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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A 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

AGDA (M) (14 Oct 69)

FOR OT UT 692194

20 October 1969

AD 861032

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 43d Signal Battalion, Period Ending 30 April 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:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Encl
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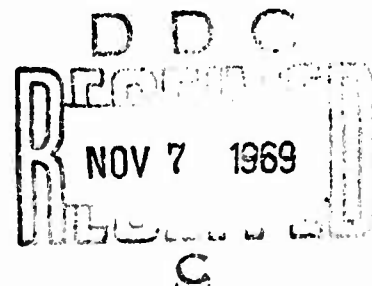
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UNCLASSIFIED REPORT
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(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 43RD SIGNAL BATTALION
APO 96318

SCCPV-NG-PK-C

May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

Reference: 1st Signal Brigade Reg 1-19, dated 12 July 1968,
Subject: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. General:

(1) The battalion was operational in the Republic of Vietnam for the entire reporting period of 89 days. Major effort was expanded in the following areas: improving the quality of installed communications; raising the level of personnel proficiency through the use of in-country schools, OJT, and self-instructional programs; raising the standards of all categories of equipment maintenance to include vehicles, power generators, and signal equipment; and improving the living and recreational facilities for all assigned personnel.

(2) The 43rd Signal Battalion was reactivated and organizationally structured to provide communications support to Military Assistance Command advisors in the II Corps Tactical Zone. All elements were formed under TOE 11-500D. Subsequently, the organization mission was supplemented to add corps area communication support for U.S. Army organizations over three and one-half provinces of the Central Highlands of RVN. The original TOE did not fit the current mission. Accordingly, several original companies (B, D and E) have been detached and others attached (278th and 586th Signal Companies). Additionally, the internal organization of the remaining units was rearranged to match unit resources to mission requirements. An extensive modification to the existing TOE had been submitted through 21st Signal Group and 1st Signal Brigade but was disapproved by Department of the Army. A new TOE modification under the Gulf Series and including TDA's for fixed station facilities

FOR DT UT

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Inclosure

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was submitted in December 1968. This change is intended to fit the organization to its long-term mission as now known.

b. Organization: The following listing provides up-to-date information for organic units of the 43d Signal Battalion. Inclosures 1 thru 5 provide additional information concerning attached units and units under the operational control of the 43d Signal Battalion.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MTOE</u>	<u>USASCC</u>	<u>UIC</u>
HHD, 43d Sig Bn	PKU	11-500D	24/67	WDQZTO
Co A, 43d Sig Bn	PKU	11-500D	25/67	WDQZAO
Co C, 43d Sig Bn	KTM	11-500D	26/67	WDQZCO
278th Sig Co, 43d Sig Bn	CPE	11-117D	02/67	WCF3AA
586th Sig Co, 43d Sig Bn	AKE	11-117D	04/67	WCF6AA

c. Activities:

(1) In March 1969, a contingency team from Company A, 43d Signal Battalion took part in a deployability test. The team, comprised of one (1) each AN/MRC-54, one (1) each AN/MCC-6, and the required personnel was deployed to Hong Cong Mountain. A test system was established, operated, and maintained from Hong Cong Mountain to Phu Cat for a period of seven days.

(2) A contingency team, consisting of one (1) each AN/MRC-54 and necessary operators, was deployed to Qui Nhon (Monastery Hill) for the period 1 to 14 April 1969. Operating in support of ROK Forces in the Qui Nhon area, the team received an outstanding evaluation for the overall operation and quality communications.

(3) Company C, 43d Signal Battalion underwent a CMMI by a six-member team from 21st Signal Group. The inspection was conducted during the period 25 to 28 April 1969.

(4) Brigadier General Thomas M. Rienzi, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade; Colonel Thomas G. Musgrave, Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group; and Colonel George T. Burns, 1st Signal Brigade Director of Operations visited various sites and facilities of the battalion during the reporting period.

d. Personnel and Administration:

(1) During this reporting period there were 257 assigned

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gains and 239 assigned losses for a net increase of 18 personnel. The present authorization for this battalion is 1135 personnel. The assigned strength of this organization as of 30 April 1969 was 910 personnel or 80.2% of authorized strength.

