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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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



IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (2 May 67) FOR OT

3 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 52d Signal  
Battalion (Support)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 52D Signal Battalion (Support) for quarterly period 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools 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

I Incl  
as

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FOR OT RD  
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*for same Rev.*

FOR-OT-RD  
WASH. D.C. 20310

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2

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 52D SIGNAL BATTALION (SUPPORT)  
APO San Francisco 96215

SCCVSG-VD

15 February 1967

OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED  
(1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967)

SECTION I: SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) Organization:

There has been no significant change in the organizational structure of this battalion since the last reporting period. Company A, continues to control the seven (7) operational sites of this battalion. The Battalion Personnel section became operational on 31 January 1967 as a functioning element within the battalion.

2. (U) Operations:

a. The battalion continued to enhance the communications support provided within the IV Corps Tactical Zone. Class IV projects were started and are currently under way at the following locations:

(1) Can Tho (Buildings for 1000 line Dial Central Office and New Communications Center)

(2) Soc Trang (Building for 400 line Dial Central Office)

(3) Vinh Long (Installation of 400 line Dial Central Office and Outside Cable Plant)

b. A VHF system, utilizing AN/TKC-24, was engineered and is currently being installed to provide multi-channel communications between the MACV Advisory Team at 21st AAVN Division Headquarters at Bac Lieu and the MACV Sector at Vi Thanh.

c. A SSB radio link, utilizing the AN/GRC-106 ground mounted radio, was established between Vi Thanh and Bac Lieu to supplement the previously installed MACV KMS-2A radio link.

d. In support of Operation "ELKHORSE V" the battalion provided the land terminal of a radio link between the Naval Task Group at sea and Headquarters IV Corps in Can Tho. Both AN/GRC-26 and KMS-2A SSB were utilized. Situation reports and other operational reports were relayed to and from COMUS MACV in Saigon. (See Lessons Learned, Section II, Part I b, following).

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e. A VHF system, utilizing AN/TRC-24, was established from the MACV Advisory Team at 7th ARVN Division Headquarters at My Tho to the Dong Tam base camp of a brigade of the U.S. 9th Infantry Division. Another VHF system, utilizing AN/TRC-24, was established from Dong Tam to Headquarters, IV Corps, at Can Tho via a radio relay site at Vinh Long.

f. An Electronics Maintenance facility was established at Soc Trang to provide signal maintenance support for battalion elements at Soc Trang, Bac Lieu, Camau, and Vi Thanh.

g. The subordinate units within this battalion conducted formal training for period of 14 days during the reporting period. Subjects covered during this period were:

- (1) Riot Control and Civil Disturbance
- (2) Character Guidance
- (3) CER Training
- (4) Emergency Medical Care and First Aid
- (5) Driver Training
- (6) Command Information ("The Viet Cong")
- (7) Weapons Safety
- (8) Weapons Familiarization Range Firing
- (9) Escape, Evasion and Survival

## SECTION II: COMMANDER'S OBSERVATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### PART I: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations: Amphibious Readiness Group/Sea Landing Force Communications (ARG/SLF Communications) (U)

ITEM: (U) Ship-to-Shore Communications

3  
DISCUSSION: During January 1967 the U.S. Marines participated in an Amphibious Operation, DECKHOUSE V, in the coastal area of the Mekong Delta bordering the South China Sea. After the tactical operation started this battalion was tasked to provide the alternate land terminal of a ship-to-shore, full-duplex, secure, HF, radio teletype circuit. After some difficulty in initial coordination the circuit was established and remained for the duration of the operation. An after-action analysis of communications problems resulted in the following procedures being established for future operations involving ship-to shore communications:

(1) The type of circuit to be established, type of equipment to be used, and the method of circuit termination (remote or in radio terminal) will be coordinated in advance and details will be furnished to both the land and sea terminals, primary and alternate.

(2) A standard procedure will be established to insure rapid initial contact.

(3) Keylists for joint Army - Navy use will be provided to insure contact between the correct terminals.

(4) Liaison personnel will be exchanged at the operating level to assist in evaluating and solving problems that arise at each terminal.

(5) Communications exercises will be conducted between land terminals and U.S. Naval vessels on routine patrol off the coast of Vietnam to provide personnel the opportunity to practice ship-to-shore contact.

OBSERVATIONS: Careful and detailed advance planning and thorough coordination at all echelons is essential to insure timely initial contact and continued responsiveness of ship-to-shore communications. Exchange of liaison personnel at the operating level will facilitate operations between personnel of different services who are not used to working with each other on a routine basis and who normally follow slightly different procedures (i.e. Army - Navy).

c. Training and Organization: None

d. Intelligence: None

e. Logistics: None

f. Maintenance:

ITEM: (U) Signal Equipment

4

**DISCUSSION:** Heat, along with dust, continues to be the primary cause of communications equipment failure. The two together form a layer of insulation on equipment components which adds to the heat dissipation problem. Maximum use of all available air-conditioning units together with fans blowing directly on the equipment is necessary to reduce the heat problem. Frequent cleaning of components, especially around connectors, plugs, and relays, is essential. This must be done several times every day. Constant supervision of operators by non-commissioned officers in this regard, and constant command attention throughout the chain-of-command is mandatory.

