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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

130.8-1  
INDEXED

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (2 Dec 66) FOR OT RD 66 0205

6 December 1966

AD 874054

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (HQ 74th Medical Battalion)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned from Headquarters, 74th Medical Battalion for period ending 31 July 1966, dated 9 August 1966. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools 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  
a/s

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FOR OT AT  
660205

AD 130.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS  
74TH MEDICAL BATTALION  
APO San Francisco 96491

AVCA MB-GD-BB

9 August 1966

SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

THRU: Commanding Officer  
68th Medical Group  
APO San Francisco 96491

Commanding Officer  
44th Medical Brigade  
APO San Francisco 96307

Commanding General  
1st Logistical Command  
APO San Francisco 96307

Commanding General  
United States Army, Vietnam  
ATTN: AVC (DH)  
APO San Francisco 96307

Commanding General  
United States Army, Pacific  
ATTN: GPOP-MH  
APO San Francisco 96558

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

Attached hereto is Operational Report for quarterly period ending 31 July 1966.

Incl 1

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AVCA MB-GD-BB  
SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

9 August 1966

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Tel: Long Binh 303/304

1 Incl  
as (quint)

  
LYLE D. STOCKMOE  
CPT, MSC  
Adjutant

3  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966,  
RCS CSFOR-65

TO: See Distribution

SECTION I. Significant Organization or Unit Activities.

A. The Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 74th Medical Battalion accomplished two primary activities during the time span of this report. These activities were movement overseas and the establishment of full Operational Capability in its overseas location (Long Binh, Vietnam).

1. As a component of the overseas movement, the preparations for the move are being included.

a. The unit moved with its full complement of qualified personnel. Whereas the full complement would have been acquired through normal procurement efforts, the fact of POM qualification is a credit to the strict and conscientious screening of assignees, by the personnel records section of the battalion headquarters. Some initial assignees possessed profiles which rendered them physically disqualified; others failed to meet proper specialty qualifications. The proper screening of assignees at all assignment levels would better control the caliber of filler personnel for units preparing for movement and would simultaneously decrease the administrative screening burden at organization and/or unit level.

b. The unit moved on 16 May 1966, as scheduled, by air to San Francisco International Airport, bus to Oakland Port and surface to Viet Nam. Instructions for preparations were received in sufficient time to complete training requirements, to coordinate schedules and ship equipment and to move personnel. The assistance of the Transportation Officer, Fort Polk, Louisiana was particularly noteworthy in this area, and no significant problems evolved as a result.

c. All authorized items of equipment, by applicable TOE, accompanied the unit on its re-deployment overseas, except that one (1) PRC 18 - Radio is issued in lieu of one (1) VRC 47. Individual equipment was adequate to meet requirements of all assigned personnel. The equipment and vehicles of the Medical Battalion arrived at port and destination well in advance of the need time and with negligible loss incurred. The success herein is attributed to excellent base logistical support, provided at Fort Polk, Louisiana and to the staunch security element accompanied all/each equipment shipment to destination.

2. The unit arrived at Vung Tau Port on 4 June 1966, debarked the same day and by vehicle motor convoy, aircraft and motor convoy in turn, arrived at Long Binh on 4 June 1966. Preparations to receive the main body had been arranged for by the advance party which arrived at Long Binh on 25 May 1966.

Incl 1 to Incl 1

3. Fifteen (15) days of the report period (1-15 May 1966) were spent in preparation for overseas movement (POM); nineteen (19) days were spent in movement of troop personnel and thirty-three (33) days were spent until all equipment had arrived, to include vehicles.

B. The 74th Medical Battalion officially became operational 5 July 1966, with the assignment of eight (8) Medical Dispensaries, for the accomplishment of its medical support mission, in a designated zone. The prelude to becoming operational was particularly demanding of supply and logistical personnel.

1. Accounts were established with all classes of supply and moderately reliable support was attained. Construction materials for office, billet and facilities space were slow in being received and were not received at a rate compatible with construction rate potential/capability. The immediate needs for construction (for/of four framed general purpose tents) were met by obtaining materials from medical units in the area; the projects for which the lumber had been procured were not as immediately required for that purpose when compared with the battalion's becoming operational.

2. Initial personnel processing was accomplished by Headquarters, 6th Medical Group, consolidated personnel section. The battalion personnel specialists were used to assist in the processing and were ultimately incorporated at group. No problems or difficulties were noteworthy in this area.

3. Communications, operational channels and channels of commands were established and/or made known; action was initiated and completed during the period to validate security clearances.

