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AUTHORITY

AGO/DA ltr, 29 Apr 1980

AD827537

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

IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAM-P (M) (29 May 67) FOR OT

8 June 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 69th Signal Battalion (Army)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 69th Signal Battalion (Army) for quarterly period ending 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:

FEB 28 1968

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

1 Incl
as

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FOR OT RD
670135

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 69TH SIGNAL BATTALION (ARMY)
APO San Francisco 96307

SCCVSG-AB-3 15 February 1967

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

THRU: Commanding Officer
2d Signal Group
ATTN: SCCVSG-A
APO 96491

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army
Washington, D.C. 20135

IAW AR 1-19 and USARV Regulation 870-2 the attached report is hereby submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
as

for HERMAN J. LATTUS
Captain, SigC
Adjutant

FOR OT RD
670135

AVCVSG-AB-3 15 February 1967
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

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SECTION I. SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. General: The reporting period was noted for continued improvements in operational facilities, continued improvements on cantonment areas, and the installation of dial service to telephone subscribers in the Saigon/Cholon/Tan Son Nhut areas.

b. There was no change in the organizational structure of the 69th Signal Battalion (Army). The present organizational structure of this command is as shown in Inclosure 1.

c. After the rotation to the United States of a majority of the experienced personnel in the battalion, the command was faced during this reporting period with the task of operating complex communication systems with newly arrived personnel. Nevertheless, the command provided superior quality communications support consistent with the requirements set forth by higher headquarters.

d. In late November 1966, the 69th Signal Battalion (A) sponsored Headquarters and Headquarters Company and "A" Company of the 36th Signal Battalion upon their arrival in Vietnam. The cantonment, personnel, and vehicular support rendered to the 36th Signal Battalion provided an interim period for the newly arrived battalion to adjust to and assume its primary role in South Vietnam.

e. On the 4th and 5th of December 1966, elements of the 69th Signal Battalion were confronted with enemy activity on Tan Son Nhut Air Base. The two quick reaction platoons, which the battalion provides to USARV Special Troops, were committed. They assisted in blocking the Viet Cong's escape route, although, no actual contact was made with the enemy by 69th Signal Battalion personnel.

f. New construction included operational, billet and recreational facilities. The following were constructed at Long Binh, RVN: A new NCO/EM Open Mess large enough to comfortably accomodate 1,200 people, a new MARS facility, a combined VHF/Carrier building with organic maintenance facilities, the renovation of an existing structure to house a Main Distribution Frame (MDF) for the Long Binh Signal Complex, one dayroom and six (6) troop billets. Construction in the Saigon area included a Tailor Shop and Barber Shop (see Inclosure 3), at the 593d Signal Company Villa (Gia Dinh RVN) and one new 20' x 60' troop billet at Camp Gaylor, Tan Son Nhut. The quarter culminated with plans being formulated to utilize the space vacated by the recent move of the 2d Signal Group to Long Binh RVN, and to relocate 69th Signal Battalion personnel billeted in downtown Saigon/Cholon to the Camp Gaylor area at Tan Son Nhut.

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(3) The Long Binh Radio Complex was expanded on 21 January 1967 with the addition of a twenty-three channel AN/TRC-29, microwave terminal for a new system between Long Binh and Saigon. Not yet fully activated, it is anticipated that the completed system will satisfy the immediate need for circuits between the two areas. The equipment at Long Binh was installed, and will be operated and maintained, by a ten (10) man team from the 518th Signal Company (RRUHF).

(4) Employment of the VHF capability within the battalion is at a maximum. The 69th Signal Battalion (A) currently is operating twenty-six (26), AN/TRC-24 terminals in twenty (20) 2nd Signal Group systems. Due to the expected arrival of AN/MRC-102 radio equipment within RVN, an increase in circuit committments is anticipated. As the close of the quarter drew near, personnel in the VHF Company of the command were formulating plans for the installation and operation of the AN/MRC-102 equipment.