(2) The following are personnel shortages which critically affect the accomplishment of this organization's mission:

<u>NUMBER SHORT</u>	<u>MOS</u>	<u>TITLE</u>
7	31J	Teletypewriter Repairman
69	31M	Radio Relay and Carrier Attendant
45	72C	Telephone Switchboard Operator

(3) There were fourteen (14) Bronze Stars, twelve (12) Army Commendation Medals and forty-five (45) Certificates of Achievement awarded to personnel of this battalion during the reporting period. Fifty-four (54) Recommendations for awards have been forwarded to higher headquarters and remain pending approval.

e. Security:

(1) HHD, 43rd Signal Battalion, Pleiku RVN:

(a) Rehabilitated all perimeter barriers and installed an additional double apron fence and two cattle fences along its 900 meters of MACV compound perimeter.

(b) Constructed two new defensive bunkers IAW with IFFORCEV and 1st Signal Brigade specifications.

(c) Installed range cards, ammunition, first aid kits, and azimuth indicators in all defensive bunkers.

(d) Rehabilitated trench complex, improved drainage and constructed inclined entrance ways from trench to bunker.

(e) Installed claymore mines and instructed all personnel in methods of installation, handling and detonating mine.

(f) Installed trip flares, movable barriers for access to perimeter aisleways and locked in perimeter barriers to adjacent unit barriers.

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(g) Constructed new personnel bunkers adjacent to barracks buildings IAW IFFORCCV and 1st Signal Brigade specifications.

(h) Rehabilitated revetments around barracks buildings and improved revetments at ammunition and POL storage sites.

(i) Installed point to point telephone communication between personnel bunkers and the command bunker.

(j) Installed additional lights on access routes to cantonment area.

(k) Started operation of a 24 hour per day observation post located on top of the water tower on Trope Hill and known OP Hotel within the Pleiku Defense Sector. This included, formal briefing of personnel designated to man the post and installation of hot line telephone communication between the post and the II Corps Advisory Group CSCC and the 43rd Signal Battalion Command Bunker.

(1) Prepared a graphic representation of the 43rd Signal Battalion sector of the MACV Compound and its perimeter for command control purposes. This representation is mounted on a wall in the battalion command bunker and includes barriers, bunkers, fields of fire, weapons emplacement, and location of claymore mines.

(m) Conducted comprehensive training classes on Defense Against Sapper Attacks, Interior Guard, Construction of Barbed Wire Entanglements, and Installation, Handling, Disposition and Detonation of Claymore Mines.

(n) Defoliation of entire perimeter area and access routes to outside perimeter.

(o) Initiated daily bunker and communication checks by commanders to insure bunkers and trench complexes are kept in a high state of readiness.

(p) Dug holes and set poles for three guard towers along the perimeter to provide better observation of the perimeter during the hours of darkness. This project is expected to be completed during May 1969.

(q) Redeployed automatic and M-79 weapons to provide more effective grazing fire on perimeter and better coverage of blind spots.

(2) Company A, 43rd Signal Battalion:

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(a) Pleiku MACV Compound: Constructed one new defensive bunker and rehabilitated 300 meters of perimeter barriers. Rebuilt personnel bunkers and installed telephone communication in all defensive and personnel bunkers. Two reactionary forces have been established and trained to execute immediate counter attack plans against possible breach in the perimeter.

(b) Pleiku North and Artillery Hill signal sites began construction of security fences around each site. Barbed wire cattle fences have been completed and the sites are awaiting concertina wire to complete the project.

(c) The Pleiku West signal site built fighting bunkers protecting access routes to the operations bunker.

(d) Local civilian employees at all sites are required to wear gate access passes on the front of their outer garment and daily hires are closely supervised.

