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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

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

ACSFOR
ATTN: OT RD
File
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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (21 Nov 67) FOR OT RD-670738

27 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Reports--Lessons Learned, Headquarters, Phu Lam
Signal Battalion (USASTRATCOM) (Provisional), Period Ending
31 July 1967

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by
USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in
accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and cor-
rective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of re-
ceipt 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:

C. A. Stanfield
C. A. STANFIEL
Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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as

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STATEMENT #2 UNCLASSIFIED

FOR OT RD
670738

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Wash, D.C. 20310 9

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HQS, PHU LAM SIGNAL BATTALION (USASTRATCOM) (PROVISIONAL)
APO San Francisco 96243

PGPLMF-CO

26 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967 Report Control Symbol CS For 65. (WOP7AA)

TO: Commanding Officer
USA Regional Communications Group (Vietnam)
APO 96243

SECTION I

The Phu Lam Signal Battalion is a major communications complex in the Defense Communication System, and as such has engaged in fixed plant operations since the plant was initially constructed. The operation of a fixed station is standard and need not be mentioned here except for any deviation from normal procedures. The atmosphere at Phu Lam is one of constant change and growth. This growth of course has been necessitated by the rapid and extensive increase in the U.S. commitment. Traffic volume continues to increase at a record breaking pace. Construction and equipment installation continues at a normal pace in the new Autodin building. During the past quarter there was very little evidence of lessons learned that would result in a change of doctrine. There were some instances where improvisations and adaptations were accomplished to compensate for the difficulties encountered in Vietnam. These lessons are set forth in Section II.

SECTION II

1. Security

Gun Emplacements, Personnel Bunkers and Revetments

Item: Sandbags Deteriorating

Discussion: The gun emplacements, personnel bunkers and revetments constructed with sandbags tend to deteriorate rapidly due to the damp climate present here in Vietnam. This

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26 August 1967.

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending
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has caused many man hours to be spent building and rebuilding these emplacements.

Observation: The practice of using barrels where possible for defense emplacements provides a longer lasting construction toward rebuilding these emplacements.

2. Operations

Data Maintenance

Item: Feed Checks caused by Read Feed Clutch on IBM 1013

Discussion: Recently a feed check problem was experienced with an IBM 1013 at Phu Lam Signal Battalion. The feed check was found to be caused by the card not leaving the read station fast enough. Even after all adjustments for the read feed and read feed path were checked and found to be correct, the problem still existed. No lag in the read feed clutch was apparent through observation, but through investigation and analysis it was concluded that the read feed clutch was lagging. When some IBM lubricating grease #23 was applied to the read feed clutch the problem was solved for a short period of time. The clutch was then taken apart and the helical spring in it was replaced even though the original spring appeared to be good. It turned out that this replacement solved the problem.

Observation: When feed checks occur due to a card not leaving the read station fast enough and all adjustments to the read feed clutch and read feed path are found to be correct, then a probable cause of this problem is a lag in the read feed clutch. Further indication would be the temporary improvement of the problem by lubricating the clutch. The helical spring within the read feed clutch should be checked thoroughly and replaced when necessary.

Data Relay

Item: Improvement in Cleanliness of Data Relay Building

Discussion: The Phu Lam Battalion has always had an enormous problem with sand and dirt due to the location of the site. The data relay building has been especially plagued

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26 August 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967 Report Control Symbol CS For 65. (WOP7AA)

with this dirt and sand. It has always been next to impossible to keep the building as clean as it should be. Even though it was not felt that the building cleanliness was below accepted standards, it was believed that improvements could be made. A program was instigated to insure cleanliness and the following steps have been taken.

(1) Brushes are placed at the entrance of Data Relay and are used by all personnel entering the building.

(2) A vacuum cleaner is used approximately twenty (20) hours of each day throughout the area.

(3) No smoking is permitted around the equipment.

(4) No type of cleaning powder is used on the floor or on the equipment that might possibly get into the equipment.