## SECTION II.

### Part I - Observations (Lessons Learned).

Item: Emergency Personnel Replacement:

#### Personnel

Discussion: This battalion experienced the removal of one (1) of its key clerical personnel from the unit movement order due to the unexpected demise of a member of the family, thereby creating justifiable hardship. The unit was fortunate to receive a qualified replacement two (2) days prior to departure.

Observation: There appears to be no existing plan or latitude of having personnel "Pooled" as a source for immediate replacement of key personnel and/or personnel positions that if not filled, would significantly and adversely affect the unit's operation.

Item: Immediate return of personnel to CONUS who were not physically qualified to perform duty in the country.

Discussion: Two key personnel, a general medical officer and one

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optometrist of one (1) dispensary of the 74th were returned to CONUS for medical conditions which existed prior to their departure for movement overseas. Immediate losses from such causes curtails the operational capability/capacity for an extended period of time, as no replacements are available.

Observation: Proper screening of medical records and evaluation of medical conditions are not being accomplished prior to unit re-deployment.

#### Operations

Item: Security of equipment during shipment:

Discussion: The security of equipment by guard personnel and the extent, or whether an element is employed in a guard capacity, rests with the commander concerned. Loss through non-employment of security in this category appears to be negligible. The loss through non availability of conex containers, came to the attention of this command with the assignment of dispensary units on 5 July 1966. One (1) of these dispensaries had to ship all equipment in inserts. Conexes were not available at the port from which the unit deployed (Fort Eustis, Va.)

Observation: Unit's loss was approximately \$3,000 and included equipment essential to the accomplishment of the unit's mission. Though requests for replacement of items were submitted promptly, the operational capability of the unit was delayed and curtailed. The loss could have been prevented with the security that conexes would have provided.

#### Logistics

Item: Some equipment accompanying the move was excess to the needs of the unit (support troops) in Vietnam.

Discussion: Sleeping bags and overshoes were excess to the needs of the personnel of the battalion and were turned in immediately after arrival. One KW7 (Crypto) was immediately excess and was turned in.

Observation: While these items were not required of the unit, it would seem that the same is applicable to "Support Troop Units." No plan has been made geared to streamlining units equipment to fit mission and area of operation.

Item: Construction Projects in-Country (Vietnam).

Discussion: The project of getting established/set up is largely accomplished through the program of "self help." There are projects, however, that are accomplished by the engineers, not so much that the jobs are technical but rather the jobs (projects) will be done faster, better and will release unit personnel for other functions.


Observation: Some units are not made aware of these projects that will/can be accomplished for them and commence the projects themselves. Once the project is begun, the engineers will not undertake to complete said project.



**Part II.**

**Recommendations:**

1. Recommend that alternate **designees** be made for positions mutually agreed to by the Commander concerned and the **AG** representative, to preclude the unit's departure minus an individual filler whose loss would significantly and adversely affect the unit's operation.
2. Recommend that emphasis be placed on proper **screening** of medical records and on the analysis of medical conditions to preclude the deployment of personnel to overseas areas who are not qualified to perform duty in these areas.
3. Recommend that canoxes be made available, in all instances, for shipment of unit equipment overseas.
4. Recommend that equipment lists be **streamlined** to fit unit missions and individual needs, compatible with area of operations.
5. Recommend that a plan be devised to appraise newly arriving units to an area of operations, of projects that will be accomplished by applicable technical units.

  
PAUL H. WENROVITZ  
MAJ, MC  
Commanding

**DISTRIBUTION**

- 3 - ACSFOR, DA
- 1 - 1st Logistical Command
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- 1 - 44th Med Bde
- 1 - 68th Med G
- 1 - LBSA Comd
- 1 - Ref File
- 1 - Unit Historical File

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AVCA MB-GD-PO(9 Aug 66)  
SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

1st Ind

HEADQUARTERS, 68TH MEDICAL GROUP, APO 96491, 11 August 1966

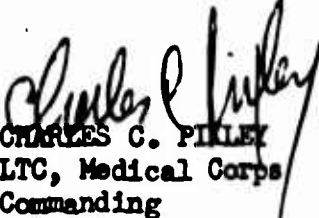
TO: ACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20210  
✓ Commanding Officer, 44th Medical Battalion, APO 96307

1. HHD 74th Medical Battalion engaged in the following activities for the number of days indicated during this report period:

- a. Preparation for Overseas Movement — 15 days.
- b. Troop movement — 19 days.
- c. Preparation of Operational Area — 31 days.
- d. Operations — 27 days.

