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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (4 Oct 68) FOR OT RD 683215

8 October 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 41st  
Civil Affairs Company, Period Ending 31 July 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

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2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure that the Army realizes current benefits from lessons learned during recent operations.
3. To insure that the information provided through the Lessons Learned Program is readily available on a continuous basis, a cumulative Lessons Learned Index containing alphabetical listings of items appearing in the reports is compiled and distributed periodically. Recipients of the attached report are encouraged to recommend items from it for inclusion in the Index by completing and returning the self-addressed form provided at the end of this report.

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KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
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AD 842099

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS 41ST CIVIL AFFAIRS COMPANY  
APO 96350

AVFA-CA

9 August 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Civil Affairs Company for Period  
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

Commanding General  
I Field Force Vietnam  
ATTN: AVFA-GC-OT  
APO 96350

1. SECTION 1, OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

a. GENERAL:

During the period 1 May 1968 to 31 July 1968 the 41st Civil Affairs Company implemented civic action projects and provided refugee assistance in II Corps Tactical Zone (CTZ). Deployment of the 16 platoons was as follows: Platoons 3, 5, 10 and 16 were attached to the 29th Civil Affairs Company in ICTZ; Platoon 8 was attached to the 4th Infantry Division at Pleiku. The remaining platoons were under operational control (OPCON) of the 41st Civil Affairs Company in II CTZ. These 11 platoons are divided into two provisional detachments. Detachment W provides intermediate supervision for platoons 9 and 15 in Pleiku province, platoons 6, 11, 13 and 14 in Binh Dinh province, and Platoon 1 in Phu Yen province. Detachment J provides supervision for platoons 4, 7 and 12 in Binh Thuan province and Platoon 2 in Darlac province. Platoons under OPCON of 41st Civil Affairs Company are employed in the area concept. Provisional teams established in Khanh Hoa province and Con Ranh were directed to assist with the refugee situation and the Revolutionary Development program (RD) in these areas and to make preparations for the deployment of full strength platoons to these areas at a later date. A re-evaluation of civil affairs requirements in Binh Dinh province resulted in the decision to move Platoon 6 from An Khe to Tam Quan. An advance party from Platoon 6 moved to Tam Quan in July leaving a detachment behind to phase out activities in An Tuc district.

The 41st Civil Affairs Company, formerly a USARV unit, became assigned to I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM by authority of USARV GO #3434, para 1 effective 9 July 1968.

FOR OT RD  
683215

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b. INTELLIGENCE:

Information on enemy activity is gleaned from voluntary reports made by the Vietnamese civilians in the various platoon areas of operation (AO) throughout II CTZ. This voluntary reporting is the result of rapport established with the people through such programs as the Medical Civil Action Program (MEDCAP) and Psychological Warfare Programs (PSYWAR/PSYOPS). Information is processed through normal intelligence channels.

A considerable increase of intelligence reporting has taken place in the Montagnard Resettlement Area at Edap Enang. Viet Cong propaganda teams have been entering the area almost at will for several months; however, an extremely active PSYOPS program has prompted the villagers to report the presence of these teams. Prompt action by the National Police Force, the local Popular Force Commander and MACV Subsector has resulted in the apprehension of several suspects and the use of H & I fire on reported rally points has denied cover to them.

During May over 700 Montagnards entered the Resettlement Area at An Khe. Many of these people had inhabited the Resettlement Area previously but had left either of their own accord or were kidnapped by the Viet Cong. There was a conspicuous absence of young men in the group. When questioned about why they had chosen to return, the answers most frequently given were: (1) They had not wanted to leave but had been forced to by the Viet Cong and had escaped and returned when the opportunity arose. (2) Those that voluntarily left found the demands of the Viet Cong too harsh; eg, the necessity of having to move frequently to avoid American and allied forces. The Viet Cong suffered a serious loss because these people had served as laborers, sources of food, and guides for the VC, and because these people held a vast knowledge of the Viet Cong movements, base camps and other tactical information. The return of these people is an example of the success of the pacification plan in An Tuc district.

