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AGO ltr 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) (30 Apr 68) FOR OT RD 681272

3 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 29th  
Civil Affairs Group, Period Ending 31 January 1968 (U)  
STATEMENT #2 UNCLASSIFIED

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ATTN: FOR-OT-RD  
WASH. D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, 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:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
29th Civil Affairs Company  
APO San Francisco 96337

CA/29

22 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

TO: Commanding Officer  
DA NANG SUB-AREA COMMAND  
APO 96337

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

The 29th Civil Affairs Company (29th CA Co) engaged in activities throughout I Corps Tactical Zone (ICTZ) required to fulfill its mission under OPCON to III Marine Amphibious Force (III MAF).

1. COMMAND:

a. During the reporting period, special emphasis was placed on providing timely civil affairs platoon support to tactical major U.S. commands in the ICTZ. Due to the vast civic action requirements in I Corps, the special civic action interest of the original three Divisions (Army and Marine Corps located in ICTZ in November) and the introduction of the 1st Air Cavalry Division in January 1968, two additional platoons (provisional) were formed from the current assets of the company. These platoons were developed by adjusting the company's manpower and material assets in order to meet the desired commitments. As a result of the additional requirements, officers and enlisted men alike adjusted to the new tasks and the additional workload in an outstanding manner. The company's functional teams were affected the most in the formation of the two platoons (provisional). Also normal rotations without timely replacements created difficulties.

b. Continuous command and staff liaison was maintained pertaining to this company's mission and Army peculiar administration with appropriate U.S. military commanders and staffs, Civil Organization of Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) officials, ARVN and GVN officials.

FOROTRD  
681272

## 2. ADMINISTRATION:

a. During the reporting period, the company's assigned strength was reduced by 4 officers and 9 enlisted men. This is very significant since this specialized unit requires arrival of qualified replacements prior to any individuals rotation, or as soon as possible whenever anyone is dropped unexpectedly from the rolls of the company. Expeditious assignment of personnel is required due to the necessity of properly orienting the replacement to maintain close continuity and coordination with US and GVN officials.

b. During the reporting period, the personnel assigned to the 41st Civil Affairs Company and attached to this unit to perform an extremely important refugee/civic action mission were 4 officers and 2 enlisted men less than the authorized strength. Personnel assigned for this mission and not replaced by their unit prior to their rotation forced this company to assign 29th CA Co personnel into the vacated positions, at the expense of other company elements, in order to provide the required continuous support. Due to the reorganization of the 41st Civil Affairs Company effective 1 January 1968, this company will be further burdened by the programmed loss of the remaining 41st CA Co personnel.

c. Morale remained high during the reporting period. Discipline was well maintained as evidenced by the small number of Article 15's and Courts-Martial awarded. The company assumed complete responsibility of the security of III MAF Compound on 10 November 1967 in order that as many Marines as possible, stationed at III MAF, could be released from their duties to celebrate the 192d Anniversary of the U.S.M.C. The 29th Civil Affairs Company celebrated its 2d Anniversary on 19 November 1967.

d. Key personnel changes since 1 November:

MAJ L.A. Raty assumed duties as Executive Officer

MSG C. Lord assumed duties as Company First Sergeant.

## 3. INTELLIGENCE AND OPERATIONS:

a. Intelligence briefings at III MAF are attended daily by a representative of the company operations section. In the field locations, platoon commanders attend local intelligence briefings and are well versed on the local tactical situation.

b. The 51st Civil Affairs Detachment, attached to

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the 29th Co. Co., was deployed in OPCON to the Americal Division in November.

c. The 1st Platoon at Phu Bai and the 7th Platoon (provisional) at Dong Ha exchanged locations and missions in November.

d. The 3d Marine Division requested an additional civil affairs platoon to assist in civic action in their area of responsibility. The 8th platoon (provisional) was formed and deployed OPCON to the 3d Marine Division in November.

e. A Civil Affairs Orientation Course, sponsored by III MAF, was coordinated and monitored by the company in November. Fifty six officers and enlisted men, involved with G-5, S-5 and civic action type duties, attended.

f. A comprehensive survey of NIEU DUC District, QUANG NAM Province was conducted by the functional teams. The purpose of the survey was to identify civic action type projects which Marine units could sponsor for the benefit of the local populace. The survey was also to assist G-5, 1st Marine Division in making a Division SOP. The following areas were surveyed: Public Health, Public Safety, Public Education, Agriculture, Commerce and Industry, Refugees, and VIS (Vietnamese Information Service).

