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Lessons Learned

HEADQUARTERS,
937TH ENGINEER GROUP (COMBAT)
APO US Forces 96238

EGC-3

SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period ending 31 Dec 65, 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol CSGPO-28(R1).

THRU: Commanding General
18th Engineer Brigade
APO US Forces 96307

Commanding General
United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVLOG-GO-O
APO US Forces 96307

CINCPAC
FPO US Forces 96601-N

TO: Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20315

References:

- AR 525-24.
- USARV Regulation 870-1, 10 November 1965.
- USARV Circular 870-1, 11 November 1965.
- 18th Engineer Brigade Regulation 870-1, 20 November 1965.
- Map, VIETNAM AMS, Series L 701, UTM 1, 50,000 Sheet Nr 5752-IV and 5852-III.

FOR OT RD
650044

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EGC-3

15 January 1966

SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period Beginning 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol CSGPO-28(R1).

1.(C) SECTION I - Significant Activities:

a. Strength: The Group as a whole is approximately at 94% strength. Most Group units received sufficient replacements in December to off-set losses. However, the 362nd Engineer Company (Light Equipment) and the 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat) will experience considerable losses over the next two months, and unless replacements are received their capability can be seriously affected.

b. Critical MOS Shortages: Critical shortages in several units center primarily in the equipment operator area. This shortage of operators has curtailed double-shift operations in certain units. Critical MOS shortages are:

- (1) 05B - Radio Operator
- (2) 62E - Construction Machine Operator

c. Rotation: One impending problem facing the Group is that nearly 40% of the entire strength of three battalions and five separate companies is scheduled to rotate during the months of August and September 1966.

d. Attachments and Organization Status:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>DATE ARRIVED OVERSEAS</u>	<u>DATE OPERATIONAL</u>
299th Engr Bn (C)	22 Oct 65	13 Nov 65
630th Engr Co (LE)	22 Oct 65	Not Operational*

* 59% of TOE equipment still on ship.

e. Hire of Local Nationals: The hiring of local nationals through the Assistance in Kind (AIK) Program was highly successful during the last quarter of CY 1965. Laborers were hired on a daily basis, and by late November and December 1965, over 1,000 laborers per day were being used. These laborers were used to help crush and haul rock, dig ditches, place culverts, and erect buildings. \$VN 8,500,000 has been budgeted for the first quarter of CY 1966, which indicates that local nationals will play a significant role in assisting the Group to carry out its assigned missions.

2.(U) SECTION II - Construction and Operations:

a. Combat Support Mission: Direct support of the 1st Air Cavalry Division by the 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat). Tasks under this mission are construction/erection of bridges, roads, helipads, hospital, security lighting, guard towers, ammunition storage areas, supply points, water supply, administrative buildings, and a 20,000 man troop cantonment.

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15 January 1966

SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period Beginning 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol CSGPO-28(R1).

b. Construction Mission: For the period 1 October through 31 December 1965, the following projects were assigned and are currently active:

(1) Permanent Ammo Dump (Log 937-37) - 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project calls for construction of 60,000 SF of shed storage; 142,000 SF of open storage; 2,400 SF of administrative buildings; and 2,400 SF of igloo storage with access roads. 7% complete on 31 December 1965.

(2) Depot - Qui Nhon (Log 937-41): The project directive calls for the construction of 279,000 SF of open storage; 166,500 SF of shed storage; 63,500 SF of refrigerated storage; 18,000 SF of Depot shops; 3 ea 50' x 140' and 1 ea 120' x 200' Depot warehouses; and 33,750 SF of administrative facilities. These facilities being constructed by the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction). 34% complete on 31 December 1965.

(3) Road, Vicinity Qui Nhon (Log 937-67): This project entails the design and construction of a two-lane, type "Y" road between coordinates vicinity CR 060219 and CR 019254, connecting the two existing roads (ammo storage area access road and Route #1) in the most expeditious manner. Design was completed by the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction). Construction not started due to a real estate acquisition problem.

(4) Permanent Access Road and Bridge (Bde 65-2C-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project called for two miles of two-way access road and one permanent two-way bridge within the An Khe complex. 23% complete on 31 December 1965.

(5) ROK Division Cantonment (Bde 65-4DC-937): Construction required under this directive consists of improving eleven miles of access road, construction of nine miles of Class "Y" two-lane perimeter road, construction of six bridges, construction of four mess halls, and providing assistance to the ROK Engineer battalion in erection of quonsets. Horizontal construction being accomplished by the 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) and the vertical construction by the 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction). 65% complete on 31 December 1965.

(6) 400-Bed Hospital (Bde 65-7DC-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): This project entails design and construction of a 400-bed hospital utilizing seventy 20' x 48' quonsets, with air conditioning in ten buildings and 21,000 gallons water storage. 55% complete on 31 December 1965.

(7) Perimeter and Heliport Access Road (Bde 65-8C-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project called for widening of perimeter road to standard military two-lane and construction of service roads to helicopter area, and improvement of access roads into all battalion areas in An Khe. 45% complete on 31 December 1965.

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(8) Ammunition Storage (Bde 65-9C-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Construction of twenty ammunition pads, 100' x 100' with 300' minimum spacing between artificial berms and 150' minimum spacing between natural berms. Necessary roads also to be constructed. 87% complete on 31 December 1965.

(9) Hasty Heliport (Bde 65-10DC-937) - 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Design and construction of a hasty heliport, to accommodate approximately 50 rotary winged aircraft. 80% complete on 31 December 1965.

(10) C-130 Airfield, An Khe (Bde 65-11DC-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project entailed the design and construction of a continuous use, support area, medium lift airfield for C-130, CV-2 and CV-1 aircraft. Design is 50% completed.

(11) PX Warehouse (Bde 65-13C-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): This project calls for construction of two 40' x 100' Butler prefabs with essential electric wiring. 45% complete on 31 December 1965.

(12) 900-Man Cantonment (Bde 65-15C-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): Project requires construction of a 900-man Std 3 cantonment. 42% complete on 31 December 1965.

(13) Navy Cube Pier and Causeway (Bde 65-16C-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction) and 1st Platoon, 497th Engineer Company (Port Construction): Construction of a causeway utilizing 10 sections of Navy cubes and a 200' rock filled causeway. 90% complete on 31 December 1965.

(14) Aircraft Maintenance Hardstands and Ramps (Bde 65-17DC-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Design and construction of four 50' x 75' PSP landing pads; fourteen 75' x 100' PSP maintenance pads; thirty-six 75' x 75' PSP pads (12 per company); and nine PSP pads for CH-47 aircraft. 90% complete on 31 December 1965.

(15) Runway Rehabilitation, Qui Nhon Airfield (Bde 65-21C-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): This project entails removal of all PSP from the southeast end of the existing runway; rehabilitation of the base and application of a double surface treatment. Provide for continuation of existing runway drainage system. Design is being prepared and crushed rock being produced.

(16) MASH, An Khe (Bde 65-24DC-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Design and construction of 17 concrete pads for quonsets to house a 240-bed hospital; one helipad for emergency air evacuation and walkways between buildings. 75% complete on 31 December 1965.

(17) Security Lighting for 1st Air Cavalry Division (Bde 65-29-937) - 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project calls for emplacement

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SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period Beginning 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol CSGFO-28(41).

of 250 light posts, mounting of floodlights and brackets, installation of wiring and erection of 4 generator sheds. 7% complete on 31 December 1965.

(18) Roads, 85th Evacuation Hospital (Bde 65-30C-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): Project calls for shaping of roads in hospital area, a double surface treatment, and provision of adequate drainage. Project awaiting receipt of materials and favorable weather.

(19) Ky Son Mountain Road (Bde 65-34DC-937) - 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Design and construction of four steel pile bridges and improvement of approximately 9 kilometers of existing road. 5% complete on 31 December 1965.

(20) POL Facilities (Bde 65-69DC-937) - 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat): This project entails the construction of 5 hardstands, 5 ea 10,000 Bbl POL storage tanks, two 6" pipelines and truck fill stands. 32% complete on 31 December 1965.

(21) Signal Relay Site (Bde 65-72DC-937) - 84th Engineer Battalion (Construction): Construction of an access road, and clearing and leveling top of Hill 562 to accommodate a Signal relay site; design and construction of concrete pads for Troposcatter radio antenna, power generating equipment, and one 20' x 50' prefab building. 2% complete on 31 December 1965.

(22) Timber Trestle Bridges (19-937/V-65) - 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat): Design of timber trestle bridges, Class 35 two-way/Class 50 one-way, to replace panel bridges on Route #19, from Jct Route #1 to Pleiku.

(23) Engineer Support, U.S. Units, Pleiku (23-937/V-65) - 299th Engineer Battalion (Combat): One reinforced platform to Camp Holloway, Pleiku, to perform required construction for units in that area.