In Phu Yen Province during April, information provided by a village chief resulted in tactical operations which all but destroyed three hamlets. Reconstruction began almost immediately but the most remote of the three, My Hoa, has been hindered by the continuance of VC activity. The hamlet chief continues to supply information on VC visits to the hamlet and this is relayed to the District Chief and Province S-2.

c. OPERATIONS:

(1) During the previous quarter most of the 41st Civil Affairs Company's platoons were involved almost exclusively in refugee relief.

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This came as a result of the massive refugee problem created by the enemy's Tet Offensive. This quarter brought the beginning of a gradual shift back to emphasis on the Revolutionary Development Program. Refugee assistance is still required but not to the degree previously encountered. The number of man-days committed to distribution of food, water and other basic necessities has been cut to a much lower level due to increased self sufficiency of the people, and through the rapid re-establishment of GVN supply lines. Many of those people displaced as a result of tactical operations have returned to their own homes and in other instances vigorous reconstruction programs implemented by the GVN have rebuilt entire villages and assisted the people in becoming re-established. An increased desire by the people to help themselves rather than have someone else do it for them has been evident throughout II CTZ.

## 2. PLATOON #1 TUY HOA/PHU YEN

In April, the hamlets of My Hoa (CQ 107438), My Thanh (CQ 110425), and Phu Loc (CQ 108415) were destroyed by heavy fighting between ROK, ARVN and two Viet Cong battalions. In planning for the reconstruction of these hamlets, Platoon 1 was placed under the control of the Tuy Hoa district advisor, Maj Wiemer, who had asked for assistance. The ROK, GVN, US Air Force and Army units were asked to assist with all means available. Platoon 1 acted as coordinator for all the military units involved obtaining men and equipment from the 577 Engr Bn at Phu Hiep, the Red Horse Bn at Tuy Hoa AFB and the 173d Light Maintenance Co. An EOD team cleared the area of hazards such as dud rounds and bombs while Boy Scouts and other youth groups participated in clean up operations in the hamlets. Shortages of cement and roofing material slowed construction somewhat. Security conditions at My Hoa, the most isolated of the three villages have hampered reconstruction there. A Vietnamese Civic Action team from the 22nd ARVN Div at Pleiku arrived in Tuy Hoa on 6 June and began working with district officials and Platoon 1. The ARVN team consists of a Team Chief, 2LT Minh, 2 medics, 2 PSYOPS and 2 construction specialists. They have been doing an outstanding job of helping the elderly and infirm people to rebuild their homes. Platoon 1 was also given the responsibility for rebuilding schools in Phu Loc and My Hoa. These projects have progressed well and should be completed in early August.

In May, Platoon 1 turned over the responsibility for the Dong Tac dispensary to the Tuy Hoa Air Force Base. It has a permanent staff of four health workers and the Air Force provides a doctor twice a week. The platoon is performing MEDCAPS on Hon Chua Island in conjunction with the Vietnamese Navy Junk Force who provides transportation and a medic. Platoon 1 has also increased its medical assistance to the refugee center with the aid of SFC Prado, a MATS team medic.

3. PLATOON #2 BAN ME THUOT/DAN LAC

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Platoon 2 at Ban Me Thuot reports that there have been several encouraging incidents which show increased interest and cooperation between various agencies and people in the area. Despite obstacles such as a six-inch water table and torrents of rain at inopportune times, a spillway at Buon Enao (AQ 853053) was completed. The terrific desire of the villagers to improve their water supply kept the project going and their willingness to work unusually long, arduous hours made the difference between success and failure. Another benefit from this project is that the village chief has become aware of the channels available to him for improving his village. Instead of asking the team to build a badly needed school for his village, he asked for instructions in processing his application through GVN channels to obtain the school and teacher he needs. Platoon 2 also received a request for aid from the people of Buon Ko Tam (AQ 883052) in the construction of an addition to an existing spillway which is no longer effective due to erosion around the sides. The villagers proposal was that they provide money (200 \$VN per family) and the labor while the platoon provides engineering advice and technical assistance.

