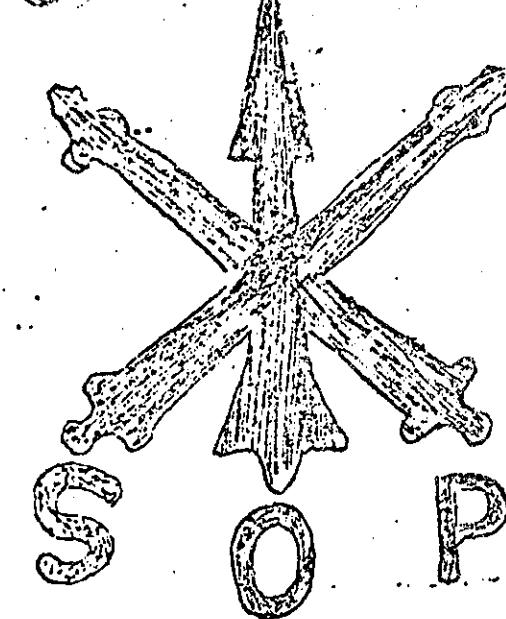


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EXTRACT



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895

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 6TH BATTALION, 11TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96557

18 November 1967

XIAT-CP

SUBJECT: Combat SOP

TO: See Distribution

1. The 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery Combat Standing Operating Procedure is published for the guidance of all concerned.

2. Recommendations for changes, additions or deletions should be made to this Headquarters, ATTN: S3. All changes will be posted and recorded on record of changes sheet, attached to Combat SOP.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
LOREN P. HOEVER  
2Lt, Artillery  
Adjutant

1 Incl  
6/11 Arty Combat SOP

DISTRIBUTION:  
See Annex P

HEADQUARTERS  
6TH BATTALION 11TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96557

SOP for Combat

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## SECTION I

### GENERAL

#### 1. REFERENCES AND REVISIONS

##### a. References:

(1) 11th Infantry Brigade Tactical SOP for Counterinsurgency Operation (Draft).

(2) FM 6-140 dated 14 June 1965.

b. Revision. Tactical Standing Operating Procedures, 6th Battalion, 11th Artillery, dtd 31 August 1967, is rescinded.

2. PURPOSE: This SOP standardizes routine operational and administrative procedures within this battalion. It applies to organic and attached units unless otherwise stated.

## SECTION II

### PERSONNEL & ADMINISTRATION

1. GENERAL: This chapter prescribes the policies and procedures relating to personnel and administration. (USARV Regulation references in this SOP will be disseminated as received).

#### 2. MAINTENANCE OF UNIT STRENGTH:

##### a. Strength:

(1) Current policy is to maintain maneuver batteries at 100% strength.

(2) Units are responsible for personnel accountability. This is continuous and immediate.

##### b. Reports:

(1) Personnel daily summary (EBF 44) See Appendix I & II to Annex A.

(a) Reports will be as of 1200 hours for previous 24 hour period to be submitted by batteries to arrive at Battalion S-1 as soon as possible but not later than 1400 hours daily.

(b) Reports may be submitted by message or wire. In any case, a follow up copy of EBF 44 must be submitted.

##### (2) Casualty Reports:

(a) Reporting of casualties within the Brigade is governed by AR 600-10 and USARV Regulation 600-1.

22. DETAINERS

a. Definitions

(1) All persons captured by US Forces as enemy or suspected enemy shall be referred to as a "detainee" until his status is determined by a brigade interrogator as one of the categories described below.

(2) Prisoner of War (PW)

(a) Any captive of the North Vietnamese Armed Force (NVA) or Viet Cong Main Force (VCMF) whether captured in combat or not.

(b) Any person captured while actually engaged in combat or in a belligerent act (other than espionage, sabotage, or terrorism) against the Government of Vietnam (GVN), US Forces, or other Free World Military Armed Forces (FWMAF).

(c) Civil Defendants. Those persons having committed or suspected of having committed acts of espionage, sabotage, terrorism, or even criminal acts. Persons of this category are not entitled to Prisoner of War status provided by the Geneva Convention relative to Treatment of Prisoners of War.

(4) Returnees. A person voluntarily returning to the control of GVN after having actively supported the Viet Cong in political or military activities. NVA personnel are accepted as returnees.

(5) Doubtful Cases. Persons suspected of or known to have committed a belligerent act (other than espionage, sabotage, terrorism, or criminal) and whose entitlement to PW status is in question. Doubtful cases must be resolved by a tribunal in accordance with Article 5 of the Geneva Convention (GFW) as implemented by MACV Directive 20-5.

(6) Other Categories.

(a) A person known to be an innocent civilian at the time of capture does not fall within the "detainee" category above and does not require handling as such. (para 4c, below).

(b) A refugee is person other than that described in para 2a, above who has fled or has been forced from his abode to escape military or political persecution.

(7) PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING AND PROCESSING DETAINERS:

(1) Capturing unit.

(1). Must search, segregate, silence, safeguard, and speedily evacuate detainees to the Bde collection point.

(2). Tag detainee with MACV Form 340 or USAF Form 364 "Captive Card". It is mandatory that the following minimum information be entered: date, time, place, circumstances of capture and capturing unit.

(3). Interrogate for immediate tactical value.

(4). All documents, monies, weapons, and other impediments must be tagged with description and related to the detainee. Items must be forwarded with detainee. Those items desired and authorized as war souvenirs should be marked for return with identity of requestor. Souvenirs are not authorized to be retained prior to processing by brigade interrogators.

(5). Evacuate detainees in accordance with MACV directives 20-5 and 190-3.

