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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

AGDA (M) (12 Nov 69) FOR OT UT 693322

18 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 63d Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, 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

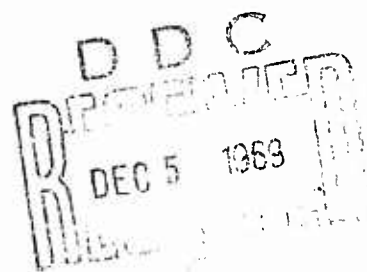
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ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion
APO 96308

SOCCIV-PG-PB

31 July 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion
(Army) for Period ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. General:

(1) The 63rd Signal Battalion functioned on a stable basis during the past quarter. The units of the Battalion continued to improve living areas, communications facilities and operational areas with major emphasis directed at improving subscriber service.

(2) The mission of the 63rd Signal Battalion remains the same. The units of the battalion continue to provide support on a fixed station and mission basis. Systems were both activated and deactivated in order to give high quality communications to the subscribers wherever they might be located.

(3) During the past reporting period the 63rd Signal Battalion undertook a program to improve subscriber service with emphasis on switchboard operation and maintenance.

(4) All units of the battalion continued to prepare for the coming Quality Assurance inspection.

(5) The organizational structure of the battalion, to include organic, assigned and attached units under the battalion's operational control, is listed in enclosure 1.

b. Activities:

(1) During 28 April - 3 May, the 596th Signal Company moved into a new operations building providing better command and control for signal operations.

(2) During 28 April - 3 May, the 588th Signal Company was awarded Best Mess Hall Award.

(3) During 5-10 May, the IG Inspection for the Battalion was conducted.

(4) On 6 May the 596th Signal Company completed construction of the intermediate distribution frame room at Gia Le Signal Site.

FOR OT UT

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(5) On 10 May four personnel of the 270th Signal Company deployed to Berchtesgaden to install a 12 channel VHF System.

(6) During the week 11-17 May, B/37th Signal Company completed erection of a large tent as their new maintenance facility.

(7) During the week 11-17 May, the 596th Signal Company activated FFH57 and FFH58 to support the 101st Airborne Division's operation in the A Shau Valley.

(8) On 18 May the 63rd Signal Battalion supplied a large percent of communications for the visit of Secretary of State Rodgers.

(9) On 25-30 May, the 270th Signal Company activated the FFH78 System from Camp Eagle to Birmingham Fire Support Base.

(10) During the week 1-7 June, B/37th Signal Company constructed an EMS Shop at Camp Evans.

(11) On 3 June, CPT John E. Lomen assumed command of 596th Signal Company.

(12) During the week 1-7 June, the 17th Signal Platoon completed construction of 50 pair cable to the 220th AVN Battalion.

(13) On 2 June, MAJ Roy B. Shrout became Battalion Executive Officer.

(14) On 8 June, LTC Julian S. Wild became Commander of the 63rd Signal Battalion.

(15) During the week 15-22 June, the 588th Signal Company constructed cable shop for its cable platoon.

(16) During the week 15-22 June, B/37th Signal Company constructed a new commcenter at Camp Evans.

(17) On 25 June, the MACV RTT Net was deactivated by the 596th Signal Company.

(18) From 19-22 June, the 270th Signal Company conducted a FTX in the Phu Bai area.

(19) On 24 June, CPT Roy Burdine assumed command of the 270th Signal Company.

(20) On 4 July the 596th Signal Company deactivated the O&I Net.

(21) During the week 6-12 July, B/37th Signal Company, moved its orderly room to a new building to provide better operation of company activities.

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(22) During the week 13-19 July, the mess hall personnel of the 270th Signal Company painted the mess hall.

(23) On 17 July, MCB-11 reconstructed the wireman's hutch for B/37th Signal Company.

(24) During the week 20-26 July, the 17th Signal Platoon completed repair of the cable from the MACV Compound to 1st ARVN Division Headquarters in the Citadel at Hue.

(25) During the week 20-26 July, 596th Signal Company relocated the VHF facilities at Fire Base Birmingham.

(26) On 22 July, CPT Bingham Willson assumed command of HHC 63rd Signal Battalion.

c. Personnel and Administration

(1) During the first month of the quarter, the battalion received replacements equaling the number of losses to keep the battalion strength figure of 1070 quite stable. The severe shortages in maintenance personnel were alleviated during this period.

(2) The majority of personnel turnover started during June and increased during July. During this same time period a sharp decrease in replacements was experienced causing the battalion's total strength figure to fall to the 960 level.

