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AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

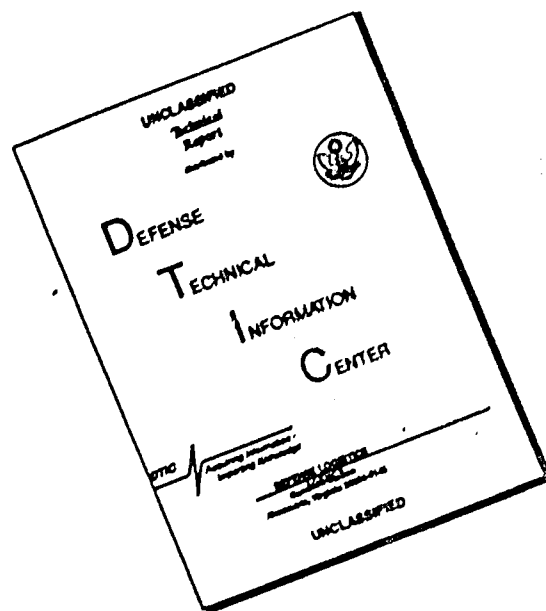
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (20 Apr 70) FOR OT MT 701266

24 April 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 169th Engineer Battalion, Period Ending 31 January 1970

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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 ACSEFOR OI 11, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ENGINEER BATTALION, 169th  
AIG 491

FORM-OF

14 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, AIG 491, for  
Period Ending 31 January 1970

FORM DISTRIBUTION:

Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities.

1. Command:

a. Organization: This report covers activities of the 169th Engineer Battalion from 1 February 1969 to 31 January 1970. The Battalion was commanded by Lt Col Robert S. McGarry from 1 November 1969 to 4 January 1970 and Lt Col Nick J. Andre from 4 January 1970 to 31 January 1970.

b. Mission: The mission of the 169th Engineer Battalion in the theater of operations is: to construct and rehabilitate roads and airfields, pipeline systems, structure, and utilities; to provide combat and operational support; and to assist in emergency recovery operations as directed by the 159th Engineer Group. In addition to the TO&E mission as stated above, the Commanding Officer of the 169th Engineer Battalion is designated as Subsector Commander and has the responsibility for the security of Long Binh Post in his subsector. The subsector responsibility includes a 2700 meter portion of the Long Binh Post Perimeter.

c. Area of Responsibility: The 169th Engineer Battalion's area of responsibility includes the provinces of Binh Tuy and Long Khanh. Additional responsibilities include missions in the Long Binh/Tien Hoa complex.

d. Assignment: The 169th Engineer Battalion has been assigned to the 159th Engineer Group since 30 May 1966. The Battalion headquarters is located at Long Binh, RVN.

e. Movements, Attachments and Detachments: During the quarter the 169th Engineer Battalion had the following attached units. They are the 3-4th Construction Support Company (6 Officers and 165 EM authorized), 43d Engineer Company (DT) (3 Officers and 109 EM authorized), 22d Engineer Detachment (WD) (2EM), 38th Engineer Detachment (WD) (2EM), 156th Engineer Detachment (DT) (2EM), 151st Engineer Detachment (WD) (2EM), 917th Engineer Detachment (DT) (2EM) and EM platoon, Company D, 92d Engineer Battalion (1 Officer and 3- EM).

Headquarters, A Company and the 43d Engineer Company (DT) continue to be located at Long Binh Post in the 169th Engineer Battalion cantonment area. B Company continues to be located at their base camp near the village of Phoung Lam, on QL-20. C Company remained at their base camp on QL-20 near the FOR OT UT

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village of Xa Binh Hoa. D Company remains at their base camp on QL-20 and the La Nga River. On 1 December 1969 the 544th Engineer Company (CS) moved from their base camp at Nui Ba Dinh to the industrial site and base camp located on QL-20 at Nui Soc Lu. The entire company was moved by 12 December 1969. The 92nd EM platoon arrived at C Company on 4 December 1969 and moved to D Company base camp on 20 December 1969.

f. Visitors and Awards:

(1) During this reporting period the work sites and base camps of the 169th Engineer Battalion were visited by LT General Clark (Chief of Engineers), BG John A. B. Dillard (Command General Engineer Troops USARV), BG Robert M. Tarbox (Command General USAECAV) and MG H.D. McGown (IITV), COL E.T. O'Donnell (18th BDE CO), COL E.J. Fuller (Dpty CO, 18th BDE) and COL John Perkins III (IITV)

(2) During this reporting period the battalion has awarded 33 Bronze Stars, 101 Army Commendation Medals, 5 Purple Hearts, and 6 20th Brigade Certificates of Achievement. Breakdown for the three months reflects a marked increase in January due to the use of the new pre-printed format for recommendations for the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal, which was initiated in mid-November.

	<u>Bronze Star</u>	<u>ARCOM</u>
November	9	12
December	6	29
January	12	60

2. Personnel, Morale and Discipline:

a. Personnel:

(1) General Order No. 609 reorganized the 169th Engineer Battalion effective 25 October 1969 under TOE 5-115G, with a total authorized strength of 38 Officers and 869 Enlisted men. One of the two major attached units, the 43rd Engineer Company (DT) is organized under TOE 5-124G with a total assigned strength of 4 Officers and 109 Enlisted men. The other, the 544th Engineer Company (CS), attached on 31 October 1969 per General Order 53, Headquarters 159th Engineer Group dated 31 October 1969, is organized under TOE 5-114D plus an augmentation of two Quarry Sections assigned per General Order 61, Headquarters, 159th Engineer Group dated 27 December 1969, bringing their total authorized strength to 4 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, and 171 Enlisted men. The personnel strengths of the 169th Engineer Battalion and attached units for the reporting period were as follows:

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(a) November 1969 (As of last day of the month)

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Authorized	40	10	1153	1203
Assigned	45	11	974	1020

(b) December 1969

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Authorized	40	10	1153	1203
Assigned	41	11	1134	1186

(c) January 1970

	<u>OFF</u>	<u>WO</u>	<u>EM</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Authorized	40	10	1153	1203
Assigned	40	10	1085	1135

(2) The following is critical over-strengths and under-strengths according to TOE.

(a) Six MOS overstrengths are as follows:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASSIGNED/AUTHORIZED</u>
51N20	Water Supply Spec	E-4/3	9/4
62E20	Crawler Tractor Oper	E-5,4	44/28
62K20	Grader Operator	E-5	33/18
76A10	Supply Clerk	E-3	12/9
76Q20	Repair Parts Spec	E-5,4	11/9
76Y30	Unit Supply Spec	E-4	8/5

(b) Significant areas of understrength include construction supervision, and maintenance. These include:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>ASSIGNED/AUTHORIZED</u>
36K20	Wireman	E-4,3	7/13
51A10	Utilities Worker	E-3	4/26
51B20	Carpenter	E-5,4	63/72
51H40	Construction Supv	E-7,6	24/32
62L20	Wheel Tractor Operator	E-5,4	31/45
72M20	Excavator Operator	E-5,4	15/21
72N20	Heavy Mach Supv	E-7,6	12/21
72P20	Heavy Truck Driver	E-5,4	118/146
72R20	Auto Data Spec	E-4	1/6

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(3) The imbalance in MOS strength is a result of the difference between the requirements listed in the TOE and the present mission of the battalion. Replacements having different MOS are given OJT in the needed MOS. For example plumbers (51K) who are not essential to the present mission are being trained as construction foremen, truck drivers and equip operators.

b. Health and Sanitation:

(1) The physical conditions and overall health of the personnel are excellent. Good personal hygiene, cleanliness, and personal protective measures are emphasized continuously.

(2) The mess halls and sanitation facilities are inspected regularly, and have been found to be in satisfactory condition. Deficiencies and recommendations are reported to the respective companies for corrective action.

(3) Venereal Disease remains a major problem within the battalion. Personal protective measures are continuously stressed to the troops.

c. Morale:

(1) The battalion theater continues to show movies 7 nights a week and movies are shown 5 nights out of seven in each of the four (4) isolated base camps.

