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OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (20 Jun 68)

FOR OT RD 682216

24 June 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 160th
Signal Group, Period Ending 30 April 1968

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C. A. Stanfield

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Colonel, AGC
Acting The Adjutant General

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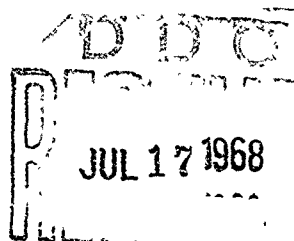
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 160TH SIGNAL GROUP
APO San Francisco 96491

SCCVUG-OP

15 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 160th Signal Group for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

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1. Section 1, Operation: Significant Activities.

a. General. This is the fourth report to be submitted by this Group since its arrival in the Republic of Vietnam (RVN) on 30 April 1967. The organization, mission, and functions of the Group remain unchanged except as outlined in paragraph 1g below.

b. Personnel. Shortages of personnel in key Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) continued to be a chronic problem throughout the reporting period. Information concerning the most critical MOS shortages was brought to the attention of 1st Signal Brigade; corrective action was initiated, and the situation was showing significant improvement near the end of the reporting period. The assigned strength as of 30 April 1968 was 2720 personnel, as compared to the proposed MTOE level three authorization of 3253. This authorization does not include a Strategic Army Communications Command-approved authorization of 51 spaces for the Southeast Asia Signal School (SEASS).

(1) During this reporting period, the Group processed 449 incoming and 1197 outgoing enlisted personnel as follows:

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	FEB		MAR		APR		TOTAL		NET QTR	
UNIT	GAIN	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS	GAIN	LOSS
HQ	5	7	12	10	14	36	31	53	-	22
40th	3	19	19	76	77	61	99	156	-	55
44th	35	86	54	88	81	105	170	279	-	109
69th	14	124	44	116	73	88	130	328	-	198
221st	3	2	0	10	5	31	8	43	-	35
706th	4	18	6	16	3	3	13	37	-	24
SEAPC	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	-

(2) The Group also processed 35 incoming and 47 outgoing officer personnel as follows:

HQ	2	2	2	5	1	7	5	14	-	9
40th	4	2	1	1	0	2	5	5	0	-
44th	3	1	3	2	4	6	10	9	1	-
69th	1	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	-	1
221st	1	0	1	4	1	33	5	7	-	2
706th	2	2	1	2	2	1	5	5	0	-
SEAPC	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	-	1

(3) For the Quarter, enlisted promotion allocations were distributed as follows:

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UNIT	E9	E8	E7	E6	E5	E4	TOTAL	LAST QTR
HQ	0	0	0	0	20	5	25	27
40th	0	0	0	0	24	174	198	11
44th	0	0	0	0	30	252	282	38
69th	0	0	0	0	87	351	438	36
706th	0	0	0	0	24	13	37	*
221st	0	0	0	0	27	34	61	*
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	212	829	1041	112

*Included w/HQ for last Qtr.

(4) During this period, the following awards were approved for personnel of this command:

	FEB	MAR	APR	TOTAL	LAST QTR
LOM	0	2	2	4	0
SOLD MEDAL	0	0	0	0	0
BSM "V"	3	0	22	25	3
BSM	7	15	20	42	30
AIR MEDAL	0	0	0	0	3
ACM "V"	0	0	8	8	0
ACM	13	23	28	64	58
PH	4	5	1	10	13
TOTAL	27	45	81	153	117

(5) As of 30 April, the assigned strength for the Group Headquarters is as follows:

	OFF	WO	EM	TOTAL	LAST QTR
HQ	31	4	106	141	163

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(6) The following Information Officer (IO) program statistics are furnished:

(a) Twenty IO releases were forwarded to 1st Signal Brigade: three in February, twelve in March, and five in April.

(b) Fifty-two hometown news releases were forwarded to 1st Signal Brigade: thirteen in February, twelve in March, and twenty-seven in April.

(7) Key personnel of the Group headquarters include:

(a) Commanding Officer - COL Blaine O. Vogt

(b) Executive Officer - LTC Robert A. Cheney

(c) S1/Adjutant - MAJ Hayden B. Peake

(d) S2/3 - MAJ Charles E. Maples

(e) S4 - MAJ Leonard J. Gilka

(f) Signal Officer - LTC James J. O'Brien

(g) Chief, Systems Engineering and Control Office - MAJ Sterling M. Rodgers

(h) Chief, COMMCEN Engineering and Analysis Office - CPT Benjamin F. Esquibel

(i) Chief, Telephone Management Office - MAJ Jackie L. Manbeck

c. Operations. This section of the report is divided into areas of functional responsibility.

(1) Telephone System completed projects include:

(a) Expansion of Long Binh Dial Central Office (DCO) from 3000 to

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5000 line capacity. The expanded facility was accepted by the Communications Systems Engineering and Analysis Agency (CSEMA), 1st Signal Brigade on 1 February 1968.

(b) Re-distribution of 347 mainlines from congested hundreds groups (in the original 3000 line portion) to the new 2000 line portion at the Long Binh DCO. This re-distribution cut over was accomplished between 22 and 29 February.

(c) Installation of a local two-position switchboard (SB-249/TTC), associated cable, and distribution frame to serve the Republic of Korea Force Vietnam (ROKFFV) Headquarters, after the move of ROKFFV from the Free World Military Assistance Organization (FWMAO) building to the MACV II compound on 6 February 1968.

(d) Replacement of the temporary "H" fixture at USARV headquarters with a permanent main distribution-type frame. The new cross-connect facility is located in the service building. Work began on 12 March 1968 and was completed on 20 April 1968.

(e) Regrading of the AN/TTC-28 at Plantation (Headquarters, II Field Forces, Vietnam) to provide subscribers dial access to other DCO's in accordance with the official Southeast Asia Automatic Telephone System (SEAATS), commonly known as the Tandem Switching Plan. Regrading was completed on 20 April 1968.