(3) Company C, 43rd Signal Battalion:

(a) Kontum, RVN: A new ammunition bunker was constructed to facilitate entrance from the trench complex. It has built in drainage and will allow access under all conditions except a direct hit by enemy rocket or mortar fire.

(b) Tan Canh Signal Site: New defensive bunkers were constructed IAW IFFORCEV and 1st Signal Brigade specifications. A new command bunker has been temporarily delayed due to increased work loads and an unusually heavy attrition rate caused by DEROS.

(c) Dak To: One secondary defensive bunker was constructed IAW IFFORCEV and 1st Signal Brigade specifications. Site security measures have been coordinated with the 299th Engineer Battalion which has primary installation security responsibility.

(4) 278th Signal Company:

(a) Camp Enari, RVN: On 5 February 1969, the 278th Signal Company joined other 4th Infantry Division support units from Camp Enari and conducted Operation Cleansweep VI. The purpose of the operation was to harass the enemy and to deprive him of weapons or food caches found in the Camp Enari tactical area of responsibility.

(b) During this report period approximately 38,000 man hours were

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spent on security duty, and patrols in support of the Camp Enari defense complex.

(c) Dragon Mountain Signal Site: Two new defensive bunkers were constructed and the draw on the southwest side of the mountain was cleared, increasing the kill zone from 25 meters to 100 meters.

(5) 586th Signal Company:

(a) An extensive program to defoliate the company and Hong Cong Mountain signal site perimeters. The latter project involved the use of power saws, demolition charges and fire. One engineer company of the 1st Brigade/4th Infantry Division set charges to seal off tunnels and clear large trees.

(b) Although the company occupies a secondary defensive position within the primary defensive perimeter, ten, 750 watt lamps were placed along the company perimeter to illuminate possible access routes which sappers or infiltrators could use after the hours of darkness.

(c) All bunkers have been rehabilitated, several reconstructed in better locations and firing apertures were improved and installed on flanks.

(d) Trip flares, claymore mines and additional concertina barriers were installed around the Hong Cong Signal Site.

(6) Rocket, mortar, small arms, and sapper attacks that occurred during the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969, follow:

(a) Locations affected:

(1) Bn Hq, Co A, MACV Compound, PKU, RVN: 25 Feb, 5, 8, 21, 22 and 28 Mar 69.

(2) Co A, Det PKW, RVN: on 23 Mar and 3, 11, 16, and 22 Apr 69.

(3) Co A, Det PKN, RVN: 15 and 27 Mar 69.

(4) Co A, Det CPH, RVN: 15, 21 and 23 Feb; and 5, 7, 21, and 25 Mar 69.

(5) Co C, KTM, RVN: 23, 24, 25, Feb and 5 and 12 Mar 69.

(6) Co C, Det TCN, RVN: 26 Feb and 9 and 10 Mar 69.

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- (7) Co C, Det CRO, RVN: 14 and 22 Feb; 5 and 30 Mar 69.
- (8) Co C, Det DTO, RVN: 23 Feb 69.
- (9) 278th Sig Co, CPE, RVN: 26 Feb and 21 Mar 69.
- (10) 586th Sig Co, AKE, RVN: 5 and 20 Mar 69.

(b) Personnel WIA and KIA:

- (1) HHD and Co A at Pleiku - WIA 2.
- (2) Co C at Kontum - None.
- (3) 278th Sig Co at Camp Enari - None.
- (4) 586th Sig Co at AKE - None.

(6) Equipment Damage:

(1) HHD and Co A, on 21 March 1969, extensive shrapnel and concussion damage was inflicted on Co A 43rd Signal Battalion EM billet and HQ Bldg, 43rd Signal Battalion. Damage was limited to only the upper part of the billets since revetments protect the lower parts. Shrapnel cut local defense telephone cables from Battalion CP to area bunker system.

(2) 278th Signal Company, on 21 March 69, one 50 pair cable - fused wires from shrapnel damage.

(3) 586th, 2 March 1969, one each 2½ ton truck - 4 flat tires; left front fender, hood and radiator damaged by shrapnel; shrapnel damage one each ½ ton truck right side resulting in 2 flat tires; one each ¾ ton truck - minor shrapnel damage to left front tire; three quarter ton truck - minor shrapnel damage to right front door. No damage to communications.

(4) Det Tan Canh, Co C, 43rd Signal Battalion, on 9 March 1969, one each AN/MRC-102 - shrapnel embedded in roadside wall.

f. Safety:

(1) Command emphasis on safe working conditions and habits continues down to the lowest level in all operational areas of this organization.

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(2) During the reporting period, this battalion sustained only one vehicular accident. Safe driving practices are continually stressed through the various news media available to commanders and safety officers. Safety patrols have continued to enforce safe driving in areas most heavily traveled by vehicles of this organization and to cite unsafe acts or practices.

(3) All safety officers within the battalion have completed the Adjutant General's Unit Safety Management Course (Sub-course #39), which is conducted as part of the Army Correspondence Course Program of the USA AG School. Completion of this course has greatly enhanced the capabilities of all safety officers.

(4) Extensive distribution of command safety publications have stressed cognizance of and adherence to proper safety procedures in all operational areas. The battalion safety council has been instrumental in formulating and pursuing an aggressive safety program throughout the battalion.

g. Training:

(1) The Battalion Training Section has persevered in maintaining high standards in all facets of training. During the reporting period, lesson plans on the Defense of Sappers and for the training of O5C personnel were finalized and distributed to all subordinate units.

(2) Maximum use was made of 1st Signal Brigade Training Facility by utilization of all quotas offered consistent with mission requirements. A total of twelve courses were utilized with 31 personnel attending. Personnel in the number indicated completed the following courses:

<u>COURSE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
PCM System Maint	3
SSB Radio Operator Course	1
SSB Maint Course	2
Radio Relay Maint Course (AN/GRC-50)	1
Cable Splicer Course	5
Telephone Key Systems Maint	1
TSEC/KW7 Maint Course	1
PCM System Operator Course	3
Radio Relay and Operator Course	2
PLL Training	2

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<u>COURSE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Audio Visual Training	8
DCO Refresher Training	1
ASC Subscriber	<u>1</u>
	31

(3) Shortages which have been failed due to standardized formal OJT Training are in MOS 31M, 36C, 71B, and 72C. Command emphasis in the OJT program insures continuity of courses throughout the battalion.

(4) Unit commanders continued to provide all personnel with the required command information during the reporting period. The Battalion Chaplain conducted classes on character guidance IAW USARV Reg 600-30. Unit commanders also are charged with conducting character guidance training.

(5) The battalion staff scheduled and conducted training inspections during the reporting period as required.

(6) The battalion continues to place emphasis on the weapons qualification and familiarization firing program IAW 1st Signal Brigade Reg 350-5. DA Forms 20 are screened to insure that annual marksmanship qualification is current for all personnel. Special emphasis has been given to weapons and munitions safety by making it an emphasized facet of the familiarization firing program.

h. Operations:

(1) Installation of equipment in the Dial Central Office at Camp Enari was completed. The DCO was cut over on 20 April 1969. Difficulties were encountered with the installation of new telephones; however, by the close of the reporting period, these problems were solved.

(2) An AN/TRC-97B was installed at Dragon Mountain Signal Site to establish a tropospheric communications system to Ban Me Thout. The system was designated BBT14 and once it had proven itself to be reliable, the BBH10 and BBH1C systems were deactivated.

(3) On 11 April 1969, a contingency team from the 107th Signal Company, 972d Battalion, 2d Signal Group, consisting on one (1) AN/MS-29, one (1) WO, and seven (7) EM, was attached to Company A for the purposes of augmenting existing communications. Two circuits,

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SP53 (Dalat) and A2235B (Kontum), were transferred into the AN/MS-29, allowing equipment in the relay station to be used where needed.