(3) The local Industrial Relations Department has not been functional for the battalion due to USARV freeze on hiring. Under Program 6, one switchboard operator quit and could not be replaced bringing the assigned total down to five. Augmentation personnel have remained the same. When local Nationals quit, soldiers must fill the gap removing them from mission essential jobs. The freeze on hiring will have an adverse effect on the mission as local Nationals are not being replaced when they quit.

(4) There is not much variation in the courier system this quarter. Correspondence going North moves with relative promptness, taking one day to reach its destination. Returning correspondence is slower as it passes through XXIV Corps and 12th Signal Group before it reaches this Headquarters. More trips have been initiated to hasten correspondence between the two Headquarters.

(5) The number of recommendations for awards has increased and those approved have returned at an average of 42 days ranging from 21 to 94 days. This has been effective in the organization as deserving individuals have been recognized while still in the battalion. Towards the end of the quarter, however, the number approved has decreased considerably compared to those recommended.

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d. Security:

- (1) During the reporting period there were no security violations or administrative violations.
- (2) Physical security and counterintelligence inspections continue to be conducted as outlined in current regulations.
- (3) There are only 19 controlled documents on hand and these are reviewed monthly for possible downgrading or destruction.

e. Safety:

- (1) An effective safety program is now in existence in the battalion. Five minute talks are given at the beginning of the work day by section chiefs. Unsafe practices are being corrected on the spot.
- (2) Accident exposure rate for the quarter:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>MAN-DAYS</u>	<u>MILEAGE</u>
MAY	Mil-23630	34,215
JUN	Mil-23650	33,985
JUL	Mil-23660	36,753

f. Training:

- (1) The communication supervisors training, delayed because of the AIG, has been instituted. Site OICs and NCOICs learn procedures and techniques that are necessary for communications operations in Southeast Asia.
- (2) The 1st Signal Brigade's USATF has trained many of the Battalion's personnel, thus helping to alleviate shortages in certain MOS.

g. Logistics:

- (1) Consolidation of Battalion Supply Facilities: The 63rd Signal Battalion face a critical situation during the last two months due to the shortage of qualified personnel in the supply field. It was decided that the only practical solution to this problem would be to consolidate all the property books within the battalion at the S4 at Phu Bai. One of the most noticeable improvements will be the efficient control of supplies within the battalion which will result in a faster re-supply for the companies, and more efficient supply economy for the Army Supply System. Another big advantage of this operation is the reduction of paperwork. In the past all matters of supply were passed on to the companies; they can now be answered at Battalion level, and in a much shorter time frame.

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The consolidation will also mean that the companies will be able to release personnel formerly working in the unit supplies to other mission essential jobs.

(2) Supply Assistance Visitations: The PLL program within the 63rd Signal Battalion has recently been augmented by the addition of Supply Assistance Visits by the staff of the Battalion S4. A problem area exists in that there are no school trained PLL clerks in the companies. Extensive training was initiated and repeat visits were made to check on PLL clerks' progress. The effect of this program has been outstanding, and has noticeably increased the Repair Parts Stockage balance of this battalion.

h. Operations:

(1) During the reporting period, units of the battalion continued to operate a variety of multi-channel systems.

(2) A summary of system activations and deactivations is shown below:

FFH73	LZS - LZP	5 May	Deactivated
FFH58	BGDH - EGL	11 May	Activated
77UH09	QTR - DGH	14 May	Deactivated
FFH57	HUN - EGL	14 May	Activated
FFH76	QTA - DGH	22 May	Deactivated
FFH78	EGL - FBH	10 May	Activated

(3) The 63rd Signal Battalion operated ten (10) switchboards in Northern I Corps area. There are nine (9) area switchboards and one (1) TOC switchboard at nine (9) locations. Efforts are being made to replace the MTC-9 at Camp Eagle with a TTC-28.

(4) The following cable projects were completed during the last quarter: Camp Red Devil Distribution.

