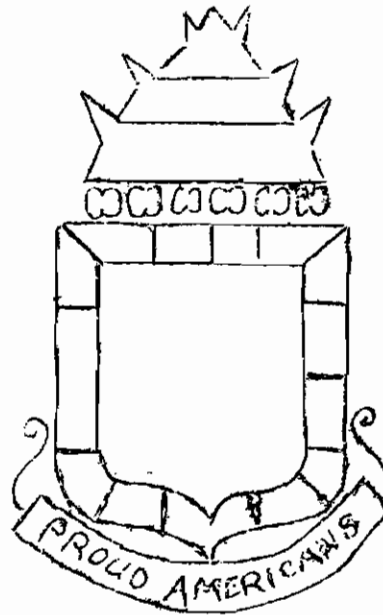


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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
2D BATTALION, 32D ARTILLERY



OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED  
FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDING 31 JUL 69  
(RCS-GSFR-65) (RI) UIC: WA2AAA (U)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
AFPC San Francisco 96216

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AVGE-ZC

31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-CSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC WA2444) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

*Period = 1 May TO 31 July*

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

a. Personnel:

(1) The authorized strength as of 31 July, 1969 was 37 officers, 6 warrant officers, and 522 enlisted men. Assigned strength was 38 officers, 5 warrant officers, and 488 enlisted men. During the period 1 May through 31 July 1969, 14 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 98 enlisted men were assigned; 12 officers, 1 warrant officer, and 123 enlisted men rotated. 32 men were wounded in action during this period, however, there were no fatalities.

(2) The battalion continues to receive replacements in most required MOS's. Personnel strength has remained slightly below the authorized level throughout the period. Educational and religious opportunities remain unchanged. Support by area chaplains has been excellent in both fire support base and base camp locations.

(3) Morale of the battalion remained high throughout the period. The R & R program has been extremely helpful in maintaining morale. During May, 9 men went to Hawaii, 7 men went to Taipei, 5 men went to Bangkok, 4 men went to Australia, and 1 man went to Singapore. During June, 10 men went to Hawaii, 8 men went to Australia, 3 men went to Hong Kong, 2 men went to Taipei and 1 man each went to Bangkok and Tokyo. During July, 9 men each went to Hawaii and Australia, 7 men went to Bangkok, 4 men went to Taipei and one man each went to Manila and Hong Kong.

(4) During the period, personnel of the battalion were awarded 1 Legion of Merit, 17 Bronze Stars, 4 Soldier's Medals, 1 Air Medal, 44 Army Commendation Medals and 32 Purple Hearts. Punishment was given to 22 personnel under the provisions of Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The battalion held 5 special court-martials and 2 summary court-martials.

(5) The battalion has one rotary wing and one fixed wing aviator assigned. Both are attached to the aviation section, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 23d Artillery Group.

Page 1 of 8 Pages

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-GSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC WA2AAA)

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## b. Operations:

(1) The battalion remained deployed as follows: Headquarters and Service Batteries at Tay Ninh Base Camp (XT 143 522), A Battery at FSB Saint Barbara (XT 276 679), B Battery at Tay Ninh Base Camp (XT 159 524) with one platoon at FSB Elaine (XT 559 047), and C Battery at Dau Tieng (XT 498 485). All batteries retained the mission of General Support II Field Force Vietnam.

(2) The battalion provided artillery support for the 25th Infantry Division Toan Thang Phase III which started 17 February 1969 and continues as of this date. Fire support was also provided for the 1st Cavalry Division (Air-mobile) and the 1st Infantry Division. Additionally, fire support was provided for Special Forces operations, Regional/Popular Forces operations and ARVN Airborne operations.

(3) During the month of May, enemy activity continued at a moderate to heavy level. During the month, Tay Ninh Base Camp received 127 rounds of mixed 107mm rocket and 82mm mortar fire. FSB St. Barbara received 201 rounds of mixed RPG, Recoilless Rifle, 107mm rocket and 82mm mortar fire. Dau Tieng received 120 rounds of mixed 120mm mortar, 82mm mortar and 107mm rocket fire. Dau Tieng also received a CS Gas attack on the night of 17 May 1969.

