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AUTHORITY
AGO ltr 29 Apr 1989 ; AGO ltr 29 Apr 1989

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(1)

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

(18) OACSFOR (19)

IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAM-P (M) (19 Sep 67) FOR OT-RD-670360 (6) 29 September 1967

SUBJECT: ~~Operational Report~~ - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 39th Signal Battalion (U) (8)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

(9) Operational rept for quarterly period ending 30 Apr 67.

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as (11) 11 May 67

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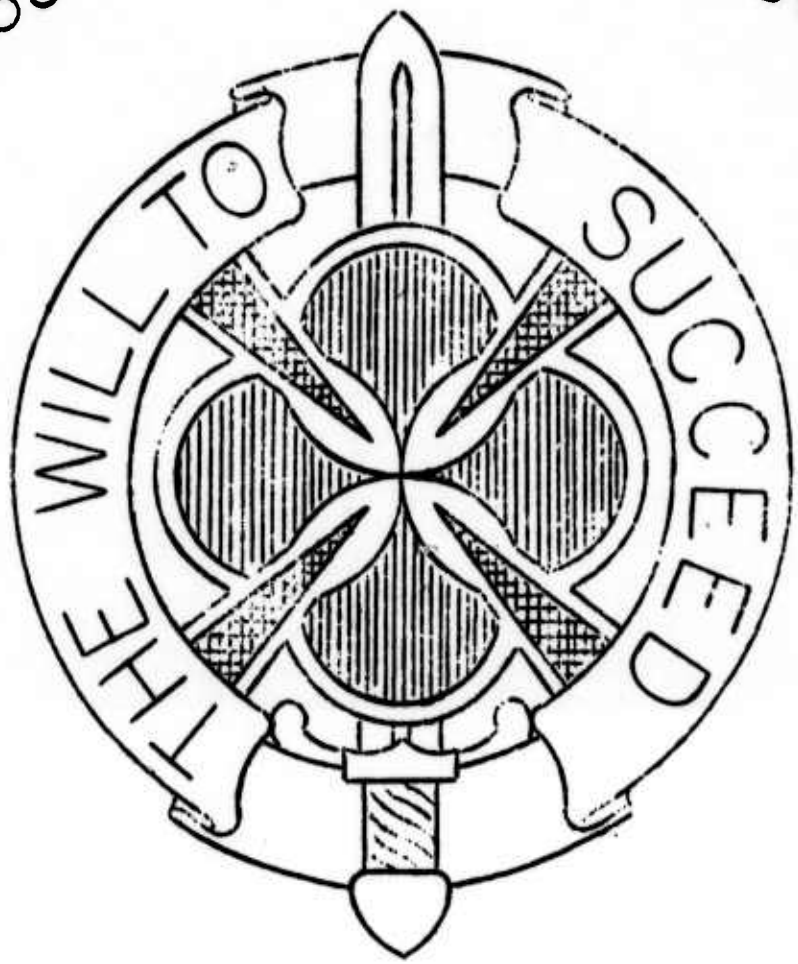
39th SIGNAL BATTALION



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 39TH SIGNAL BATTALION (SPT)
APO San Francisco 96291

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SCCVSG-SBC 11 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION:

Section I Significant Organizational Activities.

1. (C) During the reporting period the 39th Signal Battalion (Support), assigned to the 2d Signal Group, was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Donald L. Jenkins until 2 February 1967, when Lieutenant Colonel William C. Stephens assumed command. Captain Gallie Moore Jr. commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Signal Battalion. Captain Daniel S. Klunk commanded Company C, 36th Signal Battalion (C.A.). Captain William P. Rexroad commanded Company D, 41st Signal Battalion (C.A.). The 518th Signal Company (RRUHF) was commanded by Captain Bernard K. Kellom Jr.

2. (C) The 267th Signal Company (CC) commanded by Captain Hugh M. Menking was assigned to the 39th Signal Battalion (Support) until 15 February 1967 when the company was reassigned to the 36th Signal Battalion (CA).

