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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Oct 1980

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

N REPLY HERET

AGDA (M) (16 Oct 69) FOR OT UT 693285

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23 October 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 62d Engineer Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

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:

G. Sciekham

1 Incl

KENNETH G. WICKHAM Major General, USA The Adjutant General



US Army Transportation School

Copies furnished: Office, Chief of Staff, US Army UNGLASSIFIED REPORT

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY HEADQUARTERS, 62D ENGINEER BATTALION APO 96491

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15 Aug 1969

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 62d Engineer Battalion (Land Clearing) for Period Ending 31 July 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

THRU: Commanding Officer 79th Engineer Group ATTN: EGE-3 APO 96491

> Commanding General 20th Engineer Brigade ATTN: AVBI-COS APO 96491

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

Commanding General United States Army Pacific ATTN: GPOP-CT APO 96588

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

FOR OT UT 693285 Inclosure

1

1. Section 1 Operations: Significant Activities

1.

a. <u>Command</u>: The 62d Engineer Bettalion (Land Clearing) is commanded by LTC Paul C. Driscoll, who assumed command from LTC Max P. Janairo on 7 July 1969.

b. <u>Mission</u>: The mission of the battalion is to provide direct support to tactical units by clearing heavy forested and jungle areas.

c. <u>Unit Broloyment</u>: The battalion is located on Long Binh Post, Republic of Vietnam. The battalion area of responsibility is the entire 20th Engineer Brigade area of responsibility, consisting of IJI and IV Corps Tactical Zones.

d. <u>Organization</u>: The battalion is organized under MTOE 5-116G (HHC), 5-117G (Co A) modified and tailored for land clearing battalion concept and 5-500C (60th, 501st and 984th Engineer Companies (IC) assigned. Recommendations for revisions to these MTOEs were drafted and submitted during the last reporting period. As of this date these recommendations have neither been accepted nor rejected.

e. <u>Attachments and Detachments</u>: During this period a combat engineer squad wes placed in the field with each land clearing company. Tests and evaluations are being made to see if these squads can facilitate the operations of a land clearing company during the rainy season. <u>Bouipment used</u> by the combat engineer squad includes a 5 ton dump truck, chain saws and other tools organic to a combat engineer squad's TO&E.

f. <u>Personnel</u>: The personnel strength of the battalion was as follows:

31	May 69		30 June 69	31 July 69	
OFF	(28)	30	(28) 27	(28) 26	1
HO	(7)	6	(7) 5	(7) 6	5
EM	<u>(586)</u> (621)	<u>594</u> 630	<u>(586)</u> <u>597</u> (621) 629	<u>(586)</u> <u>641</u> (621) 673	,
LATOT	(621)	630	(621) 629	(621) 673	

NCTE: (Auth) Assigned

g. <u>Critical Personnel Shortages</u>: The following are critical shortages by grade and MOS in the battalion. The shortages are critical by MOS imbalance, despite the overstrength at the end of the reporting period.

MOS	GRADE	AUTH	ASG	JOR TITLE
4880	02-03	1	o .	FILO
1331	01-02	NΛ	(short 2)	Platoon Jeader
05020	F 4	2	0	RTT Operator
05040	F5	1	0	RTT Operator
31040	E5	4	1	TAC Comme Chief
36 K 20	T3	7	3	Field Wireman
62B10	F3	25	13	E vineer Equipment Repairman
62 F 20	E4	23	17	E _neer Souinment Repairman
62B20	E5	5	2	Engineer Ecuipment Repairman
76 1 40	es	6	3	Unit Supply Specialist
62N50	58	. 4	2	1st Sergeant
62P50	E8	2	0	Maint Opns Sgt, Plt Sgt
62N40	E7	10	6	Platoon Sergeants
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h. Morale:

(1) The battalion received an average of 42 rest and recuperation leave quotas each month, of which 75 percent were filled. The battalion also received four in-country R&Rs to Vung Tau each month, all of which were used.

(2) The 62d Engineer Battalion (LC) has a variety of facilities available for the troops' enjoyment during off-duty hours.

a. EM/NCO Club: - --.