(4) On 1 May, Service Battery received 2 rounds 107mm rocket (overcaliber) and sustained heavy damage to the battalion supply warehouse and the battalion supply office.

(5) On 4 May, one 8" howitzer from B Battery, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery moved to XT 127 533 to conduct an assault fire mission. Results were 1 KBA and 2 possible KBA. The section returned to Tay Ninh the same day.

(6) On 22 May, an 8" howitzer section from B Battery moved to XT 132 625 to support the 3rd Battalion, 22d Infantry and returned to Tay Ninh the same day. No surveillance was obtained.

(7) On 26 May, two 8" howitzer sections from B Battery moved from Tay Ninh to FSB Elaine (XT 559 047). The mission of the platoon is General Support Reinforcing 25th ARVN Division Artillery.

(8) During the month of May, the battalion received credit for 154 KBA, 4 probable KBA, and destruction of the following: 96 bunkers, 68 fighting positions, 13 buildings, 9 trench lines, 5 sampans, 3 LA positions, 2 bridges, 1 mortar position, 1 rocket position and 1 landing point. In addition, 6 secondary explosions were initiated.

(9) During the month of June, enemy activity continued at a moderate to heavy level with attacks by fire increasing. During June, Tay Ninh Base Camp received 349 rounds of mixed 122mm rocket, 107mm rocket, 120mm mortar, and

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-CSFOR-65 (RI) (UIC WL2LLA)

82mm mortar fire. FSB St. Barbara received 131 rounds of mixed RPG, Recoilless Rifle, 107mm rocket, 82mm mortar, and 120mm mortar fire. Dau Tieng received 70 rounds of mixed 107mm rocket, 82mm mortar and 60mm mortar fire. Also, FSB Elaine received 9 rounds of 82mm mortar fire and small arms fire during this period.

(10) On 9 June, HHB, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery received 2 hits (107mm overcaliber) in the battalion communications center area which resulted in the total destruction of two AN/GRC-46 radio teletype sets and one AN/GRC-142 radio teletype set.

(11) On 21 June, one 8" howitzer at FSB Elaine was converted to a 175mm gun.

(12) On 27 June, one 8" howitzer from B Battery, moved to XT 298 553 to support the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry with direct fire on Nui Ba Don Mountain. Results were 8 KBA. The section returned to base camp the same day. On 28 June, the section moved to XT 316 575 to continue the mission. Results were 8 KBA, 4 possible KBA, one 60mm mortar and one 82mm mortar destroyed, 1 building destroyed and 2 secondary explosions.

(13) During the month of June, the battalion received credit for 128 KBA, 30 probable KBA, and destruction of the following: 252 bunkers, 74 fighting positions, 31 buildings, 13 sampans, 6 LA sites, 1 bridge, and 5 tunnels. In addition 2 fires were started and 17 secondary explosions were initiated.

(14) During the month of July, enemy activity continued, but at a decreased level. Tay Ninh Base Camp received 28 rounds of 107mm rocket and 82mm mortar fire. FSB Saint Barbara received 12 rounds of 82mm mortar fire. Dau Tieng received 40 rounds of mixed 107mm rocket and 82mm mortar fire.

(15) On 2 July, one 8" howitzer section from B Battery moved to XT 298 558 to support the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry by direct fire on Nui Ba Don Mountain. The section returned to base camp the same day after destroying 6 caves, 3 bunkers and 3 buildings. On 3 July, the section moved to XT 312 572 to continue the mission. After destroying 2 caves, 1 bunker, 1 fighting position and 1 building, and initiating 1 secondary explosion, the section returned to base camp the same day.

(16) On 5 July, one 8" section from B Battery moved to XT 322 585 and returned to base camp the same day. Results of direct fire missions in support of the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry were 2 KBA, 4 caves, 2 bunkers, 1 fighting position and 2 buildings destroyed.

(17) On 7 July, one 8" howitzer from B Battery moved to XT 301 553 to support the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry by direct fire. After destroying 3 caves and 2 bunkers and causing one secondary explosion the section returned to base camp the same day.

