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

SCCVSG-AB

14 August 1966

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 July  
1966 (RCS-CSFOR-65)

Section I: SIGNIFICANT UNIT ACTIVITIES

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1. General:

The reporting period was notable for continued expansion and realignment of operational facilities, continued improvement of cantonment areas, and the attachment of more signal units to the battalion.

The battalion gained its seventh company on 10 May 1966 with the attachment of the 595th Signal Company (SPT). Initially assigned the mission of providing signal support for II Field Forces Vietnam, the 595th relieved the battalion of a portion of its operational mission, but further extended its resources in providing logistical and administration support. A 350 man company (15 officers and 337 enlisted men), the 595th Signal Company (SPT) was attached to the battalion by General Orders Number 20, Headquarters, 2d Signal Group (Incl 1).

Thirteen days after the 595th was attached to the battalion, an artillery round of undetermined origin exploded in the living area of a detachment of the 595th located at Di An in support of the 1st Infantry Division. Exploding in front of a CP tent at 2145 hours, 23 May 1966, the projectile killed one (1) sergeant and wounded five (5) other enlisted men. SGT (E-5) Willard R. Ryan of Haverhill, Mass. became the third member of the battalion to lose his life in the Republic of Vietnam.

On 20 May 1966, the battalion gained two (2) signal detachments with the attachment of the 544th and 545th Signal Detachments (Incl 2). The two troop units had been committed to their first tactical mission at Pleiku where they established a tropospheric scatter system and were then brought back to the Saigon area to become a part of the battalion's contingency team capability.

The battalion gained two (2) more signal detachments on 10 June 1966 when the 446th Signal Detachment (CS) and the 455th Signal Detachment (CS) were attached to the battalion. These two (2) crypto detachments remained under the operational control of the USARV Signal Officer, being attached to the battalion for administration, logistics and Court-Martial jurisdiction (Incl 3).

The addition of the one (1) company and four (4) detachments brought the battalion's present for duty strength up to approximately 2,350 men.

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The battalion underwent its Annual General Inspection early in July. The Inspector General team from Headquarters, USARV, inspected all the units of the battalion with the exception of the 595th Signal Company (SPT) and the four (4) detachments (these units were scheduled for inspection at a later date, having joined the battalion after the inspection schedule was published). The inspection began on 5 July 1966 and ended with the exit briefing on 9 July 1966. All units and activities of the battalion received a rating of "satisfactory", with no major discrepancies noted. The inspection report can best be typified by paragraph 2: "The assigned mission of the 69th Signal Battalion was being accomplished with a high degree of efficiency. Esprit and morale were considered exceptional. All personnel appeared to be professionally competent and were enthusiastic in their desire to perform assigned duties in an outstanding manner. The overall appearance and condition of facilities and equipment and the positive attitude exhibited by all personnel was indicative of an exceptionally high degree of professionalism and devotion to duty. Military courtesy displayed by all personnel was commendable."

The battalion continued to hold formal military reviews in honor of departing general officers (Incl 4). On 22 July 1966 the battalion held a review and retreat ceremony in honor of Major General Walter E. Lotz, departing MACV J-6 and soon to become Chief, Communications and Electronics (Incls 5, 6, & 7).

As the quarter drew near its end, the battalion staff and unit commanders began to formulate transitional plans for the months of September and October. During these two months the battalion will experience the rotation of some forty (40) officers and over 600 enlisted men.

At the end of the reporting period, veterans of the battalion were heartened by the posthumous award of the Bronze Star to Staff Sergeant Gerald H. Gaylor, in whose honor the battalion headquarters cantonment area, Camp Gaylor, is named (Incl 8).

In recognition of personal endeavor, members of the battalion have received the following number of awards/decorations since the battalion's arrival in Vietnam:

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Bronze Star with "V" Device | 2  |
| Bronze Star                 | 10 |
| Air Medal                   | 1  |
| Army Commendation Medal     | 22 |

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## **2. Personnel:**

a. The battalion continued to perform all personnel actions for the battalion and the 2d Signal Group. The functioning of a personnel section under the concept of a consolidated personnel office continued to be somewhat of a problem in that adequate personnel to man the section are not available since the MTOE of 2d Signal Group has yet to receive final approval.