(f) Survey of the existing underground conduit system in Saigon to determine the feasibility of installing underground cable between key locations in the Saigon area using existing duct systems. If the use of the conduit system is determined to be feasible, significant protection will be offered during hostile operations, thereby minimizing communications outages. The complete survey was submitted to CSEMA on 15 March 1968.

(g) Re-routing of cable to by-pass the Lynx cross-connect box "B", near Tan Son Nhut Air Base in order to eliminate a potential source of problems during the rainy season and reduce vulnerability to hostile action. Completion is scheduled for 20 May 1968.

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(h) Reduction of the percentage of Class "A" telephones at Long Binh DCO from 50.5% to 41%.

(i) Completion of major telephone installations for the 506th Field Depot, 14th Inventory Control Center (ICC), and for the command bunkers of MACV Command Operations Center (COC), 1st Logistical Command, 1st Aviation Brigade, 1st Signal Brigade and 2d Signal Group.

(j) Installation of approximately 473,616 feet of multi-pair cable which included the following completed projects:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>(PAIR) SIZE</u>	<u>(FEET) AMOUNT</u>
Plantation - Mallard (II FFV Sites)	100	29,440
Tiger DCO - Newport Facility (Saigon)	300	5,000
Long Binh DCO to: PX Storage Depot	100	8,000
POL Tank Farm	25	1,500
Saigon Spt Comd Motor Pool		
509th Radio Research Group (Internal, Saigon)	50	400
Railroad Cross-Connect Point - Ham Nghi BOQ (Saigon)	12	2,000
Splendid BOQ, Saigon (Branch Cable)	50	2,500

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Old U.S. Embassy - New U.S. Embassy (Saigon)	400	6,800
18th MP Brigade, Long Binh (Drop Cable)	25	110
USARV Motor Pool, Long Binh (Branch Cable)	25	1,300
Utica Avenue Cross Connect, Long Binh (Extension)	100	2,000
Feeder cables to: 1st Signal Brigade Command Bunker USARV Data Service Center (Long Binh)	40850	1,550 (total)
91st Finance Building, Long Binh (Extension)	25	550
1st Logistical Command Operations Control Center, Long Binh (Internal)	25	60
Methods and Results Van, Long Binh Area COMMCEN, Long Binh (Extension)	25	125
Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office - New U.S. Embassy, Saigon	50	2,500
92d MP Battalion, Saigon (Extension)	25	650
2d Signal Group Command Bunker, Long Binh (Extension)	50	400
Qui Nhon DCO - Phu Tai Switchboard	100	35,920

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(k) Rehabilitation of 15,000 feet of existing multi-pair cable between the Tiger DCO and the Newport Facility.

(2) Communication Center Engineering and Analysis.

(a) During the reporting period, continued emphasis was placed on improving personnel proficiency, service rates, and handling times. The overall traffic quality continued to improve, as shown by a reduction in the overall service rate for Group COMMCEN's from 8% to 5.9% during the Quarter. This improvement is even more remarkable when it is realized that the total send traffic increased from 423,489 messages for the 2d Quarter to 521,255 messages for the current reporting period.

(b) Originating teletype speed of service improved in all precedences, despite the fact that the volume of Flash messages for Group COMMCEN's totaled 5,803 representing a 3,317 increase over the previous Quarter. Immediate traffic volume totaled 137,486, an increase of 32,089 messages in that precedence category.

(c) Terminating teletype speed of service likewise improved in all precedences. This is particularly significant in view of the large increase in traffic volume. For example, the handling time for Flash traffic decreased by one minute, coincident with a volume increase of 3,000 messages over the total of 10,166 Flash messages for the last Quarter.

(d) The Saigon Army Area COMMCEN was relocated from a van operation to a fixed facility at Headquarters Area Command on 21 February 1968. The new facility has resulted in improved physical security, a more efficient equipment layout and streamlined traffic flow. It also has increased the availability of file and storage space and permitted the use of commercial power. In addition, better working conditions have been achieved, and traffic quality, handling times, and service rates have materially improved.

(e) On 25 March 1968, the IBM 360/20 vans serving the 14th ICC and 12th DPU were activated as tributaries off the Phu Lam Automatic Switching Center. These facilities will improve service in that automatic features and automatic switching capabilities of the system provide greater speed and accuracy.

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(f) The plan for the cut over of circuits for the reconfigured MACV COMMCEN is well toward its final implementation phase. The AUTODIN UNIVAC 1004 arrived at the MACV COMMCEN from the Phu Lam NARC on 5 April, and became operational 24 April 1968.

(g) Consolidation of the Tactical Air Support Element (TASE) and Military Intelligence Battalion Aerial Reconnaissance and Surveillance (MIBARS) COMMCEN's at Tan Son Nhut was completed on 8 March 1968. The operation was consolidated from two vanized configurations into one, thus reducing personnel requirements, improving personnel utilization, and releasing equipment for alternative employment. The following COMMCEN facilities are operated by Group units at locations indicated:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
MACV Common User COMMCEN w/UNIVAC 1004	Saigon (MACV)
MACV Command Operations Center	Saigon (MACV)
Military Intelligence Battalion Aerial Reconnaissance and Surveillance (MIBARS) and Tactical Air Support Element (TASE)	Tan Son Nhut
Saigon Area COMMCEN	Saigon (Hq Area Cmd)
Combined Intelligence Command, Vietnam Relay (CICV)	Saigon (MACV)
CICV Terminal	Saigon (Hq CICV)
Long Binh Area COMMCEN	Long Binh
1st Signal Brigade COMMCEN	Long Binh
USARV COMMCEN	Long Binh

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(h) The reconfiguration and relocation of the CICV Relay from a van to the former MACV J-2 COMMCEN area was completed on 12 April 1968. This action has resulted in improved operating efficiency of the CICV teletype network.

