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AUTHORITY 48 CFR 1.101  
DATE 4/27

**Operational Report  
Lessons Learned  
Headquarters 6/27th  
Artillery  
Period Ending 30 Apr 1969**

27TH ARTILLERY, 6TH AV  
ORIG 30 APR 1969

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DATE 4/27

# CONFIDENTIAL

AVHGC-DST (5 May 69) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WJ18AA)  
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (SI) (S)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 27 JUN 1969

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 6th Battalion 27th Artillery.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning Air Force Airlift Support, section II, page 6, paragraph b(1) and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2a; nonconcur. Lack of coordination results in untimely shipments and poor service to the customer. Coordination should however be affected between the shipper, receiver, and TMA. It is not the responsibility of the carrier to coordinate shipments. Prompt and effective coordination between responsible agencies will prevent delays and increase combat effectiveness. It is the responsibility of the carrier to notify TMA through their control elements of flight diversions so that TMA can provide the shipper and receiver with the status and location of their cargo. No further action required at this or higher headquarters.

b. Reference item concerning Ammunition Field Storage, section II, page 7, paragraph b(2) and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b; concur. This is a temporary solution to an immediate problem upon occupancy of a Fire Support Base. This is common practice when closer equipment is available. No further action required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*C. D. Wilson*  
C. D. WILSON  
1LT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furnished  
6th Bn 27th Arty  
II FFV

MPR: ORLL was staffed through:

G3-Ops: MAJ Hill/4636  
G4: MAJ Kaplan/4142

*To hist 7 July*

ACTION OFFICER: MAJ STEWART/LBN 4433

CONCURRENCE/NONCONCURRENCE: Not required.

Suitable for Commander's Notes: Yes  No

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CH MS BR	
CH DOC BR	
CH TMG BR	
A/O	<i>[Signature]</i>

COL. READ, ACOFIS, G3 RETURN TO AVHGC-DST

206-022

*[Signature]*

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AVGE-C (5 May 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery, (UIC: WAISAA),  
 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS-GEFOR-65(R1)(U)

Headquarters, 23d Artillery Group, APO 96269, 19 May 1969

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army,  
 Washington, D.C. 20319

Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery, AFEN: AVFB-PAC,  
 APO 96266

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report for the period ending 30 April 1969, from Headquarters, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery.
2. (C) Pertinent comments follows

a. Reference Section 2, Paragraph 2b(1): Concur. This lack of coordination causes unnecessary delay and, in some cases, hampers the combat effectiveness of units. When cargo cannot be delivered on the date and time requested, the Air Force must verify the request prior to making final delivery. When cargo cannot be delivered to a location, the sending unit must be notified of cargo disposition. This coordination will allow units to make a quick follow-up and eliminate storage requirements on air bases. Recommend the Air Force establish a system to coordinate late deliveries and non-deliveries with Army units.

b. Reference Section 2, Paragraph 2b(2): Concur. This expedient method of storing 8-inch howitzer ammunition is a quick but temporary solution. This method would not be suited to the rainy season. Recommend this information be disseminated to all field artillery units.

W. BRIDEN  
 Colonel, FA  
 Commanding

Copy Furnished  
 6th Bn, 27th Arty

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AVFR-FAC (5 May 69) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for  
 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFDR-65 (U)

TO: HEADQUARTERS, II FIELD FORCE VIETNAM ARTILLERY, APO 96266

7 / MAY 1969

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

1. The quarterly report of the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery adequately reflects operations and lessons learned during the reporting period.
2. The use of a temporary ammunition storage trench as described in paragraph 2b(2) is feasible only during the dry season.

L.D. KINHARD,  
 Brigadier General, USA  
 Commanding

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AVFBC-EE-H (5 May 69) 3rd Inf  
 SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WA18AA)  
 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

DA, HQ II FFORCEV, APO San Francisco 96266 11 JUN 1969

TERU: Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, AITE: AVHOC(DST), APO 96375  
 Commander-In-Chief, US Army Pacific, AITE: CPOB-DP, APO 96358

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 the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery for the period  
 ending 30 April 1969, as

FOR THE COMMANDER:

B. G. MACDONALD  
 III, AGC  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 6TH BATTALION 27TH ARTILLERY  
APO San Francisco 96490

AVGE-YC

5 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WAISAA)  
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS GSPOR-65 (RI) (U)

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. F Battery, 16th Artillery remained attached to this Battalion.

(2) At the end of the reporting period the assigned personnel strength of the battalion, including F Battery, 16th Artillery was under the authorized strength. The following shortages exist in the prescribed grades.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ASSIGNED</u>
13B4	Gunner	18	10
13B4	Section Chief	23	22
13E4	Operation & Intelligence	12	7
76K4	Unit Supply Sergeant	8	5

(3) The morale of the battalion remained high with the M&K program the biggest morale booster. The following is a breakdown of the M&K allocations:

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5 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery (UIC: WALBAA)  
 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (AI) (U)

SITE	FEBRUARY		MARCH		APRIL	
	Req	Recd	Req	Recd	Req	Recd
Hawaii	8	6	12	10	12	9
Tokyo	1	1	1	1	2	2
Hong Kong	0	0	2	2	1	1
Bangkok	15	15	12	12	9	9
Sydney	10	8	12	10	12	11
Kuala Lumpur	2	2	0	0	1	1
Taipei	4	4	5	5	4	4
Penang	0	0	0	0	0	0
Singapore	2	2	2	2	3	3
In-country	4	4	7	7	3	3

(4) There were no significant morale or disciplinary problems. There was one (1) General Court Martial during this quarter. Article 15 punishment was administered as shown:

FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
28	20	26

(5) During this quarter there were thirteen (13) casualties due to hostile action (WIA), of which nine (9) returned to duty.

(6) Awards and decorations presented to members of this command include one (1) Bronze Star Medal (Valor), one (1) Bronze Star Medal (Achievement), ten (10) Bronze Star Medals (Service), ten (10) Air Medals, two (2) Army Commendation Medals (Valor), three (3) Army Commendation Medals (Achievement), thirty (30) Army Commendation Medals (Service) and thirteen (13) Purple Hearts.

(7) Religious services were provided by Chaplains from the 1st Infantry Division and 1st Cav Division (AM) for all units.

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 Period Ending 30 April 1969, ACS CSFOR-65 (KI) (U)

b. Operations.

(1) At present the batteries of this battalion are located as shown below:

- A Battery, 6/27 Artillery, XT 80999032, Quan Loi.
- B Battery, 6/27 Artillery, YU 14360726, Phuoc Binh.
- C Battery, 6/27 Artillery, XT 97084965, Phuoc Vinh.
- F Battery, 16th Artillery, XT 82209130, Quan Loi.
- HNB, 6/27 Artillery, XT 809903, Quan Loi.
- Service Battery, 6/27 Artillery, XU 045096, Long Binh.

At the beginning of this period, the mission of each Firing Battery was:

- A Battery, 6/27 Artillery, GSR 1st Cav Division Artillery.
- B Battery, 6/27 Artillery, GS II PFORCEV.
- C Battery, 6/27 Artillery, GS II PFORCEV.
- F Battery, 16th Artillery, GSR 1st Cav Division Artillery.

(2) During this period the battalion participated in several operations and displaced units as indicated below.

(a) At the start of this quarter, F Battery, 16th Arty was located at Tong Le Chon. On 28 February, with the closing of the 1st Cav Division Operations in the area of the "Fish Hook", F Battery, 16th Arty displaced from Tong Le Chon to Quan Loi. The personnel and equipment to include Class V were transported by C-130 Aircraft. The battery initially occupied a 105mm howitzer position and then moved into their new permanent location. On 25 March the battery rear departed Phuoc Vinh and closed Quan Loi. All elements of F Battery are together at Quan Loi for the first time since 1 November 1968.

(b) On 12 February a liaison party consisting of one officer and two enlisted men was sent to vicinity of Tay Ninh city to work with the 1st ARVN Airborne. They rendered valuable support by assisting in fire planning and adjusting artillery fire when needed. On 28 March this team rejoined their parent battalion.

(c) With the start of the enemy Lunar New Year Offensive on 23 February all batteries experienced increased operations. B Battery, at Phuoc Binh provided close fire support with heavy artillery during the critical days following the ground attack against the province capital of Song Be.

(d) On 13 March the 1st Cav Division (AM) displaced from Quan Loi, passing responsibility for the area to the 1st Infantry Division. The mission of A Battery, 6/27 Arty and F Battery, 16th Arty was changed to GSR 1st Infantry Division Artillery. The mission of B Battery and C Battery, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery remains GS II PFORCEV.



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 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFCH-65 (kl) (U)

(e) On 18 March 1969, a platoon of 8" howitzers from A Battery displaced from Quan Loi to Fire Support Base "THUNDER III" (AU 7765) by surface convoy. The platoon mission was GSK 8th Battalion, 6th Artillery, 1st Infantry Division, which was reinforcing the organic artillery fire of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. The platoon was in support of Operation "ATLAS WEDGs", a multidivisional operation in the vicinity of the Michelin Rubber Plantation. Although the main ground contact remained outside the platoon range capability, the heavy artillery influenced the operation by denying the enemy the use of familiar base camp areas and infiltration routes. The Class V resupply was accomplished by surface convoy from Lai Khe. On 24 March the platoon returned to Quan Loi.

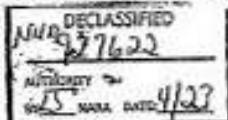
(f) Throughout the reporting period seven forward observer parties were provided to the 5th and 25th ARVN Divisions for operations throughout the III CTZ.

(g) On 15 April 1969, a platoon of 155mm howitzers from F Battery, 16th Artillery was displaced to Loc Ninh Special Forces Camp (AU 7308) to be in DS of a Camp Strike Force Operation. The move of the howitzers and trucks was by rotary wing (3 CH-54 sorties and 3 CH-47 sorties) from Quan Loi. The necessary Class IV and Class V supplies were flown by C-130 aircraft from Bien Hoa to Loc Ninh. The platoon supported a combat assault by the Camp Strike Force and provided support for two (2) days. On 17 April 1969, the platoon returned to Quan Loi by C-130 aircraft.

(h) On 23 April 1969, a platoon of 8" howitzers from A Battery, 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery moved by convoy from Quan Loi to LZ "JOE" (XT 624664). In position they provided heavy artillery support for elements of the 1st Cav Division (AN) in operation "MONTANA SCOUT". The move was planned and executed by the 1st Cav Division Artillery with the security escort provided by B Troop, 2/11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. Although moving through insecure jungle terrain, no enemy were encountered. All required classes of supply were provided by fixed wing aircraft from Bien Hoa. Water resupply was provided by a daily CH-47 Chinook sortie from a nearby fire base "THUNDER III" (AT 7765). As of 30 April the platoon remained at LZ "JOE".

(3) The following number of missions were fired with the total amounts of ammunition expended as indicated.

UNIT	MISSIONS FIRED	AMMUNITION EXPENDED		
		155MM	175MM	8"
A Battery, 6/27 Arty	3004		3811	3567
B Battery, 6/27 Arty	3672		4072	5814
C Battery, 6/27 Arty	2752		3305	3899
F Battery, 16th Arty	3313		11,914	
TOTALS:	12,741		11,914	11,188
				13,280



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Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFGH-65 (a1) (U)

## c. Training.

- (1) The monthly inspection of each Firing Battery FDC has continued. As a result, the proficiency of the Fire Direction Centers has improved considerably.
- (2) Emphasis this quarter has been on maintenance operations. To facilitate this program twelve (12) enlisted men have attended courses of instruction at Long Binh in proper FLL procedures.
- (3) The battalion engaged in selected training on a daily basis. Emphasis at the battery level has been on replacement training. All newly assigned personnel receive initial training and orientation on those Vietnam peculiar subjects.

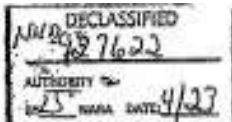
## d. Intelligence.