(4) A common ground system for all generators in the vicinity of the Pleiku Army Comm-Center was installed. All unused cable pairs entering the Comm-Center facility have been properly grounded. Continuous emphasis is being placed on good grounds for all equipment in the Comm-Center.

(5) The An Khe data facility was deactivated on 10 April 1969, by order of DCA SAM. The sole user of this facility was 1st Cav Finance and their relocation eliminated the need for the facility. The equipment is being prepared for final disposition.

(6) During the month of April, the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division moved to Camp Radcliff. As a result of this move, thirty-five (35) new circuits were activated, five (5) circuits were deactivated, twenty-six (26) Class A telephones and thirty-five (35) Class C telephones were installed. New telephone directories were published and distributed.

(7) On 4 February 1969, construction of an antenna tower at Tan Canh Signal Site was completed. The 37 foot tower, constructed with telephone poles and bridge timbers, was built with the concept of using an AN/TRC-29 antenna for an AN/GRC-50 VHF system (BBW45). The use of this antenna improved the BBW45 system by 30%, thereby improving the subscriber service between Pleiku and Tan Canh. The signal level at both ends was increased by 20 microamperes.

(8) Company C began hiring and training Vietnamese Nationals as switchboard operators under the 1st Signal Brigade Project Six Program. These operators began their final phase of training on 5 April 1969 and have greatly eased the problem of a shortage of personnel in NOS 32C.

(9) Four new systems were activated during the reporting period to provide additional communications to meet increased subscriber requirement throughout the II Corps area. The BBT14 system provides communications between Pleiku and Ban Me Thout. The BBH7D system provides communications between Kontum and Tan Canh. The BBH9O system provides communications between An Khe and Phu Cat and the BBH4D system provides communications between An Khe and Cheo Reo, via a relay at Dragon Mountain Signal Site.

(10) The BBH1B system from An Khe to Cheo Reo, relayed through Dragon Mountain, is demodulated at Dragon Mountain and redesignated

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as BBH4D from Dragon Mountain to Cheo Reo.

(11) During the quarter there were a total of 52 circuits deactivated and 54 activated. 31 of the circuit activation were in support of the 4th Infantry Division Combat Operations.

(12) During the reporting period, ground systems throughout the battalion were checked with an earth tester (Null Balance), manufactured by James G. Biddle Company, Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, catalog number 63220.

1. Logistics:

(1) Company C, located at Kontum, is responsible for resupply of its signal sites at Cheo Reo, Tan Canh and Dak To. Lack of adequate transportation delays resupply of these isolated sites. The overall efficiency of Company C is sometimes hampered by these delays. Unscheduled helicopter runs were utilized during the last reporting period for delivery of supplies, equipment and distribution; however, a more reliable means of delivery is required.

(2) HHD, Company A, and 278th Signal Company have made vast improvements in their respective motor pool and parking areas. Crushed rock, obtained from 815th Engineer Battalion was spread throughout the areas greatly reducing dust and improving appearance.

(3) During the reporting period all PLL's and MSS's within the battalion were reviewed with the intention of reducing unnecessary line items and decreasing the zero balance line items. Items not demand supported were deleted and returned to the supply system.

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

a. Personnel:

(1) Need for Fixed Station Technical Controllers:

(a) OBSERVATION: The Pleiku Tech Control Section has a critical shortage of fixed station technical controllers (32D20). Tactical Circuit Control Specialists (31N20) are being used as replacements, but are unfamiliar with the equipment in the AN/MSQ-73 van.

(b) EVALUATION: All Tactical Circuit Control Specialists (31N) must undergo a lengthy, time-consuming training program in order to enhance the operation. Due to losses of trained personnel, the time

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spent on training had to be reduced to a bare minimum. This resulted in an increase of circuit outages and a decrease of quality communications.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A determined effort has to be made to obtain a minimum of one (1) Fixed Station Technical Supervisor (32D40) and four (4) Fixed Station Technical Controllers (32D20).

