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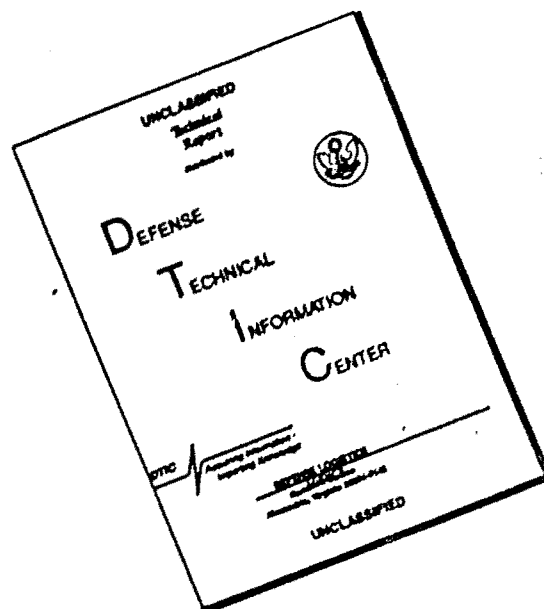
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (26 Nov 69) FOR OT UT 693197

5 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 73d Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.
2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 73RD SIGNAL BATTALION (SPT)  
APO US Forces 96312

SCCPV-NG-SS-OP

13 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) for  
Period Ending 31 July 1969.

See Distribution

1. Section 1. Operations: Significant Activities:

a. General:

(1) The mission of the 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) is to direct and coordinate operations of a signal battalion and to provide command control, staff planning and supervision of a battalion consisting of two to seven companies. At present, the mission is being executed by providing VHF, UHF, MICROWAVE and TROPOSPHERIC Scatter Radio communications along with associated subscriber-to-subscriber equipment to provide service and support to the forces of three free world nations located in the provinces of Ninh Thuan, Binh Thuan, Lam Dong, Quang Duc, Tuyen Duc and Khenh Hoa, II CTZ, RVN. The Battalion is comprised of Company C, 41st Signal Battalion headquartered and deployed on the Cam Ranh Bay peninsula; Company D, 36th Signal Battalion with headquarters at Dong Ba Thin and additional sites at Dong Ba Thin South, Ba Ngoi, Phan Thiet and throughout the Phan Rang area; Company E, 43rd Signal Battalion whose headquarters is located on Lang Bian Mountain, with organic sites at Gia Nghia, Bao Loc and Di Linh; and the 362nd Signal Company (TROPO) headquartered in the city of Dalat and controlling 73rd Signal Battalion sites on Pr'Line Mountain and Don Duong as well as in Dalat. The area of operation of the Battalion proper, excluding the TROPO detachments of the 362nd Signal Company attached throughout II CTZ among all elements of the 21st Signal Group, encompasses 18 Signal Sites bordering approximately 14,400 square miles. The Battalion was engaged in operations for 92 consecutive days, during the reporting period.

(2) On 27 May 1969, LTC Louis J. Zeleznikar assumed command of the 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) from the outgoing Commander, LTC Edison M. Cesar, Jr. Colonel Thomas C. Musgrave, Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group, was the reviewing officer. Distinguished guests included Brigadier General Thomas M. Rienzi, Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade; Colonel Frank Gleason, Commanding Officer, Cam Ranh Bay Support Command;

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and Colonel Yang Chang Sik, Commanding Officer, 30th ROK Regimental Combat Team, 9th White Horse Division. LTC Zeleznikar came to the Battalion from the Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Communications-Electronics in Washington. LTC Cesar returned to Washington to serve in the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Communications-Electronics Directorate, J-6. Other command and staff changes included 1LT Worth M. Helms as Company Commander, E/43rd Signal Battalion on 7 May, vice CPT Lester Smith who became Battalion Logistics Officer. On 21 May, 1LT Ronald E. Schmidt assumed interim command of D/36th Signal Battalion, vice CPT Victor J. Mergard, Jr. who returned to Fort Monmouth. Shortly thereafter, on 11 June, Lt. Schmidt relinquished command to CPT Jochen H. Ewing who returned from special leave. On 27 May, simultaneous with the Battalion change of command, CSM Henry W. Harvey assumed duties as Battalion Sergeant Major, vice CSM Donald E. Michaels who rotated to Germany. On 5 June, CPT Robert G. Heaton joined the Battalion as S-4 Officer, vice CPT Smith who departed for Headquarters, 21st Signal Group. On 7 June, Chaplain (CPT) William Brander succeeded Chaplain (CPT) Jesse C. Green, Jr. On 30 July, CPT Weldon C. Patterson assumed command of E/43rd Signal Battalion, vice Lt. Helms who rotated to CONUS. On that same date 1LT Richard E. Finke became the Operations Officer, vice CPT Samuel L. Christy who transferred to HQS, IFPV, in Nha Trang.

(3) VIP visits:

(a) On 4 June, Pr'Line Mountain Signal Site and Lang Bian Mountain Signal Site were honored by the visit of BG Lam Quang Thi, Commandant of the Vietnamese Military Academy and Rear Admiral Phan Nguyen Khanh, Commandant of the Vietnamese Command and General Staff College, accompanied on the orientation visit by COL Richard P. Wyrrough, Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Military Academy; LTC Earl R. Adams, Jr., Assistant Senior Advisor to the Vietnamese Command and General Staff College. The group, hosted by LTC Louis J. Zeleznikar, Commanding Officer of the 73rd Signal Battalion, spent one and one-half hours touring the Pr'Line site, receiving a briefing, and observing a fire power demonstration by the men of Pr'Line. At Lang Bian Mountain, they received a briefing, toured the compound, and observed a dog handlers demonstration by the 194th Military Police Security detachment stationed on LBM.

(b) Another new chapel was dedicated on 18 May, bringing the total number of new chapels in the Battalion to four. Distinguished guests at the dedication ceremonies held at the 362nd Signal Company Detachment 9 site were, BG Thomas Rienti, 1st Signal Brigade; COL Thomas Musgrave, Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group; COL Frank Gleason, Commanding Officer, CRB Support Command; Chaplain (COL) Chester Lindsey, USARPAC Chaplain; Chaplain (COL) Ryatt, Command Chaplain, MACV; and Chaplain (COL) Gefell, Staff Chaplain, USARPAC.

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(c) On 23 June, Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, Deputy Commanding General USARV, accompanied by Brigadier General Thomas M. Rienzi were hosted by the 21st Signal Group and 73rd Signal Battalion commanders at Pr'Line and Lang Bian Mountain Signal Sites.

(d) On 30 June and 1 July, Brigadier General Jack A. Albright, new Deputy Commanding General of 1st Signal Brigade, accompanied by Colonel Thomas C. Musgrave, made his initial inspection tour of the 73rd Signal Battalion.

(e) On 18 July, Brigadier General Geoffrey Cheadle, USAF, Assistant Chief of Staff, MACV J-6, visited Pr'Line, Lang Bian Mountain and Dalat Kraus Compound where he received tours and briefings on the communications mission. In Cam Ranh Bay, later the same day, the general toured the Dial Telephone Exchange and Hill 184 before proceeding to Navy and Air Force installations in the local area.

b. Activities:

(1) Throughout the reporting period, efforts were directed toward improving the site facilities to further bolster morale of the Battalion personnel. Especially evident in the more remote sites, experience indicates that continual improvement of troop accommodations serves to insure the best performance of the primary mission.

