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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (18 Nov 69) FOR OT-UT-693219 2 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 124th Transportation Battalion, [redacted] (U).

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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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:

1 Incl
as

(9) Operational rept. for quarterly period ending 31 Jul 69.

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

(11) 8 Aug 69

(12) 12 p.

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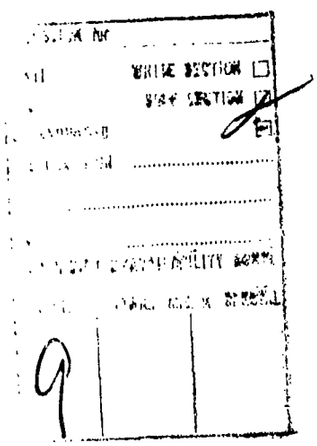

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 124TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (TRUCK)
APO 96318

AVCA QN-TG-124-3 Aug 8 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1) (U)

See Distribution

1. (C) Section I. Operations: Significant Activities

During the months of May, June and July, the 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) conducted motor convoy operations to Qui Nhon, An Khe, Dak To, Kontum, Polei Djereng, Plei Mrong, Ben Het, Plei Kleng, Cheo Reo, Du Co, Oasis and Ban Bleck. The battalion logged 1,167,871 miles, carried 95,692 tons of cargo and 12,400,000 gallons of petroleum products. Line haul, local haul and combat support operations were conducted daily during the period and constituted the operational control of 1,618 convoys in and out of the Pleiku area. The 520th Transportation Detachment (TTPO) processed and dispatched some 13,450 semi-trailers during the period reported. This represents a decrease of 16% in trailers handled over the last quarter.

7 May- the 359th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Petroleum) was relocated from Camp Schmidt, Pleiku to Camp Wilson, Pleiku.

18-22 May- One particular unit move of the 299th Engineers was accomplished in two parts. During 18-22 May part of the 299th was convoyed from Dak To to Qui Nhon on nineteen 12-ton semi-trailers and during 16-20 July the remainder of the 299th was convoyed from Dak To to An Khe and Qui Nhon on thirty-six 12-ton semi-trailers and twenty 2½ ton cargo trucks.

31 May- The GOER vehicles completed all phases of operational rebuild. Testing and general maintenance was conducted during the month of June. On 15 July personnel records were screened and five 5-ton tractor drivers were interviewed, selected and trained as GOER drivers.

8 June- A convoy returning from Qui Nhon was ambushed twice. Between 1530-1630 hours at the bottom of An Khe pass between bridges 15 & 16 first contact was made. There were no casualties. Then at the top of An Khe pass second contact was made and there were five (5) of our personnel wounded. Enemy personnel killed in action was forty-two (42).

10 June- The 3rd Platoon of the 359th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Petroleum) consisting of twenty 5,000 gallon tankers was placed on temporary duty with the 88th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo) located at An Khe. Their mission is to haul DF2 and JP4 for approximately 45-60 days while pipe lines are repaired.

FOR OT UT
693219
Inclosure

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DOD DIR 5200.10

AVCA QN-TG-124-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1) (U)

16 June- As part of a resupply convoy from Dak To to Ben Het our Class V cargo convoy was ambushed. The enemy employed small arms fire and B-40 rockets. One gun truck was hit by a B-40 rocket. One of our personnel was wounded.

24 June- An enemy 122mm rocket hit and destroyed one 75 man barracks of the 563d Transportation Company (Medium Truck Cargo). Six (6) EM were wounded of which three were medivaced and three were treated and returned to their company.

24 June- As a single resupply Class V cargo convoy to Ben Het our convoy was under fire for a distance of 6,000 meters during both trips from Dak To to Ben Het and from Ben Het to Dak To. One of our personnel was killed in action and five (5) of our personnel were wounded in action. Vehicles and equipment were damaged.

14 July- Complete refurnishing of the Camp Wilson barber shop which included new barber chairs, sinks, cabinets, table, waiting chairs, lights and a new coat of paint was completed.

20 July- Installation of a new 10,000 gallon water tower at Camp Wilson was completed which furnishes all mess halls with potable water.

24 July- A circuit system for conducted motor stables was initiated by the 359th Transportation Company (Medium Truck Petroleum) for the purpose of improving first echelon maintenance. Supervised mechanics man separate stations and assist the drivers in inspecting their assigned vehicles.

During this report the 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck Cargo) was issued 51 drop side M35A2C 2½ ton cargo trucks.