Platoon 2 has also participated in several cordon and search missions in the area. During such missions sick calls are held and the village officials are asked about civic action needs. The platoon recently accompanied several members of the district staff along with PSYOPS and Culture Squad representatives on a visit to Buon Ko M'Leo (AP 830000). This Montagnard hamlet had been considered inaccessible until recently and the show of interest by the GVN had a marked influence on the populace. Platoon 2's medic became involved in a survey for improvement of the sanitation problems of Ban Me Thuot. After spending several weeks on this project, SP 5 Hatch came up with a solution to relieve the inadequate sanitation program for the 60,000 inhabitants of the city. Lack of vehicles and other such equipment to pick up the garbage has prevented implementation of this plan.

4. PLATOON #4 SONG MAO/BINH THUAN

A renewal of VC activity in the Song Mao area disrupted Platoon 4's activities during this quarter. Because of personnel shortages at the Song Mao Advisory Team, the CA platoon served as a combat service support element for the advisors, maintaining the compound and providing logistical support. The MEDCAP team set up shop in the Phan Ly Cham district dispensary and assisted in the treatment and evacuation of military and civilian casualties. Refugee problems had been anticipated in Xuan Hoi and Phan Ri Cua, however, property damage was light and the few refugees were able to find shelter with relatives and friends in neighboring hamlets. Following clearing operations, MEDCAPS were held in areas where the fighting had been hardest by the CA platoon, local medics and the VIS.

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Working with Mr John Lewallen, IVS, Platoon 4 has been providing technical assistance and transportation for the construction of an addition to the Phan Ly Chan high school. Most of the work is being done by the youth of the area as a part of the Student Summer Employment Plan initiated by Mr Lewallen. The plan is also being supported by CPT Vang, District Chief, and Mr Dang Tinh, Phan Ly Chan high school principal. Through this program a sense of community development and community pride can be instilled in the future adults of RVN. The students are excellent workers and are eager to learn new construction methods and the project has progressed well, being hampered only by the onset of the monsoon.

There has been a great increase in the activity of the local RD Cadre team whose attitude in the past has been one of apathy. The RD team and Platoon 4 met with the hamlet chiefs of Tinh Trinh (BN 283448), Quang Long (BN 283446) and Xuan Lai (BN 283444) to discuss a joint drainage project. The project was begun with the RD Cadre providing supervision, Platoon 4 providing technical advice, and self-help from the people. The enthusiasm of the RD team, the district chief and the villagers appears to grow each day and in addition to the original three hamlets involved, the whole city of Song Mao is responding to the program.

The Viet Cong have repeatedly sabotaged the pipeline which supplies water to Song Mao. After several weeks of this continual harassment it has been decided to move the pipeline and relay it through a more secure area.

The Commanding Officer of the 44th ARVN Regt, a recent arrival in Song Mao, has expressed interest in an energetic Civil Affairs Program and has requested the assistance of Platoon 4 in coordinating and establishing a beneficial CA program with his S-5 and the Regimental Surgeon.

#### 5. PLATOON #6 AN KHE/BINH DINH

During May there was an influx of over 700 Montagnards into the Resettlement Area near An Khe. Platoon 6, MACV, CORDS and the Vietnamese officials of An Tuc District pooled their resources and coordinated their efforts to convince these people that the GVN is concerned with their welfare. Many of these Montagnards had once inhabited the Resettlement Area but had left either of their own accord or were kidnapped by the Viet Cong. The return of these refugees is an example of the success of the pacification program in An Tuc District. Immediate assistance was given the returnees in the form of temporary shelters, MEDCAPS, and the distribution of food and clothing. The 86th Engineer Bn provided a bulldozer to clear land and improve roads in the Resettlement Area. This greatly assisted in resettling the

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750 Montagnards who arrived in April and May by allowing them to devote all their time to constructing their homes and prevented their having to clear land to plant their crops. Platoon 6 has assisted the people in gathering materials with which to build homes by providing transportation to areas where they can obtain bamboo. The platoon provided transportation for the people of Kuk Dak to return to their former village to harvest their crops. Although the VC threatened to burn their homes if they did not return to the highlands, the Montagnards appear eager to make the Resettlement Area their home and have confidence in the ability of the American and Vietnamese military forces to protect them. The Vietnamese Cadre are doing an outstanding job in assisting these people.