(a) C/41st Signal Battalion temporarily closed the unit mess hall on 12 May in order to conduct an extensive rehabilitation program. Supervised by the Post Engineers, the completed project will feature enlarged dining and food preparation areas as well as air conditioning. The mess hall is scheduled to reopen in the first part of the new reporting period.

(b) D/36th Signal Battalion accomplished the relocation of its company headquarters from the 15th Engineer Brigade area in northern Dong Ba Thin to the compound, formerly housing Company A, Nha Trang Signal Battalion, situated midway between the company's Dong Ba Thin and Dong Ba Thin South complexes. In addition to operational, security and safety considerations, priorities established by CTF Ewing stressed maximum effort in areas of troop facilities to include a modern washroom and multiple shower point consisting of porcelain wash basins providing hot and cold running water. Additionally, a volleyball court (with illumination capability), a movie area, and a 20 X 50 ft. company club have been prepared. An indicator of the success of this emphasis is evident in the selection for Best Battalion Mess award only eight days after completing the relocation project. Presently, efforts are being directed to expand the mess hall and motor pool buildings, erect new billets, improve the drainage system and remodel the operations and orderly room areas. In the Phan Rang area, the company has constructed a 20 X 35 ft.

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dayroom, a club and a patio facility.

(c) E/43rd Signal Battalion adjusted to the advent of a rainy season by providing shelter for motor pool personnel. Eventhough Lang Bian Mountain can boast of the most pleasant weather in the country, Vietnam's highest signal site is subjected to a severe monsoon season during the late summer and early fall. A portable quonset hut approximately 60 feet long and 20 feet wide, complete with work bench and tool storage area has been erected to facilitate maintenance operations. As a contribution to all units in the Dalat area, the company has established a retransmission facility for the AFVN FM station located in Saigon. Local units are now provided with convenient access to this vital source of entertainment and news matters. In a related area, the company initiated an individual movie account directly with the distributor in Dalat. The troops at LBM are now provided with three to six films a week for off-duty diversion. This represents a 4-fold increase in the availability of motion pictures.

(d) The 362nd Signal Company detailed a Compound Development Team for the express purpose of increasing and improving facilities. An old BEQ was refurnished and converted into a dayroom consisting of a large reading room and a separate taping facility, complete with recording equipment to promote the practice of sending tapes home. Also, a new club annex to the Tropicana Lounge was constructed on Pr'Line Mountain, due in large part to the energies of military personnel of that site.

(2) During this reporting quarter, the Battalion has continued to emphasize the awards program as reflected in the number of award recommendations submitted to this Headquarters and forwarded on to 21st Signal Group. This Battalion has submitted more award recommendations to 21st Signal Group than any other single battalion under Group's command. Command emphasis on the awards program has produced increases of 290% and 161% over preceding quarters.

(a) During May, 42 total award recommendations were submitted to Group; 9 Bronze Star Medals, 18 Army Commendation Medals, and 7 Brigade Certificates of Achievement. The month of June saw the largest number of Army Commendation Medal recommendations submitted during the 73rd's entire three years in Vietnam. During that month, 49 total award recommendations were forwarded to Group; 7 Bronze Star Medals, 37 Army Commendation Medals, and 5 Brigade Certificates of Achievement. During July the following award recommendations were forwarded: 1 Legion of Merit, 8 Bronze Star Medals, 29 Army Commendation Medals and 6 Brigade Certificates of Achievement. Summarizing the entire quarter, 137 award recommendations were forwarded by this Headquarters to 21st Signal Group.



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(b) 138 awards were received back from Brigade and presented during May, June and July. This total was composed of 1 Legion of Merit, 1 Soldier's Medal, 3 Air Medals, 37 Bronze Star Medals, 82 Army Commendation Medals, and 14 Brigade Certificates of Achievement. The Soldier's Medal was received for SP4 Christopher Cackner, formerly of Company C, 41st Signal Battalion who risked his life on two separate occasions within one hour while preventing two individuals from drowning. This was the first Soldier's Medal given in the entire 21st Signal Group in over one year. Air Medals were received for LTC Wilson M. Cesar, Jr., former CO, 73rd Sig Bn; CPT Victor Vergard, Jr., former CO, Co D, 36th Sig Bn; and CSM Donald Micheals, former CSM, 73rd Sig Bn. The Legion of Merit was received for LTC Cesar and presented at Battalion Change of Command Ceremonies on 27 May.

(c) During this period, 14 "On The Spot" Bronze Star Medals were presented by BG Rienzi and 13 "On The Spot" Army Commendation Medals were presented by the Generals during their inspection tours of the 73rd.

(d) The Meritorious Unit Commendation (First Oak Leaf Cluster) was awarded to the 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) and its assigned and attached units on USARV orders 1375 dated 1 May 1969. The period of commendation is for the period 1 August 1966 through 30 June 1968. The major units receiving this commendation are: Headquarters & Headquarters Detachment (1st Oak Leaf Cluster); Company B, 73rd Signal Battalion (basic award); and the 362nd Signal Company (1st Oak Leaf Cluster). Numerous detachments were also included on this commendation. Preparations are being made to officially present this unit award to the Battalion.

(e) During this quarter, 21st Signal Battalion was accorded another honor, distinct in its variety, from the Headquarters, 30th ROK Regimental Combat Team, 9th White Horse Brigade. It presented a ceremoniously framed Letter of Commendation addressed to the Commanding Officer, 21st Signal Group. The formal and highly decorated document expresses the appreciation and admiration of the Koreans for the service and support extended by the company and this Battalion during the period May 1968 to May 1969.

(3) The reporting period was marked by an unusual combination of regulatory inspection exercise. First, the AGI, a CMMI and the conclusion of the Brigade Quality Assurance visit. Initiated during the last quarter (23-28 April) and concluded during this quarter (17-23 July), the five-man Brigade Quality Assurance Team succeeded in visiting 16 sites within the Battalion. Each of the team members specialized in a particular area, and the related comments have been included in the respective sub-paragraphs of the Operations section. The "visit" concept, as opposed to hard core inspection, has been highly commended by personnel on all sites who received the Team. As a direct result of the initial phase of visits in

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April, the Battalion designated a Quality Control Officer to supervise implementation of Team recommendations in the interim months of May and June. This officer served as escort for the Team during the second phase and continued in the capacity of a subordinate staff officer with full-time commitment to site visits and technical attention in all areas of our operational mission. More recently, the position has been combined with the duties of Battalion Safety Officer, reflecting the comprehensive nature of quality control. Additionally, the Annual General Inspection (AGI) was conducted from 19-23 May 1969, by the Inspector General, 1st Signal Brigade. In summary, the IG reported that the mission was being accomplished in a highly effective manner, that discipline was excellent and that morale was considered to be good. Furthermore, a 21st Group team was in the Battalion area to conduct a General Maintenance Management Inspection with the 362nd Signal Company (TROPO) and Company E, 43rd Signal Battalion. With respect to the first company, the team noted significant improvement since the previous inspection and that command emphasis was widely applied to the area of company operations. Relating to E/43rd Signal Battalion, which also received a satisfactory rating, the team was highly impressed with the area of tactical vehicles. Since the last inspection, this area improved from a "very unsatisfactory 46 percent to a satisfactory 71 percent." In view of the remoteness of Lang Bien Mountain as well as the terrain traveled by the vehicles, the improvement was doubly significant. The Battalion reacted to the GMMI with both formal preparatory and detailed follow-up phases. The noted deficiencies received rapid and complete corrective action. A synopsis of the preparatory activities is discussed in the Logistics area of the Operations section.

