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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

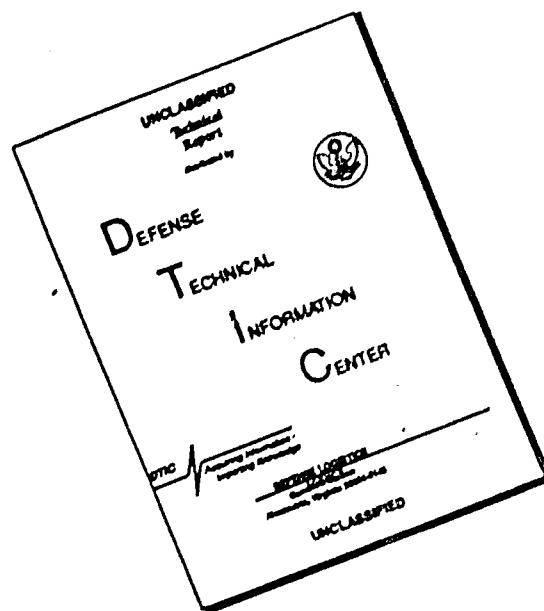
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (19 Jul 68) FOR OT RD 682323

1 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 54th
Signal Battalion (Corps), Period Ending 30 April 1968

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLASSIFIED

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Staff for Force Development FOR OT RD, Wash D.C. 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

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

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 54TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CORPS)
APO US FORCES 96350

AVFA-SB

15 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 April 1968
(RCSCS FOR-65)

TO: See Distribution

Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities

A. Communications Support for I Field Force Headquarters.

During the past quarter the 54th Signal Battalion participated in Operation Northern Cross (I Field Force, Vietnam Forward Command Post). Task Force Cebula was formed on 30 Jan 68 to support this operation. The task force was capable of providing communications from an alternate field force headquarters down to four divisions and to a TIP (Tactical Interface Point). Communications included HF radio, communications center, and local and trunk switchboards. The mobile configuration of equipment presented many problems because battalion personnel were more familiar with fixed equipment configuration. To increase the proficiency with mobile equipment, 4 exercises were held in preparation for the operation. The final exercise was inspected by the I Field Force, Vietnam Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Blanchard. Task Force Cebula was demobilized on 24 Feb 68.

In addition to Task Force Cebula the battalion continued to provide HF radio teletype, SSB voice, communications center, switchboard, photographic, FM radio-wire intergration, AFRS (AM and FM), and MARS services at I Field Force Headquarters, Nha Trang.

The battalion also supported 5 combat operations with 19 operating detachments throughout the II Corps Tactical Zone, as detailed in the subsequent paragraphs. These detachments provided the command control communications between I Field Force Headquarters and the units under its operational control. In several instances the battalion also provided internal communications for subordinate units.

B. Communications Support for Operations Pershing II, Patrick, Cochise Green.

These operations were conducted consecutively in Binh Dinh Province, and are grouped together for the summary of the battalion's communications support in that geographical area of operations.

FOR OT RD
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The battalion continued to support the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division at LZ Uplift with communications center, HF RATT, SSB voice, and one 12 channel VHF system (Uplift- Vung Chua TIP). Since the 2nd Brigade was placed under the operational control of I Field Force, Vietnam instead of the 1st Air Cavalry Division, the 2nd Brigade Command Post was expanded to accommodate the additional personnel and support associated with a separate brigade. Difficulties were encountered in finding suitable operating sites within the Command Post for communications facilities.

The relief of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division at LZ Uplift by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at LZ English marked the completion of Operation Pershing II, and the beginning of Operation Patrick.

The battalion provided communications center, HF RATT, SSB voice, and two 12 channel VHF systems (English- An Khe, English - Vung Chua TIP) for the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division at LZ English. There was a 12 day overlap in communications support between the arrival of 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division on 22 February until the departure of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division on 5 March.

The 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division was relieved by the 173rd Airborne Brigade on 29 March. This was the closing date of Operation Patrick and the beginning of Operation Cochise Green. Communications support continued unchanged.

C. Communications Support for Operation Mac Arthur.

The 54th Signal Battalion continued to support the 4th Infantry Division Operation Mac Arthur with two 12 channel VHF systems (Engineer Hill - Signal Hill, Dak To - Signal Hill). On 7 March a 12 channel VHF system, V-75, was established from Signal Hill to Kontum with relays at Dragon Mountain and MACV Dak To to support the 173rd Airborne Brigade Command Post located in Kontum. Both relays were employed to insure that the system would operate without delay since service was required immediately. A test system installed later from Engineer Hill direct to Kontum proved to be feasible and the system was rerouted through Engineer Hill, eliminating the relays at Dragon Mountain and MACV Dak To. The relief of 173rd Airborne Brigade by the 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division required relocation of the radio terminal at Kontum.

D. Communications Support for Operation McClain.

The battalion supported the 3/506th Airborne Infantry throughout the quarter with communications center, SSB voice, HF RATT, and two 4 channel VHF systems (Phan Thiet - Forward Supply Point; Phan Thiet - Fire Base, Battalion Forward Command Post).

