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AUTHORITY
AGO ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY MAJ Ryan/gt/250
HEADQUARTERS 44TH ENGINEER GROUP (CONSTRUCTION)
APO San Francisco 96233

(Handwritten initials)

THCON-OP

11 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
RCS CSFOR-65

AD 837834

THRU: Commanding General
USARSUPHAI
APO 96233

CINCUSAEPAAC
ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

TO: ACSFOR
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20310

Subject report forwarded herewith.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as

(Signature)
IRVIN D. KENNEDY
MAJ, CE
Adjutant

AUG 19 1968

STATEMENT 72 USC 1905
This document is subject to special inspection and each
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS LIGHT ENGINEER GROUP (CONSTRUCTION)
APO San Francisco 96233

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TRCOT-OP

14 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
RCS CEFCE-66

SECTION I, SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. Mission: The Light Engineer Group (Construction) continued to execute its mission of providing construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of roads and facilities in support of Army and Air Force operations in Thailand. In addition the Group continued to provide reconnaissance of the road net within Northeast Thailand. (Incl 1).

2. Completed Projects: The following projects were completed during the reporting period.

a. Cantonment Area, Camp Vayama, Sattakip.

With the installation of air conditioning and power panels in the communications center, work on this 1200 man cantonment was completed during the reporting period.

b. Ammunition Storage Facility, Sattakip.

Application of a double bituminous surface treatment (DBST) on the previously prepared 35 pads and 1.9 Km of access road was completed on 21 July 1967. This completed the assigned construction requirements.

c. Airfield, Pak Chong Special Forces Training Site.

Construction of the 2500' runway was completed during the reporting period. Because of difficulties in obtaining the required crushed stone, the application of a DBST was deferred until after the rainy season. At that time the airfield will be inspected and the requirement for a surface treatment determined. The field was operational on 3 June 1967 and subsequent to that date a single application of M-1 asphaltic material was provided to act as a binder and reduce the effects of erosion. (Incl 2).

d. Ford Security Guard Complex, Camp Pan Pong Eay.

Construction of this project was completed on 30 June 1967. The project included the following additional facilities for Ford Security Guards at this Special Forces Training Site: 3 billets, a mess hall, an administration building and shower and latrine facilities.

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e. Construction of Quarry Site, Saboa.

Construction of the required billeting, administrative, mess and maintenance facilities to accommodate the personnel operating the quarry was completed on 29 June 1967. These included 10 billets, a mess hall, 2 administrative buildings, a maintenance area and office, and showers and latrines. (Incl 3).

f. Plans and Specifications, Access Road.

A complete set of construction plans and specifications for upgrading the access road between the city of Horta and the nearby Royal Thai Air Base were prepared by the 4th Group. These documents will assist HQ, USARSUPHEAL in securing contract effort on this improvement project.

g. Fresh Water Source Study.

This project, to determine sources to provide 400,000 gpd of water to the Sattahip area during the dry season, was completed on 31 July 1967. Numerous surveys of possible sources of water in the Sattahip area were conducted, and all background material pertinent to the subject was researched. The study recommended that, in order to supply the quantity of water desired with the requisite dependability, a well field be developed in the Bang Fai Valley.

3. Projects Carried Forward: The following construction projects have been carried forward from the previous reporting period:

a. Island Road.

(1) Maximum effort was devoted to this 12 1/2 km roadway during the reporting period. Phase I, construction of a passable road which will remain usable during the rainy season, was completed on 24 July 1967. The tardy arrival of the annual rainy season has been most fortuitous for the 609th Regt. (Incl 4).

(2) Group construction elements continue to be supported by the 260th Transportation Company, 23rd Army Bn, Royal Thai Army and by contract rental equipment.

(3) Major construction effort is required to complete the project by the required date of 31 December 1967. To date approximately 1,600,000 cubic meters of material have been placed and an estimated 1,600,000 additional meters will be required to bring the roadway to grade. (Incl 5).

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b. Bangkok By-Road Extension.

(1) Construction of this 14.0 Km highway between Korat and Kabin Buri continued during the reporting period. The laterite-surfaced roadway was declared open for traffic on 1 May 1967. (Incl 6).