3. (C) The Battalion performed its mission of installing, operating, and maintaining signal communications in support of military operations in the Vung Tau Special Zone, Phouc Tuy, and Bien Hoa Provinces, Army Area Communications support for the Vung Tau area and the 9th Infantry Division and microwave systems throughout the Republic of Vietnam.

4. (C) Significant communications activities during the period 1 February 1967 through 30 April 1967 are as follows:

a. In January 1967 a provisional platoon of 50 men from Company C, 36th Signal Battalion was sent to Dong Tam to provide base camp communications for one brigade of the 9th Infantry Division. By 2 February 1967, after a 204 foot AB-216 tower had been erected by the 518th Signal Company, four AN/TRC-24 radio relay systems were operational; CD2M03 (Vung Tau to Dong Tam), DD2H04 (Can Tho to Dong Tam with a relay at Vinh Long), DD2H33 (Dong Tam to My Tho), and CD2H32 (Dong Tam to Bearcat with a relay at Vung Tau). By 6 February 1967 a 26 pair cable distribution system was installed at Dong Tam on telephone poles. On 8 February 1967, the Dong Tam switchboard, an AN/MTC-1, and the Dong Tam comcenter, an AN/MSC-29 and an AN/MSC-32, became operational.

b. On 2 February 1967, the 518th Signal Company installed a 45 channel microwave system, 77UM03, from Long Binh to Saigon, Master Complex.

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c. On 2 February 1967, Company C, 36th Signal Battalion received an AN/MRC-102. This AN/GRC-50 radio relay equipment was placed into use on a training system from Bear Cat to Long Binh. This system was finally channelized and converted from a training system to an active communications system, CC2H64 on 27 February 1967.

d. Company C, 36th Signal Battalion cutover from a three position AN/MTC-1 switchboard to a nine position AN/MTC-9 switchboard on 11 February 1967 after it was determined that the three position board was not going to be adequate for Bear Cat. During this reporting period the peg count on the switchboard had increased from an average of 3,000 calls to 11,500 calls per day.

e. In February 1967, Company D, 41st Signal Battalion installed an AN/TRC-24 system, CC2H43, from VC Hill (Grande Massif) to the USNS Corpus Christi Bay, a floating aircraft maintenance facility. This gave the unit two ship to shore radio relay systems, the second being an AN/GRC-10 system, CC2H37, installed in January, from VC Hill to Raider Mobile, a ship anchored in the harbor with units of the 9th Infantry Division on board, who are conducting operations in the Rung Sat Special Zone and the Mekong Delta. The short distance of the shot plus the altitude of VC Hill contributed to a high quality system. Future such systems should be installed utilizing ground plane antennas.

f. On 25 February 1967, Company D, 41st Signal Battalion, cutover from a manual switchboard to a 1000 line dial central office. The cutover was accomplished with a minimum of troubles.

g. The 518th Signal Company continued to erect towers for the use of other units in Vietnam. They erected two AB-216 towers for the 43rd Signal Battalion at Ban Me Thout on 21 February 1967. They completed a 180 foot AB-216 tower at the Can Tho airfield 25 March 1967. On 28 March 1967, a 106 foot AB-585 tower was constructed for the 595th Signal Company at Long Giao.

h. On 4 March 1967, the 518th Signal Company phased over the Hon Mot Island relay to Hon Tre Island for system 77UMV3, Cam Ranh Bay to Nha Trang.

i. Intermittent fading and excessive noise on Long Binh - Tan Son Nhut AN/TRC-29 microwave system 77UMG3 forced the 518th Signal Company to relocate the antenna to another tower 24 March 1967. A radar complex, located directly in the microwave beam path, was acting as an obstacle and interrupting the signal every time the radar antenna rotated.

j. Company C, 36th Signal Battalion attempted to install an AN/GRC-50 system from Dong Tam to Vung Tau from 15 to 30 March 1967.

