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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

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IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (13 Sep 67) FOR OT RD-670383

18 September 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th  
Transportation Battalion (Truck)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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AD NO. —  
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1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 7th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for quarterly period ending 30 April 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, 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

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(ARMY) ATTN: FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
Headquarters, 7th Transportation Battalion (Truck)  
APO US Forces 96491

AVCA-SGN-AB-B-OP

7 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
RCS CSFOR65

THRU: Commanding Officer  
48th Transportation Group (MT)  
APO US Forces 96491

Commanding Officer  
US Army Support Command, Saigon  
APO US Forces 96307

Commanding General  
1st Logistical Command  
APO US Forces 96307

Commanding General  
USARV  
APO US Forces 96307

Commander-in-Chief  
United States Army, Pacific  
APO US Forces 09558

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

ACSFOR-RO file  
670383

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

A. COMMAND

1. Unit engaged in line haul (Military Convoys), local hauls, and Saigon Port clearance for eighty-nine (89) days of the reporting period.

2. Command Group Activities:

The new Group Commander, Colonel Charles T. Forrester Jr., was briefed by Battalion Commander on 6 April 1967.

B. PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, MORALE AND DISCIPLINE:

- 1. CPT. Fortunato assigned as Bn adjutant.
- 2. 1LT Welborn assigned CO of the 62nd Trans Co.
- 3. CPT Porter reassigned to the 15th Support Brigade.
- 4. Major Tomaka assigned as Bn S/3.
- 5. 2LT White assigned CO of 508th Trans Det (TTPO).
- 6. CPT Hungerford CO of 508th Trans Det (TTPO) rotated.
- 7. CPT Ellis reassigned as Asst Bn S/3.

C. INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE:

- 1. Security inspection conducted by 524th MI Detachment 26 April 1967. No rating was received.
- 2. Mines and sniper fire reported encountered on convoys.

D. PLANS, OPERATIONS, TRAINING:

- 1. 7th Transportation Battalion participated in Operation IOLA, CEDAR FALLS, JUNCTION CITY, MANHATTAN, and OREGON.
- 2. Units are scheduled for Stand-down company, to be used for guard duty, mandatory training and vehicular maintenance, when operational requirements allow.
- 3. (a) The 7th Transportation Battalion (Truck) was given the additional mission of hauling Class I cargo to units and depots within III & IV Corps Tactical Zones. To perform this mission, the following personnel and equipment were transferred from the 506th Field Depot to 7th Transportation Battalion (Truck) on 19 April 1967:

ACSFOR-RD File  
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- (1) 70 Refrigerator Vans
- (2) 66 5-ton tractors
- (3) 32 Overhead personnel
- (4) 50 Drivers

4. Units supported were the 1st Inf Div, 4th Inf Div, 9th Inf Div, 25th Inf Div, 11th ACR, 173rd Abn Bde, 196th Lt Inf Bde, 199th Lt Inf Bde, and PHILCAG. Total tonnage is shown below:

MONTH	TONS	MILES	TON MILES	PASSENGERS
February	105,968	522,780	2,629,326	7002
March	101,107	492,715	2,616,981	12,176
April	<u>108,360</u>	<u>521,042</u>	<u>3,001,483</u>	<u>11,418</u>
TOTAL	315,435	1,536,537	8,247,790	30,596

5. (a) One (1) full TO&E Mdm Trk Co along with Trailer Transfer Point displaced to Tay Ninh on 18 February 1967. PURPOSE: To support the 1st Log Cnd FSA & FSE's in the forward area. Unit is also charged with the responsibility of locating empty trailers and marshalling them in the TTP. Upon arrival of convoys at Tay Ninh, loaded trailers are spotted and empties picked, reducing the turn-around time of convoys.

(b) One (1) full TO&E Mdm Trk Platoon with maintenance personnel was placed on extended TDY to Chu Lai. PURPOSE: Furnish motor transport service in support of Operation OREGON.

E. LOGISTICS:

- 1. Majority of troops are living in tents and tropical huts. A building construction program of permanent buildings is now in progress.
- 2. Battalion Consolidated Mess provides all meals.