The VIS Agency of An Tuc District with the assistance of Platoon 6 has broadened its activities and has become one of the most active departments in the district. It is now publishing a weekly newspaper which is distributed at no cost to every village; however, distribution is still not high enough to fill the needs of the area.

Platoon 6 completed a civic action survey of An Tuc District. The survey had a two-fold purpose: (1) An assessment of the district, and (2) during the survey, assist the various departments in every way possible by monitoring requests and deciding what key programs are necessary to give the district a "new face" and make a showplace for other districts to imitate.

#### 6. PLATOON #7 PHAN THIET/BINH THUAN

Many of the people around Phan Thiet are still reluctant to start CA programs because of the threat of VC retaliation, however, the active MEDCAP/PSYOPS Program conducted by Platoon 7 along with Vietnamese PSYOPS teams, representatives from 8th PSYOPS Bn, and the CA team from S-5-3/506th, 101st Abn appears to boost these people's confidence and it is hoped that the continuation of this program will facilitate initiating new civic action programs. This group has conducted operations in insecure areas around Thien Giao district. The district chief, CPT Bn, provided them with quarters and security for their operations. The CA teams held sick calls and distributed soap, candy and clothing while the PSYOPS representatives showed movies, distributed leaflets and played tape recordings. The VIS team made broadcasts and distributed newspapers. As a result of these operations the district chief has met with the various village and hamlet leaders to find out what they need and want.

The platoon has also helped to set up cottage industries for the Montagnards at Song Trao Refugee Camp. The Montagnards produce artifacts for sale and Platoon 7 arranges for the sale of them. The profit

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from sales goes into a village improvement fund that is used to finance projects that will benefit the whole village.

Platoon 7 has also implemented an extensive transportation improvement program through the construction and repair of bridges and culverts in their AO. These projects have many beneficial results; eg, they are excellent vehicles for teaching the people new construction methods and how to organize themselves into an efficient force, they have a marked effect on the economy of the area, and they add to the security of the area by providing quick access by wheeled vehicles. The Viet Cong have sabotaged many of these bridges and culverts, and which indicates that they realize the effect these projects have on the people and the restrictions they place on subversive activities.

Platoon 7's work with RD Cadre Team 4 in the Phu Long Area (AN 884138) has caused RD Cadre Team 14 in the same general area to become more conscientious about working on their projects. When Platoon 7 started well improvement projects in the area, RD Team 14's leader carried them on a tour through his area. He showed Platoon 7 eleven wells which he plans to improve by building aprons, replacing well rings, patching cracks and building drainage systems to prevent dirty water from trickling back into the wells. The RD teams appear to have established rapport with the people in the area which should lead to a successful program. There seems to be a spirit of competition between the two RD teams, so Platoon 7 is careful not to favor one over the other.

#### 7. PLATOON #9 EDAP ENANG/PLEIKU

Over 1000 Montagnards were brought into Edap Enang Resettlement Center (EERC) during May as a result of tactical operations. Medical support was provided by the 4th Infantry Division and over 1500 immunizations were given the incoming people. Rice and soap were distributed to the refugees and the Truong Son Cadre assisted them in building new homes. Due to the weak security of EERC Viet Cong propaganda teams entered the area several times warning the Montagnards to flee the area. Several of these teams were apprehended but not before they had frightened a large number of the Montagnards into leaving.

On 7 June a villager from Plei Tong (YA 895278) reported that 30 VC were in the village harassing the people and trying to get food. Prior to this date these people had expressed a desire to move to Edap Enang, however, GVN took no immediate action on their request. After this visit by the Viet Cong they started moving into the Resettlement Center by lambretta, motor bike, on foot, and any other means of transportation they could find. Captured rice was given to these refugees as well as surplus rations from Co A, 20th Engr Bn and C

Battery 3/6 Arty to sustain them until they became settled. A small task force was organized to return to these people the property they had left behind in their old homes. Platoon 9, 584th Engr Co, 3/6 Arty, and Co C, 20th Engr Bn joined forces to provide transportation for the villagers and their belongings. Security was provided by ARVN troops, 2/8 Inf, and the local PF unit. The move resulted in a highly successful operation which showed coordination and cooperation, well planned and executed by all agencies concerned.