(5) To satisfy one unique mission requirement, this battalion was tasked to established a four-channel radio relay system from aboard the LST "Whitfield County", anchored at Vung Tau, to a shore based terminal on VC Hill, Cap St Jacques. The inside of an empty equipment shelter was rigged to accomodate two AN/GRC-10 radio sets, two AN/TCC-3 radio telephone terminals and two AN/TCC-20 telegraph terminals. An RC-292 omnidirectional antenna was used aboard ship to prevent loss of signal whenever the ship's position was shifted by the tides. Similar radio and carrier equipment was employed atop VC Hill, however, the standard AN/GRC-10 antenna was used. The distance from the shore to the ship was such that the ship at anchor was always within the beam pattern from the land based site. Circuit quality was excellent.

c. HF and FM Radio Operations:

(1) Construction of the new transmitter site at Long Binh (See Inclosure 6) was completed on 22 January 1967, employing personnel assigned to the command. The changeover to the new site was accomplished with no significant outage recorded during the cutover. Additionally, a new MARS facility is being constructed at the Signal Complex in Long Binh (See Inclosures 7 and 8) and plans are being made for the move to take place in early February 1967.

(2) Other events in the HF area included: The relocation of the receiver and transmitter site at Can Tho on 16 November 1966, the establishing, in November 1966, of a new station in the Ground Liaison Officers net at Tuy Hoa, the deactivation of the 525th Military Intelligence Brigade Station at II FFV, and the contingency mission for the AN/GRC-114's

to provide a special communications link with a naval vessel at sea.

(3) FM Radios, AN/VRC-46, have been installed in the courier vehicles and at base stations at Saigon and Long Binh to effect control of courier operations. The net went into operation in November, 1966, and has considerably increased the efficiency and security of courier operations in the Saigon/Cholon/Long Binh Areas.

d. Wire Operations:

(1) Over the last ninety days, the Saigon/Cholon area has been transformed from a manual telephone system to one employing dial equipment. At present, Tiger, Army, Cholon and Lynx subscribers can dial each other directly without requiring the services of a manual attendant. A large part of the success of the current telephone system is due to the major telephone cable, drop wire and instrument rehabilitation effort put forth by the 593rd and the 580th Signal Companies, upgrading the outside plant in the Saigon/Cholon Areas. The success of this effort is seen daily by the diminishing number of telephone outages reported, and the extremely low outstanding outages recorded from day to day. There has been an average of approximately thirty-five (35) outages a day, of which not more than twelve (12) are carried forward to the next 24 hour reporting period as outstanding. This represents .64% and .22% respectively of the 5500 telephones installed.

(2) Preparation and planning for the Dial Cutovers were carried out during the quarter as follows:

(a) On 12 November 1966, the Army 600 Line Dial Central Office (AN/TTC-28) was placed in service. This was the first AN/TTC-28 installed in Vietnam. It marked the beginning of the conversion of the telephone service in the Saigon/Cholon Area from manual to dial (See Inclosure 9).

(b) On 10 December 1966 the second AN/TTC-28 was placed in service at Lynx (See Inclosure 10).

(c) On 23 December the Cholon AN/TTC-28 was placed in service, completing installation of the AN/TTC-28's in the Saigon/Cholon Area.

(d) The AN/TTC-28's as issued, were found to be incompatible with the ARVN and PTT dial systems which are also in Saigon/Cholon. This necessitated the retention of some manually operated switchboard positions for interconnecting US exchanges to non-US exchanges.

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A requisition has been submitted, for dial pulse repeaters. When installed on the AN/TTC-28's the repeaters will provide direct dial-to-dial service to all subscribers. This will eliminate the need for the intracity trunking switchboard.

(e) On 21 January 1967, the 2,000 line Tiger (XY) Dial Central Office at MACV I went into operation completing the immediate DCO plan for the Saigon/Cholon Area.

(f) At the close of the period, work was in progress at Long Binh to construct an area for the installation of two (2) AN/TTC-28's. As of this report the first AN/TTC-28 is on its concrete pad, fully tested and waiting the completion of the outside plant for a 4 February cutover.

(g) The close of the quarter's activity included the planning for the expansion and operation of the Hurricane Switchboard at II FFV, currently being operated by the 53rd Signal Battalion.

(3) Cable Construction

(a) Several major cable projects were completed to pave the way for dial cutovers in the Saigon and Long Binh Areas. Noted are the:

1 Rerouting of the A604 cable, which entailed the rerouting of a one hundred (100) pair cable that was operational, from the old Army Manual Switchboard to the Lynx Switchboard without a loss of communications.

2 Installation of a six hundred (600) pair distribution cable from the Army Dial Van (AN/TTC-28) to Headquarters USARV (Tent City "B") for dial service.