(2) The isolated companies have improved morale during the quarter by establishing joint officer/PI clubs operated as other sundry fund activities.

(3) The PX Annex in the battalion continues to service the isolated companies by weekly runs to each base camp with the "Mobile PX".

(4) During the past reporting period each of the base camps had the benefit of Special Services sponsored entertainment which visited each isolated location.

(5) R&R allocations for the 169th Engineer Battalion averaged 60 leaves per month for out-of country locations. Out-of-country R&R allocations are deemed adequate although each month many people are unable to go to the more popular sites such as Australia, due to insufficient allocations to that site. These people are either routed to other countries or instructed to re-apply the following month. In-Country R&R allocations to Vung Tau are not deemed adequate. This battalion received 5 allocations in November, 5 allocations in December and no allocations in January. In-country R&R's are used to reward servicemen who perform in an exemplary manner and are also used in conjunction with the reenlistment incentive program, therefore play an important part in overall morale.

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c. Discipline: During the reporting period there have been 108 company grade article 15's given and 26 field grade article 15's. The majority of these article 15's were for failure to report for duty and disobedience of orders. Nine special court martials have been convened during the reporting period.

d. Casualties: During the reporting period the battalion has suffered the following casualties:

(1) Killed: 2, Two personnel, were killed when their helicopter (OH-6) struck a power line.

(2) Wounded in Action: Three personnel suffered grenade fragment wounds when their truck was ambushed on QL-20.

(3) Injuries, non hostile causes: The battalion suffered 16 persons injured during the period. The majority of these injuries were sustained in vehicle accidents. One of the injuries was caused by an accidentally self-inflicted gunshot wound during firefight on the Long Binh perimeter. Three of the 16 required medical evacuation to out-of-country hospitals.

(4) The battalion had 7 people evacuated from Vietnam due to disease and 2 for psychiatric disorders.

### 3. Intelligence, Counter Intelligence, and Enemy Activity:

#### a. Intelligence and Counter Intelligence:

(1) The battalion has performed no Combat Intelligence Functions during the past reporting period other than reporting to higher headquarters all incidents involving enemy activity in the AOR that involve either units within the battalion or security forces provided for the battalion.

(2) The battalion receives intelligence information concerning the Long Binh Area and Long Khanh Province in the form of Intelligence summaries from Long Binh Post, II Field Force, and Long Khanh Province Advisory Teams. These INTSUMS are received daily.

(3) Periodic intelligence briefings are given to officers of the battalion by the 18th ARVN Division, the District along QL-20, and the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. By means of close personal contact with the ARVN and districts, the battalion is kept abreast of the tactical situation.

(4) Reconns have been made for bridge placement on QL-20.

(5) Reconns in the form of sweep teams are conducted three (3) times a week in front of the battalion's sub-sector of the Long Binh Post Perimeter.

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(6) Periodic sweeps have been conducted in areas on Long Binh Post within the battalion's sub-sector which were suspect areas.

b. Enemy Activity:

(1) There were no construction days lost due to enemy activity during the period.

(2) On 7 December 1969, at 0915 hours water point personnel at YT 439327 received small arms fire. There were no casualties.

(3) On 21 December 1969, at 0800 hours a jeep with two (2) passengers was ambushed in the vicinity of YT 433316. Both were members of 199th LIB. There were 1 KIA and 1 WIA.

(4) On 17 January 1970, at 2400 hours, the battalion sub-sector perimeter on Long Binh Post received small arms fire.

(5) On 19 January 1970, at 2355 hours, individuals were observed in front of battalion's sub-sector perimeter on Long Binh Post.

(6) On 28 January 1970, at 1720 hours, an individual at YT 341159 shot approximately 10 rounds at personnel of the 544th Engineer Company (CS). There were no casualties.

(7) On 29 January 1970, at 0815 hours, a claymore mine exploded in vicinity of YT 545369. Target was ARVN 2½ Ton. There were no US casualties or damage. Two ARVN Troops were WIA.

4. Operations Plans Training:

a. Project Completed During the Reporting Period.