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Platoon 9 is teaching the Montagnards improved agricultural methods in an effort to help them become self sufficient. Demonstration gardens have been planted and agriculture classes are taught by Province Agriculture representatives. The pig project has been turned over entirely to the Montagnards. In July, three litters were farrowed - the first productive results from the American pigs brought in during November 1967. Other agricultural development is expected to result from the funds which have been provided to purchase manioc and potatoes for planting. CPT Siu Ju, local PF Commander, had representatives from each of the 27 villages begin clearing land for the new plants.

Platoon 9 reports that one of the problems at EERC is the lack of an official administrator - a man who would be in a position to recognize the legitimate needs of the people and have the authority to employ the different service bureau representatives to solve the problems. At the present time these representatives are not responsible to anyone at EERC; therefore, they work toward satisfying requirements imposed by their superiors at Thanh An or Floiku who may not know the situation is at EERC at any given time.

#### 8. PLATOON #11 PHU MY/BINH DINH

Platoon 11's transportation improvement program continued throughout this quarter despite poor security conditions around Phu My. One of the most rewarding accomplishments was the opening of route FM 86 through a concerted effort by the people of Phuoc Tho (BR 869682), Phu My district officials and Platoon 11. Phuoc Tho, which previously could be reached only on foot or bicycle, now has a road that can easily sustain traffic by 1 ton trucks and which can be further developed to accommodate 2½ ton vehicles. On 22 June, 540 bags of cement were delivered to the hamlet - the first time such delivery could be made by an engine powered vehicle other than a motorcycle. The success of the project can be attributed to the people of Phuoc Tho. The Vietnamese were entrusted with tools, equipment, and materials and often worked without American supervision. District officials requested that Platoon 11 give technical assistance but the platoon was careful to insure that the project remained a Vietnamese project. The villagers gained great satisfaction from the job they did and they can be justly proud of their accomplishment.

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The villagers of Trung Thanh hamlet are constructing a concrete bridge (BR 912663) which was originally planned as a part of the RD Cadre Program for Phu My District, but approval and materials came after the bulk of the RD Cadre had moved on to another hamlet. Platoon 11 was assisting in the construction of a culvert about 300 meters from the bridge when they were approached by a group of villagers and asked to visit the bridge site. The villagers asked for advice and instructions in proper construction methods. The platoon spent three hours at the bridge site that day instructing and advising the villagers who were most receptive to their suggestions. They indicated they would appreciate continued assistance during the construction of the bridge, and the platoon now makes daily visits to the bridge site to monitor progress and offer assistance.

The hamlet of Tra Binh (BR 896646) is constructing a road which will provide lanbretta access to the hamlet and their rice fields. Platoon 11 has been careful to limit their involvement other than advice in order to keep this a Vietnamese project and therefore develop their self confidence in their own ability.

This emphasis on self-help has developed an increased sense of community spirit in every instance and the use of GVN channels has linked this with an increased faith in the ability and desire of the government to look after the needs of the people.

#### 9. PLATOON #12 HAM THUAN/BINH THUAN

Platoon 12, moved its base of operations from Phan Thiet to Ham Thuan district headquarters and will now concentrate its efforts around Ham Thuan. Meetings were held with the Senior District Advisor and the District Chief, CPT Lam, to determine Civil Affairs requirements for the area. A list of projects were drawn up by the village and hamlet leaders of the area and priorities were placed according to merit and the capabilities of the platoon.

The platoon began assisting the villagers at Ap Van Lam in planning and constructing a water filtration system. The project involved GVN officials from province to district level as well as ARVN and the civilian populace. The project has been almost completed and there has been no loss of enthusiasm on the part of the villagers. All that remains toward completing the system is the purchase and installation of a water pump and pipe.

The team is also working on the road and abutment approaches to a bridge at Muong Man (AN 735135). Cooperation among the people has been good and the project has progressed well despite VC harassment although some engineer equipment will be needed to complete the project.

The Viet Cong booby-trapped the stock of materials left on the site but the villagers spotted the 105 MM shell and warned the platoon.