(2) The current mission of the 538th Engr Bn on this project is to upgrade and pave that portion of the highway between Ea 57 and Ea 98. The upgrading consists of improvement of the vertical and horizontal alignment, and correction of drainage. (Incl 7, 8, and 9).

(3) Upgrading and paving of other portions of the roadway will be done by contract effort.

(4) Troop paving is scheduled for completion by 1 July 1968.

c. Northeast LOC's.

(1) The 561st Engineer Company continued to devote its primary effort to the upgrading of Route 223 between Sakon Nakhon and Thut Phuan. Arrival of the annual rains has forced curtailment of the culvert construction program. Construction of the prestress casting area is now almost complete. (Incl 20).

(2) Maintenance of Route 22 between Sakon Nakhon and Nakhon Phanom was undertaken during the reporting period. This was done through use of contract rental equipment in support of organic unit equipment. This procedure worked well after local national operators for the contract equipment were properly trained. A significant improvement in the roadway resulted from this maintenance effort but continuing maintenance will be required. Action is underway to provide OZA funding for this project. (Incl 11).

d. Korat Logistical Complex.

(1) Construction of the sub-projects within the Korat Logistical Complex continued during the reporting period. Nine BOQ's and one VOQ have been completed. One FOQ and three maintenance buildings are in the final construction stage. The company and battalion headquarters buildings, as well as the bachelor enlisted quarters, are under construction. Construction of the mess hall and self service supply center are scheduled to be started during the next reporting period. Current information indicates that the headquarters and the field maintenance buildings will be constructed under contract. (Incl 12,13).

(2) After the initial orientation of US and Thai construction personnel on the higher building standards required, construction of these facilities has progressed without significant difficulties. All supply problems have been resolved.

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e. Diesel and Megas Station, Camp Friendship.

This facility is currently under construction. Relocation is necessary in order to conform with the first master plan.

f. Fuel, POL Facility.

Construction of Phase II of this facility remains deferred due to higher priority requirements for troop construction efforts.

g. Scout Range, Camp Friendship.

This recreational area, an important addition to existing troop welfare facilities, will be completed early in the next reporting period. The basic range is currently operational, but minor modifications to the club house facility are required.

h. Troop Containment, Lake Eathion.

Construction of this facility remains deferred pending decisions on type of contract construction effort.

1. POL Facility, Eathion Hannon Air Base.

(1) In date the third 10,000 BBL welded steel tank has been erected and tested. The project has recently been expanded to include construction of two additional 10,000 BBL tanks.

(2) One major problem experienced to date has been the permeability of the gasketing material to the vacuum. Dips 22 remained empty for several months and the gasketing material, which was quite old to begin with, was apparently adversely affected by the heat. When the tank was refilled serious leaks were noted. At the present time the tank is being disassembled, and upon completion, precise examination of the leaking areas will be made. Then all gaskets will be replaced, and the tank reassembled. In the future all tanks will be filled with water for full hydrostatic test upon completion of assembly and all tanks filled with water until required for fuel storage.

i. Rehabilitation of Camp Chuan Sathap.

High priority has been placed on this project due to the higher priority requirements of the United Road. All maintenance and rehabilitation projects have been transferred to AMPC B&I which assumed responsibility for Camp Chuan Sathap on 1 July 1967. Construction of the repair parts warehouse and refrigeration facilities and the RM also is currently underway. Work on the existing structure will begin during the next reporting period. (Ref. 14).

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k. Rehabilitation of Camp YSARTAI.

Work on this project is nearly complete. During the reporting period construction of the theater was completed and several pit latrines were replaced by the more satisfactory burn-out type facilities. Completion of the new showers is scheduled early in the next reporting period.

l. Northeast Base Camp.

Significant additions to this camp during the reporting period were the Third Security Guard area, which is now complete, and an additional company area for the 91st Engineer Dump Truck Company, now under construction.

m. Replacement of POL Tank, Udorn Air Base.