(1) Combat and Operational Support

(a) 189-5441-0-20, Dozer Support FSB Nancy, Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed firing positions and berm. Started 31 December 1969; Completed 16 January 1970.

(b) 189-5545-0-20, Dozer Support, 199th LIB, Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed firing positions and berm started 10 January 1970; Completed 17 January 1970.

(c) 189-5944-0-20, Dozer Support 199th LIB, Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed firing positions and berm, started 21 January 1970; Completed 24 January 1970.

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(d) 243-5849-0-20, Land Clearing; Providence Village, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Cleared bamboo and brush of approximately 50 acres. Started 13 August 1969; Completed 15 January 1970.

(e) 243-5891-0-20, Active Defense of POL Storage: Project terminated on 7 January 1970.

(f) 243-5945-0-20, Land Clearing 53rd Signal Hill 837, Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Cut trees in front of perimeter. Started 5 January 1970; Completed 16 January 1970.

(g) 290-5765-0-20, Construction of Guard Towers and Revetments, Xuan Loc, Company C, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed 24 aircraft revetments and 4 guard towers. Started 27 August 1969; Completed 4 December 1969.

(h) 289-5944-0-20, Living Fighting Bunker Construction for Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed 3 living fighting bunkers. Started 25 September 1969; Completed 4 January 1970.

(i) 290-6080-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Engineer Group, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Provided two 25-ton trailers with tractors. Started 14 January 1970; Completed 16 January 1970.

(j) 243-6106-0-20, Equipment Support, 79th Engineer Group, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Provided two 25-ton trailers with tractors. Started 24 January 1970; Completed 30 January 1970.

(2) M.C. Adviser Facilities: None

(3) MLR: None

(4) LOC:

(a) 98-313-159-100 Restoration of QL-20, from QL-1 to Trai Len Cay, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed 19.5 kilometers of M.C.V Standard A highway and 48.5 kilometers of all weather highway. Starting date: 31 October 1968; Completion Report Pending.

(b) 98-313-15-7-111 Maintenance of Roads and Bridges, 20th Brigade AOR, 169th Engineer Battalion: Maintained and repaired QL-20. Completion Report Pending.

(c) 98-313-15-7-111 Establishment of Plant and Rock Crusher, ML Kien, 51st Engineer Company (CE): Set up a crusher complex and asphalt plant. Started 1 December 1969; Completed 23 January 1970.

(5) Base Construction: 117-0121-0-101, Water Fill Point Di An, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Built wall, started 19 October 1969; Completed 5 December 1969.

(6) MX: None

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b. Active Projects:

(1) Combat Support and Operational Support

(a) 243-5729-3-23, Maintenance Base Camp Perimeter, Long Binh Post, Headquarters Company, 169th Engineer Battalion: Repair bunkers and install concertina and trip flares. Continuous.

(b) 289-5945-0-20, Living Fighting Bunker Construction for B Company, 169th Engineer Battalion, Company B, 169th Engineer Battalion:

(2) MACV Advisor Facilities:

(a) 43-359-01-159, III CTC MACV Province Advisors, Ham Tan, Binh Tuy, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Project consist of drilling a well for advisors. Well to be abandoned on 2 February 1970. Started 15 July 1969; Completed 2 February 1970.

(b) 812-0310-0-01, Water Well for MACV Advisors at Trang Bang, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Drilled to potential water source. Waiting for engine for drill, will then initiate surging. Started 4 October 1969, estimated completion 17 February 1970.

(3) MER: 389-5304-0-20, Hardstand, Open Storage Area, mess hall, 2nd Battalion, 35th Artillery: Construct hardstand, open storage area and mess hall for FSB. Project to start 31 July 1970.

(4) LOC:

(a) 489-5311-0-20, Base Camp Construction of Gia Kiem Base Camp, 544th Engineer Company (CS), Company C, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed bunkers, mess hall, showers for the 544th Engineer Company (CS) base camp. Started 27 October 1969, estimated completion 28 February 1970.

(b) 417-5301-0-20, 92nd Engineer Battalion, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Drilled well for 92nd Engineer Battalion Batch Plant at Long Binh. Present well has 5 GPM which is insufficient. Rig was moved to higher priority project. Started 16 November 1969. Expected completion 30 March 1970.