g. In December the company received basic instructions pertaining to its reorganization which will be effective 1 July 1968. The re-organization provides for five additional civil affairs platoons for the company, however, it deletes the following function teams: Public Safety, Public Education, Displaced Persons, Labor, Legal, Food and Agriculture, and one of the two public health teams. These teams are considered a great asset to this company by both military personnel and CORDS officials in the I CTZ. The re-organization also withdraws the refugee support this company has received in the past from the 41st Civil Affairs Company, much to the concern of the CORDS Refugee Division in I CTZ. In order to compensate for this action, and to provide support to Province Senior Advisors, a civil affairs platoon will be assigned into each of the five Province Headquarters in I Corps. The overall result of the re-organization will be a decrease in the amount of special technical support (thru functional teams) that can be provided to CORDS, Danang and a decrease in the amount of civic action/civil affairs support that can be given tactical units in ICTZ.

h. The 1st Air Cavalry Division moved into a location north of PHU BAI in January and specially requested to get a civil affairs platoon to assist with civic action in their assigned area of responsibility. The 9th platoon (provisional) was formed and deployed OPCON to the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

1. The company engaged in combat service support operations throughout I Corps for a total of 92 days during the reporting period.

#### 4. LOGISTICS:

a. In November, the company received a CMMI from Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, US AV and passed it with a satisfactory rating. In preparation for the CMMI, DSAC was requested to give the company a pre-CMMI which proved most beneficial.

b. Notification was received in January that the company was authorized M-16 rifles instead of M-14 rifles. Requisitions were immediately forwarded to obtain these weapons. This company had experienced difficulty in providing platoons ammunition for the M-14's since a majority of the Marines and Army units in ICTZ have M-16 rifles.

#### 5. SPECIAL STAFF:

##### a. Public Education:

The public education team conducted comprehensive educational surveys of BINH SON and LY TIN Districts, QUANG TIN Province and HIEU DUC District, QUANG NAM Province.

##### b. Public Health:

(1) During the reporting period, a two year project to install nine American (western style) commodes, water basins, a water system and an electrical pump to operate the water system was completed at the HU TIEU HOC Model School in DA NANG. This successfully completed project is the only known flush type toilet system installed in a school in the ICTZ. Children were introduced to proper health habits and continue to use the toilets properly.

(2) CPT Dedeker, the Public Health Team Chief, who was responsible in establishing an outstanding public health program to assist military and civilian element in civic action work, returned to the states PCS pursuant to emergency leave in December. Although CPT Dedeker was a loss to the unit in December, a replacement to carry on his work has not yet been assigned to the company.

##### c. Food and Agriculture:

The food and agriculture team conducted advisory and assistance projects throughout I Corps from Lang Voi,

QUANG TRI Province to SA HUYNH, QUANG NAM Province. Major assistance was given in rice, vegetable, sorghum, and live-stock production. Detailed instructions were also given on insecticides, fertilizers, seeds, irrigation and depollutants. Principal persons contacted during the period were the Vietnamese farmers, refugees, RD Cadre, GVN and US civilian officials, and US military and RVN officials.

d. Civilian Supply:

The civilian supply prepared for Christmas and TET by assisting in the purchasing of 45,000 toys. An additional 100,000 toys were obtained through Operation Handclasp. All the toys, plus 80,000 TET envelopes, were distributed by the section, prior to Christmas and TET, to location selected by III MAF. The section worked very closely with Air America Operations, Marine Air Freight, 15th Aerial Freight, USA, III MAF Embarkation Section to ship all the gifts for III MAF.

e. Displaced Persons:

Very few refugees were generated during the reporting period which is attributed to the lack of tactical operation in populated areas. The refugee teams were instrumental in sponsoring and increasing the quantity of civic action projects within the refugee camps and around Province capitals. The refugee team located at RUE was withdrawn in November from THUA THIEN Province by the Commanding Officer, 29th CA Co. The Province Senior Advisor had decided the refugee team was no longer necessary to his organization due to the lack of refugee activity in that Province.

f. Public Safety:

(1) The fire prevention program started in September was followed up by developing fire prevention education materials and arranging for their printing with the 244th PSYOPS Company. The result of this activity was the development of a new fire education poster using as its theme "The Fire Demon", a figure taken from the mythology of the Vietnamese. The trial posters were tested on the local Chieu Hoi Hamlet population, where it met favorable results. 100,000 leaflets and 25,000 posters, based on this topic, are being prepared for distribution throughout the ICFZ.

