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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr dtd 29 Apr 1980

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



IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (23 May 67) FOR OT 670812

31 May 1967

AD827132

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS) for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of 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 the Commandants of the Service Schools 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:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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FOR OT RD (Continued on page 2)

670812

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 188TH MAINTENANCE BATTALION (DS)  
APO US Forces 96257

AVCA SGM ED GS MA CO

10 February 1967

OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED

1 November 1966 through 31 January 1967

(RCS-CSFOR-65)

Incl 1

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Incl 1  
FOR OT RD  
670812

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## SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

### 1. Deployment to the Republic of Vietnam:

a. A thirty (30) man advance party, Headquarters and Main Support Company, 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS), arrived at Long Binh 6 November 1966. They prepared a staging area for the main body at Long Binh. On 10 November 1966 a section of the advance party moved to the Long Giao Base Camp (YS 4497) to clear and prepare the battalion's area for occupation. The base camp had recently been established by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and substantial jungle clearing was required.

b. On 14 November 1966, the 551st Light Maintenance Company was attached to this organization. Their mission consisted of direct support to the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and operation of the Supply Point and the Forward Supply Area at Long Giao. The 551st Light Maintenance Company had occupied a temporary location at Long Giao since 25 October 1966.

c. The main body, Headquarters and Main Support Company, debarked at Vung Tau 19 November 1966 and immediately closed into the prepared area at Long Binh. Concerted effort was applied to the preparation of the new base camp at Long Giao.

d. Equipment arrived at Saigon port 28 November 1966. Upon unloading all equipment was immediately transported to Long Giao.

e. The Headquarters and Main Support Company, 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS), and the 551st Light Maintenance Company closed on the permanent location in the Long Giao Base Camp 6 December 1966, and became operational as of that date.

### 2. Assigned Mission:

a. Until 20 January 1967, the 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS) was responsible for: (1) Providing direct support maintenance for all non-divisional units, separate brigades, and regiments without organic direct support maintenance capability located in the III Corps Tactical Zone east of grid coordinates YTO8 less Phuc Tuy Province, except Thu My. Support was provided for all items of equipment except medical, cryptographic, ADPS/EAM, quartermaster air equipment, aircraft, ammunition and equipment supported by Army-Wide Services.

#### (2) Operation of the Forward Supply Area at Long Giao.

b. On 20 January 1967, responsibility for the operation of the Forward Supply Area at Long Giao was transferred from the 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS) to the 266th Supply & Service Battalion.

### 3. Receipt of New Units:

a. 41st Army Postal Unit was attached to this organization for all purposes except operational control 27 December 1966.

4. Reassignment of New Units:

- a. Headquarters and Main Support Company was relocated at Long Giao 6 December 1966.
- b. 41st Army Postal Unit was relocated at Xuan Loc 17 December 1966.

5. Change in Battalion Staff:

- a. 2LT ROBERT L. KAISER was assigned as Adjutant 17 November 1966, and promoted to 1LT 8 January 1967.
- b. CPT WILLIAM H. SHUMWAY was reassigned as the Ordnance Equipment Maintenance Officer 23 November 1966.
- c. CPT ALVIN D. YOUNG was assigned to the 29th General Support Group.
- d. 1LT VITOLD R. KRUKA was reassigned as Operations Officer 26 November 1966 and promoted to CPT 1 February 1967.
- e. CPT PERRY A. RANEY was reassigned as Signal Equipment Maintenance Officer 7 January 1967.
- f. CPT GORDON N. HUFF was reassigned as S-4 Officer 8 January 1967.
- g. CPT TERRY C. PILON was assigned to the 15th Support Brigade.

6. Plans and Operations:

a. Administrative Operations: The Battalion participated in "Operation Duck" which was the staging of the 9th Infantry Division at Camp Bearcat, RVN. Battalion acted as representative of 29th General Support Group in coordinating logistical support aspects of the operation.

b. Combat Support Operations: In addition to Direct Support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment this Battalion continues to provide maintenance support to all non-divisional units in the III Corps Tactical Zone east of grid coordinates YTO6. The Battalion supported the following combat operations in Direct Support of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment:

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (1) Atlanta   | (4) Cedar Falls |
| (2) Attleboro | (5) Colby       |
| (3) Canary    | (6) Da. ...m 81 |

c. Casualties: None during report period.

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SECTION II PART I

A. Personnel and Administration.

1. Item: Preparation for Overseas Movement and subsequent actions in-country.

2. Discussion: Upon activation and organization of this battalion many problems were encountered involving requisitioning, receipt, control of equipment and subsequent movement overseas. The battalion was formed and scheduled to deploy in a relatively short time. The receipt of TOE equipment shortly before deployment presented numerous problems.