(c) 409-5303-0-20, Base Camp Construction for B Company, 169th Engineer Battalion, Company B, 169th Engineer Battalion: Construct mess hall, water storage, maintenance shop, showers, project 92% complete. Started 31 October 1969, expected completion 7 February 1970.

(d) 409-5313-0-20, Operations and Maintenance of Quarry, Crusher and Asphalt Plant of 544th Engineer Company (CS), 544th Engineer Company (CS): Started 10 December 1969, expected completion 31 July 1970.

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(c) QL-20, FY 70 Program, Restoration of QL-20 from Gia Kiem to II, III Corp border, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructing 66 kilometers of MACV Standard A Highway, Started 15 September 1969, estimated completion 31 July 1970.

(5) MACV Advisor Facilities: 43-356-01-169, II CTZ MACV District Advisor Facilities, Binh Tuy Province, Tanh Linh, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Well remaining to be drilled. Estimated start date 10 February 1970.

(6) Base Construction:

(a) 43-280-01-T-7S (B&D) Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Long Binh Post, Company C & C, 169th Engineer Battalion: Project consists of constructing four softball fields, four tennis courts, four basketball courts, and thirty volleyball courts. Project has not been started due to low priority.

(b) 543-0307-0-01, Water Well 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Low priority. Start date TBA.

(c) 543-0308-0-01, Road Paving, Long Binh Post, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Consists of paving arterial streets on Long Binh Post, project to be started after completion of QL-20.

d. Engineer Plans: During this quarter this battalion has received the 90% drawings for QL-20. The plans for the Gia Kiem industrial site were finalized and the site was completed. The road design through villages on QL-20 has been altered so that the design will call for a 40' paved surface with curbs. Several field changes along QL-20 have been effected, particularly in the northern section where cutting operations had to be abandoned and fill had to be used instead, due to extensive surface and subsurface boulder fields.

e. Plant Operations: The crusher complex at Gia Kiem became operational on 6 January 1970. It produced 22,744 cubic yards of 2"(-), 1969 cubic yards of 3/4"(-), and 640 tons of asphalt.

f. Training:

(1) Formal training is conducted in the battalion on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. Mandatory DA and USARV subjects are taught. The majority of the training is carried on at the company level in commander's lectures and regular classes. At battalion level, a class in Counter-Sapper techniques is conducted every two weeks by the S-2 staff and officers from the companies. The class is given to all new personnel and includes the skill that relate to perimeter guard duties such as weapons familiarization, artillery fire and adjustment enemy sapper techniques, and star-light scope operations.

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(2) Company A, Direct Support Maintenance Section conducts OJT for ARVN mechanics. There is an average of ten ARVN mechanics per class, and three classes have been graduated to present. The classes are run on a rotation basis with each mechanic getting a chance to become familiar with both engineer and ordnance equipment. The program is working well, but a lack of TM's in Vietnamese makes the task more difficult and detracts from the over all effectiveness of the program.

(3) A school has been set up for the drivers of the new GMC dump trucks that are being received under the MCM/LOC buy program. The school is conducted by the technically trained NCO's. These instructors were trained by GMC instructors, making them fully capable of administering detailed technical instruction to students.

(4) In addition to formal driver training a program of OJT training for military dump truck drivers has been set up by the 43rd Engineer Company (DT) to insure a maximum of qualified operators at all times.

#### 5. Logistics:

a. Equipment Status: The following list reflects Mission Essential TOE/MTOE equipment which is short in the battalion and impacts upon mission accomplishment.