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-CEPOE-65 (RI) (UIC WA2111)

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(18) On 10 July, one 3" howitzer section moved to XT 300 551 in support of the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry operations on Nui Ba Den mountain. The howitzer and crew destroyed 10 caves, 4 bunkers and 3 buildings, initiated 2 secondary explosions and killed 1 VC.

(19) On 13 July, one 8" howitzer section from A Battery moved to XT 292 613 to support the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry by direct fire on Nui Ba Den mountain. The section destroyed 5 caves and caused one secondary explosion. The section returned to FSB St. Barbara the same day and continued the mission on 14 July from XT 263 620. After destroying 9 caves and 3 bunkers, the section returned to FSB St. Barbara the same day.

(20) On 15 July, one 8" howitzer section from B Battery moved to XT 244 595 in support of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry. Direct fire missions on Nui Ba Den mountain destroyed 7 caves and 1 bunker. The section returned to base camp the same day.

(21) On 18 July, one 8" howitzer section from B Battery moved to XT 303 581 in support of the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry. Direct fire missions on Nui Ba Den mountain destroyed 1 cave. The section returned to base camp the same day and continued the mission on 19 July from XT 302 593. The section destroyed 1 bunker and 6 caves and returned to base camp the same day. On 20 July, the mission was continued from XT 298 555. After destroying 2 bunkers and 5 caves the section returned to base camp the same day.

(22) On 21 July, two howitzer sections from B Battery moved to FSB Mitchell (XT 168 458) in support of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry. They returned to base camp the same day.

(23) On 21 July, the remaining 8" howitzer at FSB Elaine was converted to a 175mm gun.

(24) On 22 July, the two howitzer sections from B Battery moved to FSB Mitchell (XT 168 458) to continue the mission in support of the 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry.

(25) On 31 July, one 8" howitzer section from B Battery moved to XT 298 556 to support the 4th Battalion, 23d Infantry by direct fire on Nui Ba Den mountain. The section destroyed 12 caves and 4 bunkers, and returned to base camp the same day.

(26) During the month of July, the battalion received credit for 9 KBM, 4 probable KBM, and the destruction of 101 bunkers, 28 fighting positions, 84 caves, 3 weapons sites, 28 buildings and 13 sampans. In addition, 12 secondary explosions were initiated.

(27) The number of missions fired during this reporting period and the amounts of ammunition expended are as follows:

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-CETCR-05 (RI) (UIC W12111)

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>MISSIONS FIRED</u>	<u>8"</u>	<u>175mm</u>
A Battery	3,552	4,509	6,491
B Battery	2,691	6,546	1,994
C Battery	<u>1,647</u>	<u>4,287</u>	<u>2,234</u>
TOTAL	7,890	15,342	10,719

(28) The battalion has fired a total of 337,435 rounds in support of ground operations in RVN.

c. Training:

(1) Troop movements occurred on 15 days during the period. Fire support operations occurred on 92 days. Individual and unit training occurred on 73 days.

(2) On-the-job training and cross training continue in all batteries. Areas of particular emphasis are gunnery training and logistics. To implement these programs, qualified personnel within the headquarters have been attached to batteries which lack personnel with requisite knowledge and experience to conduct an effective training program.

(3) Newly assigned company grade officers are given an examination to determine proficiency in gunnery. New officers do not assume responsible duties until they have passed the examinations given by the battalion operations section. Training of these officers has been done informally by battery commanders and by the group operations section.

(4) 2 EM attended a 5 day TLEERS school conducted by the 140th Heavy Equipment Company. 6 officers and 3 EM attended a 5 day CHMI school conducted by 23d Artillery Group.

d. Intelligence: During the reporting period the battalion visual reconnaissance program consisted of 94 missions flown. These resulted in 319 significant sightings and 202 fire missions.

e. Logistics:

(1) All classes of supplies are available to all elements of the battalion through normal supply channels. Major shortages include:

<u>Item/Description</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Requisition No.</u>
Carrier, Command Post, Tracked, M-577	1	AT 0103 9122-2013

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-GEFAR-65 (RI) (UIC WA2441)