3. Observation: That procedures be established immediately upon unit activation to insure that equipment and personnel are on requisition and are in fact due to arrive 60 days prior to scheduled date of deployment.

B. Operations.

1. Item: Tube Changing of 175mm Gun

(a) Discussion: In order to change the Tube Assembly on the 175mm Gun, M107, it is necessary to release the nitrogen pressure in the equilibrators to prevent the mount and cradle from rising when the weight of the tube is removed. The availability of a special tool to release the nitrogen in the equilibrators and to replenish them was a problem. Also the availability of completely filled bottle of nitrogen (3500 PSI) was presenting a problem.

(b) Observation: A means or method to hold the equilibrators in position without releasing the nitrogen pressure seemed to be the answer. This would completely eliminate the requirement for the special tool and additional supply of nitrogen.

(c) Action Taken: With the assistance of Maintenance & Service Section personnel, a special tool was devised (see attached drawing) to hold the equilibrators in place while the tube assembly was being removed and a new tube was being replaced on the mount. This tool is constructed of four heavy steel rods held in place by a plate on each end. These plates are in half sections and are bolted together around the equilibrators. Several tubes have been changed rapidly (within 60 minutes) by the use of this method with minimum personnel and effort.

2. Item: Engineer Direct Support in Combat Operations

(a) Discussion: Due to non-availability of engineer direct support in combat operations, the deadline rate of tractors, full track, and other heavy engineer equipment organic to Engineer Battalion (C) was extremely high.

(b) Observation: That an Engineer Direct Support Team should be afforded units during combat operations. A Direct Support Team was formed by this battalion to support the 1st Division and 168th Engineers Battalion (C) heavy equipment during operation "Cedar Falls". Team consisted of 1 Officer and 7 Enlisted personnel with equipment. Team completed a total of 105 Work Orders which consumed 1173.5 Maintenance Manhours. Results were a consistent 5% or lower deadline rate on heavy equipment used for clearing operations during this entire operation.



3. Item: Direct Support for Armored Cavalry Regiment

(a) Discussion: It has become apparent that an Armored Cavalry Squadron operating in a theater such as Vietnam requires an attached Direct Support capability.

(b) Observation: That a Direct Support element should be attached to the Armored Cavalry Squadron. This organization formed three Direct Support Platoons to provide direct support maintenance capability to each squadron of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment. However, this support is not attached and is only a solution to the problem at hand. These teams have repeatedly proven the value of having a Direct Support maintenance element in direct support of a Cavalry Squadron. The present TOE of the 551st Light Maintenance Company is not tailored to this type support. Presently an MTOE for the 551st Light Maintenance Company is being developed to provide for required increases of capability.

4. Item: Direct Support of Widely Deployed Units of the 54th Artillery Group

(a) Discussion: 54th Artillery Group operates with firing batteries separated and no centralized base for DS elements. This type support requires a highly mobile DS element.

(b) Observations: That a DS Team be re-located with the 54th Artillery Group Headquarters to provide immediate maintenance analysis and dispatch of personnel and equipment for on-site repairs. A team consisting of one Turret Artillery Inspector and one Automotive Inspector and one individual to coordinate requirements was formed. This team is transported to the trouble spot by the 54th Artillery Group Headquarters. The team makes on-site repairs whenever possible and determines parts requirements as necessary.