(i) The UNIVAC 1004 arrived at the USARV COMMCEN from the Phu Lam Non-Automatic Relay Center (NARC) on 25 April 1968. Installation began immediately in preparation for the cut over to the AUTODIN system, which is scheduled for 13 May 1968. This will provide the USARV COMMCEN with entry into the world-wide high-speed data communications system.

(3) Systems Engineering and Control.

(a) At the end of this reporting period, the final configuration of new VHF radio equipment and Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) carrier equipment consisted of eight Defense Communications Systems (DCS) and five Army Area Communications System (AACS) multichannel radio links, as follows:

<u>SYSTEM DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>TERMINAL LOCATIONS</u>
77UHC3	Octopus-Long Binh
77UHF7	Long Binh-Long Than North
77UHM4	Long Binh-MACV I
77UHP1	MACV I-Nha Be
77UHP6	Octopus-Di An
77UH1G	Octopus-Cu Chi
77UH1R	Octopus-Plantation
77UH83	Octopus-Bien Hoa

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ACW09	Plantation-Long Than North
CAW60	Long Binh-Bien Hoa
CAW75	Long Binh-Cu Chi
CCA24	Long Binh-Octopus
CCA25	Long Binh-Octopus

(b) Two AACS cable carrier systems using PCM equipment were in operation:

<u>SYSTEM DESIGNATOR</u>	<u>TERMINAL LOCATIONS</u>
CCR 20	Long Binh-Plantation
CCR 21	Long Binh-Plantation

(c) Three DCS systems remain in operation using AN/TCC-7 carrier equipment:

77UHC6	Long Binh-Bien Hoa
77UH91	Octopus-Nui Ba Den
77URA8	Cholon-MACV I

(d) Two AN/GRC-10 VHF radio were committed from the MACV contingency team package on order of MACV J6 to provide one 4-channel system for minimum essential communications to the 5th Special Forces Group (SIGMA) as follows:

CCH37	MACV I-SIGMA (Thu Duc)
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(e) On 1 February, the Group was tasked to install a single voice channel radio link from the Voice of Freedom studios in Saigon to the

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Quang Tri radio transmitter site. This action was directed by MACV at the request of the Joint U.S. Public Affairs Office (JUSPAO) for the purpose of relaying news releases to be transmitted throughout Vietnam. Equipment from the MACV contingency package was used, and the system remained in operation until 29 March, at which time MACV J6 ordered its deactivation.

(f) On 5 February, the Group established seven point-to-point circuits and two dial circuits at the JGS compound on Tan Son Nhut Air Base in support of the II FFV Forward Tactical Operation Center (TOC). These circuits included the following:

CCSD

TERMINATIONS

V3057C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - PLN swbd, LBN

V4227C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - HURR TOC, LBN

V4228C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - HURR TOC, LBN

V4233C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - MACV EAC, GDH

V4236C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - CMD TOC, SGN

V4237C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - JDOC, TSN

V4238C

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - III Corps DASC, BNH

MACV 2807

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - MACV DTE, GDH

MACV 3925

HURR Fwd TOC, TSN - MACV DTE, GDH

On 18 February, these circuits were deactivated at the request of II FFV when the Hurricane Forward TOC mission was completed.

(g) On 7 February, in conjunction with 2d Signal Group and USA Electronics Command representatives, this Group conducted a successful test of the new AN/GRC-163 radio set. Four voice circuits and a voice

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frequency teletype circuit were tested between Long Binh and Long Than North.

(h) During the period of the Tet and subsequent enemy offensives in the Saigon and Long Binh area, the Group continued to provide highly reliable communications. Although many personnel were involved in reaction forces operations and manning of defensive positions, not a single system outage was attributed to enemy action.

(i) An expanded technical control was established at Site Octopus on Tan Son Nhut and became operational on 12 February. The increased testing and patching capability for both VF and DC circuits prompted DCA-SAM to change the site designation from Tan Son Nhut Radio Relay Station to Tan Son Nhut Technical Control Facility. The cut over of tone packs from Tan Son Nhut technical control to Site Octopus technical control will continue into the next reporting period.

(j) On 4 March, a 12-channel VHF/PCM system (ASC09) was established between Plantation (II FFV) and Long Than North (9th Inf Div) through the joint efforts of this Group and 2d Signal Group.

(k) Deactivation of the Group's site at Master Complex, Tan Son Nhut, during the last week in April was made possible by reterminating systems and tone packs at Site Octopus. This consolidation of facilities resulted in increased operating efficiency and significant savings in manpower and equipment.

(l) A 132-foot AB-216 antenna tower was constructed at Site Octopus to replace a 64-foot tower. Elevation of VHF antennas resulted in improved performance of systems that had operationally been marginal.

(m) On 26 April, four AN/GRC-10 contingency teams were activated by MACV J6 for service in the Saigon Area. Under the operational control of MACV J6, these teams established two systems to provide emergency control back-up communications for selected critical inter-city trunk cables.

(n) During the period 22 - 25 April, the Group installed nine point-to-point circuits and three dial telephones in support of the II FFV Forward

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Tactical Operations Center at the Capital Military District Compound,
Saigon.

(o) During the period 1 February to 30 April, the performance of the MACV command HF RATT Net was given "command interest" status and placed under close observation. The operation of this net improved materially and can now be classified as satisfactory.

(p) During the period from 1 February to 30 April, 1203 circuit engineering orders were processed; 999 were for DCS, and 204 were for AACS circuits.

(q) On 14 April, operational responsibility for the SB-675, which provides an AACS technical control facility for the microwave and VHF terminals at MACV, was transferred to 2d Signal Group. On 1 May, responsibility for the MACV I terminal of the AN/GRC-10 system CCH37 was transferred from the 44th Signal Battalion to the 69th Signal Battalion. The adjustments were made to more closely align functional and mission responsibilities.