HF RATT and SSB voice service was also provided at the Fire Base for communications with I Field Force, Vietnam

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On 25 February Detachment #10, Phan Thiet, received an enemy mortar attack. 8 enemy rounds landed in the area. One of these blow up an ARVN ammunition dump located approximately 50 meters from the HF site. The AR/GRC-26 located there was destroyed by fire. All personnel were in a bunker immediately next to the AN/GRC-26 and there were no casualties or injuries.

During this incident Sergeant Mudd, NCOIC of the site, managed to evacuate the crypto security gear from the burning AN/GRC-26. For this and other actions, he was recommended for the Bronze Star.

On 26 February an AN/VSC-2 was airlifted from Nha Trang to Phan Thiet by CH-47 aircraft to restore HF communications.

On 28 April an AN/GRC-26 was airlifted to Phan Thiet by C-130 aircraft to replace the one destroyed and relieve the AN/VSC-2 for other operational commitments.

E. Communications Support for Company B, 5th Special Forces.

The 54th Signal Battalion continued to provide secure teletype, HF RATT, and SSB voice facilities to Company B, 5th Special Forces throughout the entire quarter.

F. Communications Support for 9th ROK Liaison Officer.

The battalion supported the I Field Force, Vietnam Liaison Officer at the 9th ROK Infantry Division with SSB voice and HF RATT. Detachment #12, Minh Hoa, provided the communications facilities at Division Main Command Post for the entire quarter.

On 3 April the battalion provided HF RATT and SSB voice, and 1 VHF system (V-45) at the proposed location for the 9th ROK Tactical Command Post. Equipment was convoyed from Nha Trang and communications were established by the end of the day of arrival. The Division Commanding General never occupied the Command Post, however, and the detachment was deactivated on 10 April.

G. Communications Support for the Capital ROK Liaison Officer.

Detachment #2, Qui Nhon, supported the I Field Force, Vietnam Liaison Officer at the Capital ROK Main Command Post with SSB voice and HF RATT communication facilities.

On 21 April HF RATT and SSB voice were provided to the Liaison Officer at the Capital ROK Tactical Command Post. The operation was completed on 26 April and the detachment was deactivated.

H. Communications Support at An Khe.

On 4 March the relief of the Northern Platoon of B Company, 54th Signal Battalion at An Khe was completed. It was relieved by the 3rd Platoon of 167th Radio Relay Company. The equipment on each active system was replaced one system at a time and no significant outage was incurred.

I. Communications Support for PSYOPS.

On 25 March the PSYOPS transmitter at Pleiku was destroyed by the enemy. The battalion committed one AN/GRC-26 for use as a replacement transmitter in the PSYOPS program. The AN/GRC-26 is still committed to this use at II Corps (ARVN) Headquarters, Pleiku and broadcasts on 1.5 MHz.

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

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) Maintenance of Doublet Antennas used for High Frequency Radios.

(a) OBSERVATION. The coaxial connector used to center-feed a doublet antenna for high frequency (HF) radios, often becomes badly corroded on the inside, particularly in areas of excessive humidity or salt water.

(b) EVALUATION. Corrosion of the internal wiring in the coaxial connector can result in high resistance, or open circuits. This in turn results in high reflected power which can cause failure of the transmitter.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Periodic maintenance should be performed on these coaxial connectors to remove corrosion and restore the weather proof seal.

(2) Circuit Layout Record Cards

(a) OBSERVATION. Circuits between I Field Force Vietnam (IFFV) and subordinate units which traverse the in-country systems are not engineered on an end-to-end basis.

(b) EVALUATION. Many of the command and control voice circuits for IFFV traverse in-country systems. These circuits are extended from tactical interface points (TIP) to subordinate units over tactical systems operated by this organization. Circuit layout record cards are issued by the agencies operating the in-country systems. These cards prescribe the audio levels for the circuit throughout its path on the in-country systems. At present, the CLR cards do not prescribe the audio levels for the circuit beyond the TIP. The interface levels required by the tactical equipment at the TIP are not listed. As a result, the levels on the circuit at the TIP will vary and are not maintained at the values prescribed for the tactical equipment. As an example, the voice carrier equipment, AN/TCC-7, requires a -4dbm input and has a +1dbm output at a 4 wire interface. Any deviation from these levels will cause degraded performance in the form of either excessive noise or cross talk and echoes. This type of outage occurs frequently.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. CLR cards should include the input to the tactical equipment at the TIP. Any pads or amplifiers required to attain the interface levels should be included on the card.

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c. Training.

(1) Maintenance Training of Radio Teletype Operators.

(a) OBSERVATION: Many high frequency radio equipments, such as AN/GRC-26 and AN/GRC-106 radios, in the II Corps Tactical Zone are located in remote and isolated areas where maintenance facilities are not available. When equipment malfunctions, repairmen must be flown from great distances. Since the radioteletype operators (MOS 05C) have no maintenance or repair training, often they are unable to diagnose difficulties and sometimes several trips by repairmen are necessary to get equipment operational.