The reporting period was characterized by a rapid turnover of personnel and personnel shortage. The battalion lost 258 personnel while gaining only 166. Ten officers were lost and replaced, including the Battalion CO, XO, S/4 and Maintenance Officer. Losses also included three unit commanders. Key non-commissioned officers losses included the Battalion Sergeant Major, Battalion Supply NCO, and one First Sergeant. Two of the line companies are operating with only two Commissioned Officers, and two units are operating without maintenance Warrant Officers.

During the 92 days of this report, training was scheduled and conducted in accordance with existing directives and guidance from immediate and higher commanders. Safety and ambush procedures were stressed each day during convoy commanders briefing.

2. (U) Section II. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluation and Recommendations.

a. Personnel:

AVCA QN-TG-124-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1) (U)

(1) Notification of E-7 Vacancies:

(a) Observation: This headquarters does not receive notification of E-7 vacancies within Qui Nhon Support Command.

(b) Evaluation: A published list of E-7 vacancies within Qui Nhon Support Command.

(c) Recommendation: That Qui Nhon Support Command publish a monthly list of E-7 vacancies within the Qui Nhon Support Command.

(2) OCS and RA Applications:

(a) Observation: That this command experiences difficulty identifying and assembling all necessary correspondence pertaining to OCS and RA spplications.

(b) Evaluation: A standard OCS and RA application check list similar to the 212 check list would eliminate preparation errors and delays in application submission.

(c) Recommendation: That Qui Nhon Support Command publish a standard OCS and RA application check list.

(3) Maintenance Personnel:

(a) Observation: With the 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck Cargo) at full TO&E authorization for vehicles it is imperative that all positions in the maintenance section be filled in order to maintain the required maintenance standards.

(b) Evaluation: The 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck Cargo) is authorized eleven (11) mechanics composed of two (2) senior wheeled vehicle repairmen, seven (7) wheeled vehicle repairman, and two (2) wheeled vehicle repairman helpers. Presently the unit is short three (3) mechanics. Of the eight (8) personnel filling mechanics positions, three are cross-training and won't complete their training for another two months. Four of the eight mechanics DEROS within the next two months.

(c) Recommendation: That higher headquarters assign required MOS qualified personnel to fill the 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck Cargo) maintenance section.

b. Operations:

(1) Trailer Piggy Back:

AVCA QN-TG -124-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR 65) (R-1) (U)

(a) Observation: The Pleiku Trailer Transfer Point experiences times when excess trailers accumulate. This requires trailer "piggy-back", (place one trailer on top of another) in order to reduce the number of trailers in the Pleiku area of operation. This is presently done by blocking and bracing one trailer on top of another.

(b) Evaluation: This operation requires approximately four man hours with blocking and bracing material. That the up-right "piggy-back" trailer is top heavy and presents a potentially unsafe load.

(c) Recommendation: Since "piggy-back" trailers are necessary in order to return trailers as fast as possible, a better way to haul trailers is by placing trailers back to back. This lowers the center of gravity and only requires eight 2 feet 6 inch engineer pickets to secure the loaded trailer. By using a 10,000 pound rough terrain forklift, this process can be accomplished in one-half a man hour.

(2) Radio Communications and Automatic Weapons:

(a) Observation: TO&E authorization for radio communications equipment and automatic weapons is inadequate.

(b) Evaluation: In the near future the 541st Transportation Company (Light Truck Cargo) will have a total of nine (9) security vehicles composed of six (6) gun trucks and three (3) gun jeeps. Present TO&E authorization is: two (2) AN/VRC-47's, four (4) AN/VRC-46's, fourteen (14) M-60 machine guns and four (4) .50 caliber machine guns. A realistic appraisal of required subject equipment is as follows: three (3) AN/VRC-47's for gun jeeps; one (1) AN/VRC 47 for operations section; six (6) AN/VRC-46's for gun trucks; two (2) AN/VRC-46's for back up; sixteen (16) M-60 machine guns, one (1) for each gun jeep and two (2) for each gun truck, one (1) for back up; six (6) .50 caliber machine guns, one (1) for each gun truck.

(c) Recommendation: That all 8th Transportation Group units requiring radios and weapons over and above TO&E authorizations be surveyed to determine requirement and MTOE's requesting authorization be submitted.

c. Training:

(1) Safe Driving:

(a) Observation: Several 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) drivers have been involved in accidents during line and local haul operations. A review of the accident reports show that the drivers usually were recently licensed and have low total mileage driving records.

AVCA QN-TC-124-3

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1) (U)

(b) Evaluation: Increased emphasis of existing drivers training program to include OJT of new drivers by placing them with experienced drivers would decrease present accident rate. Experienced drivers would orient new drivers as to route, security, driver techniques and other safe driving procedures.