F. SPECIAL STAFF SECTIONS:

NONE

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SECTION II, PART I

OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

A. PERSONNEL, ADMINISTRATION, MORALE AND DISCIPLINE:

1. ITEM: Driver replacements

DISCUSSION: During the past month, the Battalion received sufficient driver replacements to fill TO&E needs. These drivers possessed the PMOS 64410, while TO&E calls for drivers with PMOS 64B20.

OBSERVATION: A vigorous drivers training program had to be initiated by units to qualify personnel to operate the 5-ton tractor, M52A2. This caused driver availability to dip until the new drivers are trained.

B. INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERINTELLIGENCE:

1. ITEM: Convoy Security

DISCUSSION: During recent months mining activities and sniper fire has increased on convoy routes. This has resulted in two (2) trucks being damaged by mines and three (3) WIAs.

OBSERVATION: Continuous stress must be placed on convoy security, and actions to be taken by drivers in the event of ambush. Additionally, current intelligence must be available to convoy commander concerning routes to be traveled.

C. PLANS OPERATIONS AND TRAINING

1. ITEM: Mandatory Training

DISCUSSION: Training is extremely difficult to conduct due to units operating on an 24-hour schedule.

OBSERVATION: All classes are conducted twice to insure maximum coverage of personnel. During stand down week a concerted effort is made to meet requirements established by higher headquarters.

2. ITEM: Cargo Documentation

DISCUSSION: The following problems have been encountered with cargo documentation on numerous occasions.

- a. No documentation for cargo.
- b. Improper classification of salvaged cargo.
- c. Insufficient legible copies of TCMD's.

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**OBSERVATION:** Continual liaison must be made with consignees and consignors to insure TCMD's are properly filled out and legible. Drivers are constantly instructed on proper TCMD procedures.

**3. ITEM: Trailer Control**

**DISCUSSION:** Because cargo is frequently shipped to consignees in excess of their receiving capability and prompt unloading is not always practicable, trailers are frequently under load at consignees for several days. Additionally trailers are frequently pulled away from the point of delivery without authorization, thus removing it from location controls and causing it to be "lost" for days/weeks.

**OBSERVATION:** Daily trailer inventory teams are required to screen area to locate trailers under load or empty.

**D. LOGISTICS:**

**ITEM: Wrecker Shortage**

**DISCUSSION:** The 446th and the 572nd Transportation Companies (Mdm Trk) have been short one M62A2 wrecker since their arrival in country in December 1966.


**OBSERVATION:** This situation has placed a serious drain on wrecker resources to the battalion and greatly hampers its vehicle recovery capability. A weekly check with Support Command, 1st Log Director of Services and 14th ICC is conducted concerning status of requisitions.

**SECTION II, PART II**

**A. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Speed on convoys be increased to lessen hostile fire exposure time in accordance with local road situation, and from a maintenance stand point, to allow greater air flow through radiator to provide greater cooling effects to engine and prevent deadline.

2. Drivers being assigned to Vietnam be given road sign test prior to arrival in RVN and scores properly entered on DA 348 or SF 46. This would enable units to place newly assigned driver on roads in a shorter time without need for this phase of training.

  
J.O. ROBERTSON  
1st Lt.  
Commanding



AVCA-SGN-AB-CO (14 May 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS CS FOR 65)

HEADQUARTERS, 48TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP (MOTOR TRANSPORT), APO 96491,  
17 May 1967

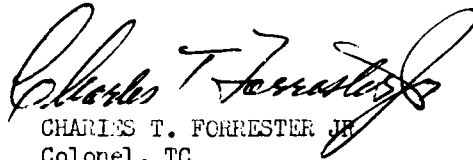
THRU: Commanding Officer, U. S. Army Support Command, Saigon, APO 96307

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

1. The operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 prepared by the 7th Transportation Battalion (Truck) has been reviewed and presents an accurate and impartial summary of the unit's activities.