b. In this role, all correspondence and Field Military 201 files, which includes all suspense items left out of the 201 files, are channeled through the 69th Signal Battalion Personnel Office for all personnel of the Group and two attached battalions. To handle this increased burden at least two personnel clerks are used full time to locate and reroute material to the various offices.

c. A current locator file must be maintained in personnel as no other locator is kept within 2d Signal Group for location of personnel in the organization.

d. The personnel management branch has changed assignment procedures to reduce unproductive time lost in an "intransit" status while processing through the 90th Replacement Battalion. This procedure required a representative be at the 90th Replacement Battalion a few hours daily in order to make assignments and have personnel immediately diverted to their new units and assignment.

e. The 69th Signal Battalion Personnel Office was given the added responsibility of in processing all assigned individuals of the newly activated 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM). A fast influx of officers and enlisted men to the Signal Brigade occurred. This in processing of personnel took priority over the current daily work of taking care of the personnel of the group and battalion. This additional responsibility lasted for three (3) months until the 1st Signal Brigade could receive and train clerks to perform these duties, affected somewhat the primary mission of servicing our own troops, but being overcome without any serious difficulty.

f. Four (4) signal detachments were assigned to the 69th Signal Battalion for personnel administration without trained personnel to support them. All administration has fallen to the personnel section for maintenance of records, pay and personnel actions, assignment of personnel and AOR.

g. The Saigon/Cholon Telephone Management Agency, organized as a provisional unit during the last quarter, continued to experience personnel problems. The agency is manned from the present resources within the battalion, with no increased authority to requisition and promote personnel to support this agency. By supporting additional missions without additional spaces the promotion ability of the battalion has been severely hampered. Also, the necessity to fill nine (9) officers and thirty-five (35) EM positions from the battalion resources has placed a strain on the battalion in regard to officer and non-commissioned officer supervision within the operating units of the battalion.

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h. Effective 1 August 1966 the requirement to issue and control all military travel authorization was placed on the personnel office. Spaces must be secured on outgoing flights and special port calls and MAC Transportation (MTA) issued to all personnel required. Large volumes of records must be maintained in order to control this activity for the entire group.

i. A critical shortage developed in MOS 31M due to non-availability of replacements in all battalions of the 2d Signal Group. In order to alleviate this criticality, 17 EM were re-assigned from the 69th Signal Battalion to the 39th Signal Battalion, and action was taken to redistribute fifty (50) known gains to the 41st Signal Battalion and the 39th Signal Battalion. This action is necessary to equitably proportion resources with requirements. Action has been taken through enlisted requisition procedures to rectify the existing shortage within the battalion.

### 3. Operations:

a. The 595th Signal Company (Support) was attached to the 69th Signal Battalion (A), and deployed to Dien and Phu Loi in support of 1st Infantry Division Base Camps, with one element sent to Cu Chi to terminate one VHF system from Duc Hoa for the 25th Infantry Division. The 595th Signal Company has only been attached for a limited time, but it displayed a high "esprit de corps" and a fine degree of technical competence. The 544th and 545th Signal Detachments, recently attached to the battalion, function as the two AN/TRC-129 tropospheric scatter terminals of the Communications Contingency Task Force.

b. Pictorial and Audio-Visual activities have been rearranged in various areas for better quality and higher output. The arrival of the 53d Signal Battalion (Corps), and their subsequent assumption of the pictorial support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade, has permitted the personnel and equipment from Detachment #1 of the 69th Signal Battalion Pictorial Platoon to be used to augment the rest of the elements of the platoon. The detachment at Soc Trang was moved to Can Tho where superior working facilities are available. The detachments at Cam Ranh Bay and An Khe are building semi-permanent structures. Major renovations of facilities are being accomplished at the Saigon photographic laboratories to improve work output. The platoon has produced an average of 45,000 still prints per month and exposed 30,000 feet of motion picture film per month during this quarter. Motion picture footage from this platoon continues to provide a generous portion of the weekly Army Staff Film Reports. In the audio-visual field, a major change

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in supply accounting has transferred over 500 motion picture projectors to the using unit property accounts. This places the Audio-Visual Section in the position to devote more time to the film library work. The camera and projector repair facility previously collocated with the Audio-Visual Section has been relocated with the Battalion Electronic Maintenance Shop for better facilities and repair parts supply.

c. There were several significant developments in the communications center area. A MACV Information Officer teletype net was established to connect the MACV IO with the Information Officers at all major troop elements throughout Vietnam. The MACV J-2 net was expanded in two phases and now inter-connects six (6) intelligence activities. The major addition to this net was a relay center located at the Combined Intelligence Center for Vietnam. The USARV Terminal, which was established in February, was relocated to the new USARV Headquarters. The initial installation was in tactical AN/MGC-22 vans. These vans were operated for one (1) month during the movement of all equipment from the old terminals to the new location. The tactical vans were closed out and operation commenced in the new terminal. A major development in the communications center area was the planned closing of the USARV Relay. A phased program will reterminate eight (8) of the relay circuits in the terminal to be operated on a command and control basis. All other circuitry will be reterminated into DCS facilities at Phu Lam and Nha Trang. Other developments were the establishment of a five (5) circuit terminal at 1st Signal Brigade, upgrading the MACV COC service with AN/FGC-20(X) and TT-119B equipment and fabricating an eight (8) position Multiple Cell Processing Unit (MCPU) to speed service. The HF torn tape relay service was upgraded by moving into AN/MGC-22 and AN/MGC-23 equipment. This change has shown a marked improvement in message handling time and traffic volume. The courier service now has three (3) scheduled flights daily and has handled 40,500 pounds of material and logged 2,128 flight hours. The motor messenger service has continually revised its schedules, adding new runs and including new stops in providing better customer service. This section accrued 29,600 vehicle miles and handled an estimated 120,000 pounds of material during the past three (3) months.

d. The employment of VHF and carrier expanded during this period to the point that, with the attachment of the 595th Signal Company (SPT), the battalion operated thirty (30) VHF and nine (9) cable carrier systems. The trend is towards a slight decrease of commitments as new signal units arrive and take over mission areas and as large quantities of equipment and personnel are transferred from this battalion to other units in-country. The efforts to improve each site continues, and results are noteworthy. Elements of the forty-six (46) man Contingency Communications Task Force

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were committed to Phan Rang Air Base and Cam Ranh Bay to provide high priority VHF and single sideband radio circuitry for the 7th Air Force. The quick reaction and professional competency of the team received most favorable comment.

e. The high frequency radio program has continued to develop as growth, reconfiguration and antenna installation improvements have all added to the increased reliability of operation. Message traffic increased to the 5600 level for this period and continues to grow at a rapid rate. Two (2) new stations have been added; one to an existing net and the other as a full-duplex, point to point circuit. Work began in June to carve a new HF receiver park from the jungle at Long Binh. Completion of this park will provide adequate room for space diversity operation on all nets. The HF operations in support of Headquarters, II FFV were turned over to the 53d Signal Battalion (Corps) when they became operational in-country. The Army MARS NCS received new equipment and is concentrating on improving voice telephone patch capabilities to CONUS.

f. Continued expansion and reconfiguration based on sound planning typifies the telephone central office progress. Responsibility for two (2) additional exchanges was accepted and one (1) central office was turned over to a newly joined signal battalion. The total number of operator positions increased from sixty (60) to sixty-seven (67) by the end of the reporting period and serve over 7200 telephones. In two (2) instances, operator positions were added to a central office in order to increase speed of service rather than increase the number of subscriber lines. The Saigon/Cholon Telephone Management Agency was instrumental in providing the short range engineering necessary to accommodate a new Saigon Long Distance central office. This facility, which is scheduled to be cut over on 20 August will consist of two (2) nine-position tactical switchboards (AN/MTC-9) installed in tandem with special plug supervision facilities (AN/TTA-6). Three (3) mobile 600-line dial centrals have arrived in-country and are scheduled for installation in conjunction with development of sufficient outside plant facilities.

g. Efforts were impeded in cable construction because of a critical shortage of hardware. Nevertheless, a great step forward was made in the Saigon/Cholon and Long Binh areas. In these areas a total of 44,084 feet of multi-pair cable was installed. The Long Binh cable project still remains the biggest and most important project forecast over a long period of time. With new units arriving every day, the always increasing demand exists for cable service which presents one of the most challenging missions of this battalion. Air Force requests for assistance in cable construction at Tan Son Nhut Air Base added to the taxing workload that already existed.

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To expedite all projects of cable construction, a \$39,337.00 contract was recently let to Japan for the much needed items of hardware. Receipt of these items is expected in the immediate future.

h. During this period the Saigon Cholon Telephone Management Agency expanded to nearly full strength and has made remarkable progress in both inside and outside plant engineering and planning activities. Accurate cable route diagrams for all multi-pair cable systems have been completed after extensive research. These records and the detailed construction orders have helped the construction and maintenance effort. Analysis of area strength forecasts and traffic data serves as a basis for building a more efficient manual telephone system and providing the foundation for the future dial system.

4. Training: The more stabilized position of the battalion in the Saigon/Cholon and Long Binh areas has permitted an increased emphasis on the training program. The battalion training regulation is being updated to include the latest additions to mandatory training. Greater attention is now being paid to insuring that a high standard of training is conducted at the various communications sites. Weapons familiarization is conducted on a more frequent basis, in keeping with the requirement that personnel fire their weapons shortly after arriving. Special training programs have been conducted on the AN/GRC-114 HF/SSB radio used as a part of the Contingency Communications Task Force, and Collins Radio Corporation Technical Representatives have presented a special course for the AN/TRC-129 Tropospheric Scatter terminals. A long-term team training schedule has been developed and implemented for all elements of the Task Force. The battalion is also sending personnel to an eighteen (18) day course held at Camp Gaylor for training on the Communications Technical Control Center AN/MSQ-73. Another instance of special training was the instruction given on trouble shooting and splicing of multi-pair cable. This training was presented by Department of the Army civilians on TDY to the Telephone Management Agency from USARYIS.

#### 5. Logistics:

a. Cable hardware shortages became critical during this period and delayed multi-pair cable installations. Long standing requisitions of higher priority were not filled. The problem was relayed to the highest levels of command in 1st Signal Brigade and 1st Logistical Command for resolution. Certain emergency items were air shipped from CONUS and paid for with imprest funds.

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b. Construction of building in Camp Gerry (Long Binh) and Camp Gaylor (Tan Son Nhut) continued apace with numerous mess-halls, quarters, orderly rooms, offices and a multitude of miscellaneous structures rising to improve living and working conditions. A large portion of the building materials were obtained through the efforts and initiative of individuals through other than normal sources of supply.

c. Large quantities of Class IV project 600 line dial central office equipment including the inside and outside plant hardware were received during this period. This created storage and issue problems that are growing beyond the capacity of the battalion. Improvised storage and issue procedures have been instituted to meet the immediate problem. However, because these and similar materials are expected to continue arriving, a request has been forwarded asking 1st Logistical Command to assume the task or authorize additional storage space, personnel and equipment for the 69th Signal Battalion Logistical Section.

#### 6. Summary:

This past quarter has seen the major emphasis shift from the establishment of new communications facilities and cantonment areas to the refinement and consolidation of those facilities already installed.

In the construction area the more notable achievements were construction of company headquarters, supply warehouses and day rooms at Camp Gerry and a large theater at Camp Gaylor.

In the operations area the expansion and refinement of the battalion HF operations by installation of new MGC-22 and MGC-23 communications center vans, the relocation of the HF receiver site, and improved operator techniques are noteworthy. An area of equal accomplishment is that of expanding telephone operations in the Saigon/Long Binh complex. Installation of large multi-pair cables throughout the area, both aerial and underground, the proposed cut over of the Saigon Long Distance switchboards and planning for and preliminary installation of mobile and fixed dial central offices are all actions that reflect the dynamic growth now underway in this very important area of communications support.

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## Section II: COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATION

### PART 1: Observations (Lessons Learned)

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

#### Site Installations

Item: Overcoming adverse terrain.

Discussion: During the installation of the signal site at Nha Be it was found that higher than normal platforms or structures were necessary in order to keep the equipment above the limit of the Saigon River overflow. It was also found that in order to secure the VHF antenna additional guidelines were necessary, and that the anchor stakes had to be driven deeper than under normal operation due to the constant flooding of the site area.

Observation: The above observed items will prove particularly helpful should it become necessary to set up operation in areas similar to Nha Be, where flooding and/or swamplands are a constant problem.

#### AN/MTC-9

Item: Modifying AN/MTC-9's to be used in multiple.

Discussion: A special application of this equipment for the new Saigon Long Distance Switchboard required considerable on site engineering. Assistance was requested from Electronics Command but since they were completely unfamiliar with our planned application, they were unable to render any significant help.

Observation: Where special applications are to be made, specific information from the field would be provided to the design agency to insure more complete engineering so that modification can be accomplished prior to shipment of equipment.

#### DIAL SERVICE

Item: Information on the 600 line mobile dial vans and Dial Central Office for Southeast Asia.

Discussion: Three each 600 line mobile dial vans and three dial central offices are being provided and installed in the Saigon/Cholon area. The existing manual system will be replaced and augmented by this dial equipment. Specific information on this equipment arrived with the equipment and not before. This caused some delay in engineering and planning the utilization of the equipment.

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Observation: Every effort should be made to insure that information be made available to the field as soon as possible.

#### SPLICE CASES

Item: Splice Cases, Western Electric No 10-A and their use in the difficult physical environment of Vietnam.

Discussion: The splices for the 400 pair cable system from MACV I to Master Complex were sealed using Western Electric No 10-A splice cases. All of the required sealing material was not initially available during the splicing operation. Shortage of this material was caused as external material must be ordered separately from the case. A misprint in the commercial catalogue stated 5 ft of "B" tape per splice rather than per seal causing 2/3 shortage of tape ordered. Efforts were initiated to fabricate a temporary seal for the case to substitute for lack of sealing washers. Layers of rubber insulation putty tape were wound around the cable at the splice ends. This provided a temporary seal, capable of maintaining 10 pounds of air pressure.

Observation: This fabrication provided only a temporary solution to the problem. This will not provide a permanent seal and only the correct sealing material as outlined by the manufacturer should be used.

#### WATERPROOFING

Item: Preventative waterproofing required on 26 pair cable and vehicle tail light assemblies.

Discussion: Waterproofed joints are not necessarily waterproof in Vietnam. 26 pair cable hocks have shown themselves not to be waterproof, so the hocks should be taped and kept off the ground. The gasketed cover (lens assembly) on vehicle tail light does not offer sufficient protection to water and condensation in this climate. Close control must be kept on corrosion of bulbs, sockets, and reflectors in the tail light assemblies.

Observation: Waterproofing and the effects of inadequate waterproofing must be evaluated when installing 26 pair cable and must be closely watched on vehicle tail lights.

#### GENERATOR OPERATION

Item: Importance of idling generator at start-up and shutdown.

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### Discussion:

1. Idling diesel generator engine for 60 seconds before running it up to operating speed permits the oil pressure to build up, distributing oil to all the parts that will move rapidly as rpm's are increased.

2. Idling diesel engine of the turbo-charger type at shut-down is important. The turbine in the exhaust system spins at a high rate of speed furnishing vital lubricating oil to the turbine. When the engine speed is decreased the turbine "free wheels", so a supply of oil is required until the turbine has nearly stopped. For this reason the engine must be kept running while the turbine is slowing down. If the engine is allowed to idle for a minimum of 60 seconds after having run at operational speed, the turbine will be turning slowly enough that the residual oil will provide adequate lubrication while the turbine comes to a stop after stopping the engine. Failure of Vietnamese operators to idle the engine while the turbine is slowing down is the probable cause of one generator presently in a deadline status due to a leaking turbo seal.

Observation: Diesel engines should be idled for 60 seconds on start-up to protect all lubricated parts, and those of the turbo-charge type should be idled for 60 seconds at shut-down to protect the turbine.

### GENERATOR OPERATION IN HUMID CLIMATES

Item: Use of 55 gallon drums of diesel oil for generator operation in humid climates.

Discussion: In any climate, water condenses in diesel oil and subsequently settles to the bottom of the container. In the humid climate this problem is compounded and can result in an increased number of communications outages unless proper control measures are imposed. It is important to minimize the time that any barrel of fuel sits before consumption. If the oldest barrel is always used, no barrels will remain idle over an extended time period and collect more than an average amount of water. While the barrel is setting on the ground, the water has ample opportunity to settle to the bottom. It can be assumed that the bottom 4 inches of fuel is composed largely of water, so 4 to 6 inches of liquid should be left unused in the bottom of each 55 gallon drum of fuel to avoid drawing water into the generator fuel system, causing the generator to fail. Since there is a higher probability of small quantities of water being drawn into the generator fuel intake, the fuel filter has to be drained and cleaned more frequently than in a drier climate.

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Observation: Fuel supplies must be rotated, and 4 to 6 inches of liquid remain unused on the bottom to minimize the danger of outages caused by generators stopping due to water in the fuel. Fuel filters strain more water from the fuel in a humid climate and must be drained and cleaned more often.

#### MOTION PICTURE CAMERAS AND SYSTEMS

Item: Comparison of cameras and systems used by the Army in Vietnam.

Discussion: At the present time, the Army utilizes a KS-5 (35mm) motion picture camera set and a KS-10(3) (16mm) motion picture camera set. However, the camera from the KS-5 set is the primary field camera. It should be just the reverse. The camera from the KS-10(3) set and the 16mm system provide a better and less expensive way to cover the war. Reasons are as follows:

1. One lb or one can of 35mm film contains 1800 frames with a running time of 1 minute and 8 seconds. One lb or two cans of 16mm film contains 8000 frames or 5 minutes and 30 seconds of running time. Therefore, one pound of 16mm film will provide 5 times the running length of 35mm film.
2. Film taken to the field with both types of cameras comes in 100 foot lengths, one minute of running time takes 90 feet of 35mm film and only 36 feet of 16mm film. The advantage of the latter is a possibility for a greater number of scenes, longer in duration. Cameramen carrying the camera from the KS-5 set have a tendency to shoot shorter scenes because of having to reload so often. The final edited coverage results in a choppy sequence of bits and pieces.
3. Weight differences are important to a cameraman trying to keep up with the infantry. KS-10(3) with one can of 16mm film weighs 8½ lbs. KS-5 with one can of 35mm film weighs 10 3/4 lbs.
4. Versatility of the KS-10(3) is greater than the KS-5 because the 16mm camera has 3 lenses mounted on a turret. The camera from the KS-5 set can only receive one lens at a time. Consequently, the 35mm cameraman going to the field usually takes only the lens on the camera. He misses opportunities for telephoto shots and those requiring any lens other than the one mounted on his camera. Racking a turret takes very little time. If a 35mm cameraman had to change lenses, even if he were carrying additional ones, he would probably miss the action that required it.

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5. The chief reason for use of 35mm today is the Army Pictorial Center. APC is capable of processing both types of film but is primarily geared for 35mm film.

Observation: Better documentation of the actions necessitates a change to 16mm as the primary film used. Those who initiate the change might also consider replacing the KS-10(3) (16mm) with the Arriflex camera used by the Air Force.

#### TELETYPEWRITER CIRCUITS

Item: Use of Direct Current on remote teletypewriter circuits.

Discussion: Initial installation of teletypewriter circuits for remote operation was accomplished in a two wire voice frequency mode using TH-5 Telegraph Terminals. A subsequent change was made to four wire configuration which further improved operation. Distortion reading in this made at the communications center were low, but readings at the radio transmitter and receiver sites recorded from 17 to 40% distortion. The circuits were then changed to 60 milliamp direct current using PP-1209 as the power source. Distortion reading then dropped to 10% and less, providing better remote operation.

Observation: Direct current operation on remote teletypewriter circuits provides higher reliability and greatly decreased distortion.

#### POWER SUPPLY PP-1209

Item: Requirement for extra ventilation of Power Supply PP-1209 used as direct current power source.

Discussion: When converting teletypewriter remote circuits from voice frequency to direct current operation, the Power Supply, PP-1209 was installed at the radio transmitter site in a seemingly well-ventilated area. However, after approximately 72 hours of operations, trouble was experienced with the frequency shift key modulators, MD-259. Further study indicated that heat was causing the resistance of the power supply variable resistor to decrease, thus increasing the flow of current and damaging the modulator. The power supply was relocated in the air-conditioned communications center vans and no further difficulties were experienced.

Observation: Special precautions must be taken to provide extra ventilation of Power Supply PP-1209 to insure non-fluctuating current flow.

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### FABRICATION OF RACKS

Item: Fabrication of racks for use with cased-type VHF and carrier equipment.

Discussion: In the extreme heat in Southeast Asia, the operation of cased-type communications such as AN/TRC-24 and AN/TCC-7 presents the continual problem of equipment breakdown because of overheating. Special metal frame racks were designed to provide ease of access and maximum air flow similar to the racks utilized in communications shelters.

Observations: Metal type racks designed to hold the chassis and components of cased-type communications equipment provides for better operation because of increased air circulation.

### MULTI PAIR CABLE

Item: Improper installation of Multi-Pair Cable.