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SECTION II PART II

A. Recommendations:

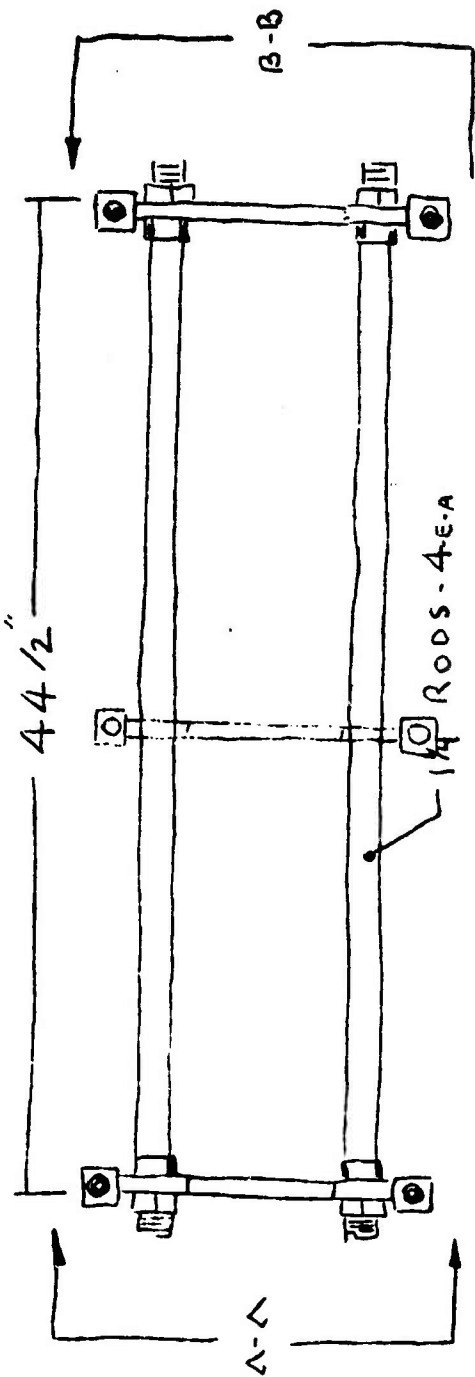
1. That units in direct support of Artillery units with 175mm Guns fabricate tool as per attached drawing. This is an excellent time saver.

2. That a direct support element be attached to Combat Engineer Battalions and Armored Cavalry Squadrons.

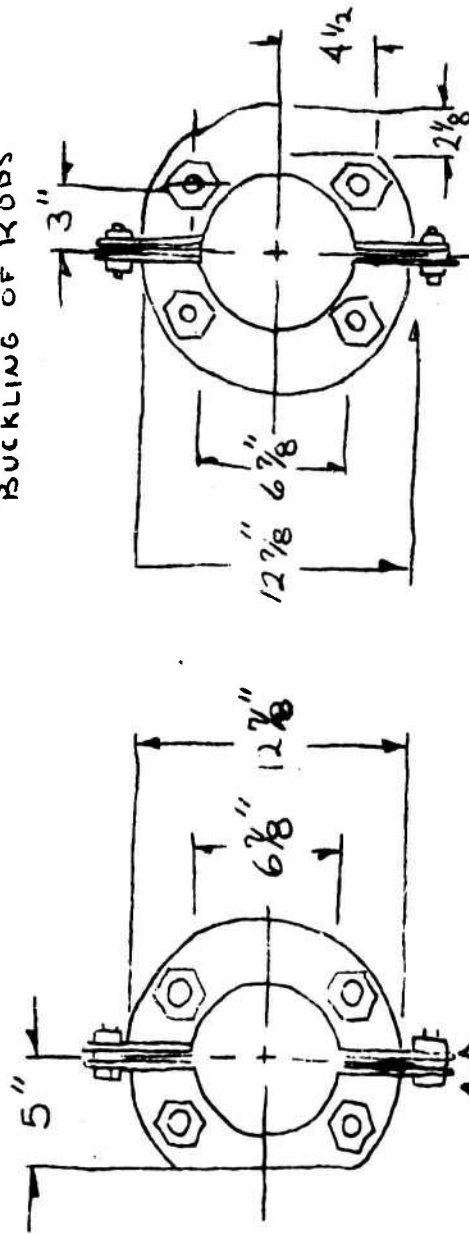
3. That Department of the Army make plans to allow for newly activated organizations to receive all personnel and equipment 60 days prior to deployment.

  
CECIL A. CROWE  
LTC, OrdC  
Commanding

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CENTER PLATE TO PREVENT BUCKLING OF RODS



B-B  
REAR PLATE

FRONT PLATE

EQUILIBRATOR TOOL SCALE - 1/8  
SCALE 1/8

Incl 1

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AVCA SGN BD GS O 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the Quarterly Period  
Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR 65)

HEADQUARTERS, 29TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP, APO US Forces 96491 19 Feb 67


TO: Commanding Officer, 15th Support Brigade, APO 96491

1. Forwarded are three copies of the 188th Maintenance Battalion's Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967.

2. This headquarters does not concur in recommendation number 2. It is agreed that combat engineers and armored cavalry units do need highly mobile maintenance teams; however, these teams should be in the form of organic maintenance units, not as attached direct support elements.