(4) The Battalion was under the support of a highly diverse and dynamic mission during the reporting period. Notification was received in mid-May concerning the installation of a TROPOSPHERIC Scatter Radio system between Hill 182 and Lang Bien Mountain. The personnel and equipment for the project, however, gave the project a special feature. The system was to be installed by units scheduled for imminent insertion into the theater from CONUS. Six MICROWAVE (actually TROPO) detachments assigned to the 268th Signal Company (TROPO)(Light) were slated to depart Fort Lewis, Washington for shipment to RVN within the following 60 days. Each containing 8 men, these detachments had completed several weeks of intensive training and were prepared to function as isolated units in performing their mission. The 73rd Signal Battalion, meanwhile, having been

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tasked with sponsorship, deployment and operation responsibilities, initiated immediate correspondence to determine pertinent information from the incoming units and from higher headquarters. Response from the units revealed a movement schedule spanning the 9 June - 9 July period for personnel at two ports of entry, Cam Ranh Bay and Bien Hoa. Equipment would follow approximately three weeks behind the advance team and was scheduled to arrive at Da Nang, Nha Trang and Saigon. In an effort to effect as efficient an operation as possible, the Battalion opened communications to higher headquarters with a liaison visit to 1st Signal Brigade Headquarters in Long Binh, by the Battalion project officer. Discussions with system planning and force development personnel resolved many of the questions and problem areas faced by the sponsor. While arrangements were being made to accommodate the units, the first draft of the concept of operations was prepared by the Battalion. On 9 June, the advance team arrived at Cam Ranh Bay. The 221st Signal Corps Detachment was officially welcomed by Colonel Thomas C. Musgrave, Commanding Officer, 2nd Signal Group and Lieutenant Colonel Louis J. Zeleznikar, Commanding Officer, 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT). After processing into the Battalion and receiving an extensive orientation briefing from the Battalion Commander, the team was interviewed by project personnel. Before leaving for Lang Bian Mountain on 17 June to begin site preparation, the team provided substantial data regarding equipment and arrival dates. Based on this additional information, the Battalion finalized the concept of operation to include placement and pairing of equipment and identification of the reserve unit. This plan was forwarded to higher headquarters and received full approval for implementation coincident with the arrival of the remaining units. On 9 July, the 33rd, 51st and 211th Signal Corps detachments arrived Cam Ranh Bay, joined the following day by the 2nd Signal Corps Detachment. All units received the official welcome and orientation briefing described above. Also, on 13 July, the 220th Signal Corps Detachment arrived at Bien Hoa and was met by personnel from Brigade Headquarters before shipment to Cam Ranh Bay. Units were dispatched to pre-arranged sites and began preparing the areas to receive their equipment. At this point, the 211st Detachment's equipment had already arrived in Saigon on 20 June. The 51st Detachment was forwarded to the 37th Signal Battalion at Da Nang. Other shipments arrived through the latter part of July. As each shipment entered country, notification to Battalion S-1 was coordinated through arrangements with Traffic Management Agency and 1st Logistics Command. Upon confirmation of arrival, the team chief and one of the team members were recalled from their respective sites, briefed as to whereabouts of the equipment and contact personnel at the de-

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barkation point; before proceeding to identify, claim and supervise the TCMD arrangements. Each of the teams has an individual Unit Identification Code and maintains its own property book. Equipment was channeled into Cam Ranh Bay and re-directed to the respective sites. As the reporting period closed, areas at both terminals had been prepared for the equipment, which was on site or in transit to site. Concrete pads had been laid for both the vans and antenna bases and the equipment was in the process of emplacement. Frequencies had been requested but had not yet arrived and other elements of termination, to include power, wiring, and integration with existing equipment, were progressing smoothly. The system, providing 48 channels of high quality communications between Cam Ranh Bay (220th, 33rd) and Lang Bian Mountain (221st, 211th), is expected to be activated early in the next reporting period. The mission, which involved every staff element in the Battalion, was conducted without incident. Reaction to the requirements of sponsoring and deploying new units gave this Battalion an opportunity to exercise the most imaginative planning of which it was capable. Aside from the inherent frustrations involved in intra-theater equipment movements, the mission to date has materialized exactly as programmed in the concept of operation.

c. Personnel:

(1) The following is a list of critical MOS shortages within the Battalion:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
31J20 Teletype Repairman	12	7
31L20 Field Radio Relay Equipment Repairman	19	9
31M20 Radio Relay & Carrier Equipment	70	58
51L20 Refrigeration Specialist	7	1
72C20 Telephone Switchboard Operator	75	62

(2) The shortages of trained personnel in MOS's 31J20, 31L20, 31M20, 51L20, and 72C20 is creating difficulties in the operation of the numerous communications sites within this Battalion. There is a critical need for experienced refrigeration specialists to maintain the numerous tactical air conditioning units assigned to units of this Battalion.

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(3) The following are percentages of fill of the Battalion's requisitions:

<u>MONTH</u>	<u>REQ</u>	<u>FILL</u>	<u>%</u>
May	70	60	85%
Jun	45	44	97%
Jul	504	217	43%

The shortage of 72B communications specialists has been alleviated by the assignment of thirty-two (32) replacements to the Battalion.

(4) Promotions for grade E6 to E7 have been extremely slow. An E7 Standing Promotion List is published monthly by the CO, 21st Sig Gp, who is promotion authority for grade E7. The list continues to grow each month as follows:

<u>DATE OF PROMOTION LIST</u>	<u>NUMBER OF EM ON LIST</u>
4 May 69	51
31 May 69	59
30 Jun 69	62
25 Jul 69	68

The quarter opened with 51 names on the list and closed with 68 names, an increase of 17 names during the quarter. There were no E7 promotion allocations for the months of May and June, and only 3 for the month of July.

d. Operations:

(1) Radio: The radio area experienced one of the most active quarters during the reporting period. Activities included major re-configurations of traffic flow patterns as well as general upgrading of radio equipment, paths and planning. The Quality Assurance Team recommended additional attention on operator maintenance and precision of equipment tuning, which has since been applied as command emphasis. Team member, SFC Kean, returned to C/41st Signal Battalion Technical Control facility between QA visits to assist in trouble shooting frame problem as a follow up action to his first evaluation. The CRB Hill



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182 MICROWAVE facility earned outstanding comment from the Brigade QA visitors.

(a) During the first week of May this Battalion expanded the communications to the DBT area by activating a newly installed AN/TRC-24 system BBH4E to CRB Hill 184. Subsequently, system BBH11 circuits were rerouted over the new system and the BBH11 system which employed AN/TRC-24 from DBT to Nha Trang, via Hon Tre relay, was deactivated on 13 May 1969.

