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(b) Because of the equipment exchange, a dual shipment of retrograded items is necessary. Shipments will leave RVN through Saigon and Chu Lai aerial port facilities if the concept for aerial shipment is approved by Department of the Army. Maximum emphasis is being placed on property records management and accountability.

(1) The inactivation of Battery C offers AMC the opportunity to test selected areas of the Freighter Cargo concept and evaluate the overall plan for retrograde of equipment to CONUS. This concept tests areas, to include, the inactivation order, depth of equipment protection and packaging, cleaning and storage facilities at the staging area prior to shipment. As mentioned before, aerial shipment has been requested. This mode of transportation has many inherent advantages to include: lesser depth of pack for travel protection, point to point shipment with no re-handling or intransit storage and less deterioration of components than is experienced in sea transport.

## (2) HAWK Radar Surveillance Detachments:

(a) Throughout the period of this report elements of the battalion have continued Operation Western Pistol, a MACV directed joint Army/Air Force project. The initial Western Pistol report was covered in the ORL for the period 1 November 1968 - 31 January 1969.

(b) The following items of HAWK equipment are currently being used for this project:

1. Battery Control Central
2. Pulse Acquisition Radar
3. Continuous Wave Acquisition Radar
4. High Power Illuminator Radar
5. Range Only Radar

(c) The concept of operation requires that an Air Force controller be stationed in the HAWK Battery Control Central. This officer uses ground-to-air UHF radio and HAWK radar returns to vector Army and Air Force aircraft to the vicinity of unknown tracks. Friendly air crews attempt visual and/or photographic identification of unknown flying objects (UFO). The following types of aircraft have been used:

1. AC 119 - Shadow
2. AC 17 - Spooky

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3. A1E - Spad
4. UH 1 - Shamrock
5. OV 1 - Mohawk
6. UH 1G - Cobra
7. OH-6A - Cayuse

(d) Throughout this period a restricted flight area west of LZ Oasis (From the Cambodian border at YA 8200, east to ZA 1000, north to ZA 1040, west to the Cambodian border at YA 6840) has been in effect. 7th Air Force NOTAM 588 was distributed to all friendly agencies operating in the prohibited area. This NOTAM outlined the geographic limits of the prohibited flight zone and directed that all flights flying below 8000 feet and operating in that area from 1800 hours to 0600 hours coordinate in advance with the Control and Reporting Post (CRP) at Fleika.

(e) The battalion commander directed that a special operations center, a combined manual AADCP and modified FBC, be organized for project Western Pistol. The operations center is collocated with the HAWK radar detachment and has communication links to Army ground surveillance and counter mortar radar sites, Air Force ground control radar, prime control and reporting post (CRP) radar at Fleika and the Fire Support Coordination Center, 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. All sightings are reported to the CRP at Fleika for correlation and possible identification.

(f) Since the operation began the HAWK radars have operated from 1800-0600 hours daily. The daylight hours are devoted to extensive equipment maintenance, which has resulted in a minimal amount of HAWK system downtime.

(g) Over 365 unidentified tracks have been received since the operation began, the majority of which have been detected by the pulse acquisition radar. However, positive identification of these aircraft has not, as yet, been established. A study of track data by 7th Air Force and battalion personnel indicates that the vast majority of tracks occur between 2300 and 0200 hours. Tracks are consistently observed following stream beds, valleys and appear to terminate in areas displaying characteristics of natural or prepared landing zones. Track characteristics show speeds from a normal 60 knots to in excess of 150 knots. Doppler returns associated with the HAWK tracking radar indicate aircraft of a rotary wing design.

(h) On several occasions when being directed to the vicinity of UFO's, friendly air crews have observed airborne red lights. However,

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the UFO's consistently out maneuvered the friendly aircraft resulting in the aircrew's inability to make a positive identification.

(i) On 9 March 1969, representatives from this headquarters coordinated with the Combined Intelligence Center, Vietnam (CICV). CICV provided information on enemy ground activity within the Western II Corps area of interest, in the form of a pattern analysis from 1 January to 31 March. The CICV data was correlated with track data generated by the Western Pistol Operations Center. Analysis of all available CICV intelligence for possible correlation with UFO track data indicates that UFO's appear to originate in known enemy base camps in Cambodia and, on numerous occasions, to operate in the vicinity of known or suspected enemy concentrations and supply points in the 4th Infantry Division area of operations.

(j) During this period, a team of personnel from the MACV Science Advisors Office conducted a series of tape recordings of audible doppler UFO signals being received by the HMM tracking radar. These tapes were initially returned to COMUS for detailed analysis and comparison with known audible returns from friendly and Soviet aircraft. Initial results were inconclusive with two tracks having suggestive characteristics of Soviet helicopters. In an effort to obtain more positive identification through this method of analysis, the MACV team recently completed another series of tape recordings which have been returned to COMUS for further analysis. The results of these tape analysis are expected in the near future.