(2) Need for Comm-Center Maintenance Personnel:

(a) OBSERVATION: During the reporting period a significant shortage of qualified Comm-Center maintenance personnel existed throughout the battalion.

(b) EVALUATION: The state of maintenance of COMSEC and other Comm-Center equipment will deteriorate unless relief is obtained. Specific shortages exist in MOS's 32G and 32F. The requirement for personnel in MOS 32G will increase with the activation of AUTOSEVOCOM SECORD in the immediate future.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That steps be taken to obtain the needed personnel.

b. Operations:

(1) Cutover of Dial Telephone Exchange:

(a) OBSERVATION: Difficulties were encountered during the cutover of the Camp Enari Dial Telephone Exchange due to improper number assignments, use of outside plant cable pairs by tactical units, and miswiring in the main distribution frame.

(b) EVALUATION: The numbering system was assigned by the 4th Infantry Division Signal Officer. It was inadequate in subscriber assignments and uneven in assignment of numbers in the hundred groups. The installation of the DTE doubled the amount of cable required for the outside plant. Tactical units on post were using the cable since its installation. Problems were encountered removing these circuits from the cable plant and the clearing is still in progress. Due to the time element involved, the straps in the M.D.F. were not checked resulting in many improper cross-connects. Excessive time was spent correcting these mistakes.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A knowledgeable and experienced team should be formed to assist inexperienced personnel with the planning and the

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actual cutover for any future DTE facilities. All of the problems mentioned in (a) above could have been avoided by such an assistance team.

(2) Inefficiency of AN/FGC-25 for Relay Operations:

(a) OBSERVATION: Use of the AN/FGC-25 Teletypewriter Set, designed for terminal operations, continues to hamper efficient operation of the Pleiku Minor Relay.

(b) EVALUATION: The AN/FGC-25 was intended for use in tributary stations as terminal equipment for the termination of low volume traffic. It does not provide monitor reel capability essential for efficient tape relay operations.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Emphasis should be placed on acquiring AN/FGX-70X Teletypewriter sets designed specifically for relay operations.

(3) Excessive Cable Outages:

(a) OBSERVATION: Enemy activity and poor installation of multi-pair cable contributed to numerous outages for extended periods of time.

(b) EVALUATION: Over head installation of cable systems makes them vulnerable to enemy action and subject to the effects of storms and weather.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Underground construction of cable systems should be used whenever possible. This will allow for more protection from enemy action, vehicles, and the elements.

c. Training:

Training of Local Nationals as Switchboard Operators:

(1) OBSERVATION: Problems have been encountered in training and replacing switchboard operators due to rotation of military personnel.

(2) EVALUATION: The idea of requesting additional military personnel or hiring local nationals was evaluated. The best solution to the problem was to hire and train local nationals under 1st Signal Brigade Project Six Program.

(3) RECOMMENDATION: Due to the success of this project, more

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slots should be authorized for local nationals under the program mentioned in (b) above.

d. Intelligence:

(1) Detonation of Explosives by Fire:

(a) OBSERVATION: Installation of claymore mines in concrete makes it impossible to remove them for periodic defoliation.

(b) EVALUATION: It is essential to install claymore mines in concrete to preclude tampering by infiltrators. Many of the areas where claymore mines are employed are enveloped by foliage. Defoliation by fire could cause accidental detonation of the mines.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Prior to the installation of claymore mines the area should be thoroughly defoliated. Once installation of the mines is completed only a chemical defoliant should be used. Constant attention must be given to perimeters to prevent overgrowth from reaching the point where burning is required.

(2) Flank Firing Aperture for Bunkers:

(a) OBSERVATION: Personnel manning flank firing apertures of defensive bunkers are able to fire directly at adjacent bunker complexes.

