Battery Commander gives a talk on safe driving principles and gives examples of recent accidents occurring in the area and explains the unsafe factors involved in each accident and how these accidents could have been prevented.

4. (U) OPERATIONS:

a. Daily air defense exercises have continued to be effective in maintaining a high state of unit training.

b. Tactical SOP examinations for the qualification in air defense tactical duties were administered to six officers and 14 enlisted men.

c. Continued emphasis has been placed on the requirement that firing batteries remain operational and adhere to the State of Alert Schedule. The preventive maintenance program produced outstanding results as the battalion operational time was in excess of 90% for the quarter.

d. A comprehensive six-week training program for the 76th and 79th Field Artillery Detachments (Radar) was conducted to train the additional EM assigned to those units. The personnel assigned had no previous experience with the AN/MPQ-4A radars used by these detachments. This program enabled the units to continue their assigned mission in an effective manner.

e. A one week generator course was conducted for three EM per battery to compensate for the critical shortage of generator mechanics within the battalion. In addition, a two week maintenance course was conducted for two men per

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battery on the Coder-Decoder Group (AN/TSQ-38). These courses have significantly increased the battalion's maintenance capability.

f. The battalion received its USARV AGI during the period 2-6 October 1967. A Satisfactory rating was received in all major areas.

5. (U) LOGISTICS

a. Tactical Vehicles: During the quarter, logistical support has improved considerably. The shortage of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ton trucks was alleviated by the issue of 21 trucks of 44 due out. The battalion is short one scoop loader due to a turn in on 4 September 1967. A new one was requisitioned on 5 September 1967 but has not yet been issued. The loss of the scoop loader has slightly slowed the self-help program in construction of protective emplacements for tactical equipment.

b. Repair Parts (HAWK):

(1) The following requisitions were received and processed during the reporting period:

	<u>02</u>	<u>05</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Requests	599	1998	1877	4474
No. Filled at DSP	162	1235	944	1341
Passed on to 79th Ord Det	582	1392	1126	3100
Due Out	42	372	364	778

(2) The Technical Supply section now carries 19,000 line items of which only 199 are at zero balance.

d. Maintenance:

(1) Vehicle Deadline Rate: The deadline rate for vehicles during the reporting period was 4.3%. The deadline rate for scoop loaders has been 60.30%. This rate is due to a lack of available repair parts.

(2) HAWK: During this period, we have had 1955 work requests. They are as follows:

	<u>MAJOR COMPONENTS</u>	<u>CHASSIS</u>	<u>SIGNAL</u>
Total Requests	302	1230	423
Completed	140	805	302
Evacuated	122	149	98
Awaiting Parts	6	84	23
In Shop	34	192	

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e. Construction:

(1) The construction program is near completion with two buildings under construction now and three more remaining to be started. Materials to construct these buildings and two command bunkers are on requisition and due out from the engineer depot.

(2) PAGE support is considered adequate at Battery C. The remaining batteries receive minimum support due largely to the long process of building acceptance by R&U support agencies. The majority of the buildings within the battalion were constructed by troop labor with deficiencies in the electrical wiring. A recently completed electrical survey determined that re-wiring of the HHB compound is necessary to provide required power to all working and living areas. The approval of a request for electrical materials and technical assistance submitted through the 159th Engineer Group should alleviate this electrical wiring problem. Upon completion of rewiring HHB's compound, it will be inspected for PAGE acceptance. Batteries A, B and D have been surveyed and will come under the complete R&U jurisdiction of PAGE during the next quarter. This will increase the R&U support considerably.

(3) With the augmentations to the Counter-Mortar Radar Detachments, the battalion has the requirement to construct emplacements for four additional radars. To solve this problem, we have selected and are currently constructing 24' X 20' command bunkers (159th Engr Gp Plan 67-116). Our plans call for one 12' X 10' room for the scope, computer, plotting board, and communications and a second 12' X 10' room for use as a maintenance room to include storage of repair parts and test equipment. A third room, 10' X 24', will be used as a ready room for the manning crew. The radar is to be emplaced on top of the bunker to afford good radar coverage, with a minimum of clutter. The first such emplacement is nearly completed and is expected to be in operation prior to 15 November 1967. It is planned to offer a more complete evaluation of this concept in the next ORLL report.

SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

6. (U) Part I: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. ITEM: Experience of HAWK Operator Replacements:

(1) Discussion: During the reporting period, the assignment of 16D's and 16E's improved appreciably. However, many men slated for duty in these MOS's continue to be assigned without the MOS and most who do have the MOS have very limited experience, resulting in lengthy periods of "on-the-job" training to meet the demanding requirements of operating HAWK equipment in RVN. It normally requires 60 to 90 days satisfactorily to OJT a radar operator or launcher crewman.

(2) Observation: Closer screening of records at stateside and in-country replacement centers to assign experienced HAWK qualified personnel to HAWK battalions in Vietnam would help alleviate this problem.

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b. ITEM: Detection of Mortars and Rockets:

(1) Discussion: In September, the battalion was requested to study the capability of organic HAWK radars to detect incoming mortar and rocket fire. A test was conducted wherein mortars were fired while all radars of Batteries A, C and D attempted to detect them. This included six HIPIR's, three Pulse Acquisition Radars and three Continuous Wave Acquisition Radars. Radars were situated at ranges of .1, 5 and 21 Km from the firing site and at various angles to the direction of fire. No rounds fired either singly or in salvos were observed by any radar.

(2) Observation: This test concluded that HAWK radars would not be of any value in detecting rockets or mortar fire.

c. ITEM: Verification of HIPIR Search Limits:

(1) Discussion: Search limits of HIPIR's vary considerably at different times during the day apparently due to widely fluctuating ambient temperature. Although they are relatively constant during the hours of darkness, the limits change in the morning, again after noon, and still again in the evening after sundown.