This project was nearly complete at the conclusion of the reporting period. All general construction work was completed by the 561st Engineer Company, and the tank assembly by the 677th Engineer Company (Hapline) is underway. Final assembly checks and full pressure testing remain to be accomplished. (Incl 15).

n. Satellite Cantonment and Depot Area.

(1) Construction of this major Area Cantonment continued on a high priority basis during the quarter. This project is being accomplished by D Co, 538th Engr Bn, augmented by approximately 300 Local National employees and by contract rental equipment.

(2) The major problem to date has been the inability to secure the necessary real estate. This has forced revision of the construction plan and has delayed construction of several essential facilities. All real estate procurement is handled by MACSAI through the Royal Thai Supreme Command. Time consuming administrative procedures and an inability to impress the host country military forces with a sense of urgency in connection with this project has prevented real estate procurement from proceeding at a satisfactory rate.

(3) In order to provide storage areas for material arriving at the new Satellite Port, a horizontal and covered storage facilities in the Depot area have been placed under construction. This project was undertaken on a priority basis and the established 15 August completion date will be met. To meet this deadline the horizontal construction effort became a two shift operation. Vertical construction effort was provided by elements of B Co, 809th Engr Bn.

(4) Current information indicates that the Depot Complex will be constructed by troops and not by contract as originally planned. If this construction is required on a high priority basis, some troop redeployments will be necessary. Initial planning is underway to determine requirements.

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4. New Projects: The following new project was assigned to the Group during the reporting period.

Asphalt Plant, Camp Friendship.

The 4th Engr Bn has been assigned responsibility for assembly and operation of an asphalt hot-mix plant at Camp Friendship. This plant previously provided the asphalt for paving the Bangkok By-Pass and it has been in storage for some time. The plant will be operationally tested at Camp Friendship prior to movement to the Bangkok By-Pass Extension where it will produce paving material for the troop paving mission. The plant is to be operational at Camp Friendship by 1 September 1967.

5. Personnel:

a. As of 31 July 1967, 80% of the authorized strength of the 4th Engr Bn (Const) was present for duty.

b. A major problem area during the reporting period has been the shortage of senior enlisted supervisory personnel. This command is authorized 84 non-commissioned officers in grade E-1 thru E-9. Present for duty strength is 73, a shortage of 11. Many of these positions are filled by E-6 NCO's, thus causing a shortage of working-level project supervisors. Although this shortage provides excellent opportunity for promotion of ascending E-5's to E-6, the deficiency of selected and experienced enlisted supervisors definitely decreases efficiency of the organization.

6. Supply:

a. During the reporting period a significant improvement was realized in the procurement of construction materials. The dollar value of items received through local procurement increased only 3% while the dollar value of items received through the supply system increased 44%. The use of open-end procurement contracts in general continues to be a satisfactory method of procuring certain supply items. Some delays have been experienced in the procurement of sophisticated items of hardware.

b. An increase in the amount of construction equipment under rental contracts was noted during the reporting period. This increase was in direct relation to the increased scope of assigned missions and to accelerated construction schedules. The dollar value of construction increased 72%, and the number of items under contract increased 64%. A further increase is expected during the next reporting period.

c. Some difficulty has been experienced with several equipment contractors who fail to supply the amounts of equipment agreed to in the contracts. Finally discussed are not contained in current contracts.

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d. Supporting services have in general been satisfactory. Support in the form of a Class III bulk dispensing facility is urgently required at the 561st Engr Co. Request for this facility have been submitted.

7. Maintenance:

a. The maintenance and repair picture has improved significantly

during the reporting period. This is due in large part to the receipt of some of the required multifuel engines for the 5 ton dump trucks. The Engineer equipment deadline is now 18%, a net reduction of 10% during the period. The ordnance deadline rate is now 10%, a net reduction of 6%.

b. A problem area in the maintenance field is that time required to effect the return of assemblies evacuated to USARV. Return time is in excess of 7 months. In addition, several assemblies have been received from the rebuild facility in defective condition.