(b) EVALUATION: The lack of maintenance and repair training for radioteletype operators has resulted in extended radio outage, since it is necessary to fly repairmen to these radios from distant locations.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: It would be desirable to return to the system of providing repair and maintenance training for radioteletype operators. If this is not possible, they should at least be given sufficient training to diagnose troubles in their equipment to isolate the defective component. Replacement components as well as the correct type of repairmen (for radio or teletype equipment) could then be sent on the first trip reducing the time the equipment is deadlined.

(2) Maintenance Training of Communications Center Personnel.

(a) OBSERVATION: This organization operates a communications center for the I Field Force, Vietnam. The TOE 11-15D under which the battalion is organized calls for three warrant officers MOS 721A (Cryptographic Technician) as part of the communications center. In such relatively small communications centers operated by tactical organizations, it is important that all personnel, and particularly senior personnel, are thoroughly familiar with all aspects of the facility. In particular, they should be familiar with teletype equipment, both its operation and maintenance. Much of the success of communications center operations depends on the capability to keep teletype equipment functioning at high efficiency. A study, however, of the description of occupational group 72 (AR 611-112), from which MOS 721A is derived, discloses that individuals in this field are not required to have even a basic knowledge of teletype equipment, although the description does require a knowledge of cryptographic equipment.

(b) EVALUATION: The failure of the occupational group 72 to require knowledge of teletype equipment is a serious shortcoming. In tactical units, in particular, where such individuals must have a wide knowledge of the communications center field, the lack of teletype maintenance knowledge has a very adverse effect. Circuit outages, delayed handling times, and high equipment deadline rates can be traced to this deficiency.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: All personnel in occupational group 72 should have a knowledge of teletype equipment, and basic maintenance procedures for this equipment. Warrant officers in this field should also have a broad understanding of maintenance management procedures. The portion of AR 611-112 which covers this group should be revised accordingly.

d. Intelligence. None.

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e. Logistics. Prescribed Low List Stockage Levels.

(1) OBSERVATION. The 14 day stockage level authorized for prescribed load lists (PLL) of repair parts outlined in AR 735-35 is inadequate under the conditions existing in the II Corps Tactical Zone of Vietnam.

(2) EVALUATION. The present zero balance for the Electronic Maintenance PLL of this organization is 38% (99 of 258 items). The PLL provides repair parts for an organizational level Electronics Maintenance Shop. The excessively high PLL zero balance adversely affects the equipment deadline rate, since repair parts are not immediately available. One of the primary reasons for the high zero balance is the extended period between the time requisitions are submitted and the time supply action is taken. Since this unit is authorized a 14-18 day stockage level by AR 735-35, it is expected that most replenishment requisitions would be filled within that period. Study of 1103 electronics replenishment requisitions detailed below indicates that this is not the case.

| | JULIAN DATE 7000 - 7180 | | JULIAN DATE 7181 - 7365 | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------|-----|
| TIME FOR SUPPLY ACTION | Number | % | Number | % |
| under 18 days | 143 | 25.7% | 189 | 35% |
| 18 - 50 days | 108 | 19.4% | 89 | 16% |
| 51 - 75 days | 58 | 10.4% | 33 | 6% |
| 76 - 100 days | 19 | 3.4% | 34 | 6% |
| over 100 days | 195 | 35.1% | 110 | 20% |
| still no action | 33 | 5.9% | 92 | 17% |
| TOTALS | 556 | | 547 | |

From the figures, it is apparent that if the PLL zero balance is to be lowered, either the order and shipping time must be lowered or the days of supply must be increased. The exact amount of increase could only be determined by a detailed statistical study. It should, however, be based on field conditions rather than theoretical models, and should result in units being able to maintain PLL's with less than 15% zero balance.

(3) RECOMMENDATION. A greater stockage level based on a detailed study of field conditions should be authorized in order to lower PLL zero balances. This would have the long term effect of lowering deadline rates.

f. Organization. None.

Robert M. Springer Jr.
ROBERT M. SPRINGER JR.
LTC, SigC
Commanding

AVFA-GC-OT (15 May 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion
(Corps) for Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 30 MAY 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam,
ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

This headquarters concurs with the Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion (Corps) and makes the following comments:

a. Reference Section 2 paragraph b(1) (page 5), maintenance of doublet antennas used for high frequency radios. Maintenance procedures in applicable technical manuals prescribe daily and weekly examinations of antenna connectors. Under tropical conditions rubber tape placed around the antenna connectors will prevent shorts and leakage caused by moisture.

b. Reference Section 2 paragraph b(2) (page 5), circuit layout record cards. Circuit layout record cards used by the Defense Communication Agency (DCA) and the 21st Signal Group include information indicating the required audio interface levels required for tactical equipment. Coordination by this headquarters with DCA and the 21st Signal Group and additional training of the personnel at Tactical Interface Points (TIP) will alleviate this condition.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



JAMES P. GASTON
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies furnished:
2 - ACSFOR, DA, Wash DC 20310
1 - 54th Sig Bn