<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>O/H</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
Truck, Dump 5T	106	57	49
Semi, water, tank type, trk std, 1000 gal	6	4	2
Truck, wrecker, Med, 5T	4	2	2
Semi-Trailer, A, 5T	26	18	8
Paving Machine, Bituminous	-	1	1
Welding Shop, Trk Mtd, 5T	7	4	3
Pneumatic Tool & Compressor outfit, 250 CFM	7	4	3
Roller, Mtrd, Gas & Wal, 10T	5	3	1
Roller, Charger, 5T, 4 wheel	-	5	1
Radio Set, AM/VRC 40	19	15	4

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<u>NOMENCLATURE</u>	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>C/R</u>	<u>SHORT</u>
Tool Kit, Automotive	129	106	23
Bucket, concrete, 1 cu yd	3	0	3

b. MCA/LOC Program:

(1) The battalion was tasked by the 20th Engineer Brigade to pick-up, process and make available all of the incoming MCA/LOC equipment on the MCA/LOC buy program.

(2) During this period the following equipment was received, deprocessed and distributed to all Groups of the 20th Brigade:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>159th</u>	<u>72th</u>	<u>34th</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Plant, crushing & screening, 250TPH	1	0	0	1
Pump, centrifugal	1	0	0	1
Truck, Dump, 12 cu yd, 20T	10	0	0	10
Welder, 400 AMP	0	0	3	3

(3) At the end of this reporting period the 169th Engineer Battalion including the 43rd Engineer Company (IT) and the 54th Engineer Company (CS), will be assigned one-hundred three (103) pieces of MCA/LOC equipment on hand.

c. Maintenance Fleet Items: Of the 52 assorted pieces of heavy and light equipment authorized under Maintenance Fleet, the Battalion has received the following:

(a) 350 HP MLI Tractor	1 ea
(b) D/E Tractor	4 ea
(c) Scoop Loader	3 ea
(d) 2 1/2 Ton Truck	4 ea
(e) Generator 5KW	6 ea

The remaining items are in possession of Company A, Technical Supply.

d. General Supplies: The continued shortage of expendable self-service items such as toilet tissue, laundry soap, upright brooms, cleaning paper

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and general office supplies as well as mess equipment is still being noted in the battalion. These items are not available, or a limit has been imposed on the purchase of such items from the SSC making it difficult to perform required daily duties. The group supply office has been notified verbally of the existing problems in this area.

e. Ammunition:

(1) During this reporting period numerous types of explosives required for successful quarry operations have been in less than normal supply. This situation began to improve towards the end of the reporting period. As the Banana Quarry swung into full operation a continued high supply rate of explosives is necessary.

(2) During this reporting period the following items have been designated as USARV Command Controlled and are in critically short supply.

- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| (a) K917 | Thickener M-4                           |
| (b) L312 | Signal Illumination GD-Parachute, White |
| (c) L499 | Flare, surface trip                     |

f. Maintenance:

(1) The battalion deadline rate for the quarter averaged 10% for USARV critical items and 8.6% overall. A major portion of the maintenance effort continues to be expended on the requisitioning and acquisition of repair parts.

(2) The Battalion maintenance problems were intensified by the addition of a large amount of heavy equipment common to a quarry operation. The maintenance part of this problem has been solved to some extent by giving the 544th Engineer Company the personnel to perform up to 2nd echelon repairs on all stationary equipment and some of the heavier mobile engineer and ordnance equipment. A company's Direct Support maintains the remaining equipment and handles any overflow the 50th Engineer Company (CS) might have.

(3) The repair parts problem has been solved to some extent by the origination of projects IMG and IME. Project IMG provides authorization to requisition parts for Rock Crushers and related equipment in bulk. Project IME authorizes bulk requisitioning of repair parts for Asphalt Plants and related equipment.

g. Construction Materials:

(1) No project was stopped during this reporting period for lack of construction material.



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(2) The following materials have been in short supply:

- (a) All sizes of lumber with special emphasis on 3X.
- (b) Concertina Wire.
- (c) Steel stock for weld, to include plate, sheet, and bar stock.
- (d) Electrical wire to include: 4/0, 10/4, #8AWG, #10AWG, and #12AWG.
- (e) Culvert, to include: 48", 60", and 72".
- (f) Steel mesh screen for reinforcement.
- (g) Nuts, bolts and washers, assorted sizes.
- (h) Cement

(3) Plywood has been in critically short supply. Several projects have been slowed because of lack of this material for headwall construction. Some relief is at hand at present, however, excessive amounts are still needed to complete the erection of more than 200 headwalls on the QL-20 Highway project.