It was unsuccessful due to extreme range. During the same period a radio relay shot from Dong Tam to Bear Cat was tried with the same results.

k. The 518th Signal Company, in order to insure optimum performance on marginal systems, organized a system quality team in mid March. This team was deployed on the 77UMV2, 77UMV3, and 77UMG1 systems, Nha Trang-Hon Tre Island - Cam Ranh Bay. Fading, along with high noise level, was minimized by equipment rehabilitation and critical alignment.

l. An inter-site, diversified OJT program was established by the 518th Signal Company wherein personnel from one site work TDY at another site to learn all the problems on the entire system. The Nha Trang, Hon Tre Island, Ninh Hoa, and Vung Ro Bay sites began the program in mid April. The anticipated results are better system quality, immediate response in circuit restoration due to better team work, and a stronger sense of unity within the company.

m. The 518th Signal Company was tasked to establish and operate the 1st Signal Brigade Microwave School at Vung Tau, using its own assets and personnel. Subjects that are taught are AN/TRC-29, AN/TCC-13 microwave and multiplex equipment, AB-216 tower construction, power sources, and general microwave station installation, operation, and maintenance techniques. A training system (AN/TRC-29) from VC Hill (Grande Massif) to Vung Tau Airfield with (AN/TCC-13) multiplex termination is used to instruct on actual communication practices. The first class began 3 April 1967.

n. To further upgrade the 77UMV2, 77UMV3, and 77UMG1, AN/TRC-29 microwave system reliability a separate standby system from Hill 184 Cam Ranh Bay relay to Hon Tre Island relay was added on 20 April 1967. This reserve system provides alternate RF routing for the three operating systems when fading occurs on any one. (See Section 2, Part 1, paragraph 2, Over Water Fade)

o. Company C, 36th Signal Battalion installed an AN/GRC-50 radio relay system, CC2H68, from Bear Cat to Vung Tau on 19 April to replace an AN/TRC-24 radio relay system CC2H20.

p. During the month of April the 518th Signal Company set up aerial resupply procedures in order to provide greater responsiveness to critical maintenance needs. The Nha Trang microwave site, being centrally located for the sites in the II CTZ, maintains a stockage of high failure rate items. In emergency situations these parts can be airlifted to sites by the 21st Signal Group helicopter support.

q. Company D, 41st Signal Battalion established in mid-April an AN/TRC-24 system (CC2H02) from VC Hill to Cat Lo to tie in the Navy Support Group to the Vung Tau area.

SCCVSG-SBC 11 May 1967
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

Section II Commanders Observations and Recommendations:

a. Section 2 Part I Observations (Lessons Learned):

1. Personnel:

Rotation of Key Personnel

Item: Simultaneous rotation of key personnel must be rectified.

Discussion: The greater part of the 518th Signal Company personnel strength arrived in Vietnam at the same time. A year later when these personnel rotated, the result was reduced efficiency due to a large number of inexperienced people. The situation was further complicated by the fact that the 518th Signal Company is a unique unit to Vietnam.

Observation: New units arriving in Vietnam should come in increments equally spaced over a year's time. If this is not operationally possible, personnel from another unit in country should be transferred to the new unit to space personnel rotation.

Switchboard Operators

Item: The lack of qualified switchboard operators.

Discussion: Due to the difficulty in obtaining personnel in MOS 72C it has caused units to obtain the necessary operator personnel through locally hiring Vietnamese Nationals.

Observation: A program should be established prior to hiring local Nationals, so that the positions to be filled are spelled out clearly and there is adequate chance for a qualified person to advance in grade. It is too often the case that qualified supervisory personnel are restricted to an operator position due to lack of prior planning. It is recommended that a job description be written on those positions to be filled by local Nationals and supervisory positions be established to provide incentive to those that possess the qualifications. Most Civilian Personnel Offices can give good guidance along this line but are not always utilized.

2. Operations:

Reroute of Electrical Messages

Item: Lack of reroute capability.