(5) Switchboard Facilities:

Thu Bai DTE	1000 Line Stromberg-Carlson
Dynamic TOC	MTC-1
Gia Lo	MTC-1
Eagle	MTC-9
Hue MACV	MTC-1

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Hue Citadel	MTC-7 (On Standby)
Camp Evans	2 - TTC-7
Quang Tri Army	MTC-9
Quang Tri City	MTC-3
Cau Viet	SB-86
Tam My Port	SB-22

(6) Phu Bai Dial Telephone Exchange: The Phu Bai Dial Telephone Exchange is an 1000 line XX Stromberg Carlson exchange. The present fill at the exchange follows:

(a) Trunks: 100

(b) Class A Mainline Instruments installed: 251

(c) Class C Mainline Instruments installed: 563

(7) Cable surveys completed during the reporting period are the following:

(a) Phu Bai Rehab 12th Sig Gp

(b) Camp Eagle Distribution 63rd Sig Bn

(8) During the reporting period the following cable was installed:

Phu Bai	1100 ft	600 pr	PE 23	For O&M
Phu Bai	6000 ft	200 pr	IE 22	For O&M
Phu Bai	8500 ft	50 pr	PE 22	For O&M
Phu Bai	7000 ft	25 pr	PE 38	For O&M
Camp Eagle	300ft	100 pr	PE 23	For O&M

1. Visitors:

(1) On 11 June, LTC Barry, J-6 MAR, visited 270th and 596th Signal Companies.

(2) On 13 June COL Crawford visited Hue MACV and Hue Citadel.

(3) On 14 June, COL Crawford visited MIB DTE and VHF Sites.

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- (4) On 15 June COL Crawford visited TOC SWBD, C/C and HF Site.
- (5) On 23 June COL Crawford visited Northern Sites.
- (6) On 25 June COL Crawford visited Battalion Staff Sections.
- (7) On 2 July BG Albright visited 63rd Signal Battalion.
- (8) During 15 July - 28 July, XXIV Corps Signal Officers visited all 63rd Signal Battalion Sites.
- (9) On 24 July MAJ Zabriski, 12th Signal Group, visited 588th Signal Company.
- (10) On 30 July COL Medinger, COL Johnson, and LTC Enderle visited the 63rd Signal Battalion. COL Medinger also presented the Meritorious Unit Citation to HHC, 596th, and B/37th.
- (11) On 1 August, Gen Chandle visited the 63rd Signal Battalion.

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

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

(1) Cutting of Phone Lines

(a) OBSERVATION: Twice in one week vital phone lines were cut because of a lack of communication between pole linemen and the telephone exchange.

(b) EVALUATION: The cable cuts which resulted in breaking communications from important sources of command happened because the lineman was not informed properly on which lines he should have cut. If the lineman fails to get the necessary information, or if this information is incorrect, the result will be outages of phone service which should not occur.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That better coordination be established between the telephone exchange and the linemen.

(2) Use of Proper Equipment

(a) OBSERVATION: During a recent cable project, it was proved that extra work and valuable time was wasted because the cable unit did not have the proper digging equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: When trenches have to be dug for laying new cable or relocating old cable, a lot of hard work and time is wasted when the men must dig by hand. The job can be done efficiently and quickly when the proper equipment is available for use by the cable unit.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: On future projects, the securing of the proper equipment before hand can get the project done more quickly and efficiently and save ample time for other projects.

(3) Safety for Operators and Prevention of Equipment Damage

(a) OBSERVATION: It was noted that VME/CRX Equipment in a communication van configuration can be dislodged and scattered due to the force of an explosion.

(b) EVALUATION: When components of the above configuration are returned fully into their racks and secured, damage to the equipment and injury to operators are lessened during enemy explosives directed at or near the shelter. The reason for this is that the secured gear cannot be dislodged and the front plate of the component acts as a shield against internal parts being forced into the operators' area.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION: When alerted to the possibility of enemy attacks, operators should return all components fully into the racks, and tighten all retaining screws, time and safety permitting.

(4) Telephone Test Set TS-712/TCC-11

(a) OBSERVATION: The operation of the Telephone Test Set can be difficult in a climate such as exists in Vietnam.

(b) EVALUATION: Because of extreme heat, humidity, or a great amount of sand, operators may find that their test sets do not function properly. In Vietnam, all of these climatic conditions exist. The main problem, however, is the amount of sand and dust which enters the equipment and hampers the working parts.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: When operated in tropical climates, the TS-712 Test Set should be installed in an area which protects it most from the natural forces. When the equipment is not in use, it should be covered to prevent excess dust and sand from getting into it.

(5) Splicing Underground Cable

(a) OBSERVATION: Splicing underground cable can be difficult if splicing holes are not large enough.

(b) EVALUATION: When digging holes for splicing underground cable, the splicing team should make certain that they know the size of hole necessary for the splicers to work on the cable. A hole for splicing cable should be about 12 inches deeper than the cable and at least 48 inches in diameter to allow two splicers to work in one hole.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: When underground cable needs splicing, insure that a large enough hole is dug so that splicers can accomplish their job as quickly and easily as possible.