2. Commanding Officer, 74th Medical Battalion has been advised to initiate separate action on each of the recommendations listed in section II, Part II of attached report.

Long Binh 325/326

  
CHARLES C. PIRLEY  
LTC, Medical Corps  
Commanding

I Incl  
nc

AVCA-MB-GD-PO (9 August 1966) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Letter of Transmittal

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 25 August 1966

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTL: AVCA GO-H, APO 96307

Concur with the provisions of the basic report, the recommendations of the Battalion Commander, and with comments as contained in the 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FEL: Lynx 893

1 Incl  
nc

/s/Richard H. Heriot  
/t/RICHARD H. HERIOT  
Major, MSC  
Adjutant

A TRUE COPY  
*John F. Schiller*  
JOHN F. SCHILLER  
Major, Inf

Incl 1

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AVCA GO-H (9 August 1966) 3rd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1966  
(RCS G.FOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 18 SEP 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTK: AVHGS-3E  
APO 96307

1. Forwarded in accordance with AR 1-19 and USAFV regulation 870-2.
2. Concur with the comments and recommendations of the commander except as noted. The following information is added to provide necessary amplification and indicate non-concurrence.

a. Reference Section II Part II paragraph 1: This recommendation appears valid, however, it will not work at a station deployment level inasmuch as key personnel will normally be officers and non-commissioned officers who must be levied and assigned at DA level. Limited lower grade personnel shortages should not significantly affect the unit operation for a short period of time. Individual fillers may be requested to join the unit at port of embarkation or in the overseas theater to minimize operational loss.

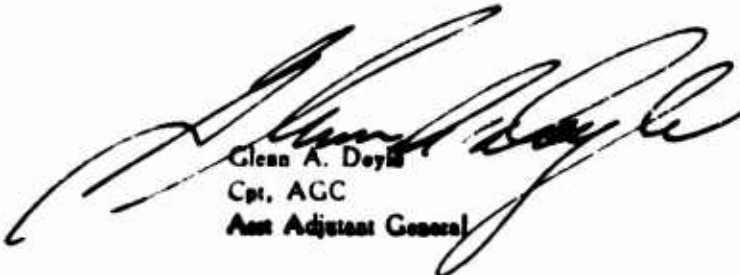
b. Reference Section II Part II paragraph 2: This recommendation is valid and DA has made numerous attempts to insure proper screening of losing commands; however, the gaining unit is the controlling factor to insure only qualified personnel deploy with unit to the overseas command.

c. Reference Section II Part II paragraph 5: Non-concur. Information concerning projects to be accomplished by technical units is available from installation base development boards and installation engineers.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Tel: Lynx 834

1 Incl  
nc

  
Glenn A. Doyne  
Cpt. AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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Incl 1

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AVHGC-DH (9 August 1966) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 23 Oct '66

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned from the 74th Medical Battalion as indorsed and provides the following comments.

2. Reference Section II, Part 1:

a. Reference Emergency Personnel Replacement, Page 2: Shortages of personnel in deploying units are alleviated by providing filler personnel. Filler personnel may join the unit before it deploys or may be shipped by air to join the unit at its destination. Those arriving in-country before the unit arrives are assigned to the major command to await the unit's arrival. In the event filler personnel are not received and when the shortage has a serious impact on mission performance, needed personnel are assigned from other units or provided from the replacement stream.

b. Reference Immediate Return of Personnel to CONUS who were not Physically Qualified to Perform Duty in the Country, Page 2: AR 220-10, Section III, Paragraph 27.a requires that personnel not physically qualified for overseas service be cleared from units during preparation of overseas movement.

c. Reference Security of Equipment During Shipment, Page 3 and Recommendation, Page 4: Concur in maximum use of CONEX containers for overseas shipments.

d. Reference Some Equipment Accompanying the Move was Excess to the Needs of the Unit (Support Troops) in Vietnam, Page 3 and Recommendation 4, Page 4: TA 50-901 provides for specific equipment for units deploying to South East Asia.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
W. R. KUTRY  
1st Lt, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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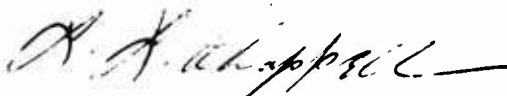
..//  
GPOP-OT(9 Aug 66) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 July 1966 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 20 NOV 1966

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



L. L. CHAPPELL  
MAJ, AG  
Asst AG

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Incl 1

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**DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D**

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<b>5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)</b> CO, 74th Medical Battalion			
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