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The platoon was requested to furnish assistance in helping relocate two hamlets, Dai Hoa and Xuan Phong, which were destroyed during the Tet Offensive. The GVN wished to consolidate each hamlet in an area that could be made secure without taxing the military sources too severely, and make it safe for the people to live close to their lands. An RD Cadre unit, PF/RF unit and American engineer unit are assisting in the project along with Platoon 12. The Viet Cong have made small probing attacks and placed booby traps in the area in an attempt to defeat the project but work continues.

The villagers of Phu Lan asked Platoon 12's assistance in transporting concrete rings to their new well. The platoon agreed to do so but explained that a truck could also be obtained through Vietnamese channels and how to go about requesting it. The next morning when the platoon returned to offer assistance they found that the village chief had already obtained a truck through GVN channels and had already hauled the rings.

The district VIS representative was contacted and asked about the possibility of forming a local newspaper. It was discovered that the VIS had just started a district paper so the platoon offered to assist in distributing the papers through the MEDCAP program.

The platoon also contacted the District Chief and Province Medical Advisor for assistance in starting a health and sanitation program for the youth in the province. Once these young people are trained, Platoon 12 will transport them to various villages where they can teach the local people proper health and sanitation practices.

#### PLATOON 13 BONG SON/BINH DINH

For several months Platoon 13 has been working in two separate areas. Part of the platoon concentrated its efforts around Bong Son while another part worked in Tan Quan, approximately 10 miles north of Bong Son. The movement of Platoon 6 to Tan Quan in July relieved Platoon 13 of its responsibilities there and freed it to concentrate all its efforts around Bong Son.

The Tan Quan market place was completed under the supervision of Platoon 13. The people built the market themselves and they now realize what can be accomplished through their own endeavors. The energetic efforts of Mr. Hop, RD Cadre, has shown them that their government is willing to help.

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The 176 housing units at Trung Luong Refugee Camp (BR 848945) were completed and work began on a series of wells to provide water for the camp.

The platoon reports that the refugee camps in the area are in lamentable condition. Sanitation, housing conditions, food and water supply, available employment, and schooling are areas that need major improvement. The four refugee camps around Bong Son are: (1) Trung Luong (BR 848945) where it has taken over a year for improvement of 176 housing units yet leaving 124 units deteriorating, two wells for 2226 people, no school, no market, and no major employment; (2) Phu Duc (BR 858949) where 300 housing units are falling apart, only one well for drinking water exists for 3000 people, and where a noxious drainage from six damaged wells breeds pestiferous insects; (3) San Van Dong (Soccer Field) (BR 864961) where wall-less housing has been vacated, where eight wells need repair but none are suitable for drinking water, poor drainage, no workable latrines, and a school on which construction has stopped; and (4) the Catholic Refugee Camp (BR 869964) where local District Vietnamese and American officials will not offer assistance to complete a school due to the camp's religious connections. All camps receive limited medical assistance, a questionable food distribution system, no or non-working latrines, no major employment, and little or no recreational facilities.

There are 600 refugee housing units projected for the village of Tan Quan (BS 896084). Unfortunately, delay upon delay has stalled the initial construction of the housing. Three hundred units have been stalled for over a year as materials rest in Qui Nhon. CORDS officials have held up the delivery of cement and tin to Tan Quan citing lack of security as the reason for non-delivery.

Platoon 13 has begun supervising the construction of the doctors' quarters at the Bong Son Hospital. Previously CD labor had been used and organization of the work force was poor, resulting in confusion and slow construction. The New Zealand doctors hired a Vietnamese foreman and labor was changed from CD to daily hire with workers hired from the local refugee camps at 100 \$VN per day and the noon meal provided. The refugees are anxious to work and are doing a fine job at a much faster pace. This project is providing on-the-job training in the construction field to refugees who normally have difficulty in finding employment.