Discussion: The proper way to install a multi-pair cable is to use the recommended hardware. Only minimum substitution should be used. If substitution of hardware is necessary, technical manuals and manufacture instructions will be used as guides. No guess work or experiments will be carried out; this is too costly and time consuming. It is too costly because once the cable is thought to be operational and isn't, a complete rehabilitation project has to be initiated. Removing and reinstalling splice cases that weren't installed according to specifications entails using different types of material which causes a shortage for other projects. It is time consuming because unnecessary delay at one project causes a slippage of the completion date on other equally important projects.

Observation: Installing multi-pair cable without the necessary hardware is too costly and time consuming.

- c. Training: None
- d. Intelligence: None
- e. Logistics:

### REAL ESTATE

Item: Procurement of Real Estate.

Discussion: Real estate acquisition by company and battalion sized units is totally unfeasible as all planning is done on brigade and army levels. For example, this unit and the Regional

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Communications Group (USASTRATCOM) both applied for the same real estate at Nha Trang. This real estate was to be used for two entirely unrelated activities. This unit acquired the real estate because an immediate operational requirement existed.

Observation: Close coordination at all levels is a necessity in the procurement of real estate in Vietnam to prevent the acquisition of the same parcel of real estate by more than one unit.

#### MOTION PICTURE PROJECTORS

Item: Receipting for motion picture projectors.

Discussion: The mission of the Audio Visual Section of the Pictorial Audio Visual Platoon was to issue motion picture projectors to all free motion picture account holders in country. This mission required long term hand receipts on over 500 pieces of equipment. Due to the DEROS of personnel and movement of units it was difficult to maintain records and control equipment. This policy also caused a nearly impossible problem of maintenance and repair of equipment. By transferring this equipment to units holding free movie account numbers, the problem of control maintenance and accountability would be eliminated.

Observation: The lateral transferring of motion picture projectors to units has eliminated the problem of control, maintenance and accountability. It also reduced the load on the Audio Visual Section to approximately 75 projectors, for short term loan hand receipts for training purposes. Complete control and maintenance can now be accomplished.

#### HAND RECEIPTS

Item: Hand receipt of Equipment Outside the Battalion.

Discussion: The units of the battalion, each of which has its own property book, hand receipted a quantity of TOE items of equipment, which they were not using, to units outside the battalion including ROK and Australian Forces. Some of this was done at the direction of higher headquarters but most was upon the units' initiative. Due to the rapid turn-over of personnel, the distances involved and the problem of making contact with the hand receipt holders, it was difficult to locate the equipment and recover it.

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In many cases the hand receipt holder insisted that he needed the equipment and tried every way to retain it indefinitely. The general condition of equipment once recovered was poor since in most cases proper maintenance was not performed by the hand receipt holding unit. This was particularly true of generators and vehicles. In addition, a surprising quantity of the items were lost by the hand receipt holders and had to be surveyed.

Observation: The use of hand receipts to loan equipment outside one's own unit should be kept to an absolute minimum. Hand receipts should never be for an indefinite period. A good guide is:

1. No hand receipt outside the battalion without written authority of the S-4.

2. Hand receipts will be from property book officer to property book officer and never to individuals.

3. Hand receipts will be for 30 days only with one time renewal for 30 days for emergencies, and only with the written approval of the S-4.

4. Hand receipt holders will sign a certificate stating that operator and organizational maintenance will be performed as specified by appropriate publications and that log books, where applicable, will be maintained.

5. Higher headquarters, when directing hand receipting action should specify the period of time for which item is to be loaned and, where applicable, direct receiving unit to request authority for item and requisition their own. After a period of not more than 60 days if the unit has not obtained the item through supply channels and still requires its use, authority should be granted to laterally transfer.

#### PROPERTY BOOKS

Item: Separate property books for each company.

Discussion: Although AR 755-35 implies that property books should be maintained at battalion level it has been found to be impractical in Vietnam. Companies of battalion upon arrival in country are often widely scattered. Even when collocated with battalion headquarters, they are subject to moves to remote sites where it is essential to have their own property book and separate

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supply system. A beneficial side effect is that the companies, who are most aware of their own supply needs, usually pursue supply objectives with special aggressiveness when equipped with their own property book. A drawback is that the supply expertise for upkeep of property books and related records is sometimes absent at company level and close battalion supervision is necessary.

Observations: It is essential that each company have its own property book established prior to arrival in RVN. However, company level supply personnel should be carefully chosen, trained and closely supervised from battalion level.

f. Other: None

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PART 2: Recommendations:

None



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Commanding