3. Concur in recommendations 1 and 3.

2 Incls  
nc

  
F. A. HINRICHS  
Colonel, OrdC  
Commanding

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AVCA SGN BD SPO (24 Feb 67) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report, 188th Maint Bn

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 15TH SUPPORT BRIGADE, APO US FORCES 96491

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

Commanding Officer, US Army Support Command, Saigon, APO US  
Forces 96307

1. The Operational Report of the 188th Maint Bn has been reviewed by this headquarters and presents a factual record of battalion activities during the reporting period in conformance with existing regulations.
2. This headquarters concurs in recommendations 1 and 3.
3. In reference to recommendation number 2 and comment by 1st indr-ser, this headquarters feels that the organization of CCSTAR maintenance units is adequate to support tactical units during combat.

*Norman C. Parnus*  
 NORMAN C. PARNUS  
 CCL, OrdC  
 Commanding

15  
AVCA-SGN-GO (11 Feb 67) 3rd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 67 (RCS CSFOR-65) (188 Maint Bn)

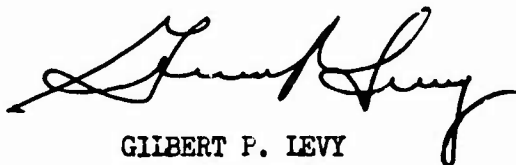
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, SAIGON APO US Forces 96307 6 MAR 1967

THRU: Commanding General, Hq, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-O,  
APO 96307  
Deputy Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN:  
AVHGC-DH, APO 96307  
Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,  
APO 96558

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

1. Forwarded in accordance with paragraph 9, AR 1-19, dated May 66.
2. This headquarters does not concur in recommendation number 2. Sufficient in-country maintenance Direct Support units are not available to accomplish the area support mission which is required and at the same time provide engineer and armored cavalry units organic maintenance capability. Recommend action at Department of the Army level be taken to evaluate the development of Engineer and ACR TOE's to incorporate organic maintenance capability.
3. Concur in recommendations number 1 and 3. Further recommend that the 175mm tube changing tool be procured as a component of the applicable artillery tool set.

Tel: Tiger 4797



GILBERT P. LEVY  
Colonel, OrdC  
Commanding

16

AVCA OO-O(11 Feb 67) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 23 MAR 1967

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVEGC-DF,  
APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 188th Maintenance Battalion for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1967 is forwarded herewith.
2. Reference para b1, page 4 and recommendation 1, page 6: Concur. Additionally, this command has initiated action to locally fabricate approximately 20 special tools for distribution to each direct support and general support organization supporting the M107 and M110 weapon systems.
3. The 188th Maintenance Battalion engaged in 36 days of POM and troop movement and 56 days of combat support operations.
4. Concur with the basic report as modified by the comments contained in the preceding indoresments. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

TEL: LYNX 782/430

2 Incl  
nc



Franklin E. Boring  
Cpt, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

17  
AVHGC-DH (11 Feb 67)

5th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

27 APR 1967

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 188th Maintenance Battalion (DS) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Paragraph A, Page 4; and Paragraph 3, Page 6, concerning the recommendation that all equipment and personnel authorized a deploying unit arrive 60 days prior to date of deployment: Concur. It is recognized, however, that this practice sometimes has been precluded because of shortages of equipment and personnel in certain MOS's and the requirements of other deploying units and those in RVN.

b. Reference Paragraph B1, Page 4; Paragraph 1, Page 6; Paragraph 3, 3d Indorsement; and Paragraph 2, 4th Indorsement, concerning a tool for changing 175mm tubes: Concur with comment of 1st Logistical Command in 4th Indorsement. Unit also should submit an equipment improvement report.

c. Reference Paragraph B2, Page 4; Paragraph 3, Page 5; Paragraph 2, Page 6; Paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement; Paragraph 3, 2d Indorsement; and Paragraph 2, 3d Indorsement, concerning the attachment of direct support maintenance units to engineer battalions and armored cavalry squadrons: Recommend that DA consider the need to develop a maintenance unit tailored to the unique equipment configuration of armored cavalry regiments. This headquarters does not agree in the attachment of a maintenance platoon to each squadron. The commander should employ his platoons in a direct support role in order to retain the flexibility to tailor units to meet the maintenance requirements of changing tactical situations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



STANLEY E. SCHULTS

Major/AGC

Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl  
nc



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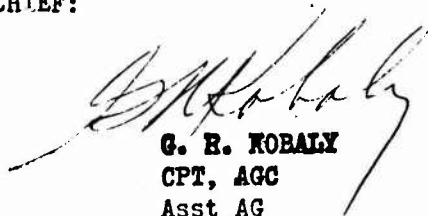
GPOP-OT(11 Feb 67) 6th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 188th Maint Bn (DS)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 11 MAY 1967

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



G. E. KOBALY  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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