(4) Photographic Operations.

(a) The Southeast Asia Pictorial Center (SEAPC) moved from Tan Son Nhut Air Base to Long Binh Post on 1 April 1968. This move places the activity in proximity with its major operating element, the 221st Signal Company (Pictorial).

(b) The final packet (2 officers and 33 EM) of the 221st Signal Company (Pictorial) arrived in country on 28 February 1968.

(c) A substantial number of special photographic missions were completed for COMUSMACV, USARV, COMUSMACTHAI, USARPAC, DA, and DOD. Examples of these projects are:

1 Still photographic coverage of US Army male nurses at work in RVN.

2 Still photographic coverage of Special Services activities throughout RVN.

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3 Motion picture and still photographic coverage of communications officers in a tactical environment.

4 Aerial color slides (35 mm) of medical facilities in RVN.

5 Aerial color slides (35 mm) of Signal sites throughout RVN.

6 Motion picture and still photographic coverage of the Tet offensive.

7 Motion picture and still photographic coverage of other combat units/operations including the Royal Australian Task Force, ARVN airborne battalions, and Americal Division, and the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

d. Training.

(1) Twenty training inspections of subordinate units were conducted by Group headquarters personnel during this reporting period. This is a continuing effort, and results are evident in the improved training programs throughout the Group.

(2) Personnel of this Group attended the following special training courses on new equipment:

(a) Two EM attended a special six-week course on maintenance of AUTODIN Mode V equipment conducted at Taipei, Taiwan.

(b) Five EM attended a two week course on maintenance of the Lenkurt 26C Channel Modern conducted at Clark AFB, Philippine Islands; three attended a similar course conducted at the USASTRATCOM facility, Phu Lam, RVN.

(c) Twelve EM received training on maintenance of the North Electric Emergency Action Console conducted by a New Equipment Team (NET) from Headquarters, USASTRATCOM.

(d) Seven EM received operator and maintenance training on the Crypto Auxiliary Unit, part of Mode I AUTODIN, conducted at the Automatic Switching Center, Phu Lam, RVN.

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(e) Two EM attended an operator and maintenance course on the ITT Teletypewriter Control Unit conducted at the USASTRATCOM facility, Phu Lam, RVN. The primary purpose of this training was to familiarize repairmen with Mode V AUTODIN teletype equipment.

(f) In addition to the above, personnel of this Group, as indicated, attended the following courses conducted at the Southeast Asia Signal School: AN/TRC-110/117 Operators Course - 17; Key Telephone System Maintenance Course - 11; Teletype Restoral Course - 11; Cable Splicers Course - 21; Technical Facility Controller - 9.

(g) An extensive on-the-job training program was continued throughout the reporting period to help overcome the shortage of qualified operator and maintenance personnel. The number of personnel indicated in parentheses were trained in the following MOS's: 31T, Field Systems COMSEC Repairman (6); 32E, Fixed Plant Carrier Repairman (9); 34C, ADP Auxiliary Equipment Repairman (5); 34D, ADP Repairman (5); 36C, Lineman (53); 36E, Cable Splicer (37); 36G, Manual Central Office Repairman (2); 36H, Dial Central Office Repairman (5); 72B, Communications Center Specialist (83); 72C, Telephone Switchboard Operator (18); 74A, Data Processing Equipment Operator (4); 74E, ADPS Console Operator (8); 76Y, Armorer-Unit Supply Specialist (12).

(h) Twenty-eight personnel from this Group attended a special two day course on prescribed load lists (PLL) conducted by the 576th Ordnance Company at Long Binh, RVN.

(i) A special training program for switchboard operators was established during the reporting period. The primary objective of this program is to eliminate common operator errors; i.e., repeated challenging of line during subscriber conversation, disconnect without prior challenge, and failure to re-establish calls which are erroneously disconnected.

(j) Training classes for Group officers and warrant officers with less than five years active commissioned/warrant service continued. Some of the subjects presented were: Introduction to Data Processing, TAERS and CMMI Procedures, Officer Efficiency Reports, and Military Justice.

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(k) A special training class for Group officers and NCO's was conducted on the effects, detection, and history of marihuana. Specific areas covered were: physical characteristics, means of detection, methods of search utilized when an individual is suspected of possession, and samples of marihuana cigarettes prepared for sale.

(3) A Group regulation providing guidance and establishing procedures for implementation of the functional training program was published during this reporting period. This regulation, along with directives from higher headquarters, will assist the units of this Group in properly requisitioning required functionally training personnel.

(4) The lack of operator and maintenance training for non-standard systems and equipment is a continuing major problem area in that functional training is not available for many of these items. Examples are the North Electric Emergency Action Console, Western Electric and Automatic Electric Telephone Key Systems, IBM 360/20, General Dynamics Corporation Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment, and Stromberg-Carlson XY Dial Central Office.

(5) Mandatory training, mission-essential training, and on-the-job training were conducted in accordance with applicable DA and local regulations; however, at no time were mission operations suspended in order to conduct training.

(6) None of the Group units participated in tactical or administrative movements during reporting period, except as indicated in paragraphs 1c(4)(a) and (b), section I (relocation of SEAPC from Saigon to Long Binh and arrival in country of the final packet of the 221st Signal Company (Pic-torial)).

e. Intelligence. Group units continued participation in tactical defense of their installations and facilities throughout the Republic of Vietnam during this reporting period. On 1 February 1968, a member of the 69th Signal Battalion (in Saigon) received minor shrapnel wounds while serving with Task Force 35 in defense of the Tan Son Nhut Air Base perimeter during the Tet offensive. Cable teams of the 40th, 44th, and 69th Signal Battalions installed approximately 29,000 feet of multi-pair cable and completed approximately 106 cable splices in the rehabilitation

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of communications cable damaged by hostile fire. These teams received sniper fire on several occasions during cable restoral operations.

f. Logistics.