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<u>Monoculture</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Requisition No.</u>	
Compressor, 5 CFM, 175PSI	2	AT 81QZ 8250-2110	
	2	AT 81QZ 8260-2004	
Multimeter, MN/URM-105 6625-581-2036	5	AT 81QZ 9156-2029	N/R
Headset, Microphone, H-182/PT 5965-069-8885	47	AT 81QZ 8213-2022	N/R
Radio Set, MN/GRC-125	3	AT 81QZ 9020-2033	B3
Radio Set, MN/VRC-46	1	AT 81QZ 8289-2031	issued 7/2/69
	2	AT 81QZ 8343-2005	" 7/2/69
Radio Set, MN/VRC-47	1	AT 81QZ 8327-2032	
Radio Set Control Group MN/ GRC-39	6	AT 81QZ 8214-0316	
Telephone Set, TA-312/PT	22	AT 81QZ 8131-2000	
Tool Kit, Small Arms Repair	3	AT 81QZ 9309-2011	N/R
Tool Kit, Organizational Maint	1	AT 81QZ 8327-2016	N/R
Welder, Arc	1	AT 81QZ 9080-2003	

(2) The above shortages have been reported to S4, 23d Artillery Group as critical items. This unit has initiated followup action prescribed by AR 735-35 and local policies. Many shortages have been alleviated by having liaison personnel with depot and other rear support agencies. All attempts to obtain the above items have been unsuccessful.

#### f. Organization:

(1) During the reporting period, the battalion remained assigned to the 23d Artillery Group.

(2) Present firing battery configuration is:

Battery A - 2 - 175mm guns  
2 - 8" howitzers  
Battery B - 2 - 175mm guns  
2 - 8" howitzers

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-JSFCR-65 (RI) (UIC W12111)

Battery C - 2 - 175mm guns

2 - 8" howitzers

C. Other:

(1) There were no vehicle or aircraft accidents affecting combat operations.

(2) During the reporting period, the battalion surgeon and medical section continued to supervise a medical center at Cao Xa (KT 126 503). Sick call is conducted six days a week with the assistance of one Vietnamese nurse and 2 Vietnamese aidmen. During the period 3,980 Vietnamese civilians were seen and treated.

(3) During the reporting period, the battalion continued to sponsor and support the Cao Dai Orphanage in Tay Ninh City. At the close of the reporting period, the orphanage housed 80 orphans ranging in age from 2 months to 16 years. During the period the battalion provided a water pump, several washing machines, and parties for the orphans both at the orphanage and at Tay Ninh Base Camp.

2. (C) SECTION 2, Lessons Learned, Commander's Observation, Evaluation and Recommendation.

- a. Personnel: None.
- b. Operations: None.
- c. Training: None.
- d. Intelligence: None.
- e. Logistics: None.
- f. Organization: None.
- g. Other:

(1) Use of howitzer/gun travel lock.

(a) OBSERVATION: This unit has experienced many failures of parts in the elevation mechanism of the M107-175mm gun.

(b) EVALUATION: In order to reduce reaction time, gun crews were re-positioning the weapon on the gun pad without engaging the tube travel lock. The short movements of the vehicle caused the tube to whip up and down. The excessive strain placed on the hydraulic system and gear trains seems to have

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31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969. RCS-33PCR-65 (RI) (UIC WL2111)

been a contributing factor to part failure. Discontinuation of this practice has significantly decreased part failure in elevation mechanisms.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That 175mm gun crews habitually keep the tube at travel elevation to facilitate engaging the travel lock and that the travel lock be engaged whenever the vehicle is moved, regardless of distance.

(2) Interchangeability of parts.

(a) OBSERVATION: This unit has experienced difficulty in obtaining belt set, matched, FSN 3030-780-7001, for the fan tower of the M107/M110 self propelled gun/howitzer.

(b) EVALUATION: Belt set, matched, FSN 3030-517-0828, for the generator of 3/4 ton truck M37B1 with 100 amp system alternator, will fit the fan tower of the M107/M110.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That belt set, FSN 3030-517-0828 be authorized for issue in lieu of belt set, FSN 3030-780-7001.