(6). Seriously wounded detainees are to be evacuated through medical channels to Bde Clearing. Expediently inform Bde S-2 of ETA to Bde Clearing. BDE Clearing will complete a duplicate Captive Tag if detainee must be evacuated out of Bde control.

b. Processing

- (1) Liaison officers will submit artillery H&I's to Battalion FDC NLT 1200 hours daily.
- (2) Battalion FDC will consolidate all requests adding targets received from S-2 and the Brigade liaison officer and submit to FSCE NLT 1400 hours.
- (3) H&I's will be distributed to the firing battalys at the discretion of the S-3.
- (4) H&I's will be fired on a random schedule.
- (5) H&I's will not be fired closer than 1000 meters to friendly troops or to known friendly personnel.
- (6) Daylight H&I's may be requested at any time.

31. DEFENSIVE CONCENTRATIONS:

- a. Defensive concentrations planned by each forward observer in coordination with supported company commanders.
- b. Whenever possible, these fires will be adjusted during daylight hours.

32. TARGET DESIGNATION SYSTEM: (See Annex C)

33. FIRE REQUESTS:

- (1) Sent to direct Support Battery for Processing Upon receipt of a fire mission by a battery, the mission will be computed and the azimuth, range, deflection and quadrant will be sent to the Battalion FDC. The mission will not be fired until the Battalion give the battery a positive clearance to fire.
- (2) When a fire mission received by a battery is in support of contact, the battery will concurrently commence firing and send the battalion fire direction center the data required by paragraph 20.a.(1). Above.
- (3) Monitored and friendly ground clearance obtained by Battalion FDC.
- (4) Battalion FDC notifies Brigade LNO who obtains RVN and air clearance.

b. Preplanned Fires

- (1) Sent to Battalion liaison officer.
- (2) Forwarded to Battalion FDC.
- (3) Cleared and assigned to appropriate firing battery by S-3.

### 34. FIRE DIRECTION:

a. General: Technical fire direction is decentralized to battery level. Fire control and tactical fire direction is performed by Battalion FDC. Limited technical checks will be performed when proximity of location permits.

#### b. Definitions:

(1) Technical Fire Direction: Conversions of fire missions to appropriate firing data and fire commands.

(2) Tactical Fire Direction: Exercise of tactical command of 1 or more units in the selection of targets, designation of units to fire, and the allocation of ammunition for each mission.

(3) Primary check: An independent check of data and commands produced within an FDC.

(4) Secondary check: An independent check, always in addition to primary check, conducted by battalion FDC.

#### c. Firing Charts:

(1) Two (2) firing charts (1:25,000) will be maintained at each FDC. Charts will be constructed to permit 6400 mil coverage.

(2) An observed firing chart will be constructed in the absence of survey or suitable maps. When a map is available, an observed battle map will be used.

(3) Battalion and Battery FDC's will exchange information necessary to keep firing charts current and complete.

#### d. Operational Maps:

(1) FDC battle maps will show the following minimum information: no fire zone, free fire zone, nofire line, accurate friendly unit locations and maneuver unit operational areas.

(2) S-3 will maintain an operational map which will reflect free fire zoned, no fire zones, 11th Brigade TACR, Province boundaries with anti-lery range, ARVN and pacified villages.

### 35. REGISTRATION:

a. Registrations will be conducted immediately upon occupying a new position and at subsequent times as deemed necessary by the FDC.

1. Battery(s) firing for an air observer will fire at the air observers command unless the AO requests "when ready".
- m. Appropriate checks will be made at each battery to insure that the data computed and fired is correct.
- n. FDO's must ask observers if "Adjust Fire" missions are close to friendly troops. If "Close", they must ask "How Close"? A two way channel exists over the radio to advise the observer and the FDC of unusual situations and difficulties which might produce safety hazards, i.e., friendly troops forward of the FO, on his flanks, jungle which hampers observation, etc.
- o. All section chiefs will maintain a direct fire range card at their howitzers. Included on this range card will be the maximum safe QE (i.e. the QE which, if exceeded, will cause a round to clear the mask visible from the howitzer position).
- p. Elbow sights will be boresighted each time the panoramic telescope is boresighted.
- q. All howitzer sections will conduct, on a continuous basis, instruction on direct fire procedures. This instruction should include practical work with situations included in the drill that will require particular attention to safety techniques in setting the fuze for the beehive round and situations requiring the use of the beehive round, will also be given emphasis.

#### 46. ACTIONS AFTER FIRING INCIDENTS.

- a. When check fire is received by a battery, an officer will immediately inspect each howitzer firing to verify and record the data to include a physical count of the unused powder charges. In addition, the azimuth of fire will be measured and recorded. Simultaneously, the battery FDC will check the data computed in the FDC and determine the reason for the check fire.
- b. After a check fire is received, it may be cancelled by the station (person) who initiated the command. However, the battery will not resume firing without accomplishing the checks discussed in paragraph above unless it is determined that the check fire is administrative in nature; i.e., Red Maze, termination of preparation, aircraft on the GT line etc.

c. When friendly troops are injured by artillery or mortar fire, a spot report will be transmitted to the battalion operations by the most expeditious means. Follow-up reports will be forwarded as additional information becomes available.

d. At the Brigade Commander's discretion, an officer will be appointed to investigate indirect firing incidents. While a shell report should be included as part of the spot/follow-up report, it is imperative that the shell crater(s) are not disturbed until the investigating officer arrives to make a crater analysis. When an incident results from a tree burst, care must be taken not to disturb the area in which the burst occurred.

46A. CIVIL AFFAIRS. (S-5)

a. The S-2 is assigned the additional duties of battalion civil affairs officer.

b. All civil affairs activities and projects will be coordinated with the brigade civil affairs officer (S-5)

c. Interpreters assigned to the battalion will be under the control of S-5.