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Discussion: During the reporting period the communications center at Bear Cat experienced excessive handling times on originating traffic to the DCS, Phu Lam. Circuit outages resulting at one of three radio relay stations between Bear Cat and Phu Lam contributed immeasurably to backlog conditions.

Observation: Minor relay stations are urgently needed in Vietnam, both to relieve the congestion at Phu Lam and to provide all stations with lateral means of communications in the event of circuit outage with Phu Lam.

Installation of Dial Central Offices

Item: Planning for cutover from manual to dial service.

Discussion: A major project of Company D, 41st Signal Battalion (39th Signal Battalion) was to activate a 1000 line dial central office and to replace manual operator service with class A and C telephone service to the subscribers. This cutover did bring about experience factors that would be valuable to other units about to attempt the same type of cutover.

Observation: Extensive planning is required on how to best perform subscriber service prior to the cutover. A survey of phone requirements and class of service requirements should be made on a subscriber by subscriber basis. If possible the new system should parallel the old. Difficulties will arise if the new system is not completely checked out down to the smallest item. The installation procedures should follow this general pattern:

1. Parallel the old system.

2. Ring out all lines and trunks.

3. Prepare a new directory which reflects every new telephone installation.

4. Provide the widest dissemination possible on notification of the cutover date.

5. Do the actual cutover at a slack traffic period during the night; Saturday night and early Sunday morning is usually the best time.

6. Have additional trouble teams available to take care of problems not caught in the original planning. If this format is followed as closely as possible, a smooth cutover should be obtained. Since all areas are not the same, it is not always possible to utilize a standard approach. However, emphasis should be placed on the prior planning stage. Technical assistance should be requested prior to the cutover in order to eliminate potential problem areas.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

AN/GRC-50 Radio Relay Equipment

Item: Comparison of AN/TRC-24 Equipment with AN/GRC-50 Radios.

Discussion: During the past two months this organization has installed two AN/GRC-50 radio shots over distances of 35 and 63 miles respectively. The 35 miles shot is working and is a great improvement over the previous AN/TRC-24 system to the same site. The installation of an AN/GRC-50 radio on the 63 miles shot proved to be unsuccessful due to path loss. An AN/TRC-29 antenna (parabolic disk) was utilized at Vung Tau in an attempt to get more of the signal to the distant terminal at Dong Tam. This was also unsuccessful. The higher frequency and lower power output of the AN/GRC-50 did not lend itself to performing adequately over the extended distance.

Observation: The AN/GRC-50 radio is superior to the AN/TRC-24 radio when it is operated within its specifications, but it does not have the flexibility of the AN/TRC-24 to operate at greater distances.

Over Water Fade

Item: Problems with Over Water Fade.

Discussion: Intermittent severe fade was experienced on the over water systems 77UMG1, 77UMV2, 77UMV3, Cam Ranh Bay Hill 184 to Hon Tre Island, vicinity of Nha Trang, during the month of March 1967. This fade was characterized by varying degrees of noise from minor short duration noise to major long duration distortions and noise, rendering the system effectively unusable. Fade occurred on different systems at different times and in varying degrees of severity. Critical maintenance and realignment procedures were employed to rule out any possibility of other than atmospheric fade as a cause for the noise periods. The problem was then approached as a pure fade situation. The following methods of improvement were attempted: space diversity, antenna relocation, polarization changes, masking, frequency changes, and, finally, frequency diversity. Results were limited. A reasonably high degree of reliability was achieved by using the frequency diversity method. In effect, a completely new system was employed on a standby basis and rotated into service as fade would occur.

Observation: During May 1966 severe fade was observed on the then two existing systems from Cam Ranh Bay Hill 184 and Hon Mot Island (the same vicinity and azimuth as Hon Tre Island). The 1966 fade period coincided with the beginning of hot weather in the same area. It can be reasonably expected that during 1968 a similar f[illegible]de period may occur. Theory concerning build up of warm air layers over the signal path has been advanced and has some credibility. Additionally, conditions as described in TM 11-689 concerning fade appear to fit many of the actual conditions of these systems,

hence the probability of future fade in this area. Frequency diversity should be attempted as an initial step to combat fade in the future.

