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AUTHORITY

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) (25 Feb 69) FOR OT UT 684174 28 February 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 459th
Signal Battalion (CA), Period Ending 31 October 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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 UT, 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

1 Incl

as

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459th Signal Battalion (CA)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 459TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CA)
APO 96240

SCCPV-NG-NT

12 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. General

(1) Command Changes:

(a) On 28 Aug 1968, CPT Michael C. Mewhinney replaced CPT David H Cavin as Commanding Officer, Company B 459th Signal Battalion.

(b) On 10 Sep 1968 MAJ Charles O. Walters became Acting Commander, 459th Signal Battalion (CA) during the temporary absence of LTC John W. Stillwell.

(c) On 11 Sep 1968, 1LT Victor W. Aderhold became Acting Commander replacing CPT John M. Rice as Commanding Officer 518th Signal Company.

(d) On 11 Sep 1968, CPT John W. Rice assumed command of BMT Signal Detachment (Prov).

(e) On 3 Oct 1968, MAJ Buck H. Pack assumed command of the 518th Signal Company replacing 1LT Victor W. Aderhold who was Acting Commander.

(f) On 6 Oct 1968, LTC Gerald M. McDonnell assumed command of the 459th Signal Battalion, replacing MAJ Charles O. Walters who was Acting Commander.

(g) See inclosure number (1) for present organizational structure of the battalion.

(2) Administrative Problems:

(a) A program to paint the Troop Billets was initiated, and although not complete at this time, has significantly improved the appearance of the Battalion area as well as increasing the morale of the personnel living in these buildings.

FOR OTUT

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 459th Signal Battalion (Ca) for the Period
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(b) Revetment materials have been obtained from Cam Ranh Bay and there is a building program in operation at this time to construct sand filled wooden revetments for all of the Troop Billets located in the Battalion area. When completed this program will enhance the appearance of the area, increase the security of the personnel living in these buildings and eliminate additional maintenance and manhours needed to replace damaged sandbags and barrels.

(c) A work order has been submitted to the supporting Post Engineers for construction of a new sump for the battalion dining hall, as the current sump has been declared unserviceable by the preventive maintenance inspectors.

(3) Operations:

(a) Unit ~~organization~~ structure included as inclosure #1.

(b) Ninety-two operational days are covered for this reporting period.

(c) Company B, 9th Battalion, 28th Regiment of the ROK Army furnished 40 personnel to provide local security for the Vung Ro Mountain Signal Site.

(4) Personnel: (See inclosure 2, Personnel Gains-Losses)

(5) Logistics:

(a) In September the electronics maintenance shop converted from PLL procedures to MSS procedures.

(b) On 24 October the Battalion received a code number authorizing the ordering of parts direct from Cam Ranh Army depot: AT87LW.

b. Chronology

(1) 2 Aug 68: One AN/MSQ-73 was transferred from the 459th Signal Battalion to Co B, 52nd Signal Battalion. This equipment will be of great value to the 2nd Signal Group. The AN/MSQ-73 had never been operated by the 459th Signal Battalion.

(2) 3 Aug 68: COL Matthews, 1st Signal Brigade Deputy Commander and COL Kerkjian, 1st Signal Brigade Chief of Personnel and Training, visited the battalion.

(3) 4 Aug 68: The Korean Army changed the security forces on Vung Ro Mountain without any loss of security for that area.

(4) 5 Aug 68: Five boxes of telephone MDF equipment were shipped from Company B, 459th Signal Battalion to 1st Signal Brigade.

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(5) 10 Aug 68: Company B, 459th Signal Battalion installed 3000 feet of twenty-five (25) pair cable, and 400 feet of five (5) pair cable in support of the 48th Avn Company located in Minh Hoa.

(6) 10 Aug 68: The 518th Signal Company Site Inspection Team completed its first tour of all the company sites. All vehicles and communication equipment were inspected. All log books were checked and microwave equipment was tuned and checked for compliance with current directives.

