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972d Signal Battalion

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 972D SIGNAL BATTALION (CA)
APO San Francisco 96384

SCCPV-SG-FS-CO

12 May 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 972d Signal Battalion for Period
Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (C) Operations: Significant Activities.

a. Span of Report. This is the second Operational Report Lessons Learned submitted by the 972d Signal Battalion since its reactivation on 1 June 1968. The report covers a period of 89 days, from 1 February 1969 through 30 April 1969.

b. Contingency Force Operations and Training.

(1) 1st Signal Brigade OPLAN 84-69, dated 28 January 69, ordered the establishment of a signal contingency force, consisting of one "heavy" and two "light" teams. The purpose of this contingency force is to provide backup communications for a battalion-sized or smaller signal unit anywhere in RVN, in the event that the unit is rendered incapable of performing its mission.

(2) None of these teams were, as a unit, put into operational use during the period of this report. Parts of the teams were, however, called out on the following missions: (a) On 23-27 February 1969, two MRC-54 Radio Repeaters and two MCC-6 Telegraph Telephone Terminals provided backup communications for a cable system on Long Binh Post which had been damaged by enemy activity. (b) On 20 March 1969 one MTC-3 Telephone Central Office, along with its assigned personnel, was attached to the 69th Signal Battalion at Ton Son Nhut AFB to augment communications in the Saigon area. (c) From 17 March through 27 April 1969, an SB-76 Switchboard with four personnel was stationed at Tay Ninh to support the ARVN Airborne Division, Tay Ninh Area. (d) On 10 April 69 an MSC-29 with five personnel was sent to Pleiku in support of the 43d Signal Battalion.

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(3) On 13 February 1969 the 972d Signal Battalion received orders from the 2d Signal Group to dispatch all three contingency teams to install a number of communications systems as a training exercise. During the course of this exercise, which was terminated on 15 February 1969, signal sites were established at Long Binh Post, Long Thanh North, Bear Cat, Di An, and Bion Hoa. On 16 February 1969 a critique of the exercise was given to the 972d Signal Battalion by BG Thomas M. Rienzi and the 1st Signal Brigade Staff. As a result of this critique, and of the weaknesses in the exercise, a program of training was established for the contingency teams which emphasized OJT, team and section training, and bi-weekly field problems. This training program extended throughout the period of this report.

c. Other Signal Commitments of the 972d Signal Battalion. During this quarter the battalion continued its operational control over the Dial Central Office and Dial Telephone Exchange at the II Field Force Headquarters, Long Binh Post, and over the Red-catcher Switchboard, also at Long Binh, serving the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. All of these facilities are operated by the 107th Signal Company.

d. The 267th Signal Company (Cable Construction) remained under the operational control of the 972d Signal Battalion over the period of February through April 1969. During this time the battalion had administrative control over the 327th Signal Company (R/R); although the sites of this company were under both the operational and administrative control of other units, for the purpose of insuring close control over these sites. Throughout the period of this report the 267th Signal Company and the 327th Signal Company continued to provide signal support throughout the III and IV Corps Tactical Zones.

e. Changes in Command. On 15 April 1969, 1Lt Gary Boll (05349407) assumed command of the 327th Signal Company from CPT Michael R. Puckett (05328877), who in turn assumed command of the 107th Signal Company from CPT Cecil R. James (05875145) on 16 April 1969. On 19 April 1969, CPT Barr N. Woodruff (05714519) assumed command of Headquarters Company from 1Lt Howard B. Cantor (05249085).

f. Important Visitors. On 22 February 1969, the 972d Signal Battalion was visited by General Creighton W. Abrams. The visit was made primarily to check on the status of the battalion's

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National Guard unit, the 107th Signal Company. EG Thomas M. Rienzi visited the 972d Signal Battalion on 17 March 1969, for the purpose of inspecting some of the equipment allocated for the battalion's contingency teams.

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

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) Wiring Difficulties in the AN/TTC-28.

(a) OBSERVATION. The AN/TTC-28, a 600 line dial telephone exchange, has many different options for wiring depending upon the equipment installed within it. These wiring options become especially important in the operation of trunks and the mixing for special service.