AVHGC-DST (15 May 68) 2d Ind

CPT Arnold/hga/LBN 4485

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 April 1968
(RCSCS FOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 16 JUN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, 54th Signal Battalion (CORPS) as indorsed.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning maintenance training of communication center personnel, page 6, paragraph 2c(2). Concur. Recommend that increased emphasis be placed on maintenance procedures for teletype equipment in school course 4C-721A conducted at US Army Signal School, Ft Monmouth, New Jersey.

b. Reference item concerning prescribed load list stockage levels, page 7, paragraph 2e: Nonconcur. Recently this command has established a change in criteria in the determination of repair parts requirements at DSU level which should greatly increase the responsiveness of these units to customer requisitions. Once the DSU's have received stocks under the revised criteria the order and shipping time should be reduced for the majority of items to the point that one PLL should be sufficient. In the interim units should (1) check their PLLs to determine if past demands justify an increase in authorized quantities and (2) that an updated PLL has been furnished the supporting DSU. PLL items should also be requisitioned immediately upon consumption thus reducing the time before a replacement item is received.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


JOHN V. GETCHELL
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:
HQ, 54th Sig Bn
HQ, I FFCRCFV

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GPOP-DT (15 May 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 54th Sig Bn (Corps) for Period
Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 5 JUL 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ. AGC
Asst AG

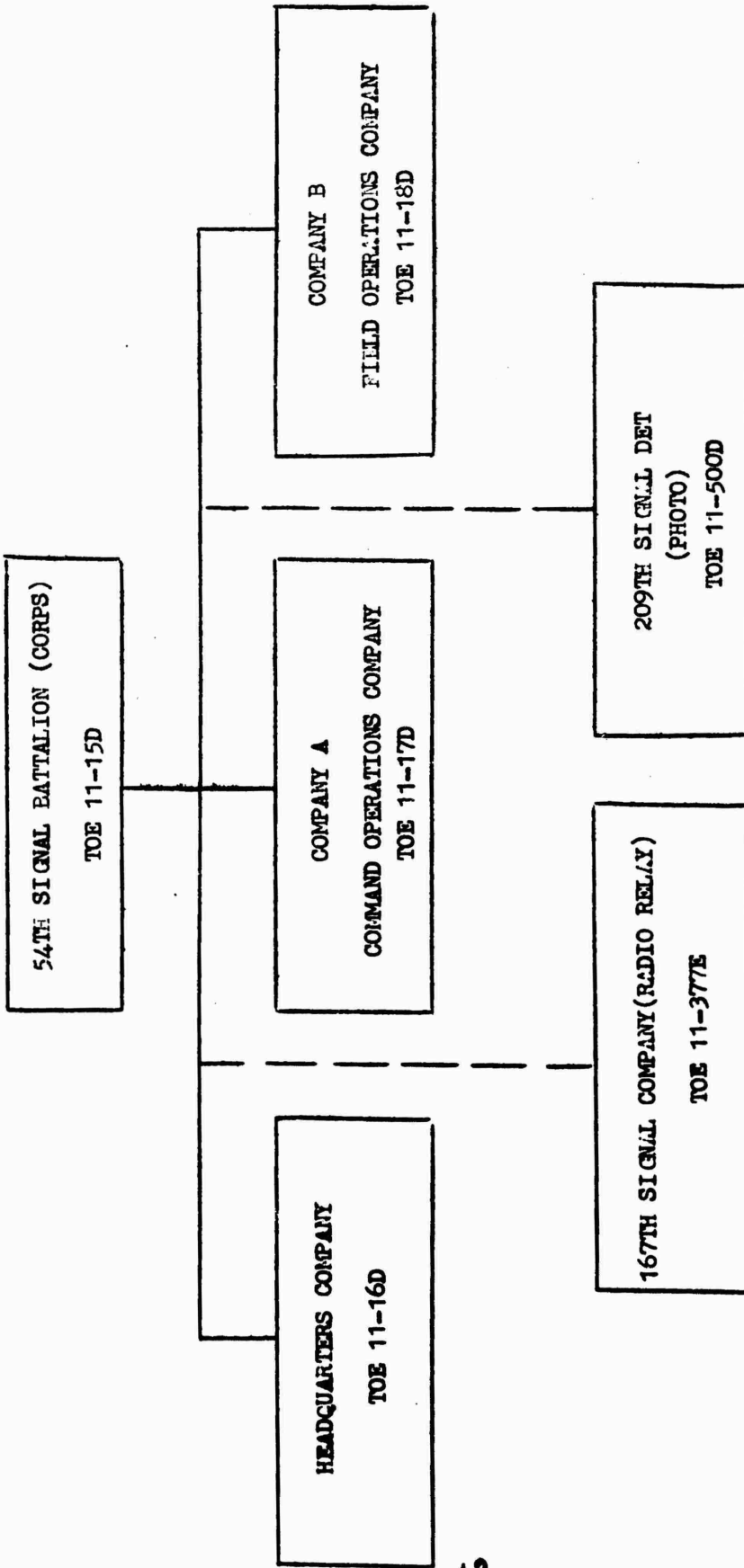
15 ANNEXES

- A. BATTALION ORGANIZATION
- B. BATTALION OPERATIONS
- C. BATTALION AVIATION SECTION OPERATIONS
- D. BATTALION ADMINISTRATION
- E. CHRONOLOGY
- F. BATTALION DETACHMENT LOCATIONS
- ~~G. BATTALION KEY PERSONNEL~~ Withdrawn, Hqs, DA

