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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Aug 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M)(11 July 68) FOR OT RD 682173

18 July 1968

AD 833  
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S  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, US Army  
STRATCOM Facility Da Nang, Period Ending 30 April 1968 (U)

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DA C905FOR  
FOR OT RD WASH D.C 20310

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Kenneth G. Wickham*

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

1 Incl  
as

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  - USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS USASTRATCOM FACILITY DA NANG  
APO San Francisco 96337

RGDNGB-OP

10 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,  
from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(WLSAA)

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-  
OT, APO 96558  
Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-  
DH, APO 96375  
Commanding General, USASTRATCOM-PAC, Schofield Barracks,  
Hawaii, APO 96557  
Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN:  
SCCVOP, APO 96384  
Commanding Officer, USA Regional Communications Group (Vietnam)  
ATTN: SCCVRG-PO, APO 96243

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

1. ORGANIZATION:

LTC James W. Allspaw has commanded the Battalion since January 1968.

2. ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION:

There was considerable improvement in the assignment of certain critically needed personnel to this headquarters during the reporting period. The critical shortage of Teletypewriter Repairmen (31J) and Communications Security Equipment Repairmen (32G) was completely overcome. However critical shortages of Fixed Station Technical Controllers (32D), Clerk Typist (71B) and Communications Center Specialists (72B) still remain. Currently, this unit has on hand only 78% of its authorized strength in these critical MOS fields.

3. LOGISTICS DIVISION: None

FOR OT RD  
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AGDNGB-JP

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SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,  
from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(W14SAA)

4. OPERATION DIVISION:

a. Tape Relay Branch.

(1) Writing shelves have been installed on the AN/FGC-70 transmitter banks for an improved method of retaining DA 11-118 logs for easier and more efficient log writing.

b. Methods and Results Section.

(1) Two new traffic charts have been produced and posted in the relay. The Daily Traffic Chart shows traffic figures, service percentages, and total traffic. The Monthly Traffic Chart outlines traffic handled, service percentages, and handling times. These charts provide progress reports to visitors as well as the tape relay personnel.

(2) A new program has been initiated by the Methods and Results Section for the purpose of coordinating weekly traffic figures with major relays subordinate to the 1st Signal Brigade. Exchanging weekly traffic figures prior to submission of the Weekly Traffic Summary eliminates possible discrepancies.

c. Facilities Branch.

(1) A reconfiguration of circuit wiring was completed on 12 April 1968. In conjunction with the rewiring was the installation of the SB/1530 Relay Panels. The reconfiguration enables this station to bring the station keying lines up to full operational capacity of forty-eight (48) full duplex teletype circuits. The rewiring utilizes six more full duplex KW-7 crypto positions.

(2) An AN/FGC-69 was installed to improve testing, monitoring and meeting on line capabilities of Facilities Control. It enables the Facilities Control to function more efficiently and effectively in their mission and Quality Control Program.

(3) The H/W Carrier Section recently completed the wiring of the new Main Distribution Frame (MDF). This entailed wiring battery DC input cables and audio tone pack cables to the new frame. The rewiring required eighty-two (82) man hours and was accomplished at Hotel Juliett (H.J.) time. No outages or circuit loss was experienced by using H.J. time.

(4) This station up-graded the present Microwave system from 23 to 45 channel operation on 15 April 1968. After careful tuning of the transmitter the system is operating at a noise level of 57 to 60 dbm both ways.

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(5) The AUTODIN 1004 equipment arrived here on 21 April 1968. The 1004 is to be installed and ready for testing by the 4th of May 68. Univac personnel have been on site since 22 April 1968 preparing the equipment for installation. The AUTODIN circuit should be ready for operational testing by 8 May 1968 and passing traffic by 20 May 1968.

5. TROOP COMMAND

a. During the past quarter efforts were made to improve the troop billets. Two partitions were built in each of the troop billets.

b. Scheduling of classes twice on the same day, once for those who work night shift, and once for those who work days, has greatly increased the effectiveness of our training program.

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from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(W14SAA)

SECTION II

COMMANDERS OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PART 1

OBSERVATIONS

1. PERSONNEL:

Item: Forecast of fill on personnel requisition.