(2) Population and resources control efforts centered on the inland waterway control program. Plans are currently being prepared by the major tactical commands to develop a uniform waterway control program in coordination



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with the National Police. Material support for this program has been requested through military channels. Plans presently in effect establishing curfews and restricted areas are being reviewed and, following the completion of the necessary coordination with the agencies concerned new uniform regulations, will be published.

g. Legal:

(1) During the reporting period the Legal Team has concentrated it's main efforts on the operation of Foreign Claims Commission # 323 which has the responsibility of processing all non-combat related Foreign Claims in the I Corps T.AOR. On 19 Dec 67 the team lost it's Legal Officer, CPT Keenan, due to his compassionate reassignment to CONUS. As a result of the loss, the team has been unable to perform the normal functions of adjudication and certification. MACV Foreign Claims, the next higher Headquarters in the Foreign Claims structure, has been providing support in this area by accepting the transfer of all processed claims and adjuduating them in their Saigon Office. MACV Foreign Claims has also been sending legal officers to D.M.A.G to assist the team in processing those claims which require immediate action.

(2) Significant accomplishments during this period would include the preparation and distribution of a Unit Claims Officer guide. The guide was designed to assist the Unit Claims Officer, who is normally completely unfamiliar with the rules and procedures governing Foreign Claim processing. Since the distribution of the pamphlet, the quality and completeness of the investigations forwarded to the commission have greatly improved.

(3) Concurrent with the reorganization of this company the legal section will cease to exist. Responsibilities for maintaining the commission will rest with the appropriate military headquarters assuming responsibility for foreign claims in RVN. Of significance is that the office is considered the model for other similar offices in RVN.

SECTION II, PART I

1. PERSONNEL: None

2. OPERATIONS:

a. Item: Self-Help

Discussion: civic action projects are aimed toward instructing the Vietnamese people to assist themselves.

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When US military units establish a project, provide labor, materials, etc. and then attempt to get the Vietnamese populace interested, experience has shown that the Vietnamese are satisfied to sit back, watch and let the work be done for them.

Observation: The result of the project is not fully appreciated by the Vietnamese people unless they themselves participate in the project.

b. Item: Radios

Discussion: The need for radios in the TO&E of the civil affairs platoon is critical. The platoons work in areas where communication for security and coordination is an absolute necessity. In some areas, the responsible tactical units refuse to permit civil affairs platoons to operate alone without a radio, even if the tactical unit has to provide it themselves.

Observation: Radios are definitely required and would be of great help to the civil affairs platoons. Using the tactical unit's radios is not the answer to the problem. The civil affairs company TO&E should be changed to authorize these items.

c. Item: Security through children

Discussion: It is a common comment by members of the civil affairs platoons working in the field that when there is a lack of children in a hamlet, it is a good indication that VC/NVA are around. Also, that children will sometimes tell platoon members when VC are around and that the area is not safe.

Observation: When there is a question, as to whether an area is safe or not, attention must be paid to the actions and reactions of children.

3. Logistics:

a. Item: Distribution of soap

Discussion: It has been established that in several cases where this company's civil affairs platoons have distributed whole bars of soap, it has been collected by the Vietnamese and sold in the open market.

Observation: That when bars of soap are cut in half, there is a greater possibility that the soap will be used by the receiver rather than turned in and sold.

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b. Item: Use of Cement

Discussion: Cement, forwarded in 100 lbs bags for use in civic action projects, is periodically stored where it is exposed to the weather. The plastic to cover the cement or the cement bags themselves is not sufficient to keep the cement from solidifying. In appearance, this hardened cement is considered of no use.

Observation: Vietnamese laborers have been observed taking the hardened cement to work sites where they pound and grind the cement into a powder again for use as originally intended.

c. Item: Lumber Yard

Discussion: Requests for lumber (dunnage from ships) for use in civic action projects throughout ICTZ are continually made. Lumber could be purchased from the Naval Support Activity (NSA). However, this was too expensive. Other sources have been explored by the civilian supply section which has been able to provide small quantities of dunnage for the needs of the local area by picking it up at the boat piers. It was noted that lumber at the pier was either given to the Vietnamese or burned it when US troops didn't pick it up. The lumber yard was quickly developed and serves as a holding area for lumber picked up by the civilian supply section.

Observation: The lumber in the lumber yard is shipped to other locations throughout I Corps in support of civic action projects. Similar lumber yards have since developed at various locations in I Corps and have become an important asset to those areas where they are located.

d. Item: The placement of refugee teams under the operational control of the Province Senior Advisors, CORDS, has increased the capabilities of supporting the refugee program in ICTZ.

Discussion: Although the capability of supporting the refugee program in ICTZ has increased, a situation exists in which the relationship of the VA refugee teams to the 29th CA Co and the MACV Sector has come in question. Each individual organization has been given a portion of the responsibility control for the refugee effort. Neither has absolute control. This has created problems which reoccur and continuously require someone from the 29th CA Co to resolve.

Observation: There will be no solution to this problem until a complete reorganization of all functions and relationships has taken place and those activities are

consolidated into one workable organization.

e. Item: The reorganization of the Civil Affairs Companies in South Vietnam will take the attached 41st Civil Affairs Company (41st CA Co) refugee teams away from the 29th CA Co.

Discussion: The functions now performed by the 41st CA Co Refugee Teams will be performed by the platoons that will replace them. There will be no loss of effectiveness but rather there will be an increase in the support of refugee operations as the platoons will be capable of conducting the same functions now performed by the refugee teams.

Observations: That one civil affairs platoon per province, when given the specific mission of providing support of the refugee programs in IOTZ, will be able to provide better support to the Province Senior Advisors in the refugee field than has previously been possible.

f. Item: Maintenance of the refugee team vehicles has been limited and will remain limited in the Province Capitals where teams are located.


Discussion: There are no vehicle maintenance facilities for US type vehicles in the Province Capitals and all maintenance required has to be performed by the motor pool personnel of the 29th CA Co.

Observation: Agreements must be made with neighboring US units to obtain maintenance support.

## SECTION II, PART II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Essentially, recommendations for items outlined above are included in each observation.

  
THEODORUS SEXTON  
LTC, ARTY  
Commanding

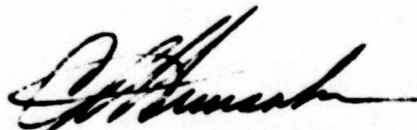
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AVCA-M-DN-GO (27 Feb 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned

DA, Headquarters, Da Nang Sub Area Command, APO 96337 3 Mar 68

TO: Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVGCC-DST(CIT ARNOLD), APO 96375

Forwarded in accordance with verbal instructions from CPT Arnold,  
G-3 Section USARV and CIT Queen, SP&O, DSAC, on 2 Mar 68.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. I. MUNSAKER  
MAJ, AGC  
Adjutant

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AVRGC-DUT (22 Feb 68) 2d ind CPT Arnold/rb/LBN 4485  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending  
31 January 1968 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 **27 MAR 1968**

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1968 from Headquarters, 29th Civil Affairs Company (WDCHAA) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning radios, page 7, paragraph 2b: Concur. The need for radios has been recognized. The 13 AN/VRC-53 Radios mounted in 4 ton trucks, and 22 AN/VRC-53 Radios mounted in 3/4 ton trucks have been incorporated into the recently revised MTOE prepared by USAKV CORDS. This MTOE was forwarded to USAKPAC and DA for approval on 22 March 1968.

b. Reference item concerning placement of refugee teams, page 8, paragraph 3d: Nonconcur. The USAKV concept for employment of province oriented generalist teams places them in direct support of Province Senior Advisors to serve as their principal tool to focus CA assets into direct support of province revolutionary development plans. They also serve as links between advisory units and tactical units operating in provinces, and provide tactical commanders planning and operational assistance in refugee care and control. Overall responsibility for refugees lies with province CORDS officials.

c. Reference item concerning reorganization of Civil Affairs Companies, page 9, paragraph 3e: Concur. Civil affairs platoons are tailored as generalist teams for the purpose of providing direct civil affairs support to Province Senior Advisors in accordance with current deployment policy for Civil Affairs Units.

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
**JOHN V. GETCHELL**  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:  
HQ, Da Nang Sub Area Comd  
HQ, 29th Civil Affairs Co

13-  
GPOP-DT (22 Feb 68) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 29th Civil Affairs Co for Period  
Ending 31 January 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 17 APR 1968

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

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements.
2. Paragraph 3i should identify the type operations as "combat support" rather than "combat service support." By the current definition of combat support, the operations of this company place it in this category; Detachments and teams with primary mission the same or similar to other units classified combat support troops, e.g. psyops units. The units classified as combat support units furnish operational assistance for combat elements. The units classified as combat support units have a primary mission to provide combat forces with support that directly contributes to or places the Friendly Forces in an advantageous position, e.g. refugee relief.
3. Otherwise the report as indorsed is concurred in with the additional comments that civil affairs companies are currently made up of province oriented generalist teams which will serve as links between the US advisory detachments and US tactical and support units operating in the provinces. The civil affairs teams will serve as the provincial senior advisor's principal tool to focus US/FWMP, RVNAF and voluntary civilian agency assets into direct support of provincial revolutionary development plans. These area oriented teams, while providing civic action continuity and coordination will also provide tactical commanders optimum planning and operational assistance in refugee care and control.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*C.L. Shortt*

C.L. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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