ANNEX A

54TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CORPS)

ORGANIZATION CHART



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LEGEND
 _____ ASSIGNED
 - - - - - ATTACHED

ANNEX B

BATTALION OPERATIONS

1. Communications center and HF RATT Operations

a. Total average daily transmissions (sent & received)

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|----------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Landline | 772 | 711 | 504 |
| RATT | 37 | 47 | 40 |

b. Average handling time (in minutes) for all originating and terminating messages by precedence

| | <u>February</u> | | <u>March</u> | | <u>April</u> | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| | <u>Orig</u> | <u>Term</u> | <u>Orig</u> | <u>Term</u> | <u>Orig</u> | <u>Term</u> |
| Flash | 44.40 | 3.57 | 25.83 | 4.29 | 23.75 | 2.69 |
| Immediate | 267.35 | 14.77 | 350.89 | 14.91 | 175.87 | 11.83 |
| Priority | 381.85 | 16.41 | 459.73 | 13.26 | 244.85 | 12.59 |
| Routine | 370.06 | 14.56 | 550.75 | 13.00 | 252.14 | 11.28 |

c. Precedence of total transmissions in percentages

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|-----------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Flash | 7.18 | 6.80 | 10.18 |
| Immediate | 46.79 | 54.85 | 46.17 |
| Priority | 37.98 | 31.56 | 31.18 |
| Routine | 7.87 | 6.63 | 12.47 |

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2. Switchboard Operations (Typhoon, Typhoon TOC)

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Total Typhoon Local Subscribers | 181 | 174 | 171 |
| Total Typhoon Trunks | 52 | 44 | 46 |
| Total Typhoon TOC Subscribers | 25 | 32 | 31 |
| Total Typhoon TOC Trunks | 28 | 29 | 25 |
| Average Daily Peg Count | 4700 | 3568 | 4176 |
| Average Pick Up Time (Seconds) | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.7 |

3. MARS Operations

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Phone Patches Attempted | 944 | 991 | 820 |
| Phone Patches Completed | 689 | 681 | 599 |
| MARSGRAMS | 117 | 28 | 19 |

4. Photographic Operations

a. In the past quarter, the new photographic facility was completed. The pictorial section occupied the new processing laboratory and portrait studios in mid March.

b. The Quonset hut facility is superior to the former location which was inadequate. Operations remain hampered, however, by the lack of total temperature and humidity control throughout the entire facility. The printing and developing rooms are air-conditioned with window type units, but additional air conditioning is needed especially in the photographic materials storage area to satisfy mission requirements.

c. The following figures represent the workload for the pictorial section during the quarter:

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|--|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Number of Negatives exposed | 5862 | 7845 | 6467 |
| Number of Prints made | 21364 | 19800 | 15125 |
| Number of colorslides made | 446 | 650 | 572 |
| Number of feet motion picture film exposed | 800 | 440 | 0 |

5. Training

The following non-battalion formal training was attended during the last quarter:

| <u>COURSE</u> | <u>LENGTH</u> | <u>NO. OF PERSONNEL</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|
| Radio AN/GRC-106 Operators Course | 112 hours | 2 |
| Radio Relay Carrier Operators Course | 96 hours | 7 |
| Radio Relay Operators Course | 48 hours | 18 |
| Technical Facilities Control Course | 176 hours | 1 |
| Tel. Keys Sys Course | 48 hours | 4 |
| AN/TRC-97 | 48 hours | 15 |

6. Logistics

a. Supply:

(1) During the quarter 35 10KW generators and 1 generator set PU-619 were received thru the Closed Loop Exchange Program. These were picked up as direct exchange or replacement shortages.

(2) Receipt of components to major end items of equipment increased during the quarter. The following components were received thru closed loop exchange:

| <u>COMPONENT</u> | <u>RECEIVED</u> | <u>COMPONENT</u> | <u>RECEIVED</u> |
|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Teletypewriter TT-4 | 16 | Terminal TH-5 | 7 |
| Teletypewriter TT-76 | 7 | Terminal TH-22 | 7 |
| Teletypewriter TT-98 | 3 | Receiver R-390 | 7 |
| Transmitter T-195 | 2 | Receiver R-417 | 5 |
| Transmitter T-302 | 12 | Power Supply FP-685 | 3 |
| Transmitter T-368 | 1 | | |

(3) 6 ea. Antennas RC-292 were the only items of COMEL equipment received through normal supply channels during the past quarter.

(4) During the past quarter many items of field equipment and fatigue clothing were received. There is, however, still a shortage of mosquito bars.