(5) The area is swept and mopped at more frequent intervals than in the past.

To accomplish these steps, one (1) man is assigned as a detail man throughout each shift.

Observation: The measures being taken to improve the cleanliness of Data Relay will quite possibly prevent machine outages and other errors in the future. The cleaner an area such as Data Relay can be kept the more it will benefit the entire scope of operation.

Carrier Section

Item: Unmarked Circuit Breakers

Discussion: In carrier section a DC equipment rack was disabled on 15 July 1967 by over loading the AC outlet, and two minutes were used to locate unmarked circuit breaker.

Observation: Had the circuit breaker been marked, the outage would have been no more than 20 seconds.

3. Troop Command

Weapons

Item: Weapons Cleaning

Discussion: As a result of a weapons inspection conducted in July 1967 by 1st Signal Brigade, this command

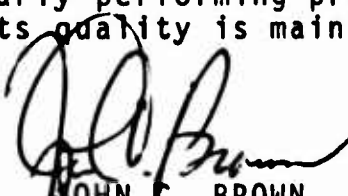
RGPLMF-CO

26 August 1967.

SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending
31 July 1967 Report Control Symbol CS For 65. (WOP7AA)

received a report indicating that most weapons were not being cleaned properly and regularly. The Troop Commander immediately took steps to insure that weapons were being cleaned properly and regularly. This was accomplished by scheduling a weapons inspection to be conducted weekly by the unit armorer. EM in grade E5 and below who live on the cantonment are now required to present their weapons weekly for inspection. EM not conforming to this requirement have been administered disciplinary action. Directly resulting from these inspections, weapons are much cleaner and in better operating condition.

Observation: By regularly performing preventative maintenance and inspecting equipment, its quality is maintained.


JOHN C. BROWN
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SCCVRG-PO (26 Aug 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967,
(RCS CSFOR-65) (WOP7AA)

HEADQUARTERS, USA REGIONAL COMMUNICATIONS GROUP (VIETNAM), APO 96243 2 SEP 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM) ATTN: SCCVOP
APO 96307

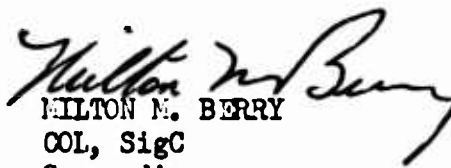
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH
APO 96491

Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT
APO 96558

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

Concur with basic correspondence.

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nc


MILTON M. BERRY
COL, SigC
Commanding

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SCCVOP-SP (26 Aug 67)

2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (WOP7AA)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO SF 96307

8 SEP 1967

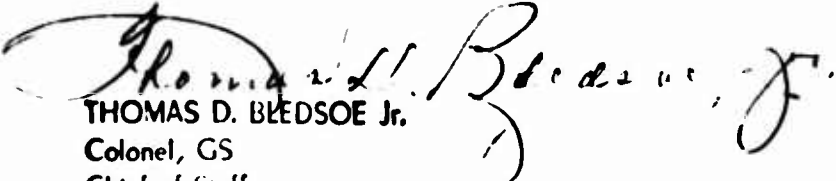
TO: ✓Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST,
APO 96375

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

1. IAW AR 1-19, subject report from the Phu Lam Facility is forwarded.
2. Concur in Commander's Observations.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc


THOMAS D. BLEDSOE Jr.

Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

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AVHGC-DST (26 Aug 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 July 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 13 SEP 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 July 1967 from Headquarters, Phu Lam Signal Battalion (USASTRATCOM) (PROVISIONAL) (WOP7AA).

2. Concur in commanders' observations. Report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


STANLEY E. SCHULTS
Major, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

GPOP-DT (26 Aug 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 July 1967
from HQ, Phu Lam Signal Battalion (USASTRATCOM)(Provisional)
(UIC: WOP7AA)(RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

20 OCT 1967

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding
indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG