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

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IN REPLY REFER TO

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11 FEB 70
12 1-4

AGDA (M) (21 May 70)

FOR OT-UT-701032

27 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th
General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

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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 26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP
APO 96308

AVCA DNG-A-SPO

13 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS CSFOR-65 (R2))

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

Operations:

1. (C) Significant Activities

a. Command: During the reporting period, this headquarters experienced a loss of 12 officers due to reassignment or rotation and a gain of 10 officers from in-country and out-of-country sources. It is significant to mention that a large number of the losses in officers was experienced in key positions. Significant officer changes are:

(1) On 12 November 1969, LTC Roger A. Doucette assumed command of the 39th Transportation Battalion from LTC John Goff who was returning to CONUS.

(2) On 21 December 1969, LTC James H. Harris assumed Command of the 2nd Maintenance Battalion from LTC Charles Orr who was returning to CONUS.

(3) On 21 December 1969, LTC Daniel H. Fride assumed command of the 63rd Maintenance Battalion from LTC James H. Harris who assumed command of the 2nd Maintenance Battalion.

(4) On 4 January 1970, COL Robert D. Worthen assumed command of the 26th GS Group from COL N. L. McCartney who transferred to 1st Log Command to assume the position of Chief of Staff.

b. Personnel & Administration:

(1) Promotions: During the reporting period, there was an increase of 8 E-6 allocations, a decrease of 18 E-5 allocations and an increase of 75 E-4 allocations which improved morale as a whole among the enlisted members of the command.

FOR OT UT
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SUBJECT: Operational Report. Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

(2) Replacement Personnel: There continues to be a problem in filling NCO vacancies within the command. Some NCO positions are being filled by SP/5's and in some instances, SP/4's. The TO&E change request submitted on 16 October 1969 for the addition of the Class I platoon for the 148th S & S Company has not been received to date and, therefore, handicaps this headquarters on manning this platoon as no authorization is available to requisition replacements.

c. Base Development:

(1) During the reporting period, all units within the 26th Group implemented defense improvement projects in preparation for the upcoming winter-spring offensive. Bunkers were improved, revetments were strengthened, wire and barriers were improved and the use of fencing in front of each bunker was implemented. This was especially noticeable in 26th Group's Bravo Sector of the Phu Bai Combat Base.

(2) On 1 December 1969, the 63rd Maintenance Battalion was tasked with additional portion of the base defense perimeter in the Quang Tri Combat Base. This additional portion of the perimeter brought to a total 36 bunkers, 4 observation towers, 4 Sector CP's, 1 command bunker and a requirement for 89 guards to be furnished by the command. This additional defense mission has affected the mission capability of the battalion tremendously. Upon the departure of the US Marine Forces from Quang Tri Combat Base, the 63rd Maintenance Battalion was chosen to man the vacant bunkers on the perimeter.

d. Organization:

(1) Upon the departure of the Marines from Dong Ha in November, the 625th S & S Company was augmented with a Class I platoon for the purpose of assuming operational control of the Class I supply mission from the 3rd Marine Division. The transfer of operational control and accountability for the supplies was completed on 15 November 1969. Immediately upon completion of the transfer, plans were implemented to relocate the entire Class I operation to Quang Tri where more adequate facilities and better security prevailed. The movement of the supplies and equipment was completed on 22 December 1969. On 31 December 1969, the Class I operation opened a self-service condiment store at Quang Tri with 64 items available for customer units.

(2) On 15 November 1969, the 63rd Maintenance Battalion assumed an additional mission of providing backup maintenance support of AN/PPS-5 Radar Sets from D/75th Maintenance Battalion of the 1/5 Mech. HMS, 63rd Maintenance Battalion has requisitioned the necessary test equipment to support the mission.

(3) With the departure of the 3rd Marine Division from Dong Ha in November of 1969, the 63rd Maintenance Battalion was given the additional mission of clearing the Dong Ha ramp of US Army Cargo. This mission has been accomplished by the utilization of the 57th Transportation Company.

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SUBJECT: Operation Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General Support Group, Period ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (K2)

(4) Just prior to the beginning of the reporting period, the 3/5th Cavalry moved from Camp Evans north to Dong Ha, thus relieving the 178th Maintenance Company in Camp Evans of its maintenance supporting role and adding this additional mission to the 555th Maintenance Company in Dong Ha. This additional mission was evaluated and found to be too large a burden on the assets and capabilities of the 555th Maintenance Company. In addition, the 178th Maintenance Company in Camp Evans was operating with more capability than the mission required. Therefore, on 10 December 1969, the 178th and 555th Maintenance Companies switched locations and assumed on another's mission. This has proven to be a beneficial move and has improved mission performance.

(5) On 20 December 1969, the Graves Registration Detachment from the 148th S & S Company in Camp Evans was relocated to Phu Bai.

(6) Prior to the beginning of the reporting period, the 12th Ordnance Detachment from 2nd Maintenance Battalion was temporarily attached to the 555th Maintenance Company in Dong Ha to assist in the backlog of ordnance equipment. The detachment was moved back to its parent unit on 21 December 69 after reducing the maintenance backlog.

(7) By the end of the reporting period, the 3/5 Cavalry had received the first increment of 10 M551 Sheridans. The arrival of this equipment precipitated a need for special tools, special training, and requisitioning an ASL particular to the item. At the end of the reporting period the ASL for the M551 was at a 20% fill and some parts problems had already been realized. This lack of repair parts is the only significant problem which has developed to date.

(8) During the month of January, a new Sealand Contract was negotiated for resupply of Class I to Dong Ha. This was due to the inadequacy of the existing aerial resupply system. Much of the subsistence was condemned at Da Nang Aerial Port because of the lack of sufficient aircraft and unrealistic show times established by the Air Force. In addition a significant loss due to damage in shipping by air was experienced with eggs and fresh fruits. Negotiations had been initiated to enable use of Sealand Vans for over-the-road supply to the entire area of operation of the 26th GS Group. This contract went into effect on 1 February 1970.

(9) Prior to the reporting period, the 630th Medium Truck Company redeployed to CONUS. The 805th Light Truck Company moved into the 630th's area from Vung Tau and assumed its mission with medium truck equipment left by the redeploying unit. Due to mission requirements, this medium truck capability had to be maintained. However, the 805th Light Truck Company had no authorization under its MTO&E to requisition trained personnel and equipment for a medium truck company. A request for change of MTO&E from a light truck to a medium truck company was submitted. This request was approved on 15 December 1969, thus providing for authorization to continue operation as a Medium truck company and requisition personnel and equipment as necessary.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RGS CSFOR 65 (R2)

e. Planning: During the months of December and January of the reporting period the SP&O section, this headquarters, began extensive preliminary planning on the future assumption of operations from the Naval Support Activity in Tan My and possible closing the Viet Port. This planning has been quite beneficial in the preparation of final plans by USASUPCOM, DNG.

f. Domestic Hire Funds: At the beginning of the reporting period, there had been no specific guidance on domestic hire and funds. USARV issued a directive to all units authorizing Domestic Funds to be established down to company level to insure control and supervision. Negotiations have been completed, and ten of these funds go into effect on 1 February 1970.

g. Inspections: On 6 thru 8 January, HHC, 26th GS Group received its Annual General Inspection with a resulting score of satisfactory. In preparation for inspection, the HQ's of this Command improved its operations and familiarized several newly assigned key personnel within the staff sections during the complete review of organization and operations.

2. (C) Lessons Learned: Commander Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

- a. Personnel: None
- b. Intelligence: None
- c. Operations: None
- d. Organization: None
- e. Training: None
- f. Logistics: None
- g. Communications: None
- h. Material: None
- i. Others:

(1) Perimeter Lighting

(a) Observation: The 26th GS Group is assigned Bravo Sector of the Phu Bai Defense Perimeter. This sector had no lighting along the bunker line to enhance observation during the hours of darkness. A project was implemented in January to build a lighting system with an independent power source. Light poles were constructed of six inch (6") pipe and three inch (3") pipe with two light fixtures on each pole. These light poles were wired into a field generator for power. An Auxiliary generator was procured for flexibility.

(b) Evaluation: This lighting system affords exceptional observation of the wire and the complete front of the perimeter. It requires little maintenance and provides excellent assistance to guards during the hours of darkness.

(c) Recommendations; That this field expedient method of providing lights be disseminated for the benefit of units experiencing the same problem.

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AVCA DNG-A-SPO

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

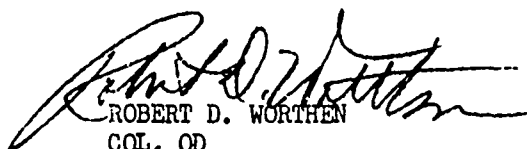
(2) Perimeter Fencing

(a) Observation: In the preparation for the winter-spring offensive, this headquarters implemented a defensive sector improvement project. In the process of improving the wire and barriers, a fence was constructed which has proven to be an ideal anti-sapper obstacle. The fence was constructed of 4" X 4" heavy gage steel mesh buried 8" to 10" in the ground and extending four to five feet above ground. Ordinary wire cutters will not cut this fence. A pair of Boltcutters would be at a minimum required to pass through the fence. This greatly reduces the sapper's access to crawling under or over the fence.

(b) Evaluation: Although, no sapper action has been experienced since the construction of the fence, it is believed to be an effective barrier which makes the sappers job more difficult than does concertina.