1. The club is large and now centrally air conditioned.

2. A minimum of three live entertainment shows are booked each week, and a three hour live show is always booked for the second night after a land clearing company returns to Long Binh for stand down.

b. Swimming Pool: The troops continue to enjoy the swimming pool adjacent to the battalion area, and they take advantage of its long hours of operation.

c. Movies: Movies are shown five nights a week in the battalion's excellent open-air theater.

d. Sports: Despite the arrival of the rainy season, the troops still enjoy playing baseball, basketball and horseshoes. A boxing ring is being erected in the battalion area.

i. <u>Disciplinary Action</u>: The number of disciplinary actions increased over the previous report period. During this period, the battalion had six Special Courts-Martial, one Summary Court-Martial and 26 Article 15s.

j. <u>Awards</u>: During this report period, officers and men of the battalion have been awarded 33 Bronze Stars, 7 Air Medals, 34 Army Commendation Medals, 39 Purple Hearts and 14 Brigade Certificates of Achievement. Recommendations for awards submitted during this period which are pending are as follows: 22 Bronze Stars, 4 Air Medals, 10 Army Commendation Medals, 7 Purple Hearts and 36 Brigade Certificates of Achievement.

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k. Visits and Ceremonies:

T · TE	TIMIT	נאט בוֹנ י נישקי	VISITCR	POSITICN
1411ay69	501 st	Pong Tam JII	Col Clark	CC 79th Co
171 ay60	501st	Dong Tam ITI	Col Clark	CO 79th Gp
221'av69	501st	Dong Tam ITI	Col Parfitt	ng 20th Ade
•	-		Col Clark	00 79th Gp
25]/ay69	501st	Dong Tam ITI	Col Clark	co 7°th op
301'av69	501 st	Dong Tam III	Col Clark	CO 7ºth Op
311/av69	501st	Dong Tar III	Col Clark	CO 79th Go
4Jun69	984th	West Lei Khe	Col Clark	CO 79th Go
7Jun69	501 st	Dong Tam IJI	Col Clark	CC 79th Gp
7Jun69	984th	West Jai Fhe	Col Clark	CC 79th Co
7Jun69	9E4th	West Lai Yhe	Gen Talbott	OG 1st Inf Div
8Jun69	501st	Dong Tam III	Col Milson	Dep CO 20th Me
		דחם חדו	CICIAL HOP OF	NTV

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3.

11Jun69 501st Dong Tam III	Col Clark CO 79th Gp	
15Jun69 501st Dong Tam III	Col Clark CO 79th Cp	
17Jun69 984th Trapezoid	Col Fuller	
	Col Clark CO 79th Gp	
18Jun69 984th Trapszoid	Col Parfitt CG 20th Pde	
	Col Clark CO 79th Cp	
19Jun69 501st Dong Tam III	Col Clark CC 7°th Ap	
20Jun69 984th Trevezoid	Col Clark CO 79th Go	
4Jul69 984th Trapezoid	MG. Parker CG Engr Trps VN	
	Col Parfitt C1 20th Pde	
5Jul69 984th Trepezoid	Col Clark CO 7°th Pp	
9Jul69 60th Crescent	Col Parfitt C: 20th Rde	
	Col Clark CC 79th Gp	
10Jul69 60th Crescont	Col Clark CO 79th Gp	
14Jul69 60th Crescent	Col Clark Cr 79th Cp	
15Jul69 501st Fat Dich	Jol Clark Co 70th Co	
15Jul69 60th Crescent	Col Clark CC 70th Cp	
18 Jul 69 501 st Tet Dich	Col Parfitt CG 20th Pde	
27Jul69 60th cherwood		
	PG. Henderson Dep CC 25th Jnf Div	
29Jul69 501st Het Dich	nadel 10 day. unan, 11	
	PG_Pearson CG of 1st Australian Task Fo	rce

1. <u>Intelligence</u>: Current intelligence information is obtained on a daily basis from IIFFV and BHTAC. A weekly intelligence briefing on enemy activity in the II Corps Tactical Zone and in particular areas of operation of the companies is given by the Battalion S-2 for all commanders, staff members and 1st sergeants. Units in the field receive local current intelligence from their security elements. All personnel in the line companies are briefed by the company commander on the enemy situation prior to deployment to the field location. Land clearing companies in the field prepare spot reports on all enemy actions and incidents and forwarded them to battalion and higher headquarters.