(7) 12 Aug 68: The 261st Signal Company completed construction of a basketball court in the Phu Hiep area.

(8) 18 Aug 68: Construction was completed of a cement pad for the operations of the VHF equipment at ROK North.

(9) 20 Aug 68: Two AN/MRC-69's were received by the 459th Signal Battalion from Tan Son Nhut. One of these AN/MRC-69's was transferred to Company B, and the other was transferred to Company A. The AN/MRC-69 that went to Company B was employed at the Tan Dar Signal Site to replace one (1) AN/MRC-73 that was in need of repair and rewiring. The second AN/MRC-69 was used by Company A for backup equipment.

(10) 20 Aug 68: A 45 channel microwave system was activated between Nha Trang, Hon Tre, and Cam Kahn Bay. The first twenty-two (22) channels were designated as Army Area System, 8BH09; last twenty-three were designated as DCA System, 77UM2U.

(11) 22 Aug 68: Construction was started at Company B, to install 1,500 feet of fifty (50) pair cable from Ninh Hoa switchboard to the IWCS Site. Upon activation of IWCS, Company B will reroute many of their circuits over this system.

(12) 26 Aug 68: AN/MTC-7 switchboard was transferred from Phu Hiep to Da Nang. Switchboard will be installed by the 37th Signal Battalion. Installation will provide the 95th Med Evac hospital with more facilities to route telephone communications.

(13) 28 Aug 68: The 261st Signal Company relocated its company operations adjacent to unit orderly room. This will allow the unit commander better control over the unit.

(14) 29 Aug 68: Installation of 3,000 feet of fifty (50) pair cable in Camp Mc Dermott was completed. Installation provided ROK forces access to communication facilities within the Nha Trang area. Project was completed by the Cable Platoon of Company A, 459th Signal Battalion.

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SCORV-NI-NT

12 November 1963

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for period
Ending 31 October 1963 (LCS CSFUR-65) (M1)

(15) 30 Aug 68: COL Mc Elwee, 21st Signal Group Commander visited Camp Mc Dermott and portions of 459th Signal Battalion for a command inspection.

(16) 1 Sep 68: Chaplain Bishop went to Long Bien Mountain Signal Site to conduct a memorial service for 73rd Signal Battalion soldier killed 30 Aug in enemy attack.

(17) 1 Sep 68: A new 45 kw generator was installed at the Minh Hoa Signal Site. Generator replaced two (2) 10 kw generators, and will provide a more reliable source of backup power for signal operations.

(18) 1 Sep 68: Thirty-two (32) personnel from 40th Signal Battalion arrived at Phu Hiep. Personnel will install approximately 45,000 feet of multi-pair cable in cooperation with the 261st Signal Company to expand TYA Dte outside plant into the PHE area. Upon completion of project, five VHF systems and a switchboard will be eliminated providing more efficient communications in the Phu Hiep area.

(19) 3 Sep 68: A 12 channel VHF test system was installed using a rhombic antenna to determine if this antenna would be feasible for later use. System had considerable frequency interference and is not recommended for use with VHF equipment.

(20) 4 Sep 68: Company B, 459th Signal Battalion received its annual command maintenance management inspection. Equipment and records were found to be in high state of maintenance.

(21) 10 Sep 68: Major General Walter E. Lotz Jr., COL Donald R. Hodges, and CPT Robert N. Weiss visited battalion. A Parade was held for Major General Lotz, awards were presented.

(22) 11 Sep 68: The 459th Signal Battalion assumed operational control of the Ban Me Thout Signal complex and communications responsibility for Darlac Province. This increased the number of sites under the 459th Signal Battalion to 17.

(23) 13 Sep 68: The Ban Me Thout Signal Detachment accepted responsibility for a five mile, 100 pair cable project from the 578th Signal Company. Upon completion, communications for the entire Ban Me Thout Signal area will be improved. Cable will replace two VHF systems presently linking BTE to B T.