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b. Transportation;

(1) The battalion continued to make extensive use of U.S. Air Force transportation during the quarter. The total amounts of cargo transported to detachments operated by this unit are as follows:

| | |
|------------|---------------|
| Phan Thiet | 65 tons |
| Nha Trang | 62 tons |
| Pleiku | 49 tons |
| An Khe | 4 tons |
| Qui Nhon | <u>2 tons</u> |

TOTAL 182 tons

(2) The breakdown of non-battalion transportation utilized is as follows:

| | <u>February</u> | <u>March</u> | <u>April</u> |
|-------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|
| C-7A | 6110 | 8520 | 7280 |
| C-130 | 126804 | 92060 | 11665 |
| LST | | | 13680 |

1. During this reporting period, accomplishment of the aviation mission was highly successful. One float aircraft was assigned to the section during this reporting period which contributed to the success in accomplishing mission assignments. The section flew a total of 91 special missions and 1313 regular missions. In performing the overall missions, the section flew a total of 1771 sorties, transported 3687 passengers, and carried 181 tons of cargo. 595 combat hours were flown with a monthly aviator average of 60 hours.

2. Due to aviator personnel shortages, the section experienced the following non-mission ready down time, by type aircraft. These were flyable aircraft which could not be flown for any mission at all, due solely to lack of crew.

U-6A: 27 days; UH-1: 20 days; OH-23G: 20 days; U-1A: 6 days

3. The following information reflects aircraft status and flying hours for the past quarter.

| AIRCRAFT STATUS AND FLYING HOURS | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----|------|------|-------------------|
| TYPE | SERIAL NUMBER | HOURS FLOWN | OM* | FM* | EDP* | AVAILABLE REMARKS |
| U-1A | 55-3301 | 1.8 | 146 | | | 8% |
| U-6A | 53-7956 | 96.5 | 48 | 576 | | 71% |
| U-6A | 57-6162 | 105.1 | 96 | 168 | | 88% |
| OH-23G | 64-15144 | | | | | 100% |
| UH-1B | 62-2048 | 186.1 | 96 | 333 | 360 | 64% |
| UH-1D | 66-1033 | 154.9 | 192 | 408 | 72 | 69% |
| UH-1D | 66-1096 | 196.2 | 168 | 240 | 48 | 79% |
| UH-1D | 64-13895 | 6.0 | | | | 100% Float acft. |
| TOTAL | | 746.6 | 746 | 1725 | 480 | |

OM* - Organization Maintenance

FM* - Field Maintenance

EDP*- Equipment Down, Parts

4. The following training was conducted in the Aviation Section during the past quarter.

| SUBJECT | HOURS | DATE |
|--|-------|-----------|
| Qualifications and Promotions | 1 | 1 Feb 68 |
| Weapons Familiarisation (M-60D) | 2 | 8 Feb 68 |
| Daily, Intermediate and Periodic Inspect | 3 | 15 Feb 68 |
| Airframe and Controls | 2 | 22 Feb 68 |
| Form and Records, TM 38-750 | 2 | 29 Feb 68 |
| Airframe and Controls, continued | 1 | 2 Mar 68 |
| Safety | 2 | 9 Mar 68 |
| Aircraft Power Plant | 2 | 16 Mar 68 |
| Aircraft Instruments | 2 | 22 Mar 68 |

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| <u>SUBJECT</u> | <u>HOURS</u> | <u>DATE</u> |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|
| Oil Analysis | 1 | 29 Mar 68 |
| Aircraft Power Plants, continued | 2 | 6 Apr 68 |
| Aircraft Instruments, continued | 1 | 13 Apr 68 |
| Aircraft Power Plants, continued | 2 | 20 Apr 68 |
| Scheduled Maintenance Inspections | 3 | 27 Apr 68 |
| Safety | 1 | 30 Apr 68 |

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ANNEX D

BATTALION ADMINISTRATION

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1. R & R

During the last quarter the Battalion received 221 R & R allocations and utilized 158.

2. Courts and Boards

a. The Battalion Commander acts as Special Courts Martial convening authority for the 54th Signal Battalion, to include all attached units, and for the enlisted men of:

HHC, IFFV
Hq Battery, IFFV Arty
297 Trans, Co (Car)
272 Military Police
13 Military Intelligence (Historical) Det.
54th MI Det
55th MI Det
11th MI Det
64th Engineer Det
41st Civil Affairs
43rd Army Postal Unit

b. Non-Judicial Punishment: A total of 90 Article 15's were administered. 15 of those were Field Grade Article 15's.

c. Summary Courts Martial: 5 Summary Courts Martial were convened during the quarter.

d. Special Courts Martial: 7 Special Courts Martial were convened during the period. 5 of these were from the Battalion and 2 from Hq Battery IFFV Arty.

e. General Courts Martial: One man was tried and convicted by a General Courts Martial during the quarter.

