



*Howitzer Position*



*Sandbagging*



*Things are Shaping up*



*The Position Area*

Throughout the greater portion of the country the solution has been movement by air.



*Hook with 105*

This air movement has not confined itself to a particular configuration of aircraft. Both rotary and fixed wing are utilized depending upon the loads to be transported and distances to be travelled, e. g. rotary for short moves and moves to remote regions and fixed for extended moves to unimproved runway facilities.

In the Mekong Delta, the movement problems are solved in another manner. Riverine movement is the answer to placement of the artillery within the maze of waterways which, in this region, are comparable to conventional roadways.

The airlift capabilities of the US forces in RVN vary from the UH1D "Huey" carrying 4.2 mortars to the USAF C-124 which can transport 175 mm guns (SP). The 175 mm guns (SP) must be partially disassembled for airlift. This procedure is used for moving the guns from one tactical zone to another where road travel would be infeasible. This same philosophy is appropos of moving the 8" and 155 mm self-propelled howitzers.



*C 124 + 175 Chassis*



*CH-54 Carrying 155 - Towed*

Medium artillery (155 mm towed) may be moved by C-130 which can transport two howitzers in one lift or by the CH-54 "Flying Crane" which carries one howitzer. The latter is frequently employed to insert a platoon of 155 mm howitzers (towed) into Special Forces Camps.



The 4.2 mortar can be moved using any of the above aircraft. The favored means is the UH-1D "Huey". The availability of the UH-1D enables the 4.2 mortar to be moved with speed and minimum preparation.



Light artillery (105 towed) is the most versatile of all the artillery with respect to air and water movement. Normally, a light artillery unit displaces all six howitzers, the FDC, CP, and Mess.



*3/4-ton Truck on CH-47*

The first sortie of the battery move is composed of a Fire Direction Center (FDC), 3/4-ton truck loaded with firing charts, radios and other associated equipment. A "jump" FDC crew and advance party personnel ride inside the Chinook.

The subsequent six sorties are the six howitzers with section personnel and equipment. A convenient solution to transporting section gear and an emergency load of fuzed ammunition is to "piggy back" it.



*Howitzer Loaded with Gear*

slinging the rest of the equipment from the CH-47 through the trails of the piece underneath the howitzer.



*Howitzer with Piggy Back*

This is accomplished by strapping gear right to the howitzer trails, tube, shields and by...





Once rigged for airlift, the Chinooks arrive at the pick-up zone and the move commences.



*For Flight*

The hurricane-force winds of up to 80 miles an hour force “hook-up” crews to wear protective goggles.

Having the load secured to his CH-47, the pilot moves the howitzer at 80 knots to the Fire Support Base virtually emplacing the howitzers right into their future homes... until their next move!



*105 with Piggy Back Airborne*



*Ammo Ready*

Ammunition is packaged in the nylon and canvas containers, moved to the helicopter resupply pads...



*Away We Go*

To maintain sustained combat requires a herculean logistics effort. Not only must the artillery be promptly resupplied with ammunition, but also with water, clothing, foodstuffs and other essentials of combat. Ammunition, which is a primary consideration in any operation in Vietnam, is carried to the guns via fixed or rotary wing aircraft.



*Container on wrecker*

and from there it is picked up by the CH-47 and transported to the Fire Support Base.



When shipped by fixed wing, it is either left in the configuration as it comes from the manufacturer or is packaged on Air Force pallets. During normal resupply the ammunition will remain in the boxes and banded on wooden skids.



*Boxes Chained*

If the ammunition is being backhauled or if care in handling is the overriding consideration, ammunition may be palletized on Air Force pallets using tie down chains from the C130 or C123.



*Boxes on Pallets*

In order to transport large amounts of ammunition, four wooden pallets are chained to a standard Air Force pallet.



*Palletized Ammo*

Lone fire support bases normally require daily resupply of water using water trailers carried by CH-47 helicopters. Since police of the battlefield has become increasingly important as we occupy and abandon pieces of terrain, all materials of war must be destroyed or hauled out of the area to deny them to the enemy.



*Water Trailer and Back Haul Brass*

Such refuse which cannot be adequately destroyed is placed in cargo nets and back-hauled slung underneath the empty water trailers being carried for refill.