(b) The initial stages of a major communications system reconfiguration project were completed during the quarter. At the present time, all traffic generated within central II CTZ which is directed towards Nha Trang and other northeastern II CTZ areas, must pass from LBM, through Cam Ranh Bay and relay from Hon Tre Island into Nha Trang. The communications corridor between Cam Ranh Bay and Nha Trang (Hon Tre Relay) is the most congested area in the Battalion. The reconfiguration project called for the installation of a 24 channel TROPO system between Hon Tre Island and LBM resulting in dual access to central II CTZ and the reduction of "pass through" traffic at Cam Ranh Bay by employing a major traffic artery directly to Hon Tre Island. The Island, which had acted only as a relay until this time, had to be equipped to terminate and interface circuits. This was accomplished in May with the installation of TCA-1, drop-and-insert, equipment for a maximum of eight channels. On 10 May, the first eight channels of the BBM01 CACS were wired into the TCA-1 equipment, terminated at Hon Tre and redesignated the BBM10 CACS. Hon Tre, by means of this new system could now initiate traffic to Cam Ranh Bay. During the latter part of May, AN/TRC-97B TROPO equipment was placed at LBM and Hon Tre in order to implement the 24 channel artery to central II CTZ. The radio equipment, produced by RCA for the Air Force, was new to the Battalion and required additional training for operators before installation could be effected. On 8 June, the system, BBT16, was activated and the initial phase of reconfiguration was accomplished. An additional TROPO system from Cam Ranh Bay to LBM is scheduled to be activated during the next reporting period. The two TROPO systems will absorb and deactivate two parallel MICROWAVE systems originating on Cam Ranh Bay Hill 184, relayed through Cam Ranh Bay Hill 182 and terminating at Pr'Line Mountain.

(c) An AN/MRC-112 shot was installed last quarter from Pr'Line to Don Duong in order to provide the 577th Engineers with much needed communications. This system has since been upgraded with the installation of an AN/MRC-69 between Don Duong and Pr'Line. This provides the 577th Engineers with a total capability of 12 channels of com-

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munications into the long lines system as compared with the original four (4) channels with the AN/MRC-112. Difficulties were experienced in installing the AN/MRC-69, since the military crest of a mountain exists between the two sites. This poor profile caused an adaption of a refraction shot in order to insure effective operation. To date, the communications have proven to be reliable for the supported unit.

(d) A TROPO system was installed connecting Pr'Line and Phan Thiet, doubling the TROPO communications in this area by paralleling the existing TROPO system, BBT05. The new system has been operationally ready since 19 June 1969 but has not been activated as of this date; awaiting designator from higher headquarters. This new system employs AN/TRC-129 equipment. Also, in conjunction with this mission the terminal equipment of the paralleling system, BBT05, was upgraded with the original AN/TRC-90 equipment being replaced by AN/TRC-129 equipment on 30 July 1969. The AN/TRC-90's removed were prepared for shipment to Thailand as part of the 1st Signal Brigade rehabilitation project.

(e) A system designated 77UH30, utilizing AN/TRC-24 equipment, was installed from Cam Ranh Bay Hill 184 to Phan Rang. It was activated on 10 July 1969. The purpose of its installation was to provide access for the Tandem Switch program to the Phan Rang area.

(f) Additional communications were needed between Lang Bian Mountain and Pr'Line; whereupon, this Battalion installed a AN/TRC-24 system, BBH7E, and activated it on 19 July 1969.

(g) The signal configuration of Dong Ba Thin North VHF site has significantly changed during this reporting period. Upon the activation of the new Dong Ba Thin ICS site, the circuits from the 77UHV8 and 77UHLF UHF systems were cutover to the Regional Communications Group system. The two VHF systems, BBH4E and BBH62, were, in turn, cut over to the vacant AN/GRC-50 equipment thus, increasing the system reliability between DBT and CRB Hill 184. Designators for the new UHF systems are BBW2D and BBW3D, respectively.

(h) Communications requirements to the area served by the BBW7A and BBW8A systems were considerably reduced allowing both AN/GRC-50 systems to be deactivated 27 July 1969. The equipment released has been tasked for redistribution to upgrade two VHF systems in Phan Rang. This will also eliminate a VHF frequency congestion problem in the Phan Rang area.

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(2) Wire: The wire area, during the quarter, involved activity in several major rehabilitation projects throughout the Battalion. Significant activities included the culmination of the Tandem Switch project and the attachment of a wire platoon to the C/41st Signal Battalion. In the outside plant area, the Quality Assurance personnel noted standard deficiencies among grounds. Corrective action implemented through a methodical survey of the Battalion area resulted, by the end of the quarter, in the qualification of over 80% of the 47 station, frame and switchboard grounds. Switchboards were found in need of extensive operator and specialized maintenance on jackfields and relays, by the Brigade Team. The Battalion responded with a specialized task force which canvassed the entire area of operations to organize and augment the correction of deficient areas.

(a) The TK-1 trunking cable between the Army DTE and Air Force DTE was rehabilitated by the 578th Signal Company under the operation control of C/41st Signal Battalion. From a total of 400 pairs only 78 were in working condition at the initiation of the project. By mid-July, 84% of the cable was operational. On 25 May the 578th Signal Company initiated installation of 1200 ft. of 25 pair cable and 15,000 ft. of 100 pair cable as an extension of cable 01 to service the Installation Engineers, Vinnel Corporation, and ammo areas. Completion of the project in early August will give these subscribers improved service and eliminate several legs now on TK-1 trunking cable, raising the total number of good pair on the major cable above the ninety percent mark.

(b) Late in May of this past quarter, the 578th Signal Company completed a cable project on Pine Mountain Signal site to improve the quality of communications by eliminating cable problems between the frame and the MICROWAVE, TROPO, Long Lines, and VHF installations. The quality of communication was upgraded significantly upon completion of this project.

(c) With the installation of the AN/TRC-97B to Hon Tre a need existed to interface the new TROPO facility with the Technical Control facilities at Lang Bien Mountain. Due to the equipment being located at a remote spot on the site and the planned installation of two AN/TRC-129's, a further need existed to install a large multi-pair cable in a secure configuration from the new TROPO site. A proposal was made to install approximately 300 feet of 200 pair underground cable to the UHF intermediate frame. The 200 pair cable was laid with two factors in mind: 1) It allows adequate cable to interface the two AN/TRC-129 systems that are slated to be co-located in the Hon Tre - Cam Ranh TROPO complex; 2) It also provides the facilities for approximately 70% back-up in the event of bad pairs or any future

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installations at this location. To terminate the cable, a small frame was constructed which facilitated initial installation and which will facilitate any future trouble shooting procedures.

(d) In June, a 300 pair overhead cable was installed by the 578th Signal Company between ICS facility and the Technical Control facility on Hill 184. The cable was necessary to provide expansion capability for additional circuits and to accommodate the Tandem Switch circuits as the existing 200 pair between the two facilities were filled to capacity.

(e) Dalat LD switchboard has experienced a number of difficulties in the cable between the frame and the MTC-1 switchboard. This was due to the fact that the 26 pair cables routed from the MTC-1 to the main distribution frame were buried 18 inches underground and were grounding out as a result of moisture. Due to the adverse weather conditions that will exist until October, it was thought that the addition of a small frame and a single run of 200 pair cable, which is designed for subterranean use, would greatly decrease the number of circuit outages from shorted, crossed and grounded cable pairs due to water in the cables. It is anticipated this preventive action will eliminate any future circuit outages caused by water in the cables.

(f) During the quarter, the ratio of Class "A" to Class "C" telephones in Cam Ranh Bay was brought down to 30% Class "A" and 70% Class "C" after a continuous effort on the part of the Cam Ranh Bay DTE to locate and eliminate unwarranted Class "A" telephones.

(g) In June, telephone service to Cam Ranh Bay subscribers provided by the Cam Ranh Bay Army DTE was upgraded, to include direct dialing capability into other qualified areas in RVN and Thailand, when the Exchange was connected to the Tandem switching center in Nha Trang. In preparation for this improvement in service, several projects were completed in timely sequence which resulted in activating the Tandem capabilities in Cam Ranh Bay more than one week ahead of schedule. The Cam Ranh Bay Dial Telephone Exchange had modified and rewired its frame to accommodate forty-four 6-wire circuits to go to the ICS facility on Hill 184. Due to the lack of necessary equipment at the ICS facility, half of the circuits had to be rewired at the DTE and sent over tactical systems, operated by the Battalion. To handle these additional circuits, cable TK-6 going to the ICS facility from the DTE was rehabilitated from an inactive status to a better than 90 percent good cable with an additional 300 pair tie cable installed between the ICS and the Technical Control facility for re-routing to the tactical equipment. Although the Tandem signaling

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involves highly delicate pulses and requires very sensitive equipment of fixed station capability, the tactical systems have provided excellent circuit paths for the Tandem traffic with no complications. To insure that all Cam Ranh Bay subscribers were thoroughly oriented on the use of Tandem Switch, LTC Zeleznikar gave an information briefing to all commanders in the area. In addition to Daily Bulletin announcements, a fact sheet was distributed and a new telephone directory was published in conjunction with the cutover to provide dialing instructions and complete listings of area access codes as well as an up-to-date listing of all Cam Ranh Bay telephone numbers.

(h) This quarter saw the construction and installation of a frame at the Gia Nghia signal site. One member from Lang Bian Mountain Technical Control facility was sent to Gia Nghia with a prefabricated frame which was built after a survey of the needs of the site. Gia Nghia signal site now has an accurate routing of its cable as well as radio interface points. In addition to this, accurate cable routing records have been put into effect, which will reduce restoration time by increasing the accuracy of localizing cable problems.

(i) On 28 June 1969, the underground installation of almost two miles of 100 pair cable was completed in Phan Thiet by Company D, 36th Signal Battalion assisted by the 578th Signal Company. This cable replaced a troublesome aerial cable that was continuously being damaged by shrapnel and is providing more reliable communications with increased capabilities to all subscribers in Phan Thiet.

(j) On 5 July 1969, Company B, 40th Signal Battalion completed installation of the Dalat Cable Project to include upgrading of the old cable from Kraus Compound to Cam Ly Airfield and the addition of 25 pair legs to service the 5/27th Field Artillery and the National Police Field Forces.

(k) In July, Company C, 41st Signal Battalion was augmented by the attachment of 2nd platoon, 578th Signal Company, a cable construction unit. The addition of this platoon has strengthened the working force for rehabilitation, installation, and maintenance of the outside plant facilities at Cam Ranh Bay. A complete rehabilitation of the Cam Ranh Bay outside plant is underway, beginning in late July.



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(3) Commcenter: Two major developments marked activities in this area during the quarter.

(a) A new Communications Center facility, featuring a Mode I Autodin Terminal (1004), was completed by C/41st Signal Battalion at the end of July and formally dedicated by Brigadier General Albright, Deputy Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade, on 1 August 1969. The new structure, under construction since September 1967, lay dormant for several months due to funding and contractor problems. Appraised of the situation by staff officers and contractor personnel, the Battalion Commander set an optimistic 30 day deadline on 1 July, combined with the appointment of a Commcenter Project Officer and intense command emphasis on the mission. Due to the enormous amount of ground work, coordination and material acquisition involved in setting the project in motion, arrangements were cleared with higher headquarters to allow the Project Officer a full range of direct access to 1st Signal Brigade and all support elements for mission accomplishment. Personnel from the Battalion made several trips to Nha Trang and Long Binh to accelerate coordination, iron out administrative details and personally secure equipment. The move from the tactical complex to the new Commcenter was amended by CSEMA engineers such that instead of a direct move, an exchange of computers would be effected with Nha Trang. Early in the project, it was determined that much of the initial work performed when the new structure was begun would have to be revised. Internal wiring inaccuracies had to be corrected. Wall outlets had to be changed and grounded. The station ground itself was inadequate and a new ground was constructed. The necessity to revise the previous errors presented a serious obstacle to the self-prescribed timetable but increased effort sustained the schedule. The time-frame of computer exchange between Cam Ranh Bay Commcenter and the Non-Automatic Relay Center (NARC), as proposed by CSEMA, set 10 August 1969 as the target date for completion of the project at Cam Ranh Bay. On 23 July, the NARC began deinstallation of their 1004. On 26 July, the NARC 1004 arrived in Cam Ranh Bay, one day after the Battalion's computer had been sent to Nha Trang's Automatic Switching Center (ASC). Installation was conducted as the final work in other areas was being completed. The dedication marked a dual success in that the Brigade deadline had been halved and the Battalion deadline had been met.

(b) In May and June, D/36th Signal Battalion undertook a complete remodeling of the Phan Thiet Communications Center. The security, wiring, internal layout and operations were the prime areas upgraded in the project. The construction of a secure entrance and the installation of an air-conditioning system completed the revitalization program.

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(c) Only one Commcenter was noted by the Quality Assurance Team as having any serious deficiencies, and that was in regard to handling times and service rates. The condition was rapidly corrected by the OIC through vigorous supervision and disciplinary action.

e. Training and Organization:

(1) Formal Schools:

(a) During the reporting period, maximum use of quotas to the USATF, 1st Signal Brigade School was made. There were approximately thirty-nine (39) personnel attending the various courses at the USATF. These courses were found to be extremely beneficial for newly arrived personnel in country and also a very good refresher course for experienced personnel.

(b) An AN/TRC-97B Maintenance Course is being conducted out-of-country at Clark Air Force Base, The Philippines. This Command was allocated seven (7) quotas for the First Quarter FY-70. Although the course cycle does not coincide with this reporting period, three (3) personnel completed the course in July and four (4) are scheduled to attend the course in August.

(c) A 21st Signal Group Telephone Installation and Repair Course, operated by the 73rd Signal Battalion at Cam Ranh Bay, was established on 15 April 1969. As the 1st Signal Brigade conducted an I and R Course at Long Binh, the school in Cam Ranh Bay was discontinued after the graduation of Class 1-70, 14 July - 14 August 1969. During the tenure of the 21st Signal Group I and R School, from 15 April 1969 to 1 August 1969, there were thirty-one (31) student graduates.

(2) Special Training:

(a) Special maintenance training of 36H personnel was conducted at the local DTE during the month of June 1969. During that time, six (6) 36H maintenance personnel underwent intensive training under the supervision of CHO Contractor Personnel. The contractor performed only over-the-shoulder supervision with the military personnel performing the actual maintenance. Training progressed well over the entire period. Since the departure of the CHO Contractor Personnel, there has been four (4) additional 36H personnel assigned to the DTE. There are also three (3) personnel, (1-36G), (1-72C), and (1-26L) taking OJT training at the DTE. This additional strength has greatly helped the maintenance of the equipment.

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(3) OJT and Cross Training:

(a) The Battalion continues to place strong command emphasis on the quality of on-the-job training and cross-training. In order to minimize the effects of rotation of experienced technical personnel, and to gain in-depth capability, training of personnel in related MOS's is an important part of the over all OJT program. During this reporting period, one-hundred and seventy (170) personnel have had OJT in their respective MOS and thirty-three (33) were crossed trained in related MOS's.

(4) Mandatory Training:

(a) Mandatory training is being conducted in accordance with the master training schedule published by this and higher headquarters.

(b) During this reporting period, all Battalion personnel fired their individual and crew-served weapons for familiarization.

f. Intelligence and Security:

(1) Emphasis has continued in all aspects of physical security, to include fortifications, communications, familiarization through practice alerts and reappraisal of defense plans.

(a) C/41st Signal Battalion improved its security posture by rebuilding the fighting bunkers on Hill 184 and Hill 182 located in Cam Ranh Bay. Specifications for the new bunkers are in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade's "model bunker" concept. Due to the deployment of personnel under different major subordinate commands during alerts in its area, discussions have been initiated in coordination with HHD, 73rd Signal Battalion. Efforts are aimed at achieving a realistic, responsive plan, adapted to the dislocated nature of defense commitments. The results of the planning are to be included in the revision of CRB sub-area Ground Defense Plan scheduled for publication in the next quarter.

(b) D/36th Signal Battalion initiated security improvements, immediately upon occupying the new HQS site. Approximately 50 claymores were installed in conjunction with extensive tangle foot barbed wire. Cyclone fencing surrounds the perimeter and communications have been extended to upgrade contact between the towers/bunkers and the TOC.

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(c) E/43rd Signal Battalion effected extensive repair and replacement of perimeter wire, upgraded construction of the third and final mortar pit by the installation of unserviceable conexes as ammo storage bins adjacent to the pit area, and continued the phasing-in of new model bunkers. Lang Bian Mountain is one of two sites in the Battalion employing project Duffle Bag. Pr'Line (a 362nd Signal Company site) has experienced excellent results with the system; however, due to the drainage and erosion characteristics of the higher and steeper site, LBM has had difficulty in placing the system on a permanent basis. Several of the units have almost been washed from their original location. Assistance from the 577th Engineer Battalion will check the erosion problem by use of baffles and revetments in threatened and critical areas.

(d) The 362nd vastly improved the security within Kraus Compound by isolating entry to the main gate. The supply gate in the rear of the compound has been permanently closed and completely integrated into the perimeter. Additional concertina wire and communications further upgraded the perimeter and a 20 feet high tower was erected on the north ridge adding to both the defense of that sector as well as increased visibility overall.

g. Logistics:

(1) The Battalion S-4 Section is continuing to conduct quarterly announced and unannounced inspections of all subordinate units. Main areas of concentration are supply procedures, maintenance operations, ammunition (storage and basic loads), PLL's, mess operation, and reports of survey. This program has proven itself to be very helpful in minimizing deficiencies and initiating correct operating procedures. Implemented as an additional approach, a Battalion Command Maintenance Management Inspection team was appointed, in June, to inspect and assist in ensuring that all subordinate units were properly prepared to receive a CMMI with a satisfactory rating. The results of the pre-CMMI were compiled and furnished to the inspected units for corrective action. It definitely appears that the pre-CMMI effort was a success. Discrepancies were corrected and the two companies who have received the CMMI thus far: Company E/43rd Signal Battalion, and the 362nd Signal Company have both received satisfactory ratings.

(a) The quarter included the implementation of an additional service in the Logistics area, which has become a highly effective and convenient control tool. DSU's initiated publication of a monthly reconciliation listing updating statuses on all outstanding requisitions, resulting in a significant reduction in time-consuming follow-up procedures.

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(b) During the quarter, the 362nd Signal Company acquired several new 45KW 400 HZ generators to be used as primary power for the AN/TRC-97B equipment. The 5KW requirement of the 97B TROPO vans reduced the optimum efficiency of the heavy load power units. Load banks, individually matched with the equipment at each site to meet load requirements based on generator design are now in use or being constructed on all applicable sites.

(c) Plans were formulated during the quarter to install a back-up power source for the Lang Bian Mountain signal site. To accomplish this task, the site will use four (4) 45KW generators wired in series with a breaker bar power distribution system connected to the existing PA&E power facilities. The four 45KW generators will allow the site adequate back-up power to pull the operational load as well as the administrative load.

(d) Due to the increasing demands placed on the electronic maintenance facility located in Dalat, it became necessary to enlarge the shop area. Because of this need, expansion resulted in additional space in the shop for maintenance activities and an administrative area has been provided. Control over distribution of work and work flow to and from the shop have been improved, as has quality assurance.

2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's observations, evaluations and recommendations:

a. Personnel:

(1) Command Interest in Awards:

(a) Observations: Personnel often rotate before awards, which have been requested for them, return to the individual's unit.

(b) Evaluation: Personnel records offer the most convenient means of scheduling awards input on an individual basis.

(c) Recommendation: That the echelon (company, battalion, group, etc.) which retains personnel records (201 Files) provide a 45-60 day forecast of losses to those levels where recommendations are produced.

b. Operations:

(1) Switching Devices:



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(a) Observation: On Hill 182, Cam Ranh Bay MICROWAVE Relay Site, the method formerly used to monitor the signals from the various test points was to connect the cable successively from each point to be tested to the OS-25 oscilloscope.

(b) Evaluation: There was a need to fabricate a device whereby the operator could rapidly switch from one test point to another and view the presentation on the scope without having to physically disconnect the cable each time. This would accelerate the testing process and eliminate the need to continually replace connectors which become loose due to frequent connecting and disconnecting.

(c) Recommendation: A video monitor switching unit was fabricated by the use of a double-wafer switch. All cables from the test points were terminated in the switching unit. An additional cable was then extended from the switching unit to the oscilloscope. This method provides for the rapid switching between test points without having to disconnect the cables. The switching device has made it easier to monitor the signals with the scope and in the event of outages should reduce system restoration time.

(2) Activation Coordination:

(a) Observation: Many problems were encountered prior to activation of the AN/TRC-24 system (77UH30) between Cam Ranh Bay and Phan Rang.

(b) Evaluation: An attempt was made for approximately three weeks to activate this system without success. Everything that could have possibly caused trouble was checked and rechecked. Frequencies were changed often in an attempt to find ones that would work. Antennas were rotated to different positions in an attempt to bring in a good signal. It was finally decided to stage an exchange of operators between the two sites. On the second day following the exchange of operators the system was activated. The exchange enabled the operators to work with someone at the distant terminal whom they knew well and had worked with before.

(c) Recommendation: That, if unknown problems persist after application of all standard measures, an exchange of personnel be made between terminals in conjunction with re-emphasis on basic troubleshooting procedures.

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(3) AN/TRC-24 False Indicator:

(a) Observation: Operators have experienced normal high voltage readings, very high multi-grade readings; however, no forward power reading.

(b) Evaluation: When aligning transmitter T-302 on C-band this condition is usually caused by the dummy filter or band-pass filter not being completely seated.

(c) Recommendation: When there is a problem in aligning the transmitter, double check the seating of the dummy filter and the band-pass filter.

(4) Bi-Lingual Switchboard Operations:

(a) Observation: Vietnamese telephone operators in the Dial Exchange have a limited understanding of the English language and this reduces their understanding of many of the concepts involved in the structure of the telephone system in South East Asia.

(b) Evaluation: Vietnamese operators were given thorough orientation to the concepts of traffic routing and the operation of the Tandem Switch at the time of the takeover by having Vietnamese translations printed for their information. The result was a smooth transition into the use of Tandem dialing. All the operators gained complete education of complex ideas by having them expressed in their own language and were able to assist one another in understanding these concepts.

(c) Recommendation: In similar situations where new technical concepts are introduced to the Vietnamese workers that a written Vietnamese translation be provided to help in explanation and developing complete understanding of these concepts.

(5) Cable Detection:

(a) Observation: Numerous problems arise when cable detection equipment for locating and determining the depth of cable is extremely valuable for immediate and accurate location. This type of equipment is not TO&E so many units that have a large cable plant responsibility.

(b) Evaluation: The addition of detection equipment to TO&E can save a great amount of time in locating buried cable, splices, and

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damaged portions of cable to facilitate repair. This equipment can also be used to determine the exact location of buried cable when engineers are digging in the vicinity or heavy construction equipment will be operating in the area. This availability of equipment will reduce greatly the hazard of having cable cut unexpectedly by construction crews, and will reduce the manhours spent digging to locate areas of a cable that require work.

(c) Recommendation: That all units with cable maintenance responsibility be authorized cable detection equipment by MTO&E and that these units requisition as soon as justifications are submitted.

c. Training: None.

d. Intelligence:

(1) Claymore Mine Emplacement:

(a) Observation: In many areas, claymore mines are tied or fastened to engineer stakes as a means of securing the device.

(b) Evaluation: The mine can still be reversed when secured to the stake, consequently, little protection is offered. Furthermore, the stake disintegrates on detonation and creates a hazardous situation towards the friendly forces.

(c) Recommendation: That claymore pods be aimed and set in a cement base, precluding both the above drawbacks.

(2) Weather Proof Bunkers:

(a) Observations: Ammunition and explosives stored in bunkers are subject to corrosion and moisture which may limit its eventual use.

(b) Evaluation: Standard ammo bunkers, constructed with wood, sandbags, PSP, etc., do not afford complete weather protection for these vital stores.

(c) Recommendation: That ammo bunkers be treated with a sealant material. Cement has been used successfully in this area.

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e. Logistics:

(1) Air Conditioners:

(a) Observation: The tactical air conditioners used at the Cam Ranh Bay Army Communications Center were not able to cool the complex to the desired temperature during the hottest parts of the day.

(b) Evaluation: To keep the equipment from overheating, there was a need to have a better control over the temperature during that period of the day when the sun is the hottest.

(c) Recommendation: This problem is greatly reduced when canvas canopies are placed far enough above the air conditioning units to allow free air flow yet protect the units from the sun. Also, efficiency can be further increased by placement of units as close to the van as possible.

(2) Corrosion:

(a) Observation: The bottom of the side rack brackets of M35A series 2 1/2 ton trucks rust faster than normal.

(b) Evaluation: The brackets are welded to the bed and form water traps. Trapped water causes the rust.

(c) Recommendation: Drill one 1/4" hole at the bottom of each side rack bracket to allow for drainage.

(3) Generator Contamination:

(a) Observation: Generator failures often occur due to unsuspected contamination of working parts and fuel.

(b) Evaluation: Open generator access doors, circuit breaker boxes and especially, open fuel storage containers often jeopardize trouble free operation.

(c) Recommendation: That all access apertures to internal areas, all circuit breaker boxes and all fuel containers be kept closed and that a well sealed fuel transfer system be a prime consideration.

(4) Diesel Generator Preheater Switch:

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(a) Observation: During daily testing of the back-up generator on Hill 182, it was noticed that the fuel pump continued to operate after the generator was shut down.

(b) Evaluation: The problem was explained to a skilled generator repairman. The repairman discovered that the heater switch was in the high position, thereby causing the fuel pump to operate continuously.

(c) Recommendation: Due to the fact that diesel preheaters are not used in this climate, a piece of masking tape may be placed over the switch to insure that it will not be inadvertently engaged.

(5) Conexes:

(a) Observation: Conex containers and packaged materials shipped to distant sites, are subject to unauthorized entry and pilfering; even though, secured with locks.

(b) Evaluation: When material is in transit and cannot be supervised by responsible personnel, standard locks and other localized security devices are inadequate.

(c) Recommendation: Conexes and other containers should be banded as well as locked before shipment is effected.

(6) Materiel Security In-transit:

(a) Observation: Materiel placed on convoy or sent through non-organic channels, is subject to late, misdirected or piece meal arrival at its destination.

(b) Evaluation: Due to the volume of intra-theater shipments, materiel integrity and accurate deployment must be insured by the units involved.

(c) Recommendation: Attach an escort when materiel is shipped by non-organic transportation. Insure that the escort is familiar with the total content of the shipment, the planned route of travel and the identity of the receiving party.

f. Organization: None.

g. Others: None.



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SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 73rd Signal Battalion (SPT) for  
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2 Incl

1. Organizational Structure

~~2. General Order (true copy)~~

Incl 2 wd HQ, DA

LOUIS J. ZELEZNIKAR

LTC, SigC

Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - CG, CINCPAC, ATTN: GROP-DT, APO 96558
- 1 - CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii APO 96557
- 3 - CG, USAFV, ATTN: AVHGC - DST
- 1 - CG, 1ST SIG BDE (USASTRATCOM) ATTN: SCCVOP, APO 96384
- 5 - CO, 21ST SIG GP, ATTN: SCCPV-NG-OP, APO 96240

SCCIV-18-07T (13 Aug 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 73d Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RGS CSF R-65) (AI)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 21ST SIGNAL GROUP, AFM 96240 27 August 1969

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded IAW 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 1-19.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the basic report and concurs with the information contained therein with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Para 1c (1) and 1c (2), page 8. MOS's 31J20, 31L20, 31M20, and 51L20 are shortage MOS's throughout Group. For this reason, particular care is taken to assure equitable distribution of personnel. Since 1 Aug 69 there have been four 31J20's assigned to the 73d Signal Battalion, which should assist in alleviating this shortage. The authorized strength shown for MOS 72C20 is in error; authorization is 52, not 75.

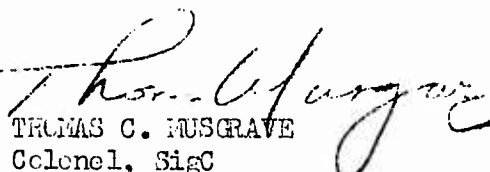
b. Para 1e (4), page 9. During the months of May and June, there was a marked decline in promotion allocations for all grades; the 21st Signal Group received no promotion allocations for the grade E-7. During the new fiscal year promotion allocations should increase and the number of personnel on the Promotion Standing List should stabilize or decrease.

c. Para 1d (1) (d), page 11. The assignment of system designators is the responsibility of the 1st Signal Brigade. This headquarters has not yet received the designator as of 22 August 1969.

SOCFV-NG-CPT (13 Aug 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 73D Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RGS CSFGR-65 (AI)

d. Para 2a (1), page 19. Although some personnel rotate before awards are returned, this problem has been reduced by faster processing at all levels.