3 Installation of two (2) cross-connect boxes in the vicinity of the Lynx Switchboard with the capability of cross-connecting over two-thousand (2000) pairs, thereby increasing the capability of cable usage within that area and enabling the 593rd Signal Company to convert from Lynx Manual to the New DCO in a shorter period of time without a loss of communications.

4 The MACV I changeover to dial marked the end of one of the largest and most complicated splicing tasks ever confronted by the 580th Signal Company. Within the MACV I Compound alone over 2,600 pairs were spliced. This was complicated by unusual circumstances such as the splicing of three (3), 400 pair cables into two (2), six hundred (600) pair cables without losing either pair or cable identity, and the splicing

of approximately 9,000 conductors to form a complete bridge system of all cables entering the central office.

5 To support carrier requirements, sixty-eight (68) reels of spiral-four cable had to be installed or rehabilitated. Overall cable construction resulted in the installation of approximately 90,000 feet of multipair cable during the reporting period.

6 Since its arrival in Vietnam, this command has installed over 800,000 feet of multipair cable. Planning efforts are in effect to eliminate many small cables in the Lynx area; and at later dates, the command plans to begin clean-up operations in all areas of Saigon and Cholon. Much needed hardware is beginning to arrive in-country, however, the amount on hand is inadequate to complete future tasks already assigned to this battalion. This, together with the current shortage of six-hundred (600) pair plastic insulated cable could mean that future mission committments may necessitate the use of 606 pair, paper insulated cable, a type which is not recommended for use in this tropical environment.

e. Cable Carrier:

Cable carrier systems at the end of the quarter expanded to nine (9) operational systems and one (1) back-up system as opposed to six (6) operational systems at the end of last quarter. Two new systems were established from Long Binh to Bien Hoa, and one (1) system was activated in January 1967 from II FFV to Bien Hoa.

f. Communication Center and Courier Operations:

(1) Partial activation of the new CICV Communications Center near the Joint General Staff Compound was completed on 17 December 1966. A full duplex pony circuit was established between the old facility on Tan Son Nhut and the New CICV Building.

(2) Expansion of the communication center at Long Binh (See Inclosure 11) was required in order to provide service to subscribers at Long Binh Post. Action was taken to provide a separate and distinct area communications center collocated with the HF Park Communications Center at Long Binh. The new area communication center now provides service, to include access to the World Wide DCS Network, to approximately thirty-three (33) units on Long Binh Post.

(3) The 1st Signal Brigade Communications Center was expanded by adding an AN/MGC-23 teletype relay facility. The original AN/MGC-22 was

terminating seven (7) circuits, three more than its designed capability. The expanded communication center provides both a more efficient facility and sufficient room for poking and message handling.

(4) This battalion was tasked to employ an AN/MSC-29 communications center in a novel role. The equipment, in its entirety, was lashed to the deck of the LST "Whitfield County", anchored off Vung Tau, to provide ship-to-shore teletypewriter communications. The AN/MSC-29 terminated two (2) secure circuits via the AN/GRC-10 radio relay system described earlier. It is believed that this is the first time in history an AN/MSC-29 has been so employed.

(5) During the period, communication-center personnel of the command handled a total of 440,000 messages, an increase of 65,000 messages over those handled last quarter.

(6) The teletype Maintenance Shop was relocated into a new building on Camp Gaylor. The new building provides increased space for repairmen and a more desireable work area.

(7) Courier Activity: The courier section at Tan Son Nhut was relocated on the base compound at Camp Gaylor on 23 December 1966 (See Inclosure 12). Since the move and the installation of FM radios in the courier vehicles, the section has operated with a higher degree of efficiency. Statistics for the reporting period included the handling of 190,000 pounds of material, the logging of 31,050 miles by road and travelling on 390 flights, and the logging of 3,085 hours of duty time.

3. Training:

a. With the implementation of new training requirements, more time has been taken up by formal classes. All mandatory subjects are thoroughly covered, with particular stress being placed on problems and situations peculiar to Vietnam.

(1) The presentation of required classes to personnel at nearby sites is conducted by the respective OIC's and NCOIC's. Mandatory training is accomplished at the outlying sites by forwarding to them a summary of the classes. This material is read and initialed by the personnel on the site, and sent back to the training officer and the unit.

(2) The battalion on-the-job training program has shown itself to be very effective. The program is constantly stressed, and is implemented on all sites within the unit.

b. Training activities during the quarter have followed the Master Plan of higher headquarters. Particular attention has been given to maintenance, driver's training, security, and character guidance.

c. Classes are held for newly arrived 72C20 personnel (switchboard operators). These classes present a review of switchboard practices and procedures, as well as an orientation covering various aspects of switchboard operations in the Saigon/Cholon and Long Binh Areas.

d. A more comprehensive training program on the equipment employed by the battalion is expected during the ensuing quarter. This program, incorporating assistance from Electronics Command and other technically qualified representatives, will include MOS training on new equipments and MOS cross training.

e. Continuous training is a necessity to be able to keep pace with the battalion's changing operational commitment. Additionally, the arrival of new equipment necessitates the establishment of classes, to instruct personnel on maintenance and operating procedures.

f. Classes on the Army Equipment Records System (TAERS) have been presented by the Battalion Maintenance Officer. These classes were presented both in Saigon and Long Binh for all officers, key NCO's and team chiefs. This training is in keeping with this command's belief that an efficient maintenance program is a prerequisite to the successful completion of its missions.

4. Personnel:

a. The MTO&E submitted in January 1966, which reorganized the 69th Signal Battalion (Army) and attached units, still has not been approved by the Department of the Army.

b. Correspondence received on 30 January 1967 from USASTRATCOM, Washington, indicated that the MTO&E 11-500D for reorganization of the 455th Signal Detachment had been approved, however, the implementing General Order has not been received.

c. The receipt of adequate replacements has improved, however, the problem still exists as to just how many, and when, replacements are to be received within a given month. Through the continual changing of procedures for receipt and distribution of replacements by USARV, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), and 2d Signal Group, it is an impossible task to forecast adequate arrival of replacements. The authorization which allows the Battalion to requisition replacements, based upon MTO&E strength,

will improve the receipt of replacements and will more nearly coincide with present operational mission committments. MTO&E position replacements should begin to arrive during the month of May 1967.

d. Prior to the move of Headquarters 2d Signal Group to Long Binh, the 2nd Signal Group Personnel Section and the 69th Signal Battalion Personnel Section occupied the same office area. On 22 January 1967, the 2nd Signal Group Personnel Office was relocated to Long Binh, South Vietnam, so that the two Personnel Offices are no longer in the same building. This action has increased the efficiency of the 69th Signal Battalion's Personnel Office by eliminating answering problems that do not apply to personnel of the 69th Signal Battalion, i.e., phone calls, directing personnel to the proper section, and the confusion of a large number of personnel working within the same office. The relocation of 2d Signal Group Personnel Section has increased the number of reports, but the increased work load has been more than compensated by the advantages enumerated above.

e. During the past quarter this command experienced a continuing heavy loss of personnel in the 05C MOS (Radio-Teletypewriter Operator). although only authorized five (5) personnel with MOS 05B (Low Speed Radio Operator), a considerable number has been received. This requires an OJT program to obtain personnel experienced in RATT operation. This procedure has served to partially alleviate the 05C personnel problem but does pose a hardship on the battalion.

5. Logistics:

a. The "self-help" program, which allows an organization to build its own facilities with issued construction materials, has enabled this command to erect many sorely needed billet and recreational facilities. Because of the troop build-up in Long Binh and the accompanying large scale Corps of Engineers effort in that area, availability of self-help items has been considerably reduced. This, in turn, will cause a reduction in the number of self-help projects which this battalion can undertake.

b. In the logistics section, the rotation of personnel to CONUS has made it imperative for personnel to be cross-trained in supply areas other than their primary MOS. This is especially beneficial, since each man is sure to point out discrepencies common to his job while cross-training the other man, thereby providing an overlap of knowledge peculiar to each job upon the completion of cross-training.

6. Summary:

a. During the period 1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967, there was a continued expansion of Battalion missions and operations in its

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assigned area of responsibility. Careful and continued effective utilization of personnel and equipment has made it possible to meet these expanding committments without diminution of responsiveness or quality.

b. Dial services has been provided to subscribers in the Saigon Area and is programmed for Long Binh. Additionally, the continuing rehabilitation of the outside plants within the two areas will provide a better quality telephone system for subscribers.

c. Construction of cantonement areas to develop more comfortable billets and recreational areas continued as in the past. With more than one (1) year in the Republic of South Vietnam, the 69th Signal Battalion (A), is still expanding to satisfy mission requirements and seeking new methods to promote better communications to support the requirements of USARV and MACV Headquarters.

d. Near the close of the reporting period, the 69th Signal Battalion (Army) was in the process of formulating plans to include:

(1) Moving the Battalion Electronic Maintenance facility from the Tan Son Nhut Area to Long Binh.

(2) Moving troops of the battalion from the downtown Saigon/Cholon area into billets on Tan Son Nhut Air Force Base.

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SECTION II: COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PART 1: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. Personnel:

PERSONNEL REPLACEMENTS

Item: Personnel Replacements

Discussion: The receipt of adequate replacements has improved now that the 2d Signal Group has greater control in the assignment of personnel for battalions within its jurisdiction, but the problem of just how many replacements are to be received within a given month and when such replacements are to arrive still exists. With the many changes in procedure for the receipt and requisitioning of replacements, it is a difficult task to accurately forecast arrival of replacements. The authorization of higher headquarters to allow requisitioning of replacements, based on MTOE strength, will improve the receipt of replacements to coincide with mission commitments. MTOE replacements requisitioned in November 1966 should arrive during the month of May 1967.

Observation: Receipt of replacements has improved, but to date is unsatisfactory.

SECURITY CLEARANCES

Item: Processing of Personnel Security Clearances

Discussion: Many personnel are arriving within this command with critical MOS's which require validation of a security clearance. Often personnel cannot be utilized for their maximum tour, primarily because of the time required to process security clearances. The most frequent discrepancy noted is the absence of the DA Form 873 from the personnel records jacket. Having complete records for individuals arriving for duty in Vietnam is of significant value in speeding up the validation of security clearances. This would help to relieve the shortage of personnel by making maximum use of a man's complete tour.

Observation: A systematic procedure must be initiated to check more thoroughly the personnel records of those personnel who are enroute for duty in the Republic of Vietnam to insure records completeness.

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PART II: Observations (Lessons Learned)

b. Operations:

REFILE REQUIREMENTS

Item: Refile Requirements between Teletype Networks

Discussion: This unit operates Communication Centers in essentially four different teletype networks: The World Wide DCS Teletype Network, the MACV J-2 Intelligence Network, the MACV COC Dedicated Network, and the HF Network radiating from the HF Park Communications Center at Long Binh RVN. Prior to 10 January 1967, all four networks utilized different types of routing indicators: theater routing indicators in the COC Network, World Wide routing indicators in the USARV System, and "Home Made" indicators in the HF and J-2 Nets. All four networks are interconnected by teletype circuits and traffic is passed regularly between the networks, requiring the refiling of messages each time a message is passed from one network to another. While it is required to refile from Theater Networks to the World Wide Network, it was felt the refile between essentially Theater Networks was causing an unncessary delay in message processing. Therefore, theater type routing indicators were assigned to the HF Park Relay at Long Binh, HF outstations, and all stations in the MACV J-2 Intelligence Net. Under these conditions a message can pass between any two stations in the theater network without the necessity for refile, greatly reducing message handling time.

Observation: Teletype Networks which interface should be closely examined to eliminate unnecessary steps in message processing.

AN/FGC-25X Teletype Equipment

Item: Maintenance of AN/FGC-25X Teletype Equipment

Discussion: The AN/FGC-25X Teletype Equipment on hand in this unit has been in continuous operation for over one year. Because of a scarcity of equipment available for maintenance float, added measures were needed which would keep each teletypewriter machine in service as long as possible. Recently, the following actions have been taken by this command:

(1) Equipment recuiring shop maintenance also is given a thorough check to locate and replace any component which shows signs of wear, or maladjustment which may cause future failures. These components are replaced in addition to repairing the specific failure.

(2) AN/FGC-25X Teletype Ecuipment is being scheduled for five (5) days of shop inspection and testing for every twenty-five (25) days of operating time. While these actions initially produced higher teletype maintenance backlogs, and longer shop time for each piece of equipment, the reduced failure rate which results is well worth the additional effort.

Observation: AN/FGC-25X Teletype Equipment requires additional maintenance time as compared to other items of equipment; a schedule of Direct Support Level Maintenance can reduce the failure rate.

USE OF COMMUNICATION WIRE AS POWER CABLE

Item: Unauthorized use of Communication Wire as Power Cable in Metropolitan Areas.

Discussion: Makeshift power lines of unauthorized materials, such as field wire or communications cable, has caused injury to personnel maintaining similar installations within the Saigon/Cholon area. Personnel have often been unaware that, at some distance, unknown persons have cut communication wire into the power cable and rerouted it to their homes. To lessen the possibility of injury due to electrical shock, personnel are required to reconnoiter the entire route for unauthorized tampering prior to working on any cable to correct trouble.

Observation: Proper precautionary action should be taken by personnel required to work on cable installations in metropolitan areas, since no definite control can be implemented to curtail the unauthorized use of power cables for parasitic benefit.

CONCRETE POLES

Item: Fourteen Meter Concrete Poles.

Discussion: Currently, fourteen meter concrete poles are being used to support the cable construction effort in South Vietnam. The setting of these poles, mainly due to their excessive weight, is difficult. On several occassions the booms of the assigned V-17's and V-18's have been bent, and the strain on the wench is causing excessive wear.

As a result, installations of fourteen meter poles are being held to an absolute minimum, and MTOE action has been effected in an attempt to have authorized the heavy equipment required for setting these poles.

Observation: The capabilities and design limits of mechanical equipment must be observed to preclude damage. When requirements exceed the capabilities of on hand equipment, new machinery, compatible with the new requirements must be authorized and issued.

LUBRICANTS AND EQUIPMENT

Item: Changing of Filters and Lubricants Consistent with Location of Equipment

Discussion: With the operation of two (2) Tropo Detachments in two different locations (Saigon and Long Binh), the maintenance procedures established had to be modified. Subsequent to the move of one detachment to Long Binh, it was noted during daily checks that the air filters in the electrical and mechanical equipment, and lubricants in the vehicles and generators, needed to be changed or cleaned about twice as frequently as the detachment in Saigon. The dirt and dust accumulated in the equipment at a rate which required the filter and oil to be changed at least twice a week.

Observation: Operation in dusty, more primitive areas, requires more frequent, comprehensive and careful preventive maintenance to all types of equipment. The geography of the area of operation will dictate different degrees of maintenance and care.

TUBE SHIELDS

Item: Tube Shields in Multiplex Equipment

Discussion: Equipment malfunction in the AN/MCC-6 multiplex equipment was reported due to overheating of the equipment. During a three month period this command observed and monitored two operational systems in which the tube shields were removed. No adverse effect was apparent to the systems and no down time was recorded as a result of overheating of the equipment.

Observation: Removal of tube shields from within the multiplex equipment, to date, has helped to decrease the ambient temperature and failure rate.

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KWK-7 EQUIPMENT

Item: Handling of KWK-7 Equipment

Discussion: Circumstances arise where the KWK-7 equipment must be moved or relocated for any number of reasons. Damage to the pins of this equipment is likely to occur when the equipment is placed loosely in the case for shipment. The case is constructed for transporting the equipment, but it does not have any shock mounts or protection to shield the KWK-7. Shipping or transporting this type of equipment with little or no damage is accomplished by the insertion of a stabilizing device, or any field expedient, to keep the equipment from moving. Rags, paper or cardboard will assist in keeping the KWK-7 in a secure position.

Observation: Pin damage to the KWK-7 will be decreased when carefully packed for shipment.

BD-132 POWER PANEL

Item: Loose Connection on the BD-132 Power Panel

Discussion: Loose connections on the rear of Power Panel BD-132 in the AN/MTC-9 and AN/MTC-7 have been found responsible for tripping the forty-eight (48) volt circuit breaker when switching to emergency power and ringing. Frequent checking and tightening of the power cables from the BD-132 during scheduled maintenance helps to alleviate the failure of emergency power and ringing when it may be required.

Observation: Power cables to the BD-132 should be tightened and checked by operating personnel once a week.

STORED ELECTRONIC AND MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT

Item: Electronic and Mechanical Equipment will not necessarily operate after having been packed away, or otherwise not utilized or operated.

Discussion: The Tropo Contingency Team was put on a four hour alert status for nearly one month during the quarter. The team packed its 100% operational AN/TRC-129's and generators for quick deployment. At the end of the alert period the vans were unpacked to resume training. Many malfunctions resulted from the inactivity of the equipment caused by hot days, cool nights and high humidity.

Observation: Contingency Team equipment stays at a higher degree of readiness when used as opposed to stored.

HF OPERATIONS

Item: Joint Army Navy HF Operations

Discussion: Elements of the contingency team (HF Radio) were tasked to provide a terminal station in a intra-service net. With both stations approximately eighty miles apart, difficulty was experienced in establishing contact. After initial contact was made, there were no other problems encountered. Difficulty in making initial contact was determined to have been due to different HF radio operating procedures. Personnel of the command have coordinated the writing of a standard operating procedure that will enable both Army and Navy personnal to install a similar system in the future with the least amount of time delay.

Observation: Similar operating procedures between all parties concerned are required to establish effective communications.

AUTOMOTIVE BATTERIES

Item: Automotive Batteries (Wet Cell)

Discussion: Automotive batteries are extremely susceptible to heat, and if not properly cared for, warping of the plates, cracking of the battery case and loss of usefulness will result.

(1) Battery electrolyte level should be checked before each operation, and water added if necessary. Operators should insure that the water being added to a battery is free of dirt and foreign particles.

(2) Keep batteries free of dirt, corrosion, and paint. Keep a light coat of grease on battery terminals.

Observation: The aforementioned preventive maintenance should be followed without fail in tropical climates.

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AUTOMOTIVE COOLING SYSTEMS

Item: Automotive Cooling Systems

Discussions: Cooling systems in both automotive and power generator equipment are extremely susceptible to heat. If proper care is not taken by the operator, unnecessary expenses to the government can result.

(1) Radiator levels should be checked before and after operation and water added as necessary.

(2) Radiators should be inspected daily for dirt and dust which can block the cooling vents.

(3) Operators should make a daily visual inspection of hoses, lines and fittings for dry rot, cracks, and leaks.

Observation: The aforementioned preventive maintenance should be diligently executed.

ARMS ROOM

Item: Unassigned Weapons in the Arms Room

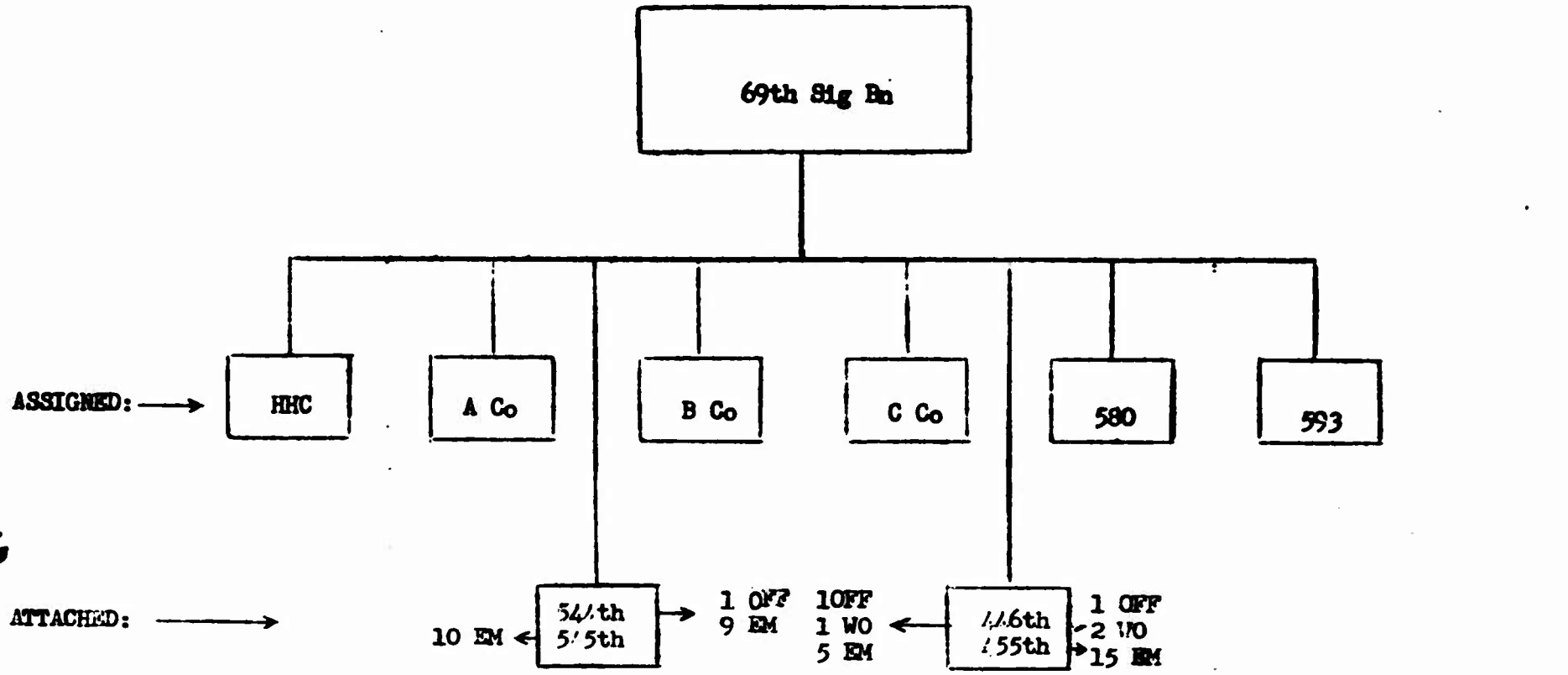
Discussion: In an effort to reduce rusting of the metal parts and mildewing of the stock, inclosed racks have been built. The interiors of these inclosures are covered with ½ inch fire proof insulation. In addition, a 50 watt light fixture is mounted inside each inclosure. The insulation reduces the moisture in the surrounding atmosphere and the heat produced by the light eliminates the remaining moisture.