(1) The Group continued its cantonment development program at Camp Gerry. Three of four programmed BOQ's were completed; the fourth requires work and will be completed upon receipt of material. Four 20' X 50' Pasco huts and six 20' X 60' Adams huts were completed for use as troop billets. Twenty-eight 24-man bunkers and six 30-man (or larger) bunkers were constructed. A 20' X 45' command operations bunker was partially completed; final completion is expected within thirty days. Three photographic laboratory buildings were constructed through commercial contract. In the Saigon area, two additional compounds were made available, permitting relocation of the Cholon contingent of the 593d Signal Company, and the planned movement in May of the Signal Support Company (Provisional), 69th Signal Battalion, from Tan Son Nhut. Both compounds are close to the 3d Field Hospital. All 69th Signal Battalion elements have now been relocated from the Cholon area and over-crowded conditions at Tan Son Nhut have been somewhat relieved.

(2) Group headquarters took positive command action on logistical problems encountered by subordinate elements. Particular attention was devoted to expediting civil construction projects and initiating formal requests for necessary facilities. Special efforts were made in the areas of elimination of non-essential supplies and equipment, acquisition of mission-essential items, and the standardization of power generating equipment in the various units. The development of a Materiel Readiness Expeditor program in the Group has been effective in reducing critical supply shortages, where all normal procedures had failed.

(3) Reorganization and improvement of the USARV COMSEC Logistics Support System continued during the past Quarter. A sixth COMSEC Logistics Support Unit (CLSU) was established at Phu Bai utilizing personnel and equipment from the COMSEC Logistics Support Center (CLSC-V) and other CLSU's. The unit arrived at Phu Bai on 3 March 1968 and began limited operations on 12 April 1968. The MTOE, under which the

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CLSCV and CLSU's are organized, does not include sufficient personnel or equipment to meet current requirements. The MTOE has not yet been approved by Headquarters, Department of the Army (DA). Upon approval by DA, a revised MTOE will be submitted to accomodate mission-essential requirements.

(4) During this reporting period, approximately 1800 major items were received in the maintenance facilities of the CLSC-V and subordinate units. More than 1650 of these items were repaired and returned to stock, or to supported units. Also during this period, more than 50 tons of COMSEC material were received and distributed, or placed in storage for future requirements.

g. Organization. Assignment of Group units remains as outlined in 1st Signal Brigade General Orders (GO) 294, dated 12 August 1967, and 302, dated 16 August 1967; and 160th Signal Group OPORD 2-67, dated 15 August 1967. Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOE) and Tables of Distribution and Authorization (TDA), which are currently pending approval at Headquarters, Department of the Army, include a total proposed authorization of 3253 personnel for the Group. (This does not include 162 military and 7 civilian spaces which are contained in the proposed TDA for the Southeast Asia Signal School.) A COMSEC Logistics Support Unit (CLSU) was established at Phu Bai, RVN, in March 1968 and became operational on 12 April 1968. Personnel and equipment to establish the new CLSU were taken from elements of the 706th Signal Detachment, which is provisionally designated as the COMSEC Logistics Support Center, Vietnam (CLSC-V). Responsibility for the operation and support of the Southeast Asia Signal School was transferred from Regional Communications Group to this Group, effective 15 March 1968. Following is a list of assigned and attached units:

- (1) Assigned.
- (a) 40th Signal Battalion (Construction)
- (b) 44th Signal Battalion
- (c) 69th Signal Battalion

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- (d) 221st Signal Company (Pictorial)
- (e) 49th Signal Detachment (CLSU)
- (f) 213th Signal Detachment (CLSU)
- (g) 446th Signal Detachment (CLSU)
- (h) 455th Signal Detachment (CLSU)
- (i) 706th Signal Detachment (CLSU-V)
- (j) Southeast Asia Pictorial Center
- (k) Southeast Asia Signal School
- (2) Attached.

(a) Cryptologistics Section, 53d General Support Group (per paragraph 1, GO 325, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, dated 13 April 1967, as amended by Paragraph 1, GO 199, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, dated 26 March 1968).

(b) Cryptologistics Section, 80th General Support Group (per paragraph 1, GO 202, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, dated 1 March 1967, as amended by Paragraph 1, GO 199, Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command, dated 26 March 1968).

h. Ground Defense.

(1) The Group Commander continued to serve as Sector Commander of one of the four major subdivisions of Long Binh Post (LBP) for ground defense planning and control. Sector units continued to perform their assigned ground defense mission in an effective and efficient manner.

(2) On 29 February 1968, Headquarters, LBP implemented LBP OPOD 1-68 (Long Binh Post Ground Defense, Phase IV) (U), which more than doubled the size and tripled the population of the 160th Signal

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Group Sector. The purpose of this change was to reduce the size of the 29th General Support Group Sector, which had previously included over half of the land mass of LBP, although in an area less populated than the remainder of the post. The 160th Signal Group Sector now covers an area of approximately five square miles and includes the responsibility for manning thirty-nine defensive bunkers and numerous hasty positions. Command and control of sector units is exercised from the fortified sector operations center through the subsector operations centers. Communications includes both landline and frequency modulated (FM) voice radio. All primary bunkers have direct telephone communication with their respective subsector operations center.

(3) In developing the Group plan for implementing LBP OPORD 1-68, sector units were organized into eight subsectors. Due to the time element and radio equipment availability prior to implementation of the revised plan, it was necessary to include all eight subsectors and five separate unit reactionary forces in the same radio net. Because of the number of subsectors and the size of the radio net, the span of control proved to be too great. Consequently, a new task organization has been developed, reducing the number of subsectors to five.

2. Section II, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel. None

b. Operations.

(1) Dial-to-Dial Trunks of Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) Equipment.