Microwave System Restoral Response Time

Item: Microwave System Restoral Response Time.

Discussion: Normal unit electronics supply and maintenance procedures have proved unsatisfactory to restore systems which include isolated relay stations. Example cited is microwave system 77UM90 and relay sites at Vung Ro Bay and Ninh Hoa. At these sites 50 % backup for RF equipment is employed due to the use of a two frequency plan. Outages of excessive duration were noted on this system on occasions when RF equipment would become deadlined prior to the repair of the original deadlined piece of equipment.

Observation: A highly responsive repair and resupply system was required in the high density area of Nha Trang. Aerial resupply and repair procedures on an emergency basis are now used with the command support of the 21st Signal Group Commander.

Power Distribution Failures

Item: Power Distribution Failures.

Discussion: During this quarter a large number of outages have been directly traced to malfunctions in power distribution and switching. The different equipment configuration at various sites makes a standard distribution and switching system impossible. Wiring and switching must evolve as the situation demands. Unfortunately the average site OIC or NCOIC is not trained to design power switching and distribution systems; nor is this equipment authorized to this unit.

Observation: Power distribution engineering for each site should be placed in the hands of one competent military power engineer who is authorized to procure distribution and switching equipment as necessary.

Primary and Alternate Power Switching

Item: Primary and Alternate Power Switching.

Discussion: In many instances the switch box SA-357/G supplied with the AN/TRC-29 equipment has been recommended in TM 11-689. Since only one AN/TRC-29 can be serviced by a single box, a terminal or relay with many AN/TRC-29 sets requires numerous switchings to change to alternate power. When the sets are switched individually there is a short time when only one or two sets are connected to the alternate source and consequently the

load is too small for the generator. Power surges which damage equipment result. The SA-357/G boxes also show signs of arcing and have failed for this reason.

Observation: A single high capacity switch should be used for switching a station from primary to alternate power. Separate switches should also be used in line with each individual load to isolate the load from the source if a short developes in that load.

Equipment Rehabilitation

Item: Microwave Equipment Rehabilitation.

Discussion: Equipment operated at many sites have in excess of one year service. Calibration resources are not available at each site to completely restore equipment to peak efficiency.

Observation: Equipment at each site with excessive hours on it should be directly exchanged for completely restored equipment from the maintenance section.

Short Path Scatter Techniques

Item: Short Path Scatter Techniques.

Discussion: Convenient terminal locations for the 1st Signal Brigade Microwave School training system called for a microwave shot which was less than two miles long, but not line of sight from VC Hill (Grande Massif) to the Vung Tau Airfield. The prominent obstacles were large IWCS tropo scatter, billboard antennas on VC Hill. Scatter techniques were suggested and tried. By vertically polarizing the signal and aiming the VC Hill antenna at one edge of the billboards, the microwave beam was sufficiently bent around the obstacle to be received at the distant terminal with good quality.

Observation: Short path microwave scatter techniques, similiar to VHF obstacle gain can be used with short microwave shots where prominent metallic obstacles exist.

3. Training and Organization.

Teletype Maintenance Training

Item: Lack of Training on Maintenance of AN/FGC-25 Teletypewriter.

Discussion: Most teletype repairmen received in this organization are

qualified in repairing TT-4 and TT-76 teletypewriter equipment, but have little or no experience in repairing AN/FGC-25, Kleinschmidt equipment.

Observation: Teletype repairmen courses should include the AN/FGC-25 teletype machine along with the TT-4 and TT-76 equipment because of its extensive use in the field. Due to lack of qualified personnel, OJT programs are difficult to set up on this item of equipment.

TAERS TRAINING

Item: Unfamiliarity of Personnel with the TAERS System.