*Russell L. Parsons*  
RUSSELL L. PARSONS  
LTC, FA.  
Commanding

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- 1-Commanding General United States Army Vietnam Artillery
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AHGC-DST (31 July 1969) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969, ACS CSPOR-65 (R1) (UIC WA2AAA) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 1 OCT 1969

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Logistics," section I, page 5, paragraph e(1):  
The status of the reported shortages is as shown below:

ITEM

- \* Carrier, Command Post, Tracked, M-577
- \* Compressor, 5 CFM, 175PSI
- \* Multimeter, AN/URM-105
- \* Headset, Microphone, H-182/PT
- \*\* Radio Set, AN/GRC-125
- \* Radio Set, AN/YRC-46 (Issued 9267 - 3 ea)
- \*\* Radio Set, AN/YRC-47
- \* Radio Set, Control Group AN/GKA-39
- \* Telephone Set, TA-312/PT
- \* Tool Kit, Small Arms Repair
- \* Tool Kit, Organizational Maint
- \* Welder, Arc

\* No record of requisition at USAICCV. Recommend unit resubmit. Item is presently available.

\*\* No record of requisition at USAICCV. Recommend unit resubmit. Item is not presently available in country. Requisitions will be filled when item becomes available.

b. Reference item concerning "Use of howitzer/gun travel lock," section II, page 7, paragraph 2g(1), and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2a; concur. This recommendation has been extracted and will be considered for inclusion in a USAIV Training Newsletter.

c. Reference item concerning "Interchangeability of parts," section II, page 8, paragraph 2g(2); nonconcur. The 3/4 ton truck belt set is slightly larger than the prescribed belt set and tends to slip. Although satisfactory

FOR READ, ACOFS, G3  
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206-022

*A list*

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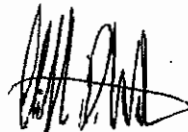
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AVHGC-Est (31 July 1969) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery,  
Period Ending 31 July 1969, HCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (VIC WA2AAA) (U)

as a field fix to prevent deadline, prolonged use is not recommended. The prescribed set of belts is a standard item of supply; the availability of which depends on correct and timely requisitioning procedures.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON  
LT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy Furn:  
2d/32d Arty  
II FFV Arty

MFR: ORLL was staffed through:

G3-OPNS: MAJ Weaver/4636

CE: CPT Suminski/4688

G4: MAJ Kaplan/4142

ACTION OFFICER: MAJ NOWAK/tmk/4433

CONCURRENCE/NONCONCURRENCE: Not required.

Suitable for Commander's Notes: Yes/No.

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AVFBC-RE-H (4 Sep 69) 3rd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, AOS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 R REF 1505

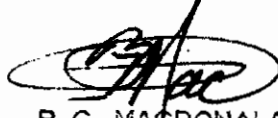
THRU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC(DST), APO 96375

Commander-in-Chief, US Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

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

This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with the Operational Report -  
Lessons Learned of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery for the period  
ending 31 July 1969, as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
B. G. MACDONALD  
LTJ AGC  
Asst AG

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AVFB-FAC (31 Jul 69) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery  
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266 28 AUG 1969

TO: Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam, ATTN: AVFBC-RE, APO 96266

1. The quarterly report of the 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery adequately reflects the operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. This headquarters has noted the equipment shortages listed in paragraph 1e(1). Availability of all items on the list will be checked with USARV G4 and the 1st Log Command.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
AQUILA E. STIPE  
Major, FA  
Adjutant

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AVON-C (31 July 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery  
Period Ending 31 July 1969, ROS-OSFOR-69 (RI) (VIC: WA231A) (U)

RH, Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, APO 96289, 21 August 1969

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

Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery,  
AFHQ: AVFB-FAC, APO 96266

1. (U) This Headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for the period ending 31 July 1969, from 2d Battalion, 32d Artillery.

2. (U) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Section 2, Paragraph 2g(1): Concur. This information should be disseminated to all heavy artillery battalions.

b. Reference Section 2, Paragraph 2g(2): Concur.

W. SKINNER  
Colonel, FA  
Commanding

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2d Bn, 32d Arty

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