(c) Recommendation: That all new drivers be assigned to receive OJT (On Job Training) for a period of one week with an experienced driver prior to being placed on the road by himself.

d. Intelligence and Security: None

e. Logistics: None

f. Organization: None

g. Other: Escape, Evasion and Survival: This organization has not had experience during this reporting period in these areas.

~~1 Incl~~ wd, HQ, DA
as

TEL: PK 3196

John C Kramer
JOHN C KRAMER
LTC, TC
Commanding

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AVCA QN-TG-3 (No Date) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, (RCS CSFOR-65) (R-1) (U)

DA, HQ, 8th Trans Gp (MT), APO 96226, 13 Aug 69

Commanding General, USASC, QN, ATTN: AVCA QN-GO-H, APO 96238

1. The Operational Report for the 124th Transportation Battalion has been reviewed.

2. The following comments are submitted:

a. Reference Section II, Personnel: Concur with recommendation of unit.

b. Reference Section II, Operations: Do not concur with recommendation of unit. It has been learned through experience that loading trailers upside down tends to cause excessive trailer damage. There have been no known incidents of an accident due to top heavy trailer piggy back load.

c. Reference Section II, Training: Concur with recommendation of unit.

TEL: PT 785/779

GARLAND A. LUDY
Colonel, TC
Commanding

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AVCA QN-GO-H (8 Aug 69) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R-1) (U)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, US Army Support Command, Qui Nhon, APO 96238 1 SEP 1969

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA GO-C, APO 96384

1. (C) The Operational Report, Lessons Learned of the 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 has been reviewed by this headquarters and the following comments are submitted:

a. SECTION II, paragraph a (1): Nonconcur. E-7 vacancies are announced by command letter, Distribution A, whenever promotion boards are held; normally every two months.

b. SECTION II, paragraph a (2): Nonconcur. The command has an average of only one OCS and one RA application per month. A checklist is not considered practical due to this low volume. A personal visit to the Officer's Records Branch prior to submission of papers will insure the adequacy and accuracy of applications.

c. SECTION II, paragraph a (3): Concur. Based on percentage of fill, qualified personnel are assigned to all units as personnel resources become available.

d. SECTION II, paragraph b(1): Concur. However, "piggy-backing" trailers bed to bed can cause leakage of brake fluid unless care is taken to plug the vent on the master cylinder. Bed to bed loading is a more simple procedure than upright "piggy-backing" since the trailers can be banded together, thus eliminating blocking and tie-down cables. As indicated by the first indorsement, great care must be taken in loading trailers when bed to bed "piggy-backing" is employed.

e. SECTION II, paragraph b(2): Concur. Action required for submission of an MTOE can be accomplished by the individual unit.

f. SECTION II, paragraph c (1): Concur. Increased command emphasis is being placed on the importance of safe driving. Also, an OJT program for new drivers has been instituted in an effort to reduce the accident rate.

g. Escape, evasion and survival information (DA Survey Information - SECTION III) was not required for this reporting period.

2. (U) The report is considered adequate as modified by the above comments.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Robert J. Flaczek CPT

TEL: QN 2161

FOR: RICHARD A. DANIELS
CPT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5200.10

AVCA GO-MH (8 Aug 69) 3rd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 124th Transportation Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1969 RCS CSFOR-65 (U)

DA, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96384

15 OCT 1969

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

1. (U) The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by Headquarters, 124th Transportation Battalion for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 is forwarded.

2. (U) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning Maintenance Personnel, page 3, paragraph a(3). Concur. Replacements are equitably distributed to the support commands based on the authorized strength in each MOS. It should be noted that this unit is authorized 2 EM in MOS63C30 and 6 EM in MOS 63B20 for a total of 8 mechanics, not 11 as stated in the ORLL.

b. Reference item concerning Trailer Piggy Back, page 3, paragraph b(1). Concur. Transporting trailers in this manner is common practice and definitely reduces the center of gravity. With proper care, damage to the trailers can be avoided.

3. (U) Concur with the basic report as modified by this and previous indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

TEL: LBN 4839

C. D. STAFFORD
1Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

CF:
USASUPCOM QNH
8th Trans Gp
124th Trans Bn

AVHGC-DST (8 Aug 69) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 24 OCT 1969

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 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 124th Transportation Battalion (Truck) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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

Cy furn:
124th Trans Bn
1st Log Comd

GPOP-DT (8 Aug 69) 5th Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 124th Trans Bn (Trk) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 30 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
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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CO, 124th Transportation Battalion

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13. ABSTRACT

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