(24) 13 Sep 68: The Korean Signal Detachment co-located with the 228th Signal Company initiated a training program for Korean and U.S. personnel in the art of Tae Kwan Do. The training not only improved cooperation between the two units, but provided personnel at the Signal Site with an additional off duty activity.

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12 November 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968 (RCS CSFCK-65) (M1)

(25) 13 Sep 68: The 459th Signal Battalion repaired a SSB radio for Prov. Chief, Khanh Hoa Prov. This cooperation improved our working relationship with local authorities.

(26) 15 Sep 68: A VHF test shot was attempted from Hon Tre Island to Bao Loc. The total distance of this test shot was 111 miles. Distance proved to be too great and test was discontinued.

(27) 16 Sep 68: Construction began by the 261st Signal Company to improve perimeter lighting, build new barracks, and a new mess hall for the Vung Ro Mountain Site. A large portion of the hilltop was regraded to provide level ground upon which the new buildings could be erected. Company B, 577th Engineer Battalion provided heavy equipment and technical assistance without which this project could not have been completed.

(28) 22 Sep 68: The 459th Signal Battalion was visited by COL Mc Elwee, LTC Ten, MAJ Vo and other Vietnamese Signal Officers. Officers were shown the operation of the LD Board, and Hon Tre Island Signal Site.

(29) 24 Sep 68: Two AN/MCC-6's were transferred from Company B, 459th Signal Battalion to Ban Me Thout Signal Detachment (Prov). Equipment will be used for two additional VHF systems in the near future.

(30) 28 Sep 68: The 518th Signal Company revised the POI for the microwave course. New POI will provide students a more thorough understanding of the operations of microwave equipment.

(31) 30 Sep 68: Company B, 459th Signal Battalion completed construction of a new POI storage area. This provided the company with safer storage facilities for POI.

(32) 4 Oct 68: Construction of new arms room was completed at Phu Hiep. The 261st Signal Company furnished labor, and materials for this project. The new arms room will provide better control of weapons and ammunition for the site.

(33) 5 Oct 68: Construction of a VHF antenna tower was completed at Vung Ro Mountain. The 261st Signal Company furnished labor and materials in installing the tower. Signal levels were increased on the VHF systems by 7 db due to shortened coax runs.

(34) 7 Oct 68: Brigadier General William Van Harlingen visited Nha Trang, Phu Hiep, North Nha Trang, ROK-North, and the Ban Me Thout Signal Det. (Prov).

(35) 12 Oct 68: Microwave antenna relocation on Hon Tre Signal Site was begun. Relocation will eliminate crossing RF fields, antenna coupling, and improve system reliability.

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Ending 31 October 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

(36) 12 Oct 68: A 459th Signal Battalion Grounding Survey Team began to inspect grounding of all equipment at Ban Me Thout Signal Detachment (Prov). Immediate action was taken to correct all grounds not within the tolerances established by 1st Signal Brigade regulations.

(37) 13 Oct 68: The battalion completed construction on a new ammunition bunker for the Nha Trang Signal Site. New bunker provided for a safe storage area for all ammunition.

(38) 19 Oct 68: During high winds the roof of the NCO Club at Vung Ro Mountain blew off, severing guide wires supporting the microwave antenna tower. The 518th Signal Company Tower Team, shipped completed new tower and installed it within 8 hours.

(39) 20 Oct 68: Battalion officers and NCO's were briefed on the new tandem switch program by LTC deLaven, TATMC-JCING.

(40) The 459th Signal Battalion sent a total of one (1) officer and forty-two (42) enlisted personnel to attend 1st Signal Brigade Schools. The majority of these personnel attended the Microwave Operator Course. The one officer attended the Technical Facilities Controller Course, located at Long Binh Vietnam. Eighteen (18) enlisted personnel attended the PAL instruction class.