(6) Installing New Switchboard SE-22/PT

(a) OBSERVATION: On new equipment, the operators' line pack may be difficult to remove.

(b) EVALUATION: In some cases, the line pack has been damaged in attempting to force it out of the case. Remove the line pack nearest the operators' pack first, then pull the operators' pack straight out of the case to prevent damaging the connectors at the rear of the pack.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: When working with equipment such as the above, the greatest care should be taken to insure that no damage occurs to the new equipment.

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(7) Rodent Control

(a) OBSERVATION: The control of rodents is a problem in most parts of Vietnam.

(b) EVALUATION: One unit in the 63rd Signal Battalion has come up with a new method for trapping rodents. It discovered that rats are attracted to peanut butter over all other bait. The unit used this bait and caught 3 rats on the first night.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Got a rat problem? Try peanut butter!

3. Section 3, Headquarters Department of the Army Survey Information:

Omitted

2 Incl
Organic, Assigned,
~~Attached OPCOM Units~~
Incl 2 wd HQ. DA
DISTRIBUTION:

Julian S. Wile
JULIAN S. WILE
LTC, SC
Commanding

- 2 - CINCSARPAC, ATTN: GPOF - DT, APO 96558
- 3 - CG, USAFV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375
- 1 - CG, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SGGVOP, APO 96384
- 5 - CO, 12th Signal Group, APO 96308
- 1 - Each Staff Section, 63rd Signal Battalion, APO 96308
- 1 - Each Subordinate Unit, 63rd Signal Battalion

SCCPV-PGOI (31 Jul 1969) 1st Inc

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 31 Jul 1969, RCS OSFOR-65 (RI)

DA, HQ, 12th Signal Group, APO 96308

22 Aug 1969

TO: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCVOP,
APO 96384

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 indorsed.



A. B. CRAWFORD JR.
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

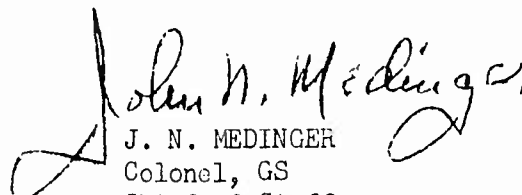
SCCPV-OP-SD (31 Jul 69) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63rd Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRAITCOM), APO 96384 8 September 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.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


J. N. MEDINGER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:
Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
Commanding Officer, 12th Signal Group, APO 96308
Commanding Officer, 63rd Signal Battalion, APO 96308

AVHGC-DST (31 Jul 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 63d Signal Battalion (Army) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)


HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 24

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 31 July 1969 from Headquarters 63d Signal Battalion.
2. Reference item concerning "Cutting of Phone Lines", section II, page 8, paragraph 2b(1); concur. Even if the lineman is given some incorrect information, outages will not occur if the lineman rings down cable pairs prior to cutting. This will at least insure that he is on the proper cable.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


B. A. GORDON
CPT, AG
Assistant Adjutant General

63d Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (31 Jul 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters 63d Signal Battalion (Army)
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-Pacific, APO
San Francisco 96557 0 3 OCT 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. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (31 July 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 63d Signal Battalion (Army) for
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS-CSFOR-65 (R1)

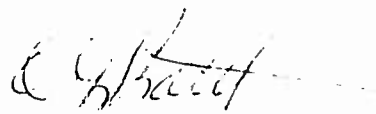
HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 8 OCT 69

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. SHORTE
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CF:
DA, ACSFOR
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC

1
SCC-PO-CERA (31 Jul 69) 6th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 63d Signal Battalion (Army) for
Period Ending 31 Jul 69, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, US Army Strategic Communications Command, Fort Huachuca,
Arizona 85613 1 6 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

63RD SIGNAL BATTALION

ASSIGNED

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Company B, 37th Signal Battalion

588th Signal Company (Support)

596th Signal Company (Support)

270th Signal Company (Support)

17th Signal Platoon (Cable)

OPERATIONAL CONTROL

2 AUTOSEVOCOM Teams, Regional Comm Group (Rations, Quarters, UCMJ, Logistics, and Maintenance)

ATTACHED

COMSEC Logistic Support Unit, 706th Signal Detachment (Rations, Quarters, UCMJ, and Logistic Support)

Photo Team, 221st Signal Company (Rations and Quarters)

Enclosure 1

UNCLASSIFIED

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		2b. GROUP
3. REPORT TITLE		
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 63d Signal Battalion		
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Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 May 69 to 31 July 69.		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)		
CO, 63d Signal Battalion		
6. REPORT DATE	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES	7b. NO. OF REFS
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