**OBSERVATIONS:** Amplified application of proper preventive maintenance practices under strict supervision will assist in reducing equipment down-time due to heat and dust. This observation is not new, but its application in this geographical area and environment cannot be stressed too strongly.

**ITEM: (U) Standby Power Generator Equipment**

**DISCUSSION:** An engine generator on standby status that will not start or carry the load when needed (upon failure of the on-line generator or failure of commercial power if available) is useless and dangerous. It is useless because it does not perform the function for which it was designed, and is dangerous because it results in lost time in restoring vital communications service and a false sense of security by site personnel who are confident that they have power "standing by". A multiplicity of standby generators with the hope that one will start when required is not feasible. Strict compliance with the proper step-by-step procedure (no "short-cuts") for starting, running, and stopping a particular model generator is essential. Non-commissioned officer supervision of operators in the act of starting, running, and stopping their generators and in performing daily preventive maintenance checks is mandatory. All fuel delivered to a site should be pre-filtered by the best means available before it is introduced into the engine. Constant command attention throughout the chain-of-command is mandatory.

5  
OBSERVATIONS: Meticulous attention to proper operating procedures and preventive maintenance for each model generator, and to the filtering of fuel, by operators, supervisors, and commanders is the only way to insure that generators are operable. This observation is not new, but its application in this geographical area and environment cannot be stressed to strongly.

PART II: Commander's Recommendations: None

  
WILLIAM J. KENNEDY  
LTC SigC  
Commanding

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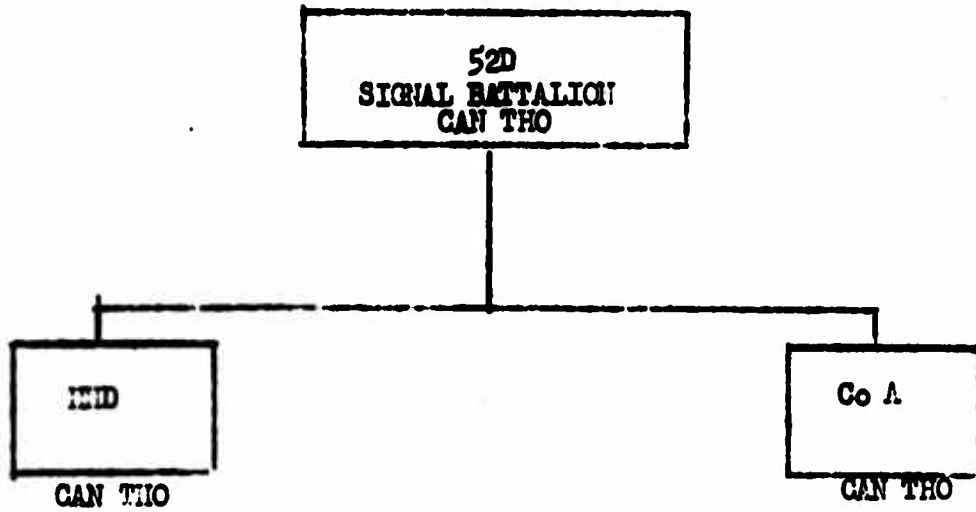
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- 1 - CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC
- 3 - CG, USARPV
- 1 - CG, 1st Sig Bde
- 3 - CO, 2d Sig Gp

Incl 1.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

AS OF: 31 January 1967

6



Inclosure 1

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7  
SCCVSG-00 (15 Feb 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 2d Signal Group, APO 96491

12 MAR 1967


THRU: Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATOON), APO 96307  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96307  
Commanding General, United States Army Pacific, APO 96558

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

1. Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
submitted by the 52d Signal Battalion has been reviewed and found to be  
adequate.

2. Further, I fully concur in the Commander's Observations and  
Recommendations portion of the report.

1  
2 Incl  
~~Organizational Chart~~  
Organizational Chart

  
JACK N. COLE  
Colonel, SigC  
Commanding

Incl 1

7

SOCTOP (15 Feb 67)

2d Ind

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

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST SIGNAL BRIGADE (USASTRATCOM), APO San Francisco  
96307

15 MAR 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVC-DH,  
APO 96307

Commanding General, USASTRATCOM, Washington, D.C. 20315

1. IAW AR 1-19, subject report from the 52d Signal Battalion is furnished.
2. Concur in the Commander's Observation.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1  
8 Incl  
no

  
WILLIAM A. HIGGINS  
Colonel, SigC  
Deputy

Incl 1

AVHGC-DH (15 Feb 67)

3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 29 MAR 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 52d Signal Battalion (Support) as indorsed.
2. Concur in the comments of the basic report and indorsements.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



R. J. THORNTON III  
1st Lt, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

1  
8 Incl  
no

Incl 1

9

GPOF-OT(15 Feb 67)

4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending  
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 52d Sig Bn (Spt)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

20 APR 1967

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

1  
/ Incl  
nc



H. SNYDER  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

Incl 1

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