(b) EVALUATION. Very few signal personnel are familiar with the AN/TTC-28 when they are first assigned to it. Furthermore, few AN/TTC-28's have sufficient circuit descriptions, drawings, and schematics.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Instruction on the AN/TTC-28 should be included in signal MOS training, at least for the 36H MOS. Also, from the time an AN/TTC-28 is first installed, every effort should be made to keep a complete and continuous record of all wiring and modifications. This record should include schematics and wiring diagrams, and is necessary both for ease of maintenance and to enable replacement personnel to become familiar with the equipment in the shortest possible time.

(2) Deactivation of Circuits.

(a) OBSERVATION. Often in a communications system extending over a wide area, a circuit will be deactivated by one unit without the knowledge of other units along the communications route.

(b) EVALUATION. When this happens, pairs which could be used for other circuits are kept needlessly "filled" all along the communications route.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION. OIC's of all frame areas should advise adjacent frame areas of all deactivations going through their frames. In this way each frame area could then request a CEO (Communication Establishment Order) for deactivation of the circuit from its own higher headquarters. Issuers of CEO's should also confer so that when a deactivation is made, copies of the order are sent to other concerned parties along the route.

(3) Prevention of Damage to Cable.

(a) OBSERVATION. Difficulties have been experienced in maintaining aerial cable, especially in areas of heavy vehicular traffic.

(b) EVALUATION. In addition to the normal aerial cable hazards of shrapnel and weather, many cables have been knocked down or damaged by tall vehicles.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Buried cable should be installed wherever possible in cable operations, especially in disposal yards and transportation areas where tall vehicles such as cranes are used. In such cases pedestal splices should be used, for ease of access in tying in subsequent cable pairs.

(4) Drainage in Cable Splice Coverings.

(a) OBSERVATION. Temporary CR boots used for protection of cable splices often fill up with water, which hastens deterioration of the cable.

(b) EVALUATION. Because of the temporary nature of the CR boot, there is no practical way in which it can be made waterproof, like the permanent RA splice cable.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Whenever a CR boot is installed as a covering for a cable splice, a small cut should be made in the bottom of the case. This will allow for drainage and will increase the life of the cable.

(5) Time Allotment for Completion of Cable Projects.

(a) OBSERVATION. It has been found very difficult, in some cases impossible, to complete projects involving fixed plant cable in the time allotted.

(b) EVALUATION. Letters of Instruction (LOI's) regarding cable installation usually give the same time allotment for fixed plant cable communications as for tactical communications. It has

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been found, however, that fixed plant communications take approximately twice as long to install as tactical communications.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. The difference in installation time for these two types of cable communication should be taken into account in the assignment of completion dates on LOI's.

(6) Damage to Buried Cable.

(a) OBSERVATION. Many buried cables have been damaged by friendly forces digging in the area of the cable route.

(b) EVALUATION. Many times this damage results from unidentifiable or missing cable markers. It has been found that cable signs are more obvious and more permanent than cable markers, and that buried cable routes in which these signs have been installed incur considerably less damage due to inadvertent digging.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Buried cable routes should be indicated wherever possible with cable signs rather than cable markers, especially in areas where further construction is likely.

c. Training None

d. Intelligence. None

e. Logistics

(1) Covers for Ready Access Terminals.

(a) OBSERVATION. Ready access terminal covers cannot be ordered by themselves. Rather, the entire terminal unit must be replaced.

(b) EVALUATION. Often terminal covers are damaged or lost without any damage done to the terminal mechanism inside.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. Ready access terminal covers should be made available through supply channels as a separate item from the terminal mechanism itself.

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Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

f. Organization. None

g. Other. None



DONALD Q. CARMICHAEL

1 Incl

~~1. Organizational Structure~~ LTC, SigC
~~of 972d Signal Battalion~~ Commanding

Incl wd Hq, DA

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SCCPV-SG-00 (12 May 69) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 972d Signal Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 2d Signal Group, APO SF 96491

28 MAY 1969

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN:
SCCPV-OP, APO SF 96384
Commanding General, USARV, ATTN: AVHGO-DST, APO SF 96375
CINCUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO SF 96558

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade
Regulation CCPVR 1-19, dated 12 July 1968 as changed.

2. The report has been reviewed and is concurred in by this Headquarters.

Russell R. Curington
RUSSELL R. CURINGTON
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-OP-80 (12 May 69) and 100
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 972nd Signal Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASRATCOM), APO 96364 9 June 1969

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

1. (U) Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.

2. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Paragraph 2b(1), page 3.

(1) Concur in the recommendation that all equipment drawings, specifications, and Bell System Practices described in the Installation and Maintenance manual should be on hand for use by maintenance personnel to accurately record modifications, strapping options, and grading changes on the permanent records of the AN/TTC-28.

(2) A properly trained 36H has the skills to read schematics, installation drawings, and circuit descriptions. Greater emphasis should be placed on training in basic skills of senior dial central office repairman.

(3) Correction: All references in this paragraph which read AN/TCC-28 should read AN/TTC-28.

b. Paragraph 2b(3), page 4. It is Brigade practice to engineer cables as buried in all areas where aerial is subject to damage when it is both practical and feasible in terms of cost economy, time, and right-of-way. Pedestal splices are used within secure areas unless a history of pedestal damage by vehicles exists.

c. Paragraph 2b(4), page 4. Concur if talking about aerial cable only. If buried, splice should be supported before slit is made.

d. Paragraph 2b(5), page 4. Concur. Time used for manhour estimates are based on Bell System practices for fixed plant with a percentage added for combat conditions. Estimates do not include lead time for assembling BQI. Suggest 2 weeks be added to total estimate to allow for BQI assembly.

e. Paragraph 2b(6), page 5. Nonconcur in the recommendation that cable signs be used rather than cable markers. Buried cable routes should be marked with both as each has its own purpose. Signs are usually located along cable route so that personnel will be aware that a cable is buried

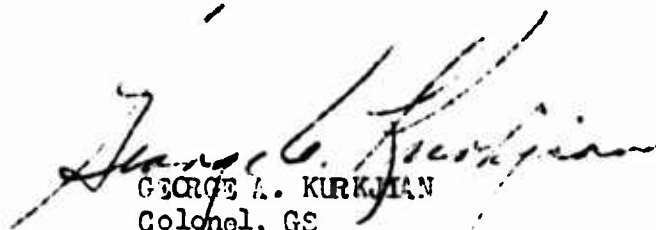
SCCPV-CP-57

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, 972nd Signal Battalion for
Period Ending 30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

and who should be contacted in case of damage or necessary digging. Cable markers serve the purpose of identifying the cable being buried specifying the number of the cable, its position relative to the marker, size of cable, and date of installation. Both 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 105-22 and USARV CEI Item 86-2 indicate clearly the purpose of each and describe their use.

f. Paragraph 2c(1), page 5. Nonconcur. The observation of this headquarters is that proper installation will alleviate loss. Also the base and 2 connectors on each end are the same material as the cover and would deteriorate at the same rate. Covers are not listed as a separate available item in the manufacturer's catalog. It is necessary to use complete terminals for their cover. The blocks can then be used for spare parts for expansion of terminals. This observation has been discussed with the 2d Signal Group's Wire Officer.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



GEORGE A. KURKJIAN
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona
Commanding Officer, 2nd Signal Group, APO 96491
Commanding Officer, 972nd Signal Battalion, APO 96384

AVHGC-DST (12 May 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 972d Signal Battalion for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

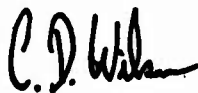
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

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

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for
the quarterly period ending 30 April 1969 from Headquarters, 972d Signal
Battalion (CA) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



C. D. WILSON
1LT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
972d Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP. (12 May 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 972d Signal Battalion for Period Ending
30 April 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-Pacific, APO
San Francisco 96557 21 AUG 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

FRANK C. MAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

GPOP-DT (12 May 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 972d Signal Battalion
for Period Ending 30 April 1969, KCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 SEP 69

THRU: Commanding General, US Army Strategic Communications
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forward-
ing indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

Cy furn:
CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC
DA, ACSFOR

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