Training: Training was conducted during this period on 13 Sunday mornm. ings for troops in garrison. Two hours each Sunday morning was devoted to mandatory training subjects prescribed by DA and USARV. The remainder of each Sunday morning was devoted to maintenance of equipment. Units in the field integrated training such as safety, sanitation, maintenance and OJT with the field operations. Formal training was scheduled for mandatory training subjects for units in the field. Provisions were made in the units maintenance stand down schedule to make-up mandatory subjects missed because of operational requirements. During maintenance stand down, training was conducted on D7E tractor operation and maintenance, 10 Ton tractor operation and maintenance, TAERS and weapons familiarization. Maintenance instruction on D7E tractors was provided by a representative from the US Army Mobility Command. Replacement training was conducted for all new personnel. This training was conducted at company level and included weapons safety, security and sentry duty, mines and boobytraps, convoy procedures and drivers safety and orientation on Viet Cong/NVA tactics and techniques.

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n. Projects Completed and Tritiated During the Penart Period:

(1) Land Clearing Operations: Direct Combat Support

a. 60th Engineer Company (IC): On 1 May, the 60th Engineer Company (IC) was clearing jungle in the rocket belt west of Lei Khe, in support of the 1st Infantry Division. The operation west of Jai Khe started on 25 April. On 15 May, the company redeployed to the Boi Loi Woods, in support of the 25th Infantry Division, where it remained until 9 June 1969, clearing a total of 6974 acres (After 'ction Report, inclosure 1). From 10 June to 24 June, the 60th was 't Long Pinh conducting a 15 day maintenance stand down. On 25 June, the company colloyed to the Crescent area, northwest of Dau Tieng, in support of the 25th Infantry Division, where they remained until 25 July, clearing 4774 acres. On 25 July, the company relocated its operation into the area around Fire Support Fase Crock, northwest of Tay Minh, to clear radar surveillance lanes. At close of this report period they had cleared 874 acres in this area.

b. 501st "ngineer Conveny (IC): On 1 May, the 501st Engineer Company (IG) was at Long Pinh conducting a 15 day maintenance stand down, concluding the Long Pinh/Pien Hos Operation and the Poi Loi Moods Operation as stated on the last report ("ftor "ction Report, inclosure 2). On 12 May, the unit deploved from Long Pinh to the road clearing operations Dong Tam III (Phase III), in support of the 1st Infantry Division, along CI-14, northeast of Dong Koai. This project was completed on 26 June, after clearing 6638 acres (After Action Peport, inclosure 3). The 501st returned to home station for a maintenance stand down from 27 June through 12 Julw. On 13 Julw, the 501st moved to Phoue Winh and cut along the perimeter of that base camp in support of the 1st Mir Caw Division. The company staved in this location seven days and cleared 2064 acres. On 21 July, it redeployed to a location cast of Long Pinh and cleared along the railroad in that area and also cleared in an area northeast of Pien Hoa, known as the Ganz Toi Rocket Polt, clearing 1208 acres in 5 days. On 27 July, the company deployed to the Wat Dich area, in support of the 1st 'ustralian Task Force and has cleared 859 acres.

c. 984th Engineer Corpany (16): On 1 May, the 984th Engineer Comcany (19) was working along 71-14, northeast of Dong Yori, on Operation Pong Tam III (Phase II), in support of the 1st Infantry Division. The unit completed their nortion of the project on 12 May, clearing 275° acres. The company returned to Ions Finh for a 15 day maintenance stand down from 13 May through 29 May, (Ifter Action Report, inclosure 4). On 30 May, the 964th moved to the West Lai The area, in support of the 1st Infantry Division and cleared 3855 acres in 15 days. On 15 June, the company relocated into the Trapezoid area and began clearing predetermined lance throughout the area. This operation was completed on 14 July, after clearing 5347 acres, (After Action Report, inclosure 5). The company moved to Long Pinh on 15 July, to begin their maintenance stand down. On 31 July, the 984th redeployed to the Trapezoid area, in support of the 1st Infantry Division.

d. Navy Corretion: Cn ?? Nav, two plows were detached from the SE4th Engineer Company (IG) and sent to the Naval Station at Pen Luc. The plows were used to clear along the Nam Co Dong River, between Noc Hos and Tan in. The operation was concluded on 5 June (After iction Report, inclosure 6).

o. <u>Technical Improvisation</u>, Expedients:

(1) In the areas of heavy enemy contact, RPG attacks against the plows can be greatly discouraged by having two Infantrymen riding on the lead plow and reconnoitering by fire as the plow moves through the jungle. A reconnaissance by fire by the security force APCs also keeps the enemy from coming to the edge of the cut and firing at the plows in the cut or at the security vehicles.