(b) EVALUATION: It is essential to return fire from flank apertures; however, this is hazardous to friendly personnel in adjacent bunkers.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: A device is necessary to remind the firer that his line of fire is approaching the adjacent bunker. A strip of wood nailed upright just prior to the line of fire into the adjacent bunker has proven to be successful.

e. Logistics: None

f. Organization: None

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g. Others: None

~~5 Incl~~

as

Incls wd HQ, DA

JAMES G. TICE

LTC, SigC

Commanding

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SCCPV-NG-OPT (May 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, APO 96240 24 May 1969

TO:

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the basic report and concurs with the information and comments contained therein with the following complementary or exceptions relative to referenced paragraphs:
 - a. Para 1b, page 2. The UIC codes for the 278th Signal Company and 586th Signal Company are incorrect; the correct listing should be WCF3AA and WCF6AA, respectively.
 - b. Para 1d(2), page 3. MOS 31J is in short supply throughout 21st Signal Group. At the present time incoming 31J are handled on a case by case situation to determine where the most critical need is at the time of his arrival. Since 1 May two EM with MOS 31J have been diverted to the 43rd Sig Bn to assist and alleviate their present shortage. Shortages in MOS 31M exist throughout the Group. Requisitioning procedures appear to be adequate but DA fill does not meet requirements particularly in the higher grades. The result is an overall shortage and a critical shortage of Senior NCO's. In MOS 72C, the number short indicates the difference between authorized and assigned, however the actual mission requirement is much less than the authorization and actually in line with the number presently assigned. For this reason the number short is not indicative of the battalion's ability to accomplish their mission.
 - c. Para 1e(6)(a), pages 6 and 7. The majority of enemy activity noted did not directly affect the respective sites, e.g. an average distance 300 - 1000 meters from the site recording such activity.
 - d. Para 1e(6)(c)(3), page 7. Date should be 20 March 1969 instead of 2 March 1969.
 - e. Para 1h(9), page 10. The system designater on line 5 is incorrect; it should read BBH9D instead of BBH9Ø.
 - f. Para 1i(1), page 11. The 43rd Signal Battalion has and continues to receive its proportionate share of aviation support from the 21st Signal Group Aviation Section; as of this date (22 May 69) the battalion is supported four days per week with a UH1H helicopter. Additional support, for emergency requirements, is on call.

24 May 1969


SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

g. Para 2a(1), page 11. The 1st Signal Brigade Training Facility conducts a Systems Control Course which provides enlisted and officer personnel with a working knowledge of the concepts, procedures and equipment necessary to restore and trouble shoot systems and circuit outages. The 43rd Signal Battalion has been apprised of this course and invited to request allocations for their personnel to attend this course; no such request was made during the past quarter.

h. Para 2a(2), page 12. The number of 32F's presently assigned the 43rd Sig Bn is either equal to or in excess of the number of authorized spaces. This headquarters is aware of the additional personnel needs due to the present mission requirements. At the present time, 1st Signal Brigade has indicated that until 32F's are available, units will not be required to activate AUTOSEVCOM. The number of 32G's presently assigned to 43rd Signal Battalion is in excess of the number of authorized spaces and satisfies the needs of the present mission requirements.

i. Para 2b(1), page 12. The 4th Infantry Division Signal Officer stated that the DTE was in support of the division and asserted his desires in assigning telephone numbers throughout the division. As the outside cable plant installation progressed, cable pairs were seized to provide 4th Infantry Division subscribers manual telephone service between the multitude of tactical switchboards in use in the Camp Enari complex; these pairs were not surrendered for purpose of installing dial telephone in preparation of cut-over to the DTE, thus at cutover many subscribers were without dial phone service until the cable pairs were surrendered. It is recommended that Communication Systems Engineering and Management Agency, 1st Signal Brigade who has responsibility for Class IV projects insure that a Class IV project is completely operational and functioning normally prior to delivery to the operating agency.

j. Para 2b(2), page 13. Responsible staff sections of 21st Signal Group and 1st Signal Brigade are coordinating to obtain required equipment.