Discussion: Personnel who are arriving in country, especially operators and supervisors, are not knowledgeable of how the TAERS system operates. They are not able to maintain TAERS forms correctly as noted on several staff visits. Log Book forms, dispatch records, and maintenance scheduling forms are often in error, and material is omitted.

Observation: It is necessary for units to institute programs to inform newly arrived personnel of how TAERS forms should be maintained. Monthly classes can be scheduled to keep supervisors up to date on the latest TAERS changes and refresh the knowledge they have on the Maintenance Forms System.

4. Intelligence - None

5. Logistics.

Requisitioning Processing

Item: Requisition Processing.

Discussion: High Priority requisitions in Vietnam are sometimes sent out of country for processing when the part required is in country, but not yet carried on the inventory listing. In these cases excessive time is spent processing the needed item.

Observation: High priority requisitions should be hand carried through depot and if the required item is not listed on the depot stock record, an actual check of the depot material should be made to determine if the item is on hand.

Transfer of Equipment

Item: Movement of Equipment and Vehicles due to Operational Requirements.

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Discussion: Equipment and vehicles must be apportioned out to varied units to perform their required missions. This entails laterally transferring major items of equipment between widely dispersed units. Maintaining adequate security and control on this equipment in-route is difficult.

Observation: When an item of equipment is to be laterally transferred it should be jointly inspected by both units concerned. If this is not possible, then the headquarters directing the exchange should inspect the equipment prior to its transfer. Accountability should be placed on the new unit as soon as the inspection is performed and the equipment is acceptable. No equipment should be transferred without adequate log books and transfer papers. During shipment the equipment must be escorted by a responsible individual.

MTOE Equipment

Item: Unit MTOE Staffing.

Discussion: Shortly after arriving in country most signal units discover that the TOE of their unit is inadequate to cope with their assigned missions. Therefore on 23 February 1967, in order to correct this situation, MTOE's were drafted by this Battalion and submitted to higher headquarters. Thirty days following submission of MTOE's (and prior to their approval - they have not been approved as of this date) this organization started receiving personnel to fill MTOE requirements. However, in the case of refrigeration repairmen, MOS 51L, and crypto repairmen, MOS 31K, the units were not authorized to requisition the necessary tool sets for these personnel; consequently, although the repair personnel were on hand, their effectiveness was extremely limited due to the lack of proper tools.

Observation: If personnel are going to be supplied to fill MTOE's that have not yet been approved, then it is necessary that supply actions be taken to provide the necessary equipment for the personnel to do their job.

Loss of Components from Signal Vans and Shelters

Item: Problem of Devanizing Equipment.

Discussion: Support type communication sites remain generally fixed in Vietnam. Vans and shelters designed for temporary field communications are found to be operating more as fixed stations. Station configurations take on a fixed appearance due to the necessity to provide continuous radio telephone and teletype services between fixed locations. At some locations equipment is removed from its original shelter and installed in an air conditioned building. Equipment is usually pooled from many equipment shelters. As time passes and personnel rotate, components from a specific shelter lose

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their identity with that shelter and are often lost. This is true of accessory components such as interconnecting cables, power cables, antenna accessories, and tuning heads. Though these are smaller components they render the original shelter inoperative. This problem is frequently uncovered upon receipt of an equipment movement directive. This requires the shelter to be restored to its original condition in a minimum amount of time. When mission components are not immediately available through local sources, shipment of the equipment is delayed until the necessary parts are received.

Observation: Units maintaining permanent type communications sites using transportable field equipment, especially VHF radio relay and terminal shelters, must place more emphasis on periodic inventory accountability with hand receipt holders. Commanders and supervisors must insure that such procedures are being followed. When hand receipt holders are made aware of the seriousness of this problem in advance, steps are taken to maintain an inventory location sheet in each shelter that had components removed or relocated.

Section 2 Part II Recommendations.

1. Personnel:

a. In order to prevent a new unit from having all of its people rotate at one time they should be phased into country in increments throughout the year if possible. If not, then transfers with other units should begin immediately upon arrival to spread out the DEROS.

b. Establish a program for the hiring of local nationals as switchboard operators in certain areas to alleviate the problem of shortage of military switchboard operators. Job description should be written for each position. Also supervisory positions should be included to provide incentive for better performance of the operators.