2. No action or further comment is deemed necessary regarding this report.

TEL: Long Binh 3676



CHARLES T. FORRESTER JR.  
Colonel, TC  
Commanding

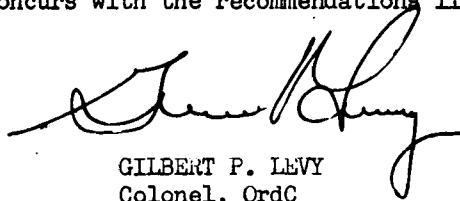
AVCA SGN-GO 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS CS FOR-65) (7th Trans Bn)

DA, HQ, US ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND, SAIGON, APO US Forces 96307 25 MAY 1967

THRU: Commanding General 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA GO-O  
APO 96307  
Deputy Commanding General United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH  
APO 96307  
Commander in Chief United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GROF-OT  
APO 96558

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

1. Forwarded in accordance with the provisions of para 9, A1 1-19.
2. Reference Section II, Part I, para C2, 1st Logistical Command Regulation 525-2, dated 13 May 1967 spells out detailed instructions pertaining to Cargo Documentation. It is felt that these instructions will alleviate the problem discussed in referenced paragraph.
3. This headquarters concurs with the recommendations listed in Section II, Part II.



GILBERT P. LEVY  
Colonel, OrdC  
Commanding

Tel: Tiger 4770

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AVCA GO-O (7 May 67) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April  
1967 (RCS CSFOR 65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 6 JUN 1967

TO: Deputy Commanding General, US Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 7th Transportation Battalion for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded.
2. Reference paragraph d, Section II, part I: The 446th Transportation Company was issued one M543A2 wrecker on or about 26 May 1967. The 572d Transportation Company presently has one on loan. Twelve are due in-country in June 1967. Upon receipt of this shipment a wrecker will be issued to the 572d Transportation Company.
3. Reference paragraph A1, Section II, Part II (recommendations): Non-concur. Although this headquarters does not have a regulation governing convoy speeds, USARV Regulation 190-3 sets 25 miles per hour on open highway and 15 miles per hour in towns, the posted speed limit, or the maximum speed permitted for the type vehicle - which ever is lowest - as the maximum speed for military convoys. It is felt that the hazards of increasing maximum speeds outweigh any benefits that could be accrued. This is not intended, however, to restrict the convoy commander from using his initiative in taking action to counter actual enemy action directed against him.
4. Reference paragraph A2, Section II, Part II: Concur. Administration of the international road sign test to drivers prior to their arrival in RVN - perhaps as part of Advance Individual Training - would lighten the burden on units to provide this instruction and allow utilization of the driver sooner after his arrival in-country.
5. Concur with basic report as modified by indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Timothy S. O'Hara*

TEL: Lynx 782/430

TIMOTHY S. O'HARA  
1ST INF  
Acting Asst AG

AVHGC-DST (7 May 67) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 16 JUN 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 7th Transportation Battalion (Truc) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning speed of convoys be increased, paragraph A1, section II, part II, and paragraph 3, 3d Indorsement: Non-concur. An unacceptable number of traffic accident fatalities are directly attributable to excessive speed. Increasing speed limits for convoys would further aggravate this serious problem. In addition, the loss of control of a vehicle traveling at high speed due to enemy small arms fire or mines may actually increase the number of casualties instead of avoiding them. The speed limits listed in USARV Regulation 190-3 are considered realistic and should not be violated except when deemed necessary during actual encounters with enemy forces as indicated in paragraph 3, 3d Indorsement.

b. Reference item concerning drivers being assigned to Vietnam be given a road sign test prior to arrival in RVN, paragraph A2, section II, part II, and paragraph 4, 3d Indorsement: Concur. Recommend that COMARC require that all replacement drivers for RVN be familiar with international road signs and driving hazards found in RVN.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*[Signature]*  
E. L. KENNEDY  
CPT, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

GPOP-OT(7 May 67)

5th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 7th Trans Bn (Trk)

HQ, USARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 1 JUL 1967

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:



HEAVRIN SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

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