(2) Observation: HIPIR search limits should be checked more often due to widely varying temperatures in Vietnam.

d. ITEM: Protection of Equipment:

(1) Moisture Accumulation in the AFCC:

(a) Discussion: When allowed to sit unenergized for an extended length of time, the AFCC tends to accumulate moisture internally.

(b) Observation: To prevent excessive moisture accumulation in the AFCC, power should be applied to the console for at least one hour each day. Care should be taken to insure that all indicator panel switches are turned fully counterclockwise to prevent loading on the circuitry during these periods.

(2) Moisture in Launchers:

(a) Discussion: Units experienced frequent problems with moisture in launcher chassis.

(b) Observation: This situation has been rectified by keeping main power on at all times. This keeps the launchers' internal electrical components warm and dry.

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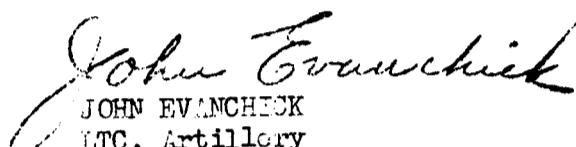
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
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7. Part III: Recommendations:

a. That personnel assigned to HAWK positions have the requisite MOS.

b. That, as a corollary, records be screened more closely at replacement centers to insure that people with HAWK experience are assigned to HAWK battalions.

c. That increased emphasis be placed on improving the supply of repair parts for automotive and engineer items of TOE equipment.


JOHN EVANCHICK
LTC, Artillery
Commanding

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AVGH-CO (8 Nov 67)

1st Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS GSFOR 65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 97TH ARTILLERY GROUP (AD), APO 96307

7 December 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC (DST),
APO 96375(U) This headquarters concurs with the report contained in the basic
correspondence.J. C. FIMIANI
Colonel, Artillery
Commanding

AVHGA-PA

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report - Lessons Learned
for Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

TO: AG

FROM: G1

DATE: 17 DEC 1967 CMT 2
LTC Neff/kkl/42781. Request AG comment on item concerning HAWK operator replacements, para-
6a, Section II, Part I and paragraph 7, Section II, Part II, attached ORIL.2. Further request correspondence be returned to G1, ATTN: PPAD by COB
22 December 1967.

FOR THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, G1:

R. E. Sawyer~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AVHCA-PS

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report - Lessons Learned
for Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

TO: G3

FROM: G1

DATE 24 DEC 1967 CMT 4
LTC Neff/blp/4278

Concur with previous comment by the Adjutant General.

2 Incl
nc*Theodore S. Bell*
THEODORE S. BELL
COL, GS
ACofS, G1

AVHAG-PS

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

TO: G3

FROM: G1

DATE 22 Dec 67 CMT 4
LTC Neff/blp/4278

Concur with previous comment by the Adjutant General.

2 Incl

nc

THEODORE S. BELL
COL, GS
ACoFS, G1

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AVHAG-E

SUBJECT: Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

TO: G1

FROM: AG

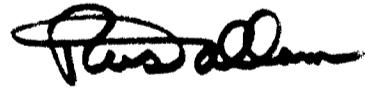
DATE: 22 Dec 67 CMT3
MAJ Davenport/jm/4405

1. Reference item concerning Hawk operator replacements, item 6a, Section II, Part II and item 7a and b, Section II, Part II. Nonconcur. There is no record at this headquarters of personnel arriving without award of MOS 16D or 16E. Personnel are assigned upon arrival in RVN in accordance with PMOS. All personnel must have a PMOS to be POR qualified.

2. Since the 97th Arty Group is the only Hawk unit in RVN, all personnel in MOS 16D and 16E are allocated to them. The strength in these MOS's are in excess of 100% of authorized.

3. Screening of records at replacement activities would not determine if personnel are qualified in their MOS.

FOR THE ADJUTANT GENERAL:


2 Incl
ncR. N. DALLAM
Colonel, AGC
Deputy Adjutant General

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COL HAYWARD, ACofS, G3

RECORD COPY - RETURN TO AVHGC-DST FILE# 306-084.2

AVHGC-DST (8 Nov 67)

2d Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending
31 October 1967 (RCS: CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 6 JAN 1968

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 965581. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (AVLA) as indorsed. *fb*2. Pertinent comment follows: Reference item concerning Hawk operator
replacements, section II, part I, paragraph 6a; and section II, part II, para-
graph 7: Nonconcur. There is no record at this headquarters of personnel arriv-
ing without award of MOS 16D or 16E. Personnel are assigned upon arrival in
RVN in accordance with PMOS. All personnel must have a PMOS to be POR quali-
fied. Since the 97th Artillery Group is the only Hawk unit in RVN, all person-
nel in MOS 16D and 16E are allocated to them. The strength in these MOS's are
in excess of 100% of authorized. Screening of records at replacement activi-
ties would not determine if personnel are qualified in their MOS.

3. Correct UIC Number WAV1ATO.

4. A copy of this endorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit
through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General *ley*

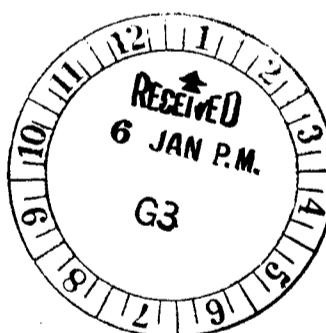
Copies furn:

HQ, 6th Bn, 56th Arty
HQ, 97th Arty Gp (AD)

MFR: ORLL was staffed through:

G1 LTC Neff/4278

ACTION OFFICER: MAJ BARK/4485



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JOHN P. MUNSON
Major, Infantry

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FROM CLASSIFIED INCLOSURES

1-90

File
2/28