2. Operations:

a. Provide more minor relay stations in Vietnam to reduce the congestion at Phu Lam and provide a lateral means of communications in event of a circuit outage with Phu Lam.

b. Power distribution engineering for microwave sites should be placed in the hands of a competent military power engineer who is authorized to procure distribution and switching equipment as necessary.

c. When switching a microwave site from primary to alternate power, a single high capacity switch should be used to prevent power surges that could damage equipment. Also separate switches should be used in the

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

line with each individual load to isolate the load from the source if a short developes in the load.

3. Training: None.

4. Intelligence: None.

5. Logistics:

a. Equipment before it is laterally transferred should have a joint technical inspection by the gaining and the losing unit.

b. Equipment should not be devanized unless it is absolutely necessary.

William C Stephens
WILLIAM C. STEPHENS
LTC SigC
Commanding

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SCOVSG-CO (11 May 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 2D SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96491 7 JUN 67

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

1. The Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 submitted by the 39th Signal Battalion has been reviewed and found to be adequate, with the following comments noted:

a. P8 Equipment Rehabilitation - There have been no requests submitted for additional equipment for rebuild efforts.

b. P9 Transfer of Equipment - Joint Technical Inspections are required involving equipment Transfers.

c. P10 ITOE Equipment - There is no reason why units can't request emergency authorization for equipment if personnel are already available.

2. I fully concur with the remaining statements in the Commander's Observations and Recommendations portion of the report.

John B. McKinney

1 Incl
nc

JOHN B. McKINNEY
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

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SCCVOP (11 May 67) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO SF 96307

13 JUN 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96307
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

1. (U) IAW AR 1-19, subject report from the 39th Signal Battalion is forwarded.

2. (U) Concur with the Commander's Observations as modified by the 1st Indorsement with the following comments:

a. Reference Item: Rotation of Key Personnel, page 4. This headquarters concurs with the observation about the rotational replacements problems of the 518th Signal Company. The critical MOSC shortages must be identified and reassignment effected within the Group. If the reduction of rotational replacements problems cannot be resolved by the Group, the critical MOSC should be reported to this headquarters for necessary action. No request for assistance has been received.

b. Reference Item: Switchboard Operators, page 4. The critical shortage of switchboard operators is being eliminated throughout the command. The Personnel Inventory Report, dated 5 June 1967, from the 2d Signal Group indicates that of the required 724 personnel with MOS 72C, 547 are assigned. Programmed 90 day replacements within the Group exceed programmed 90 day losses 507 to 67. The shortage of switchboard operators in the 39th Signal Battalion should shortly cease to exist.

c. Reference Item: Reroute of Electrical Messages, page 7. This problem has been recognized. A USARV teletype communications network is being established, reference letter, Headquarters, USARV, subject: USARV Teletype Communications Network Plan, file: AVHSI-CO, dated 21 May 1967. Under the provisions of this plan minor relays are being established throughout Vietnam.

d. Reference Item: Power Distribution Failures, page 7. Concur in part. At the larger signal sites where large commercial standard generators are employed, the Pacific Architects and Engineers have installed and operate the generators. This organization has the capability and responsibility to design and install power distribution systems. On small sites, or where organic unit generators are employed, unit personnel should be capable of operating their own power systems. Qualified personnel from the Office of the Engineer, 1st Signal Brigade are available on request to assist site OIC or NCOIC in solving their power distribution system problems.