#### PLATOON #14 QUI NHON/BI NH DINH

Platoon 14, assisted by LT Murray, agriculture specialist from Platoon 13, worked with the people of Luc Le Hamlet (CR 013343) in developing an irrigation program. The farmers of Luc Le have been able to grow only one crop per year because of the difficulty of

getting water to their land during the dry season. Platoon 14 together with CORDS and Save The Children Federation organized a farmers' cooperative in the hamlet to develop the project. CORDS furnished funds to buy two pumps and Save The Children Federation provided an interest free loan to purchase the remaining two pumps. The loan is to be paid back over a three year period. There are over 500 acres of land requiring water, and once these pumps are operational the farmers will be able to double their rice output each year.

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The people of Tuy Phuoc district in conjunction with the 84th Engineer Bn began planning an eight room high school. At a meeting between the village chief and the 84th Engineer Bn the engineers offered to furnish all the necessary materials for the high school. The first meeting also brought about the formation of an Education Council in Tuy Phuoc whose job is to raise money and pay labor to build the school, and to make recommendations to the district chief concerning the school. This project will not only provide a much needed high school but has activated the community interest of the citizens and local government of Tuy Phuoc through the Education Committee.

Platoon 14 assisted district and local officials in planning for the construction and repair of roads and dikes in an area northwest of Tuy Phuoc that recently received considerable damage from tactical operations by allied forces. The repair of three major bridges as self-help projects by the local people and the rebuilding of another by the engineers of the 22nd ARVN Div has put the program into action. The 84th Engineer Bn has been given the mission of rebuilding two other important bridges while local villagers are repairing a dike and seawall system that will keep the salt water off their fields. The villagers are also working on two minor roads and several culverts. They have responded quickly and have demonstrated a great desire to rebuild their war damaged area doing most of the planning and actual work themselves.

Platoon 14 has also been working with the engineer unit from the 22nd ARVN Div at Dai Loc hamlet. A new market (BR 999334) was recently completed and now plans have been made for a new building which will house the hamlet headquarters, a VIS reading room, and a dispensary. Materials will be furnished by the ARVN engineers with Platoon 14's assistance and the people will provide the labor.

#### PLATOON #15 PLEIKU CITY

Platoon 15 at Pleiku has been working closely with the 20th Political Warfare Co, 20th PSYOPS Bn (ARVN). The platoon accompanied personnel from the 20th POLWAR Co to Tra Ba II, a refugee area on the outskirts of Pleiku City, to distribute such items as household goods and clothing to the 618 families located there. Representatives from

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the 20th POLWAR Co. told village officials that they, in cooperation with Platoon 15, wished to work with the people to relieve some of the hardships brought about by the Tet Offensive. A MEDCAP was held and the utensils and clothing were distributed through the village chiefs. It was decided that a regular MEDCAP program was needed in the area so a MEDCAP team consisting of Platoon 15's interpreter, a doctor from the POLWAR Company, and a PSYOPS team with sound trucks will visit the villages in the area regularly.

A combined RVN/CA Platoon 15 MEDCAP visited the village of Floi Jut and during the MEDCAP, Dr Trinh of the 20th POLWAR Co diagnosed four cases of plague. Questioning the people revealed that one person had recently died of plague, so plans were made immediately to immunize the villagers and dust the area with DDT powder. Plague serum and dusting machines were provided by the Air Force 633rd CSG dispensary and the 210th Preventive Medicine Detachment. DDT dust, disposable needles and streptomycin sulfate was provided from Pleiku Province hospital. Platoon 15, Dr Trinh and members of the 20th POLWAR Co returned to Floi Jut the next day with sound trucks and Preventive Medicine personnel from Province hospital. Injections were administered and the people were taught how to use the dusting machines. Follow-up MEDCAPS showed 3 recoveries and 1 death from the original cases and only one new case.

Platoon 15 began building a fence along approximately 100 meters of frontage on QL 14 in front of the Montagnard village of Floi Ngo. For several months this area has been used as a trash dump by both Vietnamese and US forces. It is not an authorized dump and no provisions were made for burning or burying the trash. This has created a serious health hazard, a public eyesore and a breeding ground for insects and rodents. At first the project was met with misgivings by the people who had been salvaging scrap iron and wood from the dump. The platoon used two selling points to change their minds. First, the platoon pointed out during their regular MEDCAPS that some of the infections and illnesses could have come from the dump. Second, they pointed out the swarms of flies and other insects in the area. The villagers were eager to do anything to cut down the number of flies and mosquitoes, so they enthusiastically contributed labor to build the fence. Since the fence and signs have been put up there has been no evidence of dumping, so it appears that the project was successful.

d. TRAINING:

(1) During the months of May, June and July, a total of 14 officers attended the MILCORDS Orientation Course. This course is held monthly and has proved to be of definite value to personnel who were not civil affairs trained prior to their arrival in RVN.