SCCPV-NG-NT

12 November 1963

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1963 (RCS CSFOI-65) (K1)

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) Relocation of VHF Antennas

(a) OBSERVATION: Low Signal Strength on VHF Equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: Nha Trang Signal Center Site VHF receive antennas were raised ten feet higher. It was noted that the signal strength at the site was increased from 1 to 3 micro-amps. This increased the signal level 2 db and produced better circuit quality.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Never be content with a good system. Even the best system may be improved with imagination and resourcefulness.

(2) Adjustment of the Receive Bias on VFCT Set AN/TCC-4

(a) OBSERVATION: Interface Problem with Air Force Secure TT-4 Circuits.

(b) EVALUATION: The lineup procedures for adjustment of receive bias on the AN/TCC-4 in TM 11-5805-250-10 requires the transmission of a standard space signal. This provides a signal that is a mark for 35% of the time. When using a 4w DC loop, the PP-812T meter, when in BLS position and upon operating the channel receive BIAS MEASURE switch, indicates the RMS current value. Mark current has been previously set to full scale. The meter should indicate an approximately 35% (annotated DC BIAS) of full reading when properly receiving space signals. Two factors appear to effect using this method of alignment. The first is that the DC loop level, which when set at full scale, may have to be set high to counteract the loop resistance. This causes the corresponding DC BIAS level to higher providing an inaccurate test. Secondly, Air Force Communications Centers utilize modified cryptographic devices which cannot be removed from the circuit or switched to clear text mode. This prohibits sending clear text space signals by the subscriber. Normal procedures result in invalid adjustments due to the encrypted signal and the subscriber loop characteristics.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Operator personnel with equipment interfacing Air Force communication facilities should be made aware of this inherent problem. Equipment must be made available to produce a clear text mark and space condition.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for the Period
Ending 31 October 1968 (RCS CSFTR-65) (R1)

(4) Checking for Shorted Modem in AN/TCC-13

(a) OBSERVATION: It has been noted that the channel pulses will drop off the frame in a random manner so as to cause false ringing on the circuits. This may be a good indication that one of the channel modems in the AN/TCC-13 is shorted.

(b) EVALUATION: If the channel pulses are dropping out of the frame in a random manner, look for a shorted modem in the AN/TCC-13.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Should the above symptoms be observed, pull out each channel modem in turn while observing the frame. The frame will return to normal when the shorted modem is removed.

(5) Power Phasing:

(a) OBSERVATION: Multiple triggering of channel pulse output signal from the AN/TRC-29 transmitter.

(b) EVALUATION: Multiple triggering of the video frame out of the transmitter pulse output signal of the AN/TRC-29 was monitored on the oscilloscope. The monitored signal revealed three frames superimposed on the original video frame output. This multiple triggering had no effect on the system. The channel levels of each channel recorded a noise level of -55 db. It was found that the radio and multiplexer equipment were operating on two different power phases causing feedback to be shown on the scope.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Insure each complete system operates on the same power phase to eliminate the phenomenon.

(6) VHF Tower Relocation:

(a) OBSERVATION: Relocation of Vhf. Tower adjacent to existing radio facilities increased forward power by 7 db on each system.

(b) DISCUSSION: Relocation allows coax to be shortened by nearly 80 feet and also reduced RF coupling resulting from mounting VHF antennas on a AB216 Tower by providing greater physical separation.

(c) EVALUATION: Radio communications were significantly improved through proper siting of signal equipment.

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Ending 31 July 1963 (HCSFOR-65) (R1)

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics:

(1) Supply Substitution:

(a) OBSERVATION: Units requisitioning needed supplies were turned away with due outs.

(b) EVALUATION: In one instance the material, teletype paper, was actually available, although in a different color, carrying a different FSN.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Requisitions for such items as teletype paper, switchboard cords, etc., which are available in interchangeable styles or colors with different FSN's should be investigated by supply personnel before a due out is accepted.

(2) Material Economy:

(a) OBSERVATION: Barracks revetments constructed with sandbags were deteriorating after ten weeks.