(a) OBSERVATION.

1 In the upgrading of the Southeast Asia Automatic Telephone System, there was a requirement to test the effectiveness of dial-to-dial service over tactical VHF radio systems to telephone subscribers. AN/TCC-7 carrier systems had proved to be too unstable for dial-to-dial trunks; pulse code modulation (PCM) carrier systems had not been tested for this purpose. Thus during the period 2-3 April, an Army Area Communications System (AACS) dial-to-dial trunk from the Long Binh Dial Telephone Exchange (DTE) to Tiger DTE in Saigon was re-routed from a

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microwave path to a PCM system path. After levels were adjusted and the equipment was checked out, the circuit proved to be stable and performed satisfactorily over the PCM system channel.

2 This Group currently has five dial-to-dial trunks permanently routed over PCM cable carrier system CCR 20 between Plantation and Long Binh. All five circuits have performed in a satisfactory manner since they were routed over this system in February 1968. Both TD-352 (PCM Multiplexer) and AN/TCC-13 (Pulse Position Modulated Multiplexer) are used in these circuits.

(b) EVALUATION. Tactical PCM carrier equipment will provide an acceptable path for dial-to-dial telephone trunks.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That tactical PCM/VHF Carrier Systems be used to provide circuit path extensions in the AACS to permit expansion of the Southeast Asia Automatic Telephone System.

(2) Vulnerability of Aerial Cable.

(a) OBSERVATION. Aerial cable is extremely vulnerable to sabotage and to damage by enemy and friendly fire during hostilities.

(b) EVALUATION. The establishment of headquarters in cities and development of large base camps have required the installation of complex and interlaced networks of multi-pair cable distribution systems. In the interest of economy and speed of installation, most of these cable systems were installed using overhead (aerial) construction. Thousands of feet of aerial cable had to be replaced or rehabilitated to restore cable damaged during the Tet offensive. Underground (buried) cable is less vulnerable to overt or covert damage than aerial cable and should be used whenever conditions permit, even to the extent of completely replacing existing cable distribution systems in cities and base camps.

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(c) RECOMMENDATION. That a program be initiated to re-engineer and replace aerial cable distribution systems with underground systems in cities and large base camps. (Toward this end, this Group has surveyed the cable distribution systems in the Saigon/Long Binh area and has initiated action for conversion to underground cable wherever practicable at this time.)

(3) Appropriate Marking of Buried Cable.

(a) OBSERVATION. Buried cable locations must be marked prominently to preclude inadvertent damage.

(b) EVALUATION. The use of buried cables has become more prevalent in both fixed and tactical communications applications in base camp areas in order to reduce damage from shrapnel and small arms fire. Instances have occurred in which cable teams installing buried cable have cut existing unmarked buried cable, causing extensive circuit outages and needless restoration expense. In other instances, engineer personnel have inadvertently cut buried cable during grading operations.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That buried cables be conspicuously marked along the entire route; drawings showing the route must also be furnished to appropriate local agencies by the installing unit.

(4) Air and Motor Courier Service.

(a) OBSERVATION. An improved and more responsive courier system is necessary to ensure timely delivery of courier material and preclude waste of critical man hours during periods of increased enemy activity.

(b) EVALUATION. The 160th Signal Group is responsible for providing motor courier service for the Long Binh, Bien Hoa, Tan Son Nhut, Saigon, and Cholon areas. The Group also provides country-wide air courier service, using scheduled flights operated by 7th Air Force. Motor messengers must travel over Vietnamese roadways; these courier trips are subject to cancellation or rescheduling based on the extent of enemy action within the area. During the Tet offensive, motor courier service was disrupted, and the air courier system became backlogged as a result of numerous attacks which limited aircraft movement on Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

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Whenever motor messengers could be dispatched, two vehicles with a minimum of four armed guards were used. Special flights and additional space and weight allocations were obtained from 7th Air Force to alleviate the air courier backlog. However, delays and changes in flight schedules resulted in courier material being returned (undelivered) from up-country bases because flights were not met by courier personnel. Termination or diversion of up-country flights for operational reasons also resulted in courier personnel being stranded at various locations for periods up to four days duration.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That dedicated aircraft be allocated for use in providing a responsive, reliable courier service during periods of increased enemy activity such as the Tet offensive. Further that during such periods, courier material be limited by regulation to mission-essential matter, and that commanders who are authorized to impose MINIMIZE also adopt similar procedures to control the type of material entered into the courier system.

(5) Air Conditioning for IBM 360/20 Vans.

(a) OBSERVATION. Operating personnel are unfamiliar with the air conditioning system of the IBM 360/20 vans.

(b) EVALUATION. Difficulties encountered with the air conditioning system of the IBM 360/20 vans prompted a test to determine the effectiveness of thermostatic control devices at the 12th Data Processing Unit (DPU). Thermostatic controls were set to activate the compressor at 70 degrees Fahrenheit at the intake grille. A thermometer was placed in a select location near the entrance of the van where the largest variation of temperature was experienced. Temperatures were charted for a 24 hour period with recordings taken every hour on the hour. None of the air conditioners was turned off at any time. As a result the temperature was maintained at 70 degrees Fahrenheit, plus or minus one degree. Under these conditions, no condensation was noted in the van. The conclusion is that the moisture previously experienced resulted from operator personnel adjusting the temperature controls at frequent intervals.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That operator personnel for the IBM 360/20 vans be properly oriented and instructed regarding the component air conditioning systems. An accurate thermometer should be used and monitored

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periodically by operator personnel; preventive maintenance should be performed on the air conditioners only when all air conditioners are not needed to maintain correct operating temperature. Should the temperature become too low, one air conditioner should be turned off completely rather than adjusting the thermostat.

(6) Continuity of Operation at Communications Sites.

(a) OBSERVATION. The separation of communications sites and operating forces in a metropolitan area creates serious problems in the event of hostilities that restrict movement of personnel.

(b) EVALUATION. Numerous communications sites are located throughout the Saigon/Tan Son Nhut/Cholon areas. Personnel who operate these sites are billeted on Tan Son Nhut and at various locations throughout Saigon. During periods of increased enemy activity in these areas, movement of personnel is restricted, sometimes for extended periods. Consequently, personnel on duty in COMM-CEN's, telephone exchanges, and other communications facilities which must be operated continuously, are required to remain on duty (at their place of duty) for extended periods. A large number of personnel are also required for defense of these facilities and operating sites.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That specific plans address the problems of maintaining communications during periods of hostilities by providing for: assembly points and armed convoys for relief personnel; dispatch of security personnel to guard sites in order to preclude having to divert the operating force from primary (communications) tasks; storage at each site of such necessities as bedding, food, water, clean clothing, and toilet articles to be used in the event of restricted movement for extended periods. (Such plans have now been developed by units of this Group.)

c. Training. None.

d. Intelligence. None.

e. Logistics.

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(1) Power Generators Deadlined for Parts.

(a) OBSERVATION. The deadline rate for power generators continues to be unacceptable. A significant number of generators are being deadlined for organizational repair parts; others are deadlined in direct support maintenance facilities.

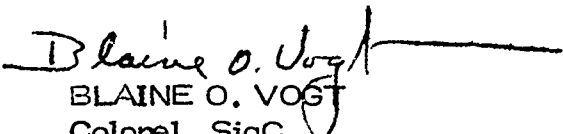
(b) EVALUATION. The wide variety in manufacturer makes and models creates major supply problems in obtaining and maintaining adequate levels of repair parts for generators. By standardizing on makes and models, whenever possible, fewer line items and greater quantities of repair parts can be maintained at various levels of supply/maintenance. Toward this end, like makes and models have been consolidated at the various units within this Group to the extent practicable.

(c) RECOMMENDATION. That further efforts be made at the appropriate levels of command to standardize, to the maximum possible extent, power generator units in the Army inventory. This would simplify training of generator repairman and facilitate follow-on repair parts and maintenance.

f. Organization. None

g. Other. None.

1 Incl
Orgn Chart


BLAINE O. VOGT
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 3 - Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
- 1 - Commanding General, USASTRATCOM, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
- 2 - Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558
- 4 - Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST APO 96375
- 1 - Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCVOP, APO 96384
- 1 - Commanding General, USASTRATCOM-PAC, APO 96557

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SCGVOP-CR (15 May 68) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 160th Signal Group for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 1 JUN 1968

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

1. Subject report is forwarded for your information.
2. Concur in the Commander's observations, evaluations, and recommendations with the following comments:

a. Item: Shortage of Authorized Personnel, lb, p.1. The current General Order authorized strength of the 160th Signal Group is 3,091. Additional personnel were assigned after 30 April so that as of 19 May the assigned strength was 2,934.

b. Item: Lack of Operator and Maintenance Training for Non-Standard Systems, ld(4), p.17. The following action is being taken to alleviate the problem.

(1) North Electric Emergency Action Console. A theoretical course is in the process of being established for MOS 36H. As yet the course has not been initiated, however, a NET Team on the subject equipment is in-country to provide training at each of the MACV, USARV and MACTHAI RAC's.

(2) Western Electric and Automatic Electric Telephone Key Systems. A second revision was submitted in March 1968 by Fort Monmouth to USCONARC with the anticipation that the first class would commence in April 1968. Brigade personnel are to receive training on telephone key systems at the SEASS until a sufficient number of CONUS trained repairmen arrive in-country.

(3) IBM 360/20. Information available to this headquarters indicates that a contract for training on IBM 360/20 is currently under negotiation within CONUS. Functional training is currently available on IBM 085, 108, 514, 836, 866 and 1013. In addition, under present contract agreements which include IBM 360/20, training is provided military personnel by the contractor when installation is completed.

(4) General Dynamics Corporation Digital Subscriber Terminal Equipment. Operation and maintenance is currently available within CONUS based functional training courses for MOS 31J and MOS 72B.

(5) Stromberg-Carlson XY Dial Central Office. A revised POI for the Dial Central Office Repair Course 36H20 has been staffed at DA. The revision extended the course from 19 to 22 weeks to provide for XY train-

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ing. A recent letter from the Commanding General, US Army Signal Center and School indicated that the first class instructed under this POI graduated on 16 February 1968.

c. Item: Development of an MRE Program to Reduce Critical Shortages, 1f(2), p.18. Concur, however, the 1st Logistical Command is in the process of installing a new procedure known as the 3SVS System, which will limit future activities of the MRE. Full impact cannot be determined until the new system is in full operation.

d. Item: Dial-to-Dial Trunks of Pulse Code Modulation (PCM) Equipment, 2b(1), p.21. This family of equipment is very good and should be able to handle Direct Distance Dialing.

e. Item: Vulnerability of Aerial Cable, 2b(2), p.22. Definite priorities, however, must be established since the present need for buried cable varies with the area involved and the present Brigade capability for buried cable construction is limited by a shortage of digging equipment. Also, as new construction is required, buried plants will be engineered.

f. Item: Continuity of Operation at Communications Sites, 2b(6), p.25. The manning of the communication facilities during periods of stress is imperative and the prepositioning of water, fuel, and rations is a necessary requirement. A letter will be prepared by this headquarters advising all subordinate commands of the need to develop local plans to cover contingencies experienced by 160th Signal Group.