- (1) During the reporting period aerial observers of this battalion flew 268 VR missions consisting of 597 hours. 205 significant sightings resulted in 232 fire missions conducted by the battalion aerial observers.
- (2) During this quarter the 23D Artillery Group was required to turn-in all OH-1 "Bird Dog" aircraft. Consequently the hours flown by the battalion observers in the VR program was reduced by about one-third. Since the range fans of this battalion encompass approximately 10,000 square kilometers, the loss of aircraft time severely affected the aggressive fighting of the battalion.
- (3) Target surveillance credited the battalion with 60 enemy killed by artillery (KBA). In addition two (2) prisoners of war were credited to the battalion. Continuing the attacks against enemy base camps and storage areas, the battalion destroyed 261 bunkers.
- (4) The following security clearances were granted or validated during the reporting period. Top Secret (clearances validated - 8), Secret (clearances validated - 74), Final Secret (clearances granted - 89), Confidential (clearances granted - 16).

## e. Logistics and Maintenance.

- (1) The ammunition supply requirements placed upon Service Battery were reduced somewhat this quarter. B Battery, 6/27 Arty continued to receive all classes of supplies by air on a daily basis. During February, F Battery, 16th Artillery was resupplied by air while at Tong Le Chen. The other batteries were supplied directly from supply installations located within their respective base camps.

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 Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI) (U)

(2) Headquarters Battery, B Battery and C Battery, 6/27 Arty underwent the USARV Command Maintenance Inspection in March. All batteries successfully passed this inspection. The other batteries of the Battalion were not inspected.

f. Organization. Effective 6 February 1969, the 260th (UIC:G35) Field Artillery Detachment (radar) was detached from the 6th Battalion, 27th Artillery by the 23D Artillery Group. General Order 23 dated 7 February 1969.

g. Other.

(1) Medical. The health of the command continued to be good. Emphasis continued to be placed on good sanitation and the prevention of malaria. The noneffective rate was minimal.

(2) Civic action.

a. The tactical situation has not permitted the battalion to participate in MEDCAPS outside the Quan Loi base camp, but during the reporting period over 500 Vietnamese or Montagnard civilians were treated in the Battalion Aid Station. The aid station has an open door policy to all laborers throughout the day, which has provided the Vietnamese and Montagnard laborers with good medical care.

(b) The Phuoc Vinh School, sponsored by C Battery has been provided with a large amount of books, papers, crayons, pens, and pencils. Quantities of food and fresh fruits have also been provided. In addition 25 sets of Boy Scout uniforms were presented to the Scout Chapter sponsored by the school.

2. (C) SECTION 2. Lessons Learned; Commander's Observation, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) Air Force Airlift Support.

(a) OBSERVATION. On occasions when Air Force cargo aircraft are required to divert from their scheduled destination, the recipient is unaware of the final destination and final disposition of the cargo.

(b) EVALUATION. The present coordination between the using battalion in the field and the Air Force aircraft control agency is inadequate. Quite often this battalion has had an aircraft fail to arrive at their destination with no word as to disposition of cargo. Usually the cargo was flown in

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several days later unannounced to the battalion. Recently this procedure resulted in a cargo of Class V being landed at a remote firing area after the firing battery had displaced. This action required that additional aircraft be scheduled on a combat essential basis to pick up the same load and move it to the unit's new location. A query to the originally intended recipient by the Air Force would have eliminated this unnecessary movement.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That procedures be adopted at the necessary level of command for the Air Force to advise recipients of the cargo destination and request instructions as to final disposition.

(2) Ammunition Field Storage.

(a) OBSERVATION. The use of large dozed trenches provides a protected ammunition storage site immediately upon occupation of a field location.

(b) EVALUATION. On two occasions an 8" platoon was required to occupy a small, cramped Fire Support Base and found that an area for satisfactory ammunition storage was not available. The problem was to safely store approximately 200 projectiles, propellant charges and fuzes immediately upon occupation. As a field expediency, two trenches 12' X 40' X 6' were dozed out to provide underground protection for the ammunition. All ammunition components were completely segregated by lot number. A sloping entrance allowed ammunition trucks and Cargo Carrier M548 easy access. This method is only temporary and provides no overhead cover.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That the above temporary storage trench be adopted as a protected storage area until permanent bunkers can be built.

- c. Training. None
- d. Intelligence. None
- e. Logistics. None
- f. Organization. None
- g. Other. None

*Richard S. Bullock*  
 RICHARD S. BULLOCK  
 LTC, FA  
 Commanding

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- 3 - Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam
- 1 - Commanding General, II Field Force Vietnam Artillery
- 6 - Commanding Officer, 23D Artillery Group

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