THOMAS C. MUSGRAVE
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

SCCFV-OP-SD (May 69) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFCR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCGI), APO 96384 20 June 1969

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 with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Paragraph 1d(1), page 2. This paragraph reflects a relatively stable strength posture during the reporting period.

b. Paragraph 1d(2), page 3. Input of MOS's indicated in this paragraph continue at a slow rate of fill. All efforts are being made to assure equitable distribution of these MOS's throughout the Brigade. During the reporting period the Brigade received a total of eight (8) MOS 31J. Headquarters 21st Signal Group received two (2) out of the eight (8).

c. Paragraph 2a(1), page 11. In view of 21st Signal Group Commander's comments (Paragraph 2g, 1st Ind), and the figures indicated below, there does not appear to be a critical shortage of MOS 32D.

<u>MOS</u>	<u>43rd Signal Bn</u>	<u>21st Group</u>
	Auth/Asgd	Auth/Asgd
32D	7 6	18 20

d. Paragraph 2a(2), page 12. Concur in 21st Signal Group Commander's comments (Paragraph 2h, 1st Ind). The following figures indicate the 43rd Signal Battalion is operating well within its authorized strength:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>43rd Signal Bn</u>	<u>21st Group</u>
	Auth/Asgd	Auth/Asgd
32G	0 4	1 13
32F	1 2	4 5

e. Paragraph 2b(1), page 12 and paragraph 2i, 1st Ind.

(1) Camp Enari DTE cutover director from 278th Signal Company was designated by 21st Signal Group upon approval of the 43rd Signal Battalion DCO cutover plan. Cutover director for all new Dial Centrals is now vested

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period Ending
30 April 1969, ACS CSFOR-65 (R1)

in Southeast Asia Telephone Management Agency to correct conditions existing at Camp Enari.

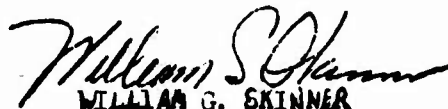
(2) Communications System Engineering and Management Agency (CSEMA), prepares the Engineering Drawings and BOM for outside plant construction. Mission tasking orders are issued for construction, installation, test and acceptance by the operating unit. Camp Enari outside plant was already installed and operating prior to the DCO activation. Both the AN/MTC-9 operated by 276th Signal Company, 43rd Signal Battalion and SMCUS Switchboard operated by the 4th Infantry Division were utilizing cable distribution plant operated and maintained by the 276th Signal Company. The construction order to half tap operating cables was issued to 21st Signal Group who in turn tasked the 576th Signal Co (Construction) to perform work.

(3) CSEMA has adopted a policy of assigning the original project engineer or a designated alternate to supervise acceptance tests and certify conformance to original engineering specifications. The responsibility for the cable remains with the installation unit and the O&M unit accepting the plant in place.

f. Paragraph 2b(2), page 13. Pleiku is scheduled for upgrade beginning in August 1969. Installation will include five AN/FCC-70's.

g. Paragraph 2b(3), page 13. It is the Brigade policy to engineer cable projects for underground where possible.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


WILLIAM G. SKINNER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CG: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command, AITM: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, APO 96240
Commanding Officer, 43rd Signal Battalion, APO 96318

AVHGC-DST (30 May 1969) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43d Signal Battalion for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 13 JUL 1969

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

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 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 43d Signal Battalion.

2. Reference item concerning "Training of Local Nationals as Switchboard Operators," section II, page 13, paragraph c; concur. A USARV manpower survey of the 1st Signal Brigade's Augmentation TDA is now in progress. Under the civilianization program, military spaces can be exchanged for civilian spaces. The survey will include consideration of the cited recommendation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



A.R. GUENTHER
CPT. AGC
ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

Cy furn:
43d Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (30 May 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 43rd Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command - Pacific,
APO San Francisco 96557

29 AUG 1969

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (30 May 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 43d Signal Battalion
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 18 SEP 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Cy furn:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

SCC-PO-CERA (30 May 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 43d Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 Apr 69, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 8 OCT 1969

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

This Headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Robert A. Mall
ROBERT A. MALL
Captain, AGC
Asst Adj Gen

CF:
CG USASTRATCOM-PAC

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