(2) The use of anchor chain has proven to be a very good expedient method of clearing small bamboo. Anchor chains have been used many times to clear rubber trees, but recent experiments have proven that the chain is just as effective clearing bamboo. This method will increase production by 50 percent over the normal method of clearing bamboo with plows in echelon formation. A D7E tractor equipped with a radio is hooked up to each end of a 200 foot anchor chain, then the D7E tractors move through the bamboo approximately 100 feet to 125 feet apart. A trail dozer is usually employed to keep the chain from hanging up.

(3) Land clearing units in the field should carry a supply of fine mesh screen and a roll of bailing wire. Pre-cleaner caps are continually being knocked off and smashed during cutting operations. As these are in short supply and deadline the tractor if missing or crushed, the screening material wired over the precleaner stacks acts as a satisfactory substitute until a new cap can be obtained.

(4) While transporting D7E tractors on 25 ton lowbed trailers, a #10 can should be placed over the exhaus stack. The air rushing by the stack opening will either go directly into the urbocharger or create a suction on the turbocharger. In either case, the turbocharger blades will spin without there being any lubricants in the turbocharger. Eventually this will cause damage.

(5) Using empty ammo cans to mount PRC-25 vadios in D7E tractors has reduced the deadline rate of these radios considerably. The ammo cans are welded to the inside of the cab and lined with styrofoam. This keeps the radios from being bounced around and reduces vibrations.

(6) Engine brush guards of Rome Plow Kits suffer much damage in heavy jungle clearing operations. Due to the shortage of this repair part in the supply system, an effective fabrication can be utilized. Crusher screen can be cut with a torch to approximate brush guard size, then the crusher screen is bolted into the side of the tractor using existing hardware.

(7) Extremely large trees are crushing headache bars and damaging tractor hoods, stacks, pre-breather caps and brush guards. These headache bars are constructed from pipe and are not strong enough to absorb the impact of large trees landing on them. This organization is currently trying to procure railroad rails with which we will fabricate headache bars. This heavier and stronger material should prevent most damage caused by the failure in the current headache bars.

(8) The AVIP provided by the security force for land clearing operations can be used very effectively as a maintenance hard stand. The bridge can be laid on the ground and is extremely effective for keeping the operators out of the mud while they are pulling maintenance on their tractors.

(9) Three inch angle iron has proven to be an effective material for reinforcement of cabs. The angle iron is welded to the outside of the cabs in horizontal strips. By welding the angle iron onto the cab, it becomes more rigid and less likely to collapse when hit by a falling tree.

(10) A field expedient means of cleaning radiators that have become clogged with mud, is to fabricate a nozzle for the air compressor hose to which a water hose can be attached. As the compressed air passes through the water, the water will feed into the air stream. This is very effective for cleaning radiators in tractors that are overheating because the radiator is clogged with mud.

2. <u>Section 2 Lessons Learned:</u> Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations

a. Personnel:

(1) OBSERVATION: As reported in the previous two Operational Reports, replacement tractor operators are arriving with no knowledge or experience in the operation of the D7E tractor with Rome Plow attachments. Operational techniques in land clearing differ distinctly from the techniques employed in earth moving. I attribute at least 33 percent of our non-operational tractor time directly to the actions or lack thereof of inexperienced operators. 「「ない」」「「ない」」」「「「「「「」」」」」」

(2) EVALUATION: The problem of special training for replacement operators and the direct supervision required while they gain experience has not been solve a within this organization. While we have established formal training programs, the intense pressure for productive effort often is an over riding factor that severely limits our training and supervisory efforts. If replacement operators were given at least two weeks of intensive training on Rome Flow operation and maintenance prior to arrival, our capabilities for production would increase considerably.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That a training program be established in CONUS that includes at least two weeks of intensive training on the operation and main-tenance of the D7E tractor with Rome Plow attachments.

b. Operations:

(1) OBSERVATION: During the rainy season, special measures must be taken to preserve the effectiveness of the Night Defensive Position which otherwise will become a quagmire.

(2) EVALUATION: Several measures have been adopted that greatly enhance the efficiency of operations within the NDP. First, and most important, a strict traffic control policy must be enforced. Second, a combat engineer squad should be attached to each land clearing company, with the primary mission of constructing maintenance hardstands using logs taken from the cut. These squads can also perform a multitude of tasks to improve conditions within the NDP. Third, when constructing the berm, material should be pushed up from outside the NDP. The lighter vegetation inside should be left intact. And finally, consideration should be given to moving the NDP more often. After seven days, even a wellmanaged NDP can become unliveable.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: That the above information be used in the devel-. opment of doctrine.

(1) OBSERVATION: As presently constituted, a land clearing company is authorized a large number of wheeled vehicles, many of which must accompany the unit into the field.

(2) EVALUATION: Wheeled vehicles are primarily road bound and have little capability for maneuvering in the jungle, especially in the cut areas where fallen trees present formidable obstacles even for tanks. This organization is soon scheduled to receive sufficient tracked vehicles to test one land clearing company in a fully-tracked configuration.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Deferred.

(1) OBSERVATION: It has been suggested that the introduction of heavier equipment into land clearing operations would significantly improve production while reducing maintenance problems.

(2) EVALUATION: Four Caterpillar D9G tractors outfitted with Rome Plow equipment are scheduled for delivery to this organization in the near future. Planning is nearing completion for extensive comparative testing of these tractors against present equipment.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Deferred.

c. Training: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics: None

f. <u>Organization</u>: The organization of HHC and the Equipment and Maintenance Company (Co A) are still under review by this headquarters. The revisions proposed for land clearing companies MTOE 5-500C have been submitted to higher authority.

g. Other: A chronology of land clearing activities for the period 1 January through 30 June 1969, is inclosure 7.

Rul C. Driscoll

PAUL C. DRISCOLL LTC, CE Commanding

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REE-3 (15 Aug 69) 1st Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report for 62nd Engineer Battalion (Iand Clearing) for the Period 1 May 1969 through 31 July 1969

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 79TH EIGINEER GROUP, APO 96491

TC: Commanding General, 20th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBI-OS, APO 96491

1. This Operational Report of the 62nd Engineer Esttalion (Land Clearing) has been reviewed and is submitted in accordance with USARV Reg 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.

2. This report is considered to be an excellent summary of the battalion's operational experience during the report period.

FOR THE COMMIDER:

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SHIGEYOSHI ACRITA CPT, ACC Adjutaht

AVEI-OS (15 Aug 69) 2nd Ind SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 62nd Engineer Battalion (Land Clearing) for the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65(RL)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO 96491 2 6 AUG 1969

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

1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.

2. Subject report for the 62nd Engineer Battalion (Land Clearing) has been reviewed and is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Raliata eset ce AGC Kajor Adjutant

Copies Furnished: CO, 79th Engr Gp CO, 62nd Engr Bn AVHGC-DST (15 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 62d Engineer Battalion (Land Clearing) for Period Ending 31 July 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 1 2 SEP 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 July 1969 from Headquarters, 62d Engineer Battalion.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Personnel," section II, page 7, paragraph 2a; concur. The USARV Engineer has requerted that Rome Plow training be provided in CONUS. The request was forwarded to the Commanding General, US Army Training Center, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for consideration. This recommendation will also be presented to the Engineer School representative during the CONARC liaison visit in September 1969.

b. Reference item concerning "Operations," section II, page 7, paragraph 2b; concur. The information has been noted and will be incorporated with other material on land clearing.

c. Reference item concerning "Organization," section II, page 8, paragraph 2f. The requirement to reorganize the land clearing companies is recognized. A proposal to reorganize units under TOE 5-87T rather than modify MTOE 5-500C is also being considered. Force structure limitations placed on USARV dictate that this proposal be held in abeyance until the force structure is able to finance the reorganization or trade-off spaces can be identified.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

CPT, AGC Assistant Adjutant General

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Cy furn: HQ, 62d Engr Bn HQ, 20th Engr Bde

GPOP-DT (15 Aug 69) 4th Ind

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 62d Engineer Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 1 OCT 69

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

1. This headquarters concurs in subject report, as indorsed, except as follows.

2. Reference paragraph 1f, page 2. Effective 9 August 1969 the 62d Engineer Battalion was reorganized by US Army, Pacific, General Order 611 dated 4 August 1969 at aggregate personnel strength of 674 (31 officers, 7 WO, 636 enl).

3. Reference paragraph 2a, page 7. Formal instruction is being conducted at Fort Leonard Wood for Rome Plow operation. The Advanced Individual Training Course (AIT) for MOS 62 E20, crawler tractor operators, has one hour of introduction and one hour of demonstration. The Skill Development Base Course (SDB) for MOS 62 E's has two hours of introduction, four hours of demonstration, and a practical exercise. The training input for FY 70 indicates 2339 AIT and 500 SDB personnel will be trained.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

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D. A. TUCKER CPT. AGC ASST AG

Cy furn: CG USARV

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CO, 62d Engineer Battalion				
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