(2) In order to provide familiarization with individual weapons, and to meet training requirements, headquarters personnel fired a weapons familiarization course on 8 July 1968. The course consisted of battle-sight zeroing and familiarization firing. In the future this training will be conducted in accordance with the Combined Firing Range Program under the supervision of Headquarters Company, IFFORCEV.

(3) A Civil Affairs/Civic Action Conference was held 27-29 June 1968 for the benefit of the 41st Civil Affairs Company's Platoon Leaders. All platoons were represented with the exception of those attached to the 29th Civil Affairs Company in I CTZ. The conference was held in the CORDS Conference Room, MCGV Compound in Nha Trang. The Conference was divided into three main categories: (1) Summary of platoon activities, (2) Topical presentations of particular interest to Platoon Leaders, and (3) Company Business and a Seminar. Representatives from CORDS, PSYOPS, and RD Cadre discussed their agencies and proposed ways in which civil affairs and their activities could complement each other. The platoon leaders discussed their platoon activities and discussion groups were formed to find solutions to common problems. This was the second such conference and the results have been outstanding. The platoon leaders returned to their platoons each time with increased enthusiasm which was reflected by their work in the field.

(4) A total of eleven (11) Information Bulletins were published during the reporting period. These were of two types: one type contained general and command information such as plaster expenditure, educational opportunities, character guidance and new or revised regulations and orders; the other type presented articles written by company personnel concerning subjects of extreme importance or special interest.

e. PSYWAR:

Increased coordination between this unit and the 8th PSYOPS Bn, Vietnamese Information Service (VIS), 20th ARVN POLWAR Bn, Armed Propaganda Teams (APT) and local PSYWAR advisors resulted in a much more effective program with additional benefits accruing to all agencies participating during this period. The Vietnamese agencies in particular appear to be broadening their scope of activities. Many of these have been able to do so because of the assistance rendered by the CA platoons.

Mr Joel Fishman, PSYOPS and JUSPAC advisor to Phu Yen Province, has provided VIS personnel to broadcast prior to Platoon 1's MEDCAPS and play tape recordings while the MEDCAP is conducted. Armed Propaganda Teams also accompany the platoon on MEDCAPS and circulate throughout the hamlets. Platoon 1 has been informed that the Van The Vu (Cultural

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Affairs Cadre), which had been an asset to the platoon in the past, had been drafted out of existence and that it will be three to six months before new personnel can be trained.

During the absence of the Darlac S-5 advisor in June, the chief of Platoon 2 carried out the duties of the S-5/PSYWAR advisor. The duties included compilation of the Hamlet Evaluation Survey, acting as sector culture squad coordinator, and pre-planned PSYWAR pamphlet drops. Platoon 2 accompanied several members of the district staff along with culture squad and PSYOPS representatives to Buon Ko L'Leo (LP 830000), a Montagnard hamlet previously considered inaccessible.

Platoon 4 has continued to use their MEDCAP program as a vehicle for distributing PSYOPS leaflets. They are normally accompanied by VIS representatives who distribute handbills and make loudspeaker announcements. On those occasions that the VIS do not accompany them, Platoon 4 distributes copies of the Vietnamese newspaper MIEN NAM TU DO. There has been a marked increase in voluntary information about enemy activity, especially in the Cham areas, during these MEDCAPS.

At An Khe the Chieu Hoi Team addressed the Montagnards who recently returned to the Resettlement Area. Platoon 6 participated in a PSYOPS mission directed toward the 25,000 Bahnar Montagnards inhabiting the highlands of the district and coordinated with 8th PSYOPS Bn in a leaflet drop and loudspeaker flight over the areas they inhabit. The platoon at