h. Mineral Products:

(1) OICC Contracts for RMK-BRJ supplied asphalt and base rock were made available for the Battalion for the initial construction phase of QL-20 in November and December and approximately 25,000 cubic yards of base rock and 4962 tons of asphaltic concrete was provided by RMK-BRJ under OICC Contract

i. Contract Resources: No civilian trucks have been provided to the Battalion this quarter. The fuel requirement was met with TOE and MGA/LOC equipment.

j. RVNAF Improvement: During the reporting period the 169th Engineer Battalion continued its participation in the RVNAF improvement and modernization program by transferring one M1/APC 25 to the Republic of Vietnam.

6. Force Development: The 169th Engineer Battalion and subordinate company AOR's remained unchanged over the reporting period. The 54th Engineer Company (CS) assumed the responsibility of operating the industrial site at Gia Kien which consists of a quarry, crushers and asphalt plant.

Plans and Management: Increased emphasis has been placed upon the preparation of the project data requests. The entire responsibility for their preparation has been assumed by the Battalion operations section. The bulk of the

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required information is received in the form of daily feeder reports from the companies. This method has proven to be the most effective means for accumulating correct information on the construction projects.

#### 8. Inspector General Activities:

a. Annual General Inspection: The battalion underwent the annual general inspection on 19 through 23 January and achieved an over all rating of satisfactory. The newly attached company, the 54th Engineer Company was not inspected as their last AGI was in August.

b. Inspector General Complaints: The battalion Acting Inspector General investigated and forwarded to USARV IG 6 IG complaints during the reporting period.

9. PJO: During the past reporting period the battalion submitted 17 feature stories and 268 home town news releases, of which 12 were published in journals circulated within VII and none in journals with circulation outside VII. In addition to the above 3 articles were submitted for publication in "The Military Engineer".

#### 10. Civic Action:

##### a. Social Welfare:

(1) The 169th Engineer Battalion spent a total of 46 man days on Civic Action projects and contributed a total of VN\$11,800.00 during the past quarter.

(2) Assistance was given to two (2) schools, two (2) orphanages, two (2) church organizations, and the villages around the BRAVO, CHARLIE, and DELTA base camps on 24-20.

##### b. Specific Projects:

(1) Headquarters Company gave a Thanksgiving Party for school children of Tan Hoa.

(2) The chaplain assisted in sale of Christmas cards for a church group in Binh Hoa.

(3) The chaplain distributed 100 dollars to a protestant church organization in Xi Binh Hoa.

(4) Charlie Company gave a Christmas Party for the orphans in Hoa Kien.

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- (5) Drove Company gave a Christmas Party for the villagers in Phung Lam.
- (6) Charlie Company built 1 kilometer of peripheral road and repaired 2 kilometers of road for villagers in Gia Kien.
- (7) Contributions of 160% Food Stuffs, 1700% clothing, and 80% health items were distributed among the various orphanages, schools and church groups.
- (8) Personnel from the 169th Engineer Battalion Aid Station provided MEDCAPS (Medical Civic Action Project) for 142 patients in local villages.
- (9) The 169th Engineer Battalion donated 15 bags of cement, 30 feet of 2 1/2 inch culvert, and 100 feet of 1 1/2 inch culvert to a S-5 Team from II Field Forces for civic action projects.

SECTION 2: Significant Lessons Learned:

1. Personnel: None
2. Intelligence: None
3. Operations:

a. Dust Hazards

- (1) Observation: Traffic in the construction area causes extreme dust hazards from both the safety and health point of view.
- (2) Evaluation: Water and other dust palliatives are necessary in the construction area, especially if no by-pass roads can be built. Spreading water using gravity feed and air-vised spray bars was tried but this method could not adequately handle large areas.
- (3) Recommendations: Water trucks with motorized or pressurized spray bars would be most beneficial. In addition, a good dust palliative can be made by mixing diesel with MC-70 to improve the penetrating powers of the MC-70. The exact proportions would vary from 1/4 diesel to 1/3 diesel depending upon the amount of penetration needed.

b. Traffic on Base Course Road

- (1) Observation: Traffic movement on base course rock damages the finished surface.
- (2) Evaluation: Where it is impossible to provide a by-pass road, traffic must be permitted on the base course prior to paving. A method had to be devised to protect the finished grade from damage.