3.(C) SECTION III - Logistics and Maintenance Problems: Supply, services, maintenance and transportation.

a. There continues to be a lack of refrigeration equipment for unit mess halls and dispensaries. Nine refrigerators have been issued since June 1965, against a current requirement of 26.

b. Inadequate stocks of clothing (boots, fatigues, socks, underwear) to replace deteriorated items. Shoe repair inadequate since June 1965.

c. Repair parts, despite the RED BALL Program, remain in short supply. Five items have been removed from deadline as a result of RED BALL; other repair parts requisitions have been filled of 23,564 submitted.

d. A maintenance float stock for Ordnance and Engineer equipment has not been established as of 31 December 1965.

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15 January 1966

SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period Beginning 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol GSGPO-28(R1).

e. Lack of operational Engineer direct support maintenance facilities. Since June 1965, only seven items of Engineer equipment have been repaired by DSU's.

f. Construction materials have been in short supply in the Qui Nhon area with the exception of field fortification materials and cement. As a stop gap, critical construction materials such as culvert, bridging timber, prefabricated bridge steel trusses and components, USOM warehouse buildings, quonset buildings, and dimensional lumber and hardware were obtained either from ARVN, or Raymond, Morrison & Knudsen (RMK) or locally purchased. Although forecasts from higher echelons indicate a marked improvement in deliveries of construction materials over the next few months, the current status of inventories is inadequate. Listed below are major items considered to be critical:

- (1) Lumber, building
- (2) Lumber, bridge
- (3) Cement
- (4) Asphalt
- (5) Nails
- (6) Crushed rock
- (7) Roof cladding.

g. The 630th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) has not received all its equipment. A portion of the equipment is aboard the "African Neptune" which originally anchored at Qui Nhon on 18 October 1965. Two command letters have been forwarded by the 18th Engineer Brigade to USAFV requesting that top priority be given to the off-loading of this unit's equipment. The "African Neptune" is now anchored at Cam Ranh Bay and a third command letter has been forwarded asking that the equipment of the 630th be off-loaded at Cam Ranh Bay and given priority for transshipment to Qui Nhon.

h. The small number of POM requisitions received during the past five months indicates that either the items are being placed into depot stocks or have not been shipped from CONUS.

4.(C) SECTION IV - Commander's Recommendations:

a. A system be established which will allow personnel to rotate between the 10th and 12th months of their tour. Incoming replacements should be distributed over the same general period.

b. A re-evaluation of the issue priorities for clothing should be

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15 January 1966

SUBJECT: Command Report for Quarterly Period Beginning 1 October 1965,
Reports Control Symbol CSGPO-28(R1).

considered by logistical commanders to insure that low priority units are not denied clothing while high priority units are receiving items for stockage.

c. Continuous emphasis should be given by all organizations and supply activities to insure that the established Army Supply System is allowed to function. An arbitrary "priority" system over an extended period does not appear to be a solution to the supply problem.

d. Maintenance float lists have been established and a concerted effort should be devised to insure availability of equipment. Deadline rates, particularly on engineer equipment, could be appreciably reduced if direct exchange items were available.

e. Direct support (Engineer) maintenance units should be made operational and provided the necessary personnel, tools and equipment to perform their mission. A re-evaluation should be made, considering the unique problems in Vietnam, of the quantity and type support units required.

f. Class IV construction materials should be given higher shipping and off-loading priorities in order to support the construction program. Command emphasis, placed on reducing the shortages of critical items, will preclude untimely delays in construction.

g. POM shipping procedures require revision to eliminate unnecessary delays in delivering POM shipments to units upon arrival in the overseas areas.

RAG:mdt
R. A. BRANN
Colonel, CL
Commanding

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AVEB-3 (15 Jan 66) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Quarterly Command Report (RCS CSGPO-28 (RI) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, 18TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO US Forces 96307 23 January 1966

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO US Forces 96307

1. (U) In compliance with AR 525-24, subject report as indicated in basic correspondence is hereby submitted.

2. (C) The following comments are keyed to the respective paragraphs of the report:

a. Paragraph 1.a. - The off-set of losses by replacements gained was in numbers only, and not necessarily by skills.

b. Paragraph 1.b. - The following figures were derived from strength reports submitted by units of the 937th Engineer Group (Combat), and do not show as severe conditions as is indicated in the report.

(1) MOS 05B - 84% of authorized strength assigned.

(2) MOS 62E - 20.5% in excess of authorized strength.

c. Paragraph 1.c. - This headquarters has recommended to the Group that this situation may be alleviated by reassignment of personnel within the command.

d. Paragraph 3.a. - Perishable rations are issued by Support Area Class I Installations and units do not have adequate refrigeration for storage. The status of refrigeration equipment in the organizations and units of the Groups are listed below:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>AUTHORIZED BY TA 50-911</u>	<u>ON HAND</u>
Frozen Food Cabinet 18-22 cu ft	44	1
Ice Making Machine	22	4
Refrigerator, Mechanical 65 cu ft	44	2
Refrigerator, Household 12 cu ft	4	9

FOR THE COMMANDER:

"A TRUE COPY"

Leroy A. Jonas
LEROY A. JONAS

Major, CE

W. C. DOWDY
Captain, CE
Adjutant

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AVC (15 Jan 66)

2d Ind

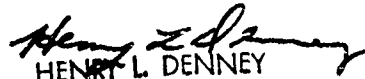
SUBJECT: Quarterly Command Report (RCS CSGPO-28 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO US Forces 96307 22 MAR 1966

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-MH,
APO US Forces 96558

1. (U) The Quarterly Command Report of the 937th Engineer Group for the second quarter, FY 66, is forwarded herewith.
2. (C) Reference paragraphs 2a and b, 1st Indorsement: Personnel losses reported by the 18th Engineer Brigade during the period March through June 1966, total 2746 personnel. Requisitions for the same period amount to 2978 personnel. Messages have been sent to DA and CINCUSARPAC requesting prompt fill action on Engineer replacements. DA has also been requested to ship 600 basic combat MOS personnel to fill earlier months' shortfall on lower skill Engineer personnel. Additionally this headquarters has requested DA to authorize the 18th Engineer Brigade a 15% overstrength to improve their capabilities.
3. (U) Reference paragraph 2c, 1st Indorsement and 4a, basic report: This headquarters is currently working on plans which will assist in reducing the rotational hump problem within the 18th Engineer Brigade to a manageable level.
4. (U) Reference paragraph 2d, 1st Indorsement: Refrigerators are in short supply throughout USARV. This problem will not be alleviated until the second quarter, FY 67.
5. (U) Reference paragraph 4b, basic report: Priorities are placed on jungle boots, jackets, and trousers only. This does not affect the issue of clothing to other units in the command.
6. (U) Reference paragraphs 4c and e, basic report: Concur.
7. (U) Reference paragraph 4d, basic report: Maintenance float items are presently being received by engineer units.
8. (U) Reference paragraph 4f, basic report: Priorities for off loading are established by this headquarters, based on the Army mission.
9. (U) Reference paragraph 4g, basic report: The shipping problem has improved with additional port facilities and more functional loading of ships. No problem has been experienced by units arriving in Vietnam recently.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


HENRY L. DENNEY
CWO USA
1st Adj Gen

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GPOP-MH (15 Jan 66) 3d Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Quarterly Command Report (RCS CSGPC-28 (R1)) (U)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

19 APR 1966

TO: Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations, Department of the Army,
Washington, D.C. 20310

1. (U) The Command Report of the 937th Engineer Group for the quarterly period ending 31 December 1965 is forwarded herewith. While very brief, this is an informative report that well supplements the associated Command Reports from the group's subordinate units.

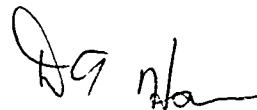
2. (C) The following comments are keyed to paragraphs of the basic Command Report:

a. Paragraph 3c. The overall percentage of equipment deadlined in Vietnam has shown no appreciable reduction for some time. CONUS supply agencies state that RBE requisitions are afforded the highest priority and show a high percentage of fill in weekly RBE reports. USARV, conversely, states that equipment remains deadlined in Vietnam because of lack of spare parts. The percentage of RBE requisitions fill as reported by USARV and by USASMC-LCO-P weekly reports reflect significant differences and indicates that requisitions or supplies may be lost. To correct this situation, USARV and LCO-P are currently conducting a requisition conciliation at Fort Mason, California.

b. Paragraph 4g. A number of corrective actions have been taken to prevent delays in delivering POM shipments, and no further action is considered necessary at this time.

3. (U) Previous endorsements indicate that actions are underway to solve or reduce other problems set forth in the basic Command Report.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


D. A. HARRISON
Capt, AGC
Asst AG

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