3. Non-concur in the Commander's Recommendation as follows:

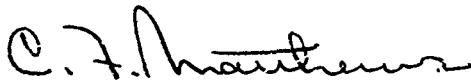
Item: Air and Motor Courier Service, 2b(4), p.23. Dedicated aircraft are less likely to be available for flight during periods of increased enemy activity than during normal periods. Courier material, for the most part, should not be mission essential. Rather, it should be restricted to low priority or very bulky material. Imposing restriction on the courier system during critical periods can only delay the material since there would be no other method of transmission. The question here is, should the material be delayed at the promulgating headquarters or at the courier distribution point where it is available for courier? During critical periods an increase in courier traffic should be expected due to MINIMIZE of electrical transmissions and, as during the TET Offensive, every effort should be made to move the material.

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1 JUN 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 160th Signal Group for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

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nc


C. F. MATTHEWS
Colonel, SigC
Acting Commander

Copies furnished:

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

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

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AVHGC-DST (15 May 68) 2d Ind (U) CPT Arnold/dls/LBN 4485
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 160th Signal Group for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (RI)

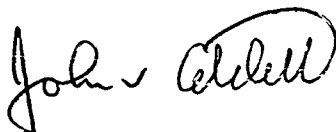
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 3 JUN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons
Learned for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968, from Headquarters,
160th Signal Group as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



1 Incl
nc

JOHN V. GETCHELL
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furn:
HQ 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM).
HQ 160 Sig Gp

33
GPOP-DT (15 May 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ 160th Sig Gp for Period Ending
30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 12 JUN 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



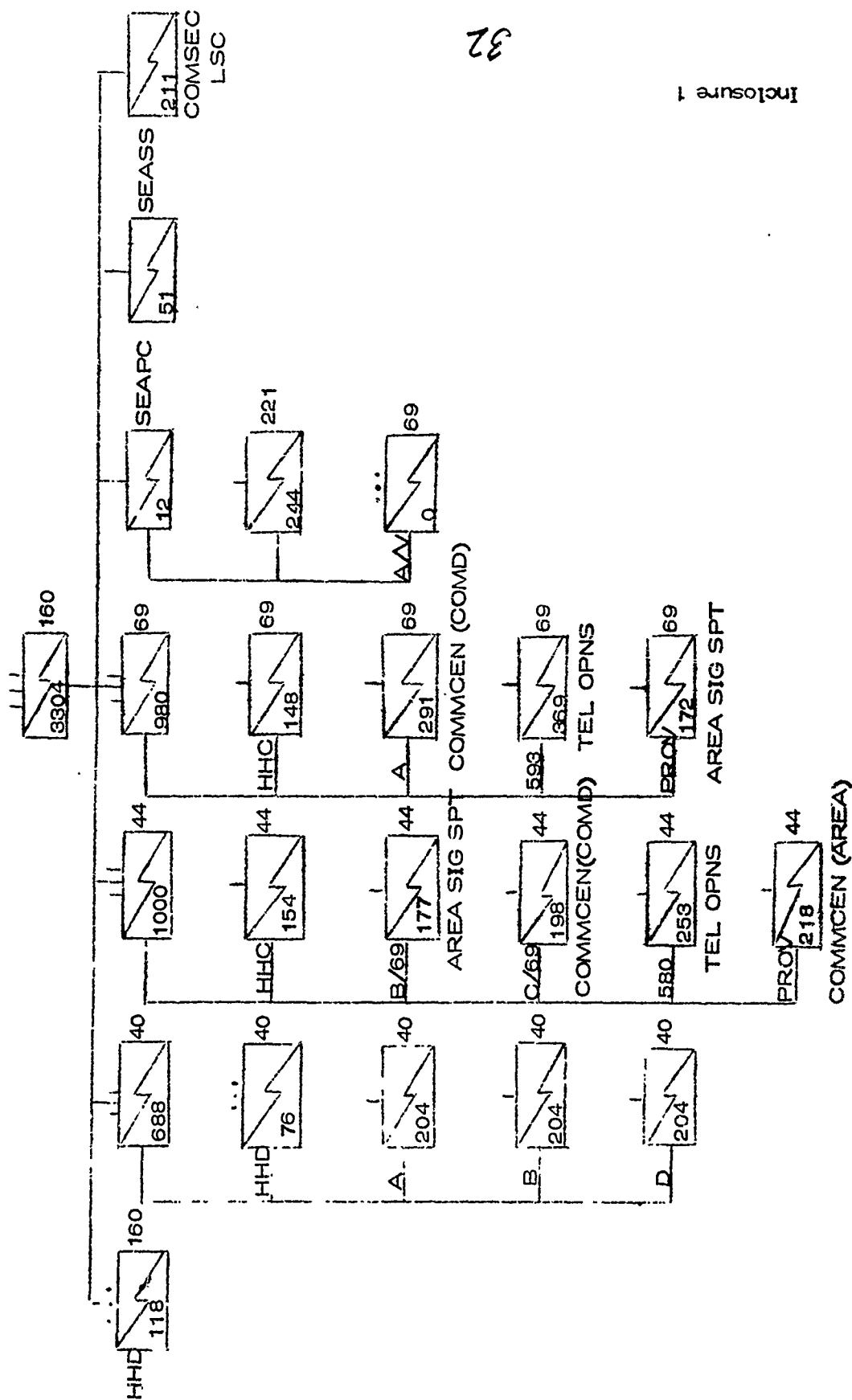
K. F. OSBOURN

MAJ, AGC

Asst AG

1 Incl
nc

160th Signal Group



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Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D		
<i>(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)</i>		
1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author) OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310		2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION Unclassified
		2b. GROUP
3. REPORT TITLE Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 160th Signal Group		
4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates) Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 30 April 1968		
5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name) CO, 160th Signal Group		
6. REPORT DATE 15 May 1968	7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES 33	7b. NO. OF REFS
8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.	8b. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S) 682216	
b. PROJECT NO. N/A	9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)	
c.		
d.		
10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT		
11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES N/A	12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310	
13. ABSTRACT		

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DD FORM 1473
1 NOV 65

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Security Classification