(k) In early April, a free fire zone for ground targets was established by 3d Brigade, 4th Infantry Division. The zone is located in an area of high density UFO track activity and probable landing zones. Within the area, any target on the ground to include UFO tracks appearing to have landed, may be fired upon. Collocated with the detachment at LZ Oasis is an eight inch howitzer battery. These weapons immediately respond to fire missions initiated by the HMM detachment commander. To date, the results of field artillery missions are inconclusive. It should be noted that field artillery adjustment of fire has been effected through the use of the Tactical Control Console in the Battery Control Central (BCC) by observing PAR returns of bursting projectiles. In the Western Pistol Operations Center, all track data is converted to polar coordinates by detachment personnel and is passed to the battery FDC in an extremely rapid manner.

(l) On the night of 10 April 1969, while flying in the friendly intercept aircraft, the battalion commander, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery and several members of the aircrew observed a UFO with outline characteristics of the Mi-6 Hoop. Again, on 20 April, another aircrew sighting was made and the UFO observed had characteristics of a Mi-6 Hoop. As of this date no photographic identification has been made.

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(a) This headquarters completed a study of all available ground and airborne UFO activity available since Operation Western Pistol began in late January. The study concluded that:

1. There is a great amount of nightly unidentified aircraft activity in the prohibited zone west of LZ Oasis.

2. The majority of unidentified tracks appear to be rotary wing, helicopter type aircraft.

3. It is highly probable that many of the unidentified aircraft are of enemy origin.

4. These aircraft are possibly being used to transport personnel and supplies to enemy elements operating in the Western II Corps area. The study recommended that:

a. Increased emphasis be placed on the use of searchlights in an attempt to visually or photographically identify tracks.

b. A comprehensive analysis be made of tapes of radar doppler returns in an effort to make a positive identification of unknown tracks in the prohibited zone.

c. Strong consideration be given to declaring the established 7AF prohibited zone a Free Fire Zone (AFFZ) for all aircraft, not identified as friendly, between the hours of 1800-0600 hours daily.

d. If the prohibited zone is declared a free fire zone, the following Air Defense Artillery weapons be deployed to engage unknown aircraft:

1) Twin 40mm Buster (collocated with searchlights and OPCOM to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

2) Quad 50 cal Machine Gun (collocated with searchlights and OPCOM to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

3) Vulcan 20mm Gun (collocated with searchlights and OPCOM to 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery).

4) With reference to employment of HAWK missiles, because of the current limited HAWK missile and tracking radar capability against rotary wing aircraft, a message be sent to CG, MIICOM requesting possible assistance in modifying the HAWK system to engage helicopters.

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(n) The above mentioned study was forwarded to CG, IFFV Artillery on 22 March 1969. Copies were also furnished COMUSMACV; CG, USARV; CG, 4th Infantry Division; CG, US Army Air Defense Center and CG, Americal Division Artillery. Subsequent to completion of the study, the battalion commander and S3 have attended numerous conferences at MACV, USARV, 7AF, IFFV, CIGV, Americal Division, 4th Infantry Division and IFFV Artillery.

(o) After being briefed by representatives of this headquarters, CG, IFFV approved the conclusions and recommendations and subsequently forwarded a request to COMUSMACV for the free fire zone and ADA weapons for the western Pistol prohibited area. These recommendations are currently being staffed at MACV and 7AF. A response to the IFFV message is expected in the near future.

(p) As a result of the pending inactivation of Battery C (see para (1) (a) above), the battery has been relieved of all Western Pistol responsibilities. The operation will continue as a battalion detachment with representatives from the remaining batteries operating under the supervision of the battalion S3.

(3) Other Operations: The battalion was involved in normal operations, training and support activities throughout the reporting period.

(a) Throughout the reporting period, emphasis was directed at improved operations through the conduct of daily air defense exercises, HAWK peculiar GMI and Combat Readiness Evaluations of the HAWK firing batteries. In the area of air defense exercises (ADX), one problem was encountered during the reporting period. 7th Air Force suspended all ADX's conducted in the DaNang Subsector. Battalion initiated exercises were inadequate as they provided minimal training for Battalion Operations Central (BOC) personnel. As a result of this situation, operator proficiency declined. At the request of the battalion commander, the Control and Reporting Center resumed subsector ADX's and overall proficiency has improved.

(b) Unidentified Aircraft: During the reporting period, the HAWK air defense system alert status was increased on four separate occasions to track unknown aircraft entering the DaNang Air Defense Subsector. After accepting and tracking the targets received from the DaNang Control and Reporting Center, three tracks were subsequently identified as friendly. The fourth track to enter the system was a dual track. It entered the system from the north-east and proceeded into the outer edge of the ADIZ and was locked on by a unit of this battalion. The tracks quickly reversed and exited the subsector ADIZ. These tracks were not subsequently identified friendly and remained in an unknown status.