  
THOMAS C. MUSGRAVE  
Colonel, SigC  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: (1st Ind Only)

- 6 - CG, 1st Sig Bde, ATTN: SOCFV-CP, APC 96384
- 2 - ACS FGR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310
- 1 - File
- 5 - CO, 73D Signal Bn, APC 96312

SCCPV-OP-SD (13 Aug 69) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 73rd Signal Battalion for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 13 September 1969

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:


a. Paragraph 1c(1) & (2), page 8. MOS's 31J, 31L, 31M, 51L and 72C remain consistently short throughout the Brigade. Input of these MOS's continues at a slow rate of fill. During the reporting period the overall posture of each of these MOS's has improved slightly in view of a continued upward trend of FST extensions and increased emphasis from higher headquarters to effect a greater percentage of fill. It is anticipated that the strength in these MOS's should remain stable within the next few months. With continued monitoring of assignments in each of the MOS's by CG, 1st Signal Brigade, the 73rd Battalion and 21st Group should retain sufficient assigned personnel in each of the MOS's to effectively continue the mission.

b. Paragraph 1c(3), page 9. Personnel requisitions for the 73rd Signal Battalion are not monitored by this headquarters because the Group headquarters consolidates requisitions for all assigned battalions. Comment 1c(3) indicates a relatively stable personnel position as compared with other battalions in the Brigade.

c. Paragraph 1c(4), page 9. Promotions to grade E-7 are not effected by this headquarters for each group. Allocations are distributed to each group on a percentage basis. 21st Signal Group maintains promotion authority and promotes individuals based on cancelled requisitions and number of allocations received. The total E-7 allocations received by the Brigade during the reporting period has been less than the previous period. 21st Group has received an equitable share of all E-7 allocations received.

d. Paragraph 2d(1) & 2d(2), page 22. Both recommendations are measures that are contained in publications on the subject of claymore mines and storage of ammunition.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
T. E. MOLLENHAX  
LTC, AGC  
Adjutant General

AVHGC-DST (13 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 73d Signal Battalion (SPT) for Period  
Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 3 00

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications  
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 73d Signal Battalion (SPT).

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Switching Devices", section II, page 19, paragraph 2b(1); concur. The unit is advised that this recommendation should be submitted in the form of an EIR. An ECCM representative from this headquarters will further evaluate this recommendation.

b. Reference item concerning "Cable Detection", section II, page 21, paragraph 2b(5); nonconcur. Proper marking procedures employed as the cable is buried will eliminate the requirement for cable detection equipment.

c. Reference item concerning "Conexes", section II, page 24, paragraph 2e(5); nonconcur. The sealing of containers, to include conexes, is the responsibility of the shipper. If a lock is cut to permit pilferage, a steel band will not afford significant additional protection. Banding would provide some additional security if the condition of the conex allowed access to the cargo without breaking the lock. A metal container seal may be used to provide evidence of illegal entry. An item pertaining to this problem will be included in the next USARV Transportation Newsletter. No further action is required by this or higher headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
RICHARD V. FULY

CPT, AG

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
73d Sig Bn  
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (13 Aug 69) 4th Ind (U)  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 73d Signal Battation (SPT)  
Period Ending 31 July 1969

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-  
Pacific, APO 96557 21 OCT 1969

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed and concurs with subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

FRANK C. MAHIN  
COL, GS  
Chief of Staff



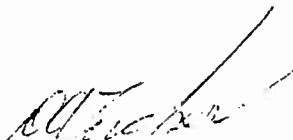
GPOP-DT (13 Aug 69) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 73d Signal Battalion (SPT)  
for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 31 OCT 69

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

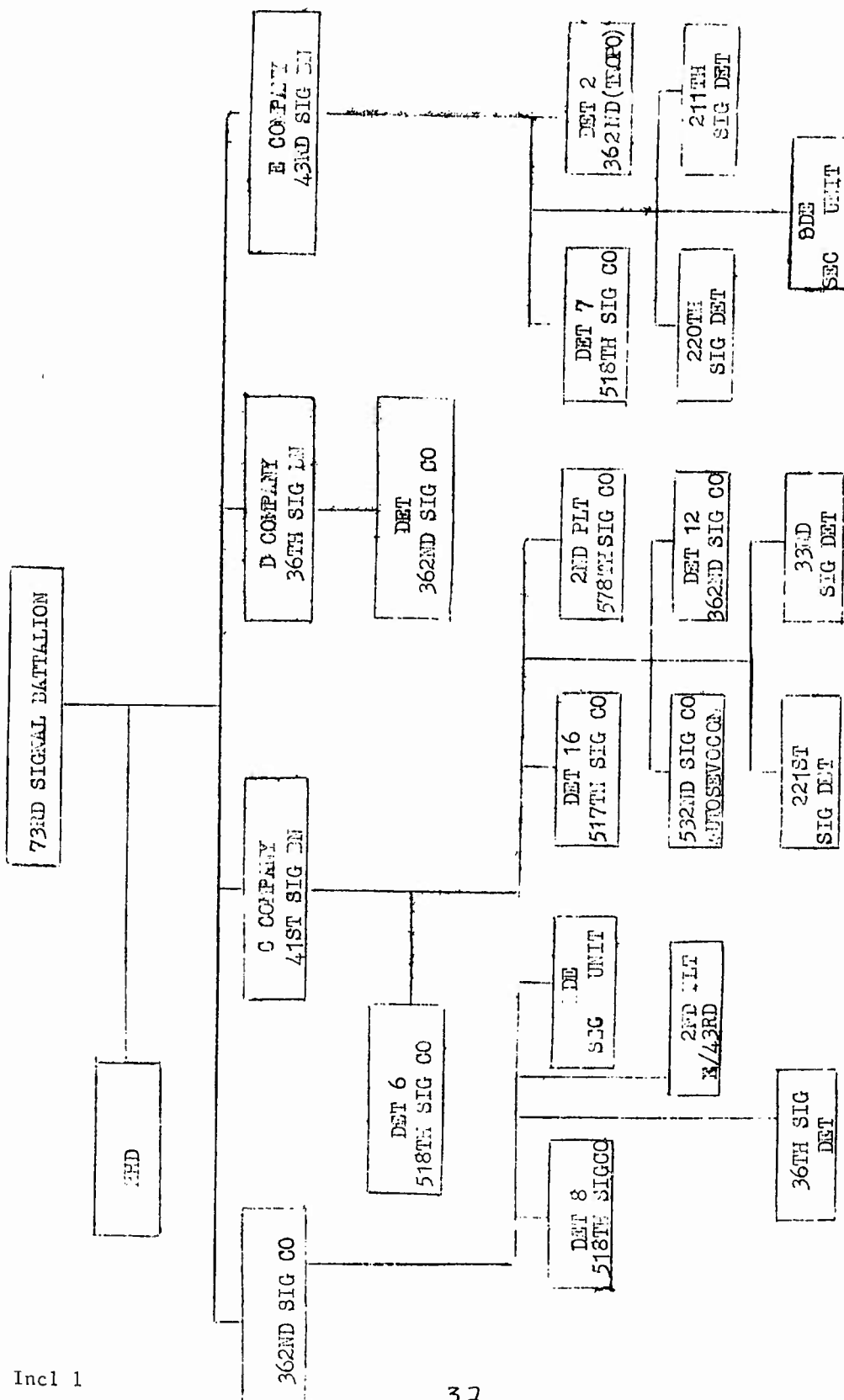
This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



D. A. TUCKER  
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