Discussion: This unit receives no firm forecast of action to fill or kill a valid requisition, first indication of a cancelled requisition is departure of incumbent and no replacement is received. Early receipt of roster of personnel to be assigned to this unit by MOS will allow earlier submission of emergency requisition.

Observations: None.

2. OPERATIONS:

TAPE RELAY

Item: The AN/FGC-70X transmitter banks come with individual DA 11-118 log holders for each position on the bank. The log holders are just large enough to hold the DA 11-118 log pages and provide no support surface for the operators to rest their hands when making entries on the lower section of the log, resulting in many illegible log entries. The log holders must be removed to enable maintenance personnel to remove and replace the Tandem TD's. The log holders become bent from operators resting their hands on them while making log entries and after the holders have been straightened a few times they break.

Discussion: To remedy the problem a writing shelf was fabricated from 3/4" plywood and mounted to the message shelf with hinges and stop blocks to adjust the shelf to the proper angle. The log holders are then mounted on the shelf. The shelf was made deep enough for the operator to have a place to rest his hand when making entries on the bottom of the DA 11-118 log. The shelf also provides a resting surface between the log holders for left handed operators to rest their hands when making log entries. The shelf swings up and out the way when it becomes necessary to change a tandem TD.

Observations: Since installation of the writing shelfs there has been a marked improvement in the send logs. The operators, whether they be right or left handed, can make log entries much faster and neater. The time required for maintenance personnel to change the Tandem TD's has been greatly reduced.

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from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(W4SAA)

#### METHODS AND RESULTS

Item: Composition of Daily and Monthly Traffic Charts.

Discussion: The Daily Statistical Chart is divided into four main columns; traffic sent and received, service percentages-send and receive, traffic handled (e.g. AMARS, courier, and terminal), and daily traffic totals. The Monthly Statistical Chart is divided into three main columns; traffic handled, service percentages, and handling times.

Observation: The Daily Traffic Chart gives the operating personnel an idea of the traffic being relayed plus the service percentages and total traffic each day. The Monthly Traffic Chart lists traffic figures from January 1967 to the present. Service percentages, handling times, and the amount of traffic passed monthly are available to visitors and relay personnel for use in comparison to those of the previous year.

Item: Coordination of Weekly Traffic Figures.

Discussion: This program is aimed at eliminating possible errors before the Weekly Traffic Summary is submitted to higher headquarters. A message, consisting of the channel number of the first message sent and last message received during the reporting period, is sent to associated relays.

Observation: It is assumed that, in the event any discrepancies are noted, the connected stations have sufficient time to recheck their statistics and inform reporting stations of discrepancies noted prior to submission of the Weekly Traffic Summary. This program has proven to be beneficial in the submission of accurate reports.

#### FACILITIES BRANCH

Item: Reconfiguration of Facilities Control ID wiring and Patch Panels.

Discussion: The full effect of the rewiring is found on the relay floor when the heavy traffic circuits have been redistributed to allow greater operator maneuverability and decrease floor congestion.

Observation: Due to the upcoming AUTODIN circuit activation, it will become necessary to analyze the present arrangement and make changes where necessary.

Item: Installation of an additional Teletype AN/FGC-69.

Discussion: This AN/FGC-69 allows Facilities Control to use the keyboard and one printer providing an order wire; the other two printers are utilized as monitors.

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Observation: The AN/FGC-69 enables the Facilities Control personnel to function more effectively and efficiently in the Facilities mission and Quality Control Program.

Item: Completion of the MDF wiring.

Discussion: This entailed wiring battery DC input cables, and Audio Cables to the new frame. This meant cutting of circuit loops into three pieces and moving them from the old frame to the new frame. Cables were laid from the equipment to the new MDF. The frame end of the cable was butted, fanned and connected to the horizontal blocks. Jumpers were run from the top side of the horizontal blocks to the battery blocks and ground blocks. The equipment end of the cable was butted, fanned and terminated. To finish wiring the new frame took eighty-two (82) hours. This was accomplished at H.J. time, circuit by circuit, with no circuit outage experienced.

Observation: Prior planning was the key factor in this rewiring where no circuit outages occurred.

Item: Forty-five (45) Channel Operation

Discussion: To go from twenty-three (23) channels to forty-five (45) channel operation required physically moving equipment besides additional cable installation. The AN/TCC-50 had to be moved in order to make room for the AN/TCC-13 Slave Unit in order to allow forty-five (45) channel operation. The AC wiring, audio cable, and spiral four cable were moved from one corner of the Microwave building to the opposite corner, a distance of approximately twenty (20) feet. The audio cable was cut first, butted, fanned and installed; next the AC wiring was disconnect and reconnected. Finally, the spiral four cable was cut, repositioned and installed. This was accomplished in one and a half (1½) hours. The installation was neat, professional, and quick. The Slave Multiplexer AN/TCC-13 was moved into the position where the AN/TCC-50 was located. The AC and audio cables were wired to the AN/TCC-13 equipment. This required three (3) hours for installation. The operating channels were patched over to the AN/TCC-50 to allow the change over to forty-five (45) channel operation. The AN/TRC29 transmitter requires very fine tuning to operate at forty-five (45) channels. When the video cable was changed to forty-five channel operation and the TD-60 switches were changed to 45 M and 45 S, it was noted that the forty-five (45) channel frame was excellent and required no additional tuning. The system noise levels both ways were between -57 to -60 dbm.

Observation: The initial fine tuning of the AN/TRC-29 transmitter precluded any additional tuning once the system is switched to forty-five channel operation. The system was also allowed to "cook in" for several hours to allow it to adjust to the mode of operation before putting it to traffic. Again prior planning kept the change over time to a minimum and no circuit outages were experienced.

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from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(WILSAA)

TROOP COMMAND

Item: Billet Improvement.

Discussion: The enlisted men of the battalion are billeted in thirty (30) 16' X 32', wooden buildings. Each building is designed for 12 men. Two partitions were constructed in each building using quarter inch plywood and one by fours. Each partition was constructed by framing one and a half (1½) sheets of plywood with one by fours. This gives a partition extending eight (8) feet from the wall and six (6) feet from the ceiling rafters. The partitions are placed approximately eleven (11) feet from the end of the building.

Observation: The partitions were easily constructed and very effectively improve the troop billets. They greatly increased the aisle space which was previously restricted, as it was necessary to place six (6) bunks on each side of the building. The partitions allow placement of two double bunks side by side; the partition being between them. Using this arrangement it is possible to put 12 bunks on one side of a building, there by leaving one entire side free for wall lockers and foot lockers. Also the partitions have effectively increased the privacy of each individual, making it possible for shift workers to sleep while other men in the billet may read, watch television, or listen to the radio in another section.

Item: Training

Discussion: Training schedules have been revised so that mandatory subjects, particularly Command Information and Character Guidance are presented twice on the same day. Once when the night workers come off duty, and again that night when the day workers come off duty.

Observation: Presentation of classes twice on the same day rather than depending on a make-up class on a different day has greatly increased attendance at mandatory classes. Because of the battalion mission, personnel must attend classes after duty hours. Make up classes previously were scheduled five to six days after the original class was presented. Unless there had been a shift change the same personnel were on duty during the make up class as were they during the original class and thus were unable to attend either time.

4. INTELLIGENCE: None.
5. LOGISTICS: None.
6. OTHER: None.

RGDNG3-OP

10 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,  
from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(W4SAA)

## PART II

### RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. PERSONNEL:

Recruitment should be given to the critical shortages of certain required personnel within this unit. Shortages of Technical Controllers were partially overcome in the past by cross training personnel of a surplus MOS, at that time MOS 72B were surplus and at the present time are critically short, requiring their return to communications center operations. A forecast of fill action on personnel requisition will allow selection of personnel of surplus MOS to be cross trained in shortage fields with a better possibility of long time retention in their cross trained field.

#### 2. OPERATIONS:

##### TAPE RELAY

That all units using the AN/FGC-70A teletype set, construct a shelf arrangement on the transmitter bank for a more firm and easy to use writing surface for the DA 11-118 logs.

##### METHODS AND RESULTS

Recommend all DCS Major Relay Stations as well as Tributary Stations utilize traffic charts to provide themselves as well as visitors with statistical information on trends in traffic volume and handling.

Recommend the procedure for comparison of traffic sent and received be adopted among relay stations to further insure continuity of traffic and provide accurate statistical data to the next higher headquarters.

##### FACILITIES

Further study upon AUTODIN activation.

The AN/FGC-69 be modified with switch key in order to be able to use keyboard on any of the 3 circuits connected to the AN/FGC-69.