(b) EVALUATION: Exposure to weather had caused the sandbags to rot. Sand should be held in less vulnerable containers.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Hollow, wooden revetment sections should be constructed out of one inch thick lumber to hold sand.

(3) Maintenance Equipment Authorization:

(a) OBSERVATION: AN/TRC-29 maintenance equipment requirement.

(b) EVALUATION: Equipment needed: Counter Electrical Digital Readout, AN/USM/207. This piece of equipment would be used to check output frequency of transmitters and calibrate wavemeters with the aid of Signal Generator SG-297/U. Oscilloscope: AN/USM-81. At the present time test equipment on hand can only check the output of IF Strips in transmitters and pre-IF's in receivers, locating and correcting bad components is left to guesswork. The USM/81 has the capability of checking each stage of the IF Strip thereby eliminating all guess work in troubleshooting and alignment of pre-IF and IF Strips. 15 ea wattmeter RF AN/URM-43. These wattmeters would be issued to each site to check output power of transmitters and aid in alignment of same. Also the URM-43 would be used in troubleshooting transmission lines.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: With the addition of the above mentioned maintenance equipment, system reliability would be improved, equipment malfunctions would be isolated and corrected faster thereby decreasing system downtime during outages. This equipment has been requested on the new MTO&E and an EML is to be sent forward.

f. Organization: See inclosure #1.

g. Other: None

2 Incl

1. Organizational Chart

~~2. Personnel Gains and Losses~~

Incl 2 wd Hq DA


G. E. McDONNELL

LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SCCPV-NG-OPT (12 Nov 68) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFGA-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240 19 November 1968

TO: Department of the Army, ATTN: ACSFOR, Washington, D.C. 20310

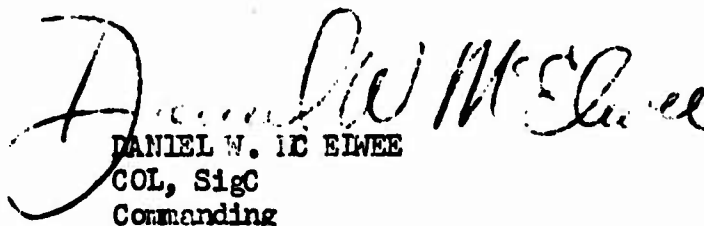
1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.

2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as indicated with the following comments and/or exceptions concerning referenced paragraphs:

a. Paragraph 1b(10), P.3. Change to read as follows:
A 45 channel Microwave system was activated between Nha Trang, Hon Tre, and Cam Ranh Bay. The first twenty-three (23) channels were designated as Army Area System, B3H09: last twenty-two were designated as DCA System, 77U12U.

b. Paragraph 2e(3), P.9. The desired test equipment is included on the new proposed NTCE presently being reviewed at Department of the Army. The unit can now request the test equipment for temporary loan under the provisions of USARV Regulation 700-20.

c. Page 10. Distribution shown is not in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19. Distribution will be correct on future reports.


DANIEL W. MC ELWEE
COL, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-CP-CR (12 Nov 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATOOM), APO 96384 10 December 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

WILLIAM G. SKINNER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

Copy Furnished:
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

AVHGC-DST (12 Nov 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Signal Battalion (CA) for Period
Ending 31 October 1968 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 22 JAN 1969

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 October 1968 from Headquarters, 459th Signal Battalion (CA).
2. Reference item concerning adjustment of the receive bias on VFCT set AN/TCC-4, page 7, paragraph 2b(2). Concur in the recommendation. Operators in Army Communications Centers should use an additional teletypewriter set in a closed loop configuration to adjust the receive bias before interfacing with the Air Force equipment in the secure mode. The unit will be so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


W. C. ARMIT
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies Furnished:
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HQ, 459th Sig Bn (CA)

GPOP-DT (12 Nov 68) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 459th Sig Bn (CA) for Period Ending
31 October 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 4 FEB 1969

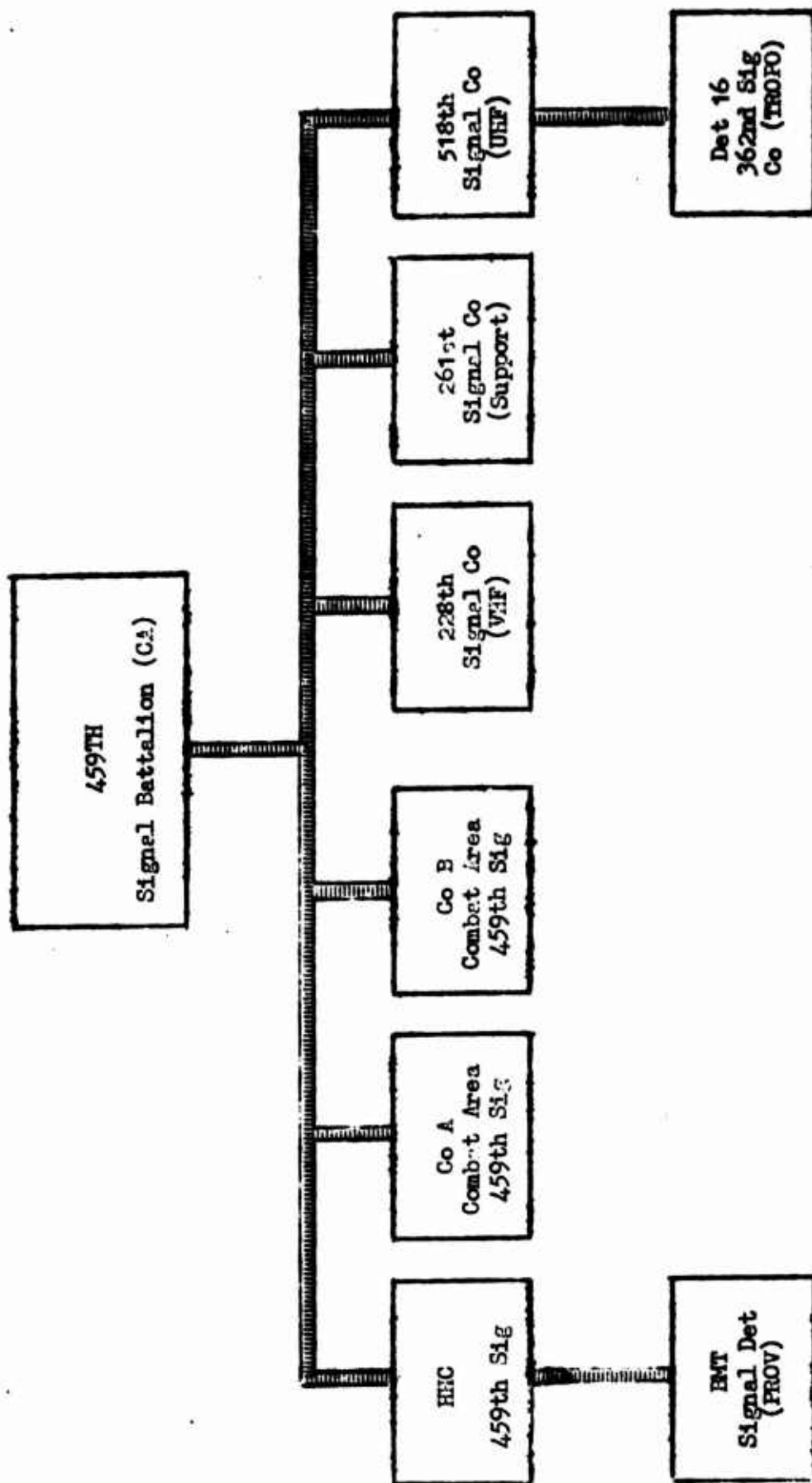
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
459TH SIGNAL BN.

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