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(3) Recommendation: Through several applications of surface treatment with MC-70, a hard, macadam type surface can be obtained. This surface will resist breakdown from traffic flow and, if retreated every 10-14 days will maintain its grade until it can be paved.

c. Loss of Finish Grade:

(1) Observation: Due to heavy traffic, finished subbase grade would be lost within a few days.

(2) Evaluation: Heavy traffic has a tendency to destroy the finished subbase grade. When no method of sealing the subbase is available, the grade is lost after a few days.

(3) Recommendation: When finishing the subbase, leave the grade about 5 centimeters above final grade if traffic has to be permitted on the subbase. This will reduce the need of having to scarify and add subbase material if the surface is damaged. It is easier to blade off the excess material to bring the subbase to grade than it is to add material. Naturally, providing a by-pass would be the best solution if it were feasible.

d. Changing Scrapers

(1) Observation: D/L 290M tractors make it necessary to change scrapers to operational tractors.

(2) Evaluation: The conventional method for changing scrapers is to remove the scraper from the christmas tree and attach it to the tree on operational tractor, an operation that takes approximately 3 hours.

(3) Recommendation: When changing scraper from a 290M to a 290M tractor the time required can be reduced to approximately 1 1/2 hours by interchanging the christmas trees. When changing a 290M to a 290M the conventional method must be used as christmas trees are not interchangeable.

4. Training: None

5. Logistics: None

6. Communications: None

DISTRIBUTION:

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4-CG, 16th Engr Bn, APO 96491 (1-3)  
1-CG, 2nd Engr Bn, APO 96491  
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*Nick J. Andre*  
NICK J. ANDRE  
LTC, CE  
Commanding

16  
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EIB-OF (14 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, APO 96491, for  
Period Ending 31 January 1970

LA, SA, 159th Engineer Group, APO 96491

27 February 1970

TO: Commanding Officer, 20th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBI-CS, APO 96491

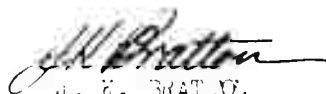
1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1969.

2. Comments are made on the following paragraphs:

a. Section I, paragraph 2 a (2) (b): Personnel critical MOS shortages are compiled and forwarded to 20th Engineer Brigade Weekly.

b. Section I, paragraph 5 a: These shortages have been reported on the Commander's Critical Items List, and valid requisitions for all equipment have been verified.

c. Section I, paragraph 5 d: Some of the problems experienced by the 169th Engineer Battalion have resulted from an insufficient understanding of what customer input is required. The group supply officer is working closely with the 169th Engineer Battalion to insure that the proper procedures are being used to request critical self-service items.



J. R. BRATTON

COL, CE

Commanding

1.  
169th Engineer

AVBI-OS (14 Feb 70) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion (Construction) for the  
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO 96491

10 FEB 1970

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. This headquarters concurs with the submitted report with the following comment:

Section 2, paragraph 3d, page 16: The replacement of the coupling and ball housing on the 290H is a general support echelon function. This is probably due to shimming requirements in seating the hitch ball in the housing assembly. The unit should submit an action on this recommendation in accordance with TM 38-750 if a change in the maintenance allocation chart is felt necessary and/or desirable.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*9A* *Kenneth D. Koehler III*  
H. V. JOSHEILER III  
1LT, CE  
Assistant Adjutant

Copies Furnished:  
CO, 159th Engr Sp  
CO, 169th Engr Bn

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AVHGC-DST (14 Feb 70) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, APO 96491,  
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATIN: GOPP-DT,  
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned  
for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 169th  
Engineer Battalion and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn;  
169th Engr Bn  
20th Engr Bde

GPOP-DT (14 Feb 70) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Hq, 169th Engineer Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 January 1970

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 MAR 70

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:

B.D. CLINE  
PLT, AGJ  
AGJ AG



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