3. Emergency Leaves: 10 emergency leaves were granted during the quarter.

4. Promotions and Vacancies:

| <u>February</u> | <u>E4</u> | <u>E5</u> | <u>E6</u> | <u>E7</u> | <u>E8</u> | <u>E9</u> |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Vacancies | 69 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 0 |
| Promotions | 69 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| <u>March</u> | | | | | | |
| Vacancies | 52 | 14 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Promotions | 52 | 14 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

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| <u>April</u> | <u>E4</u> | <u>E5</u> | <u>E6</u> | <u>E7</u> | <u>E8</u> | <u>E9</u> |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Vacancies | 80 | 13 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 |
| Promotions | 80 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

5. Civic Action

a. In the past quarter, aid was given primarily to the Ave Maria Orphanage in the form of food, clothing, monetary donations and time. Several parties were given for the children of the orphanage.

b. Aid was also given to the 5th Railway Security Battalion (ARVN) in the form of materials to help it in building new dependents housing.

c. In an effort to give some of our soldiers the opportunity to become better acquainted with the Vietnamese a program of sports and cultural visits has been established in which small groups from the 54th Signal Battalion visit the 5th Railway Security Battalion compound. The visiting group is escorted by an English-speaking member of the Vietnamese unit.

6. Chaplain

a. In the past quarter both general protestant and Roman Catholic, as well as Episcopal Communion services, have been held in the Battalion Chapel each Sunday. The names of Jewish personnel have been given to the Jewish Chaplain (I Field Force Vietnam). A Schedule of the times and places of the Jewish and other denominational services is posted on bulletin boards in the battalion area. At the various field sites coverage was furnished by Chaplains in the area.

b. Character Guidance was given on a regular monthly basis.

ANNEX E

C H R O N O L O G Y

(1 February 68 - 30 April 68)

- 1 Feb Engineer Hill, Pleiku under an alert. No casualties or damage.
- 2 Feb Cpt Norris departs 167 Radio Relay Company for duty in 54th Signal Battalion S-3 section. Det 19A, Bao Loc, in support of the 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne is discontinued.
- 5 Feb Task Force Cebula was activated on 30 January 68 to provide communication for I Field Force Forward Command Post. OP Plan for training exercise establishing Forward Command Post published this date. The exercise consisted of supplying communications from Forward Command Post down to two divisions and to a TIP (Tactical Interface Point). Communication included HF radio, communication center facilities, and local and trunk switchboards. The mobile configuration of equipment presented many problems to battalion personnel more familiar with fixed station arrangement. The exercise was performed 3 times prior to 19 February.
- 8 Feb 54th Aviation Section flew a special photo mission over Nha Trang to survey Tet offensive damage to the city.
- 9 Feb V-49 VHF system is swung to Phu Hiep. The DCE system to Phu Hiep was down.
- 12 Feb Installation of VHF system (V-48) from Vung Ro Bay to Phu Hiep in support of elements of 173 Airborne Brigade. (HQ, 4/503 Airborne Battalion). V-48 deactivated on 2 April.
- 13 Feb VHF system, A-40, was deactivated at Det #8, Phu Hiep. System was between Tuy Hoa and Phu Hiep. V-48 had provided direct access to Phu Hiep from Vung Ro Bay without going thru Tuy Hoa.
- 17 Feb A 54th Signal Battalion Aviation helicopter (IFTV Air Messenger) was hit by ground fire in the vicinity of LZ English. Damage - bullet hole in rotor blade.
- 19 Feb Plans were published for the Forward Command Post training exercise for Task Force Cebula. These plans were refined to incorporate changes demanded by Operation Northern Cross

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I Field Force Vietnam Forward Command Post). The exercise was conducted and inspected by the IFFV Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Blanchard.

- 21 Feb Bn XO, MAJ Bisok, conducted an inspection of 167 Radio Relay Company in preparation for an IFFV command inspection.
- 22 Feb Det #6, Pleiku, was deactivated and equipment was sent to Det #11, and Nha Trang. Continued communications support at LZ Uplift during the relief of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cav Division by the 3 bde, 4th Infantry Division at LZ English. There was some week overlap time. This marked the end of Operation Pershing II and the beginning of Operation Patrick.
- 23 Feb I Field Force Vietnam Command Inspection of 167 Radio Relay Company.
- 24 Feb Demobilized Task Force Cebula. Company A required to maintain patch panel and switch board equipment in a high state of readiness.
- 25 Feb Mortar attack at Phan Thiet, Det #10. One AN/GRC-26 destroyed, two 10KW generators and one 2½ ton truck damaged.
- 26 Feb An AN/VSC-2 sent to Phan Thiet to restore communication.
- 28 Feb A bulldozer cut the spiral four cable at An Kho; V-11 out. The cables were spliced. Outage time was 25 minutes. Installed P- system at I Field Force Vietnam Headquarters.
- 29 Feb AN/GRC-26 flown from Nha Trang to Phan Thiet to replace the one destroyed.
- 2 Mar A test shot between Phu Hiep and Vung Chuc was activated.
- 5 Mar Det #18 LZ Uplift was deactivated. 2 Brigade, 1st Air Cavalry Division departed LZ Uplift.
- 6 Mar 167 RR Co began to move operations and VHF terminal equipment into the vacated IFFV TAC bunker at Engineer Hill.
- 7 Mar Det #6 Pleiku was deactivated. Det #6 was the HF site for the IFFV TAC. The V-75 system was installed between Signal Hill and Kontum. It was routed via Dragon Mountain and MACV Dak to for the 124th Sig Bn, who requested help in supporting the 4th Infantry.
- 8 Mar V-91 was installed between Det #9, Vung Chuc, and Det #11, LZ English, with a relay at LZ Uplift.