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13 JUN 1967

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SCSVOP
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

e. Reference Item: Teletype Maintenance Training, page 8. Instruction on the AN/FGC-25 teletypewriter is included in all pertinent courses at Fort Monmouth. The status of instruction on this equipment at the Teletype Repair School, South Eastern Signal School, Fort Gordon, is not known at this headquarters.

f. Reference Item: MTOE equipment, page 10 and paragraph 1c, 1st Indorsement. Provisions for the issue of equipment on a temporary basis until approved by TOE, MTOE, TDA, or [illegible] are covered in Army Regulation 310-34 and USARV message AVHGC-OT 19073 dated 25 March 1967. The battalion will be instructed to initiate action under the provisions of these documents to request the needed equipment.

3. (U) Concur in the Commander's Recommendations with exceptions and comments as follows:

a. Reference Recommendation 2c, page 11. Local national personnel have and are being employed as switchboard operators. Spaces for hiring of local nationals have been allocated to subordinate groups. The Battalion should and will be notified to make its needs known to the 2d Signal Group.

b. Reference Recommendation 2a, page 11. See paragraph 2e above.

c. Reference Recommendation 2b, page 11. See paragraph 2d above.

d. Reference Recommendation 5b, page 12. Do not concur. The experience of most subordinate units as reported in previous Operational Report for the Quarterly Period, has been that on fixed sites the installation of equipment in buildings has provided more reliable communications, reduced maintenance problems, and requires fewer operational personnel.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

THOMAS D. BLEDSOE Jr.
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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AVHGC-DST (11 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO 96375 31 JUL 1967

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT, APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 39th Signal Battalion (SPT) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning rotational hump, page 4; paragraph 1a, page 11 and paragraph 2a, 2d Indorsement: Personnel of the 1st Signal Brigade are regulated thru USASTRATCOM channels; both headquarters are aware of problem and are taking steps to reduce the hump thru infussion and tour adjustment.

b. Reference item concerning lack of qualified switch board operators, page 4; paragraph 1b, page 11; paragraph 2b, 2d Indorsement and paragraph 3a, 2d Indorsement: Concur in the comments of the 2d Indorsement.

c. Reference item concerning lack of reroute capability, page 4 and 5 and paragraph 2a, page 11: Concur in the comments of paragraph 2c, 2d Indorsement.

d. Reference item concerning over water fade, page 6: Noted by ECOM field office.

e. Reference item concerning switching a microwave site from primary to alternate power, paragraph 2b, page 11 and paragraph 2b, 2d Indorsement: Concur in the comments of the 2d Indorsement.

f. Reference item concerning unfamiliarity of personnel with the TAERS System, page 9: Concur. This problem is quite prevalent throughout USARV. As a means of overcoming this shortfall, log book forms, dispatch records and maintenance scheduling are included in the USARV Readiness Assistance Team's inspection. During inspections, on the job training is provided to assist equipment operators and supervisory personnel in correcting errors found in the unit TAERS operation. Action has been taken to prepare an eight hour block of instruction for exclusive use by signal units. Recommend this instruction material be used as an introduction to TAERS training for all new arrivals and personnel unfamiliar with the system. Instructional packages, to include 35mm slides, can be mailed to the unit upon request by the Commanding Officer, to USARV G4, Office of the Special Asst for Material Readiness.

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AVHGC-DST (11 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 30 April 1967.

g. Reference item concerning devanizing equipment, page 10 and paragraph 5b, page 12: Concur. As 1st Signal Brigade assumes more and more responsibility for base camp communications, the requirement for tenant units to employ TOE tactical communications in this role diminishes. Concur with observation that command attention and action is required.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

E. L. KENNEDY
Cpt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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GPOP-DT(11 May 67) 4th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 from HQ, 39th Sig Bn (Spt) (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 15 SEP 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs in the report as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments are as follows:

a. Reference page 9, item on TAERS Training. Unfamiliarity of personnel with the TAERS System has also been noted by this headquarters. In addition to normal uses of TAERS, the system is essential to the proper execution of the USARPAC Closed Loop Systems and the CDC Study on Combat Operational Loss and Expenditure Data-Vietnam (COLED-V).

b. Recommend that TAERS training of supervisors and operators be given priority at appropriate CONUS schools.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

... SNYDER
...T, AGC
Asst AG