(c) Recommendation: That the use of this heavy wire mesh be considered for future use in perimeter defense planning.

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as


ROBERT D. WORTHEN
COL, OD
Commanding

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AVCA DNG-GO-MH (31 Jan 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 26th General Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2) (U)

DA, Headquarters, US Army Support Command, Da Nang, APO 96349

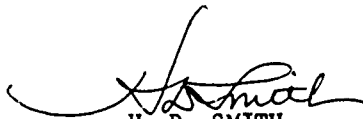
TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96384

1. (U) The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 26th General Support Group for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970, is forwarded.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow.

a. Paragraph 1(1), concur. Perimeter lighting has been installed in every unit perimeter at which assets permit. The most frequent limiting factor is generator availability, since available TOE generators in other units are tied up running shops or lighting billet areas. A program to make greater numbers of generators available for perimeter lighting would help solve the problem. In addition to 110V generators, the 24V DC generators can be effectively employed in conjunction with vehicle headlights.

b. Paragraph 1(2), concur. The mesh fencing proposed in the basic letter is very effective as a sapper barrier, particularly when combined with concertina to make climbing difficult. This suggestion will be disseminated to other units in USASUPCOM, DNG.


H. D. SMITH
COL, OrdC
Commanding

cf

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

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AVC: GO-MH (13 Feb 70) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned of the 26th General Support Group for period ending 31 January 1970 RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)(U)

DA, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96384 20 MAR 1970

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

1. (U) The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by Headquarters, 26th General Support Group for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 is forwarded.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning perimeter lighting, page 4, paragraph 1(1). Concur. It is a well-established fact that perimeter lighting when used in conjunction with a properly distributed guard system is an effective deterrent to sapper activity in fixed installations and tactical activities. Permanent type lighting systems are costly and often difficult and time consuming to construct. Further, it is usually difficult, or impossible, to relocate such systems. Accordingly, the requirement for a cheap, portable, self contained system should be made known to Department of the Army for development and procurement. While it is commendable that units make do in emergencies, it is incumbent upon the Army to provide needed equipment when requirements exist.

b. Reference item concerning perimeter fencing, page 5, paragraph 1(2). Concur. The wire mesh used for this fence is used in concrete construction as a reinforcing agent. It is likely that substituting this material for the barbed wire cattle fence in MACV Standard Fence would increase the effectiveness of that barrier.

3. Concur with the basic report as modified by this and previous indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

M. E. Clark

TEL: LBN 4862

M. E. CLARK
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

CF:
USASUPCOM, DNG
26th GS Gp

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AVHGC-DST (13 Feb 70) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 26th General
Support Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970, (RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)),

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 02FF 7/0

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 26th General Support Group and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Reference item concerning "Lack of Repair Parts for M551 Sheridans", page 3, paragraph d(7); concur. Repair parts for the Sheridan are in short supply throughout the command. Action has been taken to expedite timely requisitioning and follow-up on CONUS backorders.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


L. D. MURRAY
CPT, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
1st Log Comd .
26th GS Gp

GPOP-DT (13 Feb 70) 4th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 26th General Support Group for
Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 10 APR 1970

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:



L.M. OZAKI
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, 26TH GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP

UNIT

HHC, 26th GS Gp
##MCFO
HMS CO, 2nd Maint Bn (DS)
67th Maint Co (DS)(DIV)
12th Ord Det (Maint)
43rd Eng Det (Maint) Team EA
42nd APU (Type Z)
578th Maint Co (LEM)(GS)
528th QM Co (Petr1 Sup)
148th S&S Co (DS)
6th QM Plt (GREGG)
Phu Bai Cl I Plt (Prov)
Phu Bai Bakery Plt (Prov)
*5th AA Plt, 29th CA Co
*7th AA Plt, 29th CA Co
***Class B Soc, 64th Fin Sec
**Det 103, 571st Ord Co (Ammo)
**207th Ord Det (EOD)

HHD, 39th Trans Bn (Trk)
515th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
585th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
665th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
805th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)

HMS Co, 63rd Maint Bn (DS)
548th Sig Det (Rdr Maint)

##MCFO
57th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
40th APU (Type V)
178th Maint Co (DS)(DIV)
555th Maint Co (DS) (-)
533rd Eng Det (Maint)(EB)
#Det, 528th QM Co (POL)
625th S&S Co (GS)
848th QM Plt (Petr1 Opns)
206th QM Det (Ldry)
***Class B Soc, 64th Fin Sec
**Det 101, 571st Ord Co (Ammo)
**Det 102, 571st Ord Co (Ammo)
**59th Ord Det (EOD)

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CO, 26th General Support Group		
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