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SECTION II

PART I

OBSERVATIONS

1. Personnel:

a. The shortage of officer personnel forecasted in the previous report has developed. This shortage coupled with the limited experience of a number of the junior officers, and various gaps in continuity within key command and staff positions has served to hamper operations during this reporting period. Many captain spaces are currently filled by junior lieutenants with only minimal experience and background. This places an increased burden on the senior commanders and staff officers and impairs the ability of the construction elements to operate in locations remote from the next superior headquarters.

b. This command is encouraging personnel to request extension of foreign service tours as a means of reducing the impact of rapid personnel turnover. The program has been highly successful and continued excellent response is expected. Presently 97 men are serving on extensions, and an additional 28 men have applications for extension pending approval.

2. Operations:

a. A letter submitted by this headquarters which requested that the 528th Engineer Detachment (Utility) be assigned to 44th Bgr Gp has received the concurrence of Hq, USASCTHAI. Actual assignment of the 528th is to take place early in August. This action will provide 44th Group with a general construction capability in the Korat area and will allow response to construction requirements in the Korat area without dissipation of the construction efforts of the battalions whose principal efforts are now focused on highway and port activities located south of Korat. The 528th currently has six major projects under construction and will not be fully responsive to 44th Gp requirements until these projects are completed near the end of this calendar year.

b. The need for early information on construction requirements and for the orderly development of all phases of the design, planning, and construction cycle was again demonstrated during the quarter. All construction projects, regardless of scope or complexity, require time for design, planning and procurement prior to initiation of construction. The amount of time allotted to these preliminary actions is inversely proportional to the amount of turbulence and potential inefficiency developed within the unit. Although operational requirements will, at times, necessitate immediate initiation of construction on a crash basis, maximum use of area planning and master planning data should be encouraged.

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3. Training and Organization:

a. Training: Elements of the 538th Engr Bn and the 50th Engr Bn are removed from routine training because of currently assigned missions and the necessary long training hours. A similar review of training requests has been submitted for the 50th and 51st Engineer Companies.

b. Organization: Planning was completed during the quarter for the arrival of three new units which will be assigned to the 10th Engr Gp. These units are the 528th Engineer Detachment (Utility), the 16th Engineer Company (Camp Troop), and the 1st Engineer Company (Camp Troop). The 538th Engr Bn will remain in Germany. The 16th Engr Bn will be assigned to the 538th Engr Bn, and the 51st Engr Bn will be placed in support of the 51st Engr Co. Actual arrival and assignment of all units took place after the close of the reporting period. A detailed summary of arrival and movement of the units will be included in the next report.

c. Advance copies of the ETO's for the 50th Engr Co and for B, C, and D Co's, 538th Engr Bn have been obtained. The implementing orders, however, have not yet been received.

4. Intelligence:

The major intelligence function of the Group is the production of road reconnaissance information. With the critical shortage of officers and NCO's within this command it has become increasingly difficult to provide the necessary correct reconnaissance data.

5. Logistics:

a. Continuous procurement of supplies on the local economy creates demands in excess of availability, increases costs, exhausts quality products and makes it increasingly difficult to meet design construction requirements. To reduce this effect, timely supply action must be taken through the supply system to obtain construction materials. For major R&D projects, procurement lead time should be at least 3 months. Requirements type contracts have proven successful in procuring materials within 15 to 20 days. These contracts are especially suitable for those items which are more economical to purchase in-country, such as asbestos-cement roofing and pipe products, cement, sand and gravel, and rough cut lumber.

b. Small commercial type equipment and tools for use in construction operations are now being procured with O&M funds.

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c. Frequent delays are still encountered in the procurement of construction materials. An aggressive follow-up plan is needed to eliminate delays due to mismanaged paper work. Resolution of this problem is aggravated by the physical separation between the procurement agency in Bangkok and the customer in Korat. Poor telephone communications exacerbates the problem. Deficiencies within the system are continually being reduced, but much remains to be done.

d. Accelerated construction schedules necessitate utilization of rental equipment to augment organic resources. Heavy construction equipment available for rental is becoming scarce in Thailand because of competition from the Air Force, and civilian firms who have requirements for the same equipment.

e. Utilization of project stock resources of equipment has been a timely and economical solution to the problem of meeting project completion schedules. In many cases it has been desirable to extend the loan period beyond 180 days.

6. Maintenance:

a. The terrain and climatic conditions, coupled with long equipment operating hours, has placed all equipment under severe test. These conditions lead to many more failures than would normally be expected. The long distances often prevailing between the equipment and supporting maintenance activities has lowered, to some degree, the efficiency of the equipment operation.

b. Lack of an in-country general support maintenance unit has caused an increased work load at the DSU level.

c. Long range maintenance planning takes definite requirement for heavy equipment usage. Forecasts must be made for retrograde action of and items and materials. Authorized stockage lists must be based on a knowledgeable forecast of repair parts required and not simply on demand data alone.

d. Many equipment failures can be traced to inadequate first on-site maintenance. Therefore sufficient qualified maintenance personnel must be available at all levels to insure an aggressive preventive maintenance program. This entails a thorough indoctrination of all personnel, particularly officers and ECO construction supervisors, on their maintenance responsibilities. In addition, strong command emphasis on preventive maintenance is necessary.

e. A Closed Loop engineer construction equipment program has been initiated to effect replacement of worn out items. This includes both selected components and and items.

THCCE-02

14 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
REC CGCE-65

SECTION II
PART II
COMMANDERS RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Recommend that a procedure for long range construction planning and mission assignment in support of the MIA program be developed and exercised. It is essential to provide planning information and mission assignments up to one year prior to the execution date.
2. Recommend that a centralized system of procurement of rental equipment to include all services and DOD related agencies within country. This would provide a uniform system of bidding and selection, a uniform pricing system, and eliminate procuring of equipment through over-bidding. Further recommend that penalty clauses be included in future equipment rental contracts to insure compliance with the terms of the contract.
3. Recommend that a detailed personnel status survey be conducted to determine necessary procedures and methods to reduce the impact of the massive personnel rotation during the summer months. Further recommend that a continuous review of personnel requisitioning procedures and personnel requisition status be made at all levels.
4. Recommend that aggressive action be taken to effect removal of the ceiling on hire of MIA local national personnel.
5. Recommend that the current request for two engineer EB maintenance teams be pursued to insure early assignment of these teams to the 4th Engr Gp.

Mark C. Carrigan
MARK C. CARRIGAN
Colonel, CE
Commanding

THQP-OP (20 September 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
(RCS CSFOR 65) 44th Engineer Group WA93AA

Headquarters, United States Army Support Thailand, APO 96233

TO: CINCSARPAC, GPOP-OT, APO 96558

1. Reference, Section 2, Part II, paragraph 1: A long range construction plan is presently being staffed in the Engineer Section USARSUPTHAI. The results of this action will be provided the 44th Engineer Group on a continuing basis as new requirements which were neither planned or programmed are continually occurring which effects the overall planning.

2. Reference, Section 2, Part II, paragraph 2: Concur in a system of centralized procurement of rental equipment for all military forces and DOD related agencies within country. Recommend USARPAC staff sections concerned investigate with PACOM the feasibility of establishing such a system.

3. Reference, Section 2, Part II, paragraph 3: Personnel requisitioning is always a matter of command emphasis and requisitioning procedures are constantly reviewed and followup.

4. Reference, Section 2, Part II, paragraph 4: Request to increase Local National Hire (O&A) to 4800 and 2000 additional Local National for MCA was forwarded from this Headquarters to USARPAC by message cite 3178, 17 June 1967. USARPAC message GPOP-ED 26179, 1 August 1967 to Department of the Army, requested increase of O&A Local National Ceiling to 4800 and asked that Local National employees in support of MCA be exempt from reporting requirements if feasible.

5. Reference, Section 2, Part I, paragraph 5: Two Engineer EB Maintenance Teams were approved for deployment on 2 August 1967 by DOD. Closure dates are as yet unknown.

1 Incl
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for
EDWIN F. BLACK
Brigadier General, USA
Commanding

Col GS
c/s

GPOR-DT(11 Aug 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
from HQ, 44th Engr Gp (UIC: WA93AA) (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96358

27 OCT 1967

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

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorzed.

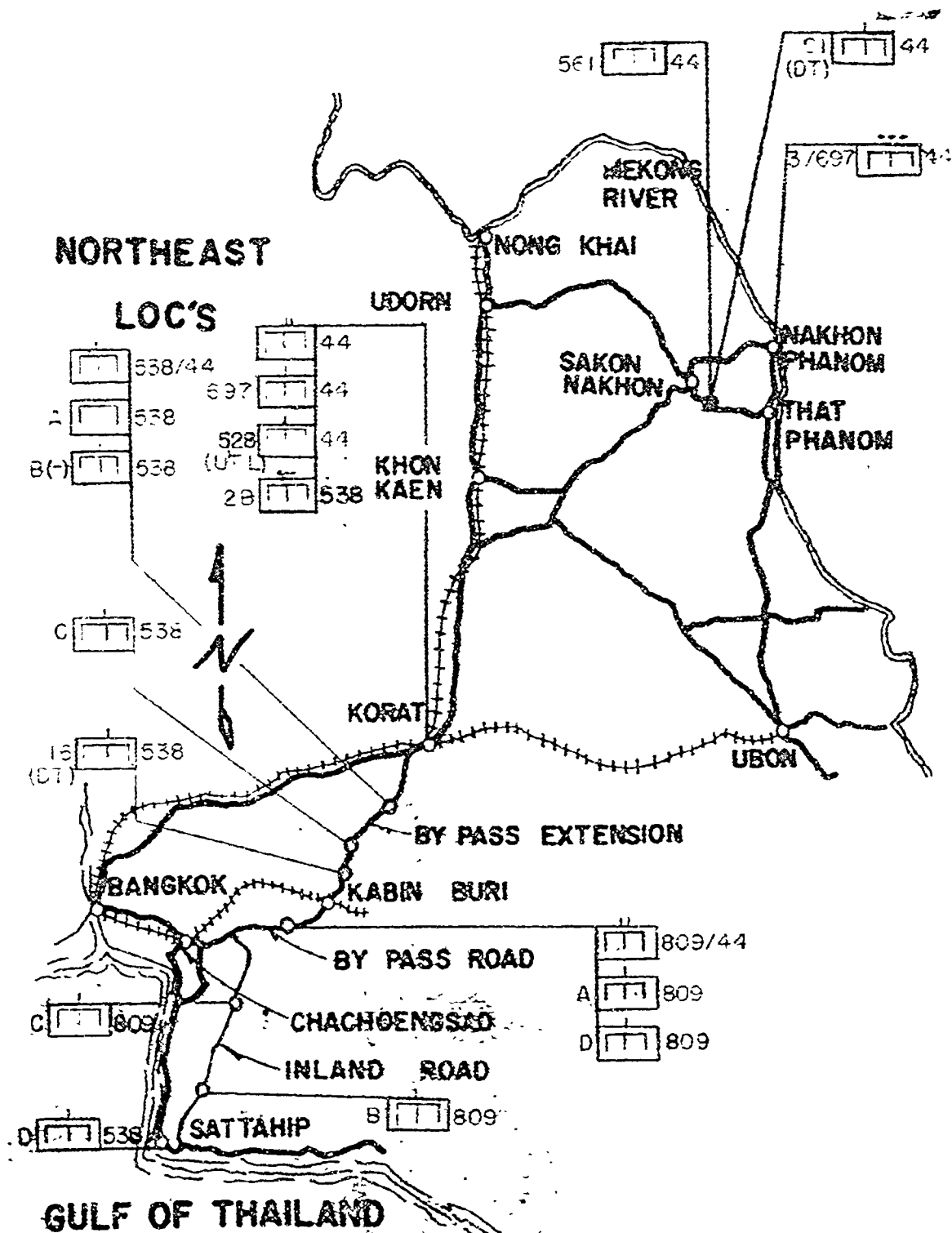
2. Reference paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement: This subject is
currently under study. All concerned will be advised of the results
and recommended actions at the earliest possible date.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



1 Incl
nc

K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG



SOURCE: 44th ENGR. GP
UNIT DISPOSITION
AS OF 10 AUG, 67