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- 9 Mar Operation Plan Mercury published to require Co's A and B to maintain HF, RATT and VHF teams in a high state of readiness for immediate deployment to restore disrupted communications.
- 12 Mar 54th Aviation Section flew a special mission to photograph detachments for the I Field Force Vietnam Signal Officer.
- 19 Mar Company B deployed in two AN/MRC-112 teams in accordance with Operation Plan Mercury.
- 21 Mar Company A deployed an AN/VSC-2 in accordance with Operation Plan Mercury.
- 22 Mar V-75 was reterminated, eliminating the relays at Dragon Mountain and MACV Dak To and establishing a relay at Engineer Hill.
- 23 Mar An AN/VSC-2 was damaged near Ninh Hoa because the vehicle rolled over.
- 25 Mar The PSYOPS transmitter at Pleiku destroyed by enemy. Company A was committed to supply one AN/GRC-26 for replacement. Set broadcasts for PSYOPS team on 1.5 MHz.
- 27 Mar Prepared to deploy four AN/MRC-112, two AN/VSC-2, one AN/GRC-106, and two FM RWI stations in support of 3/506 Airborne Infantry Battalion near Phan Thiet.
- 29 Mar A Task Force was formed in support of a mobile Command Post of the 3/506th Airborne Infantry at Phan Thiet. Continued communications support at LZ English during the relief of 3rd Brigade, 4th Infantry Division by 173rd Airborne Brigade. This marked the end of Operation Patrick and the beginning of Operation Cochise Green.
- 1 APR The Task Force formed on 19 March was placed on standby status at Phan Thiet because the 3/506 operation was delayed.
- 2 APR V-48 between Vung Ro Bay and Phu Hiep deactivated. 4/503 came under operational control of 173rd Airborne Brigade at LZ English.
- 3 APR Communications were set up at a proposed Tactical Command Post location for the 9th ROK Division. Communications included SSB voice, HF RATT, and 1 VHF system, V-45. The signal equipment was convoyed from Nha Trang and set up in 1 day. The Division CG never actually occupied the Command Post.

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5 Apr

Communications support of the 4/503 consisted of a 12 chan VHF system V-82 from their Tactical Command Post to Phu Hiep. The Command Post was moved 4 times. During one of the moves, an AN/MRC-73 being airlifted by Chinook using a sling was dropped and destroyed on 9 April. The accident was caused by the failure of the sling.

10 Apr

Activated V-82 system between the fire base of 3/503 Airborne Infantry to LZ Illini. Because of the site layout, all equipment had to be emplaced by Chinooks with sling loads. Problems later arose in evacuating generators without blowing the antennas over. A test shot was established between Engineer Hill and Dak To to reterminate V-74 System. V-45 was deactivated because the 9th ROK Tactical Command Post was canceled.

13 Apr

A brush fire at the base of Hon Cong Mountain burned the SP4 cable lines causing outages of V-73, V-68, and V-11 systems. The cables were spliced and a radio system was established to restore communications.

17 Apr

The task force in support of the 3/506 was reactivated.

19 Apr

V-44 was relocated and Nui Ba relay was eliminated.

21 Apr

Det 2a was established to provide SSB and HF R&TT to the I Field Force Vietnam Liaison Officer at the Tactical Command Post of the Capital ROK Division.

22 Apr

Det 2a became Det 20.

25 Apr

The task force in support of 3/506 established communications. Two AN/VSC-2's and one AN/GRC-106 were committed.

26 Apr

Det 20 was deactivated. Operation was completed.

29 Apr

V-82 was deactivated. (LZ Illini-Vung Chua). The equipment was moved to An Khe by Chinooks.

ANNEX F

Detachment Locations

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| <u>Detachment</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | An Khe, Hon Cong |
| 2 | Qui Nhon, CAP ECK |
| 3 | Dak To, MACV Relay, 1st Bde, 4th Inf |
| 4 | Vung Ro Bay |
| 5 | Pleiku, B Co, 5th SF Gp |
| 6 | Hon Tre |
| 7 | Pleiku North (Emr Hill) |
| 8 | Phu Hiep, 4/503d |
| 9 | Vung Chua Mtn |
| 10 | Phan Thiet, 3/506th |
| 11 | LZ English, 173d |
| 12 | Ninh Hoa, 9th ROK |
| 13 | Kontum, 3d Bde, 4th Inf |
| 14 | Dragon Mtn |
| 15 | Pleiku South (Signal Hill) |
| 16 | Firebase Ellen, 4/503d |
| 17 | 5th SF PayOps (FKU) |
| 18 | LZ Uplift |
| 19 | 3/506th TAC CP |
| 20 | 3/506th FSP |
| 21 | ROK Hill, 9th ROK TAC CP |

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