The AN/TRC-29, with 45 channel capability, be kept in service and utilized to the utmost.

#### 3. TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION:

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10 May 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,  
from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)(W14SAA)

TROOP COMMAND

Where limited space causes restricted passage through billets and where shift workers are required to live in over-crowded conditions, the use of simple partitions should be considered as a solution.

TRAINING

It is recommended that all units where personnel are required to work shifts, schedule training classes twice on the same day at times that coincide with the shift changes.

4. INTELLIGENCE: None.
5. LOGISTICS: None.
6. OTHER: None.



JAMES W. ALLSPAW

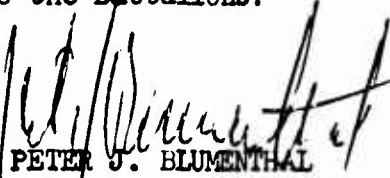
LTC, SigC  
Commanding

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SCCVRG-PO-PL (10 May 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968  
(RCS CSFOR-65) (W14RAA)

Headquarters, USA Regional Communications Group (Vietnam), APO 96243

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D.C. 20310  
Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384

1. Concur with basic correspondence.
2. Reference Section II, Part I, Para 1, this report. No forecast of replacements is available to this headquarters from 1st Signal Brigade so no such forecast can be provided to the Battalions.

  
PETER J. BLUMENTHAL  
Colonel, SigC  
Commanding

SCCPV-OP-CR (10 May 68) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of Headquarters, USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang  
(RCS CSFOR-65) (W14SAA)

DA, HQ, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM) APO SF 96384 13 JUN 1968

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVSEC-DSF,  
APO 96375

1. Subject report is forwarded in compliance with USARV Regulation 525-15.
2. Report was not prepared according to the prescribed format.
3. Concur in the Commander's Observations and Recommendations as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Item: Critical MOS Shortage, Section I, para.2, p.1. MOS 720 and 320 continue to be a critical shortage Army-wide.

b. Item: Forecast of Fill on Personnel Requisition, Section II, Part I, para.1, p.4(Recommendation, p.8). Fill and kill information is not a basis for justification for submission of an emergency requisition. Copies of fill and kill information, if received in sufficient numbers, are forwarded to the Brigade Signal Groups who then forward copies to subordinate units. However, it is often the case that insufficient or no copies at all are received.

c. Item: AN/FGC-70K Teletype Shelf Arrangement, Section II, Part I, para.2, p.4 (Recommendation, p.8). The building of shelves would be at the discretion of the installation OIC as need may dictate and resources are available.

d. Item: Traffic Charts, Section II, Part I, para.2, p.5(Recommendation p.8). Statistical charts include information which is presently required to be reported. Drawing up the charts would also require little endeavor.

e. Item: Installation of an Additional Teletype AN/FGC-69, Section II, Part I, para.2, p.5(Recommendation, p.8). The AN/FGC-69 currently has an NMO to provide the capability to switch the keyboard to any one of the three circuits to which it is connected.

f. Item: Billet Improvement, Section II, Part I, para.2, p.7 (Recommendation, p.9). Although self-help improvements and new

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13 JUN 1968

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construction are generally encouraged, such work must be approved and materials authorized in the same manner that any construction is approved.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



MERRILL H. SMITH

LTC, GS

Acting Chief of Staff

Copy furnished:

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

AVHGC-DST (10 May 68) 3d Ind CPT Arnold/hga/LBN 4485  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1968,  
from Headquarters USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang (RCS CSFOR-65)  
(WLSAA)

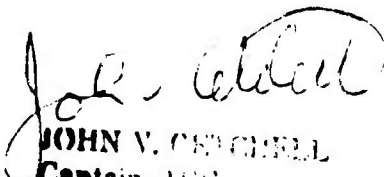
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 18 JUN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned  
for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1968 from Headquarters, USASTRATCOM  
Facility Da Nang.

2. Concur with report as submitted.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
**JOHN V. CAMPBELL**  
Captain, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

Copy furnished:  
HQ, 1st Sig Bde(USASTRATCOM)  
HQ, USASTRATCOM FAC Da Nang

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GPOP-DT (10 May 68) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, USASTRATCOM Facility Da Nang for  
Period Ending 30 April 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 29 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:



C.L. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

## DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R &amp; D

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