Observation: Proper storage techniques cut down the number of manhours required for care and cleaning of unassigned weapons.

PART 2: Recommendations:

None

JOHN F. DOBBINS
LTC, SigC
Commanding



A Co - Communications Center Company
B Co - V H F and Carrier Company
C Co - HF and SSB Company

580th Cable Construction Company
593d Switchboard Operations Company
446th Crypto Support Detachment (Team A) Opn Con USARV
455th Crypto Support Detachment (Team B) Opn Con FAIO
544th Tropospheric Signal Detachment
545th Tropospheric Signal Detachment

AVHGC-DST (15 Feb 67) 3d Ind
25 SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 9 MAY 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 January 1967 from Headquarters, 69th Signal Battalion (Army) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Paragraph 2d(3)(a)6, Page 6, concerning 600 pair cable: This headquarters has requested 1st Signal Brigade to furnish detailed information on shortage of cable hardware and 600 pair plastic insulated cable. Based on this information, Customer Assistance Office Vietnam, Army Materiel Command has agreed to assist in obtaining assets.

b. Reference Paragraphs 4a and b, Page 8, and Item on 14 meter concrete poles, Pages 13 and 14: Since the 69th Signal Battalion is a STRATCOM unit, MTOE's referred to would have been forwarded through USASTRATCOM channels.

c. Reference Paragraph 4c, Page 8; Item on personnel replacements, Page 11; and Paragraph 3a, 2d Indorsement: Replacements for the 1st Signal Brigade from CONUS are processed through USARV replacement facilities. The maximum time individuals remain at these facilities is normally 72 hours. USARV procedures for the processing of replacements have undergone change during the reporting period in order to accommodate the rapid growth of the command, provide better facilities, and reduce in-country transportation requirements. Relocation of the 90th Replacement Battalion to Long Binh has increased the transportation problem for the 1st Signal Brigade, while easing it for the numerous units in the Long Binh area. The key factor in predicting the arrival of replacements is the uniformity of flow from CONUS.

d. Reference Item on processing personnel security clearances, Page 11: For personnel whose duties require access to classified information, investigation should be initiated prior to their deployment to RVN. However, adequate procedures exist in USARV regulations to grant access to individuals expeditiously. If there is evidence of an investigation for security clearance in the personnel records jacket (entries on DA Form 20 or 66, or DA Form 3027 indicating completed investigation)

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but there is no DA Form 873 present, a request is submitted to G2, USARV, for a check of the files of US Army Investigative Records Repository to verify the investigation. If there is no evidence of an investigation or a clearance, a request for an investigation is submitted. Upon submission of the request and after completion of a favorable local files check, an interim clearance may be granted. Authority to grant interim clearances has been delegated to major subordinate commands and may be further delegated to battalion level.

e. Reference Item concerning the maintenance of AN/FGC-25X, Page 12; and Paragraph 3b, 2d Indorsement: Concur with unit actions and actions of indorsing headquarters, except that the term "rebuild" in paragraph 3b, 2d Indorsement has been clarified by 1st Logistical Command and the 1st Signal Brigade to mean "overhaul within unit capability."

FOR THE COMMANDER:

E. A. KENNEDY
CPT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

1 Incl
nc

27 GPOP-OT(15 Feb 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 69th Sig Bn (Army)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 24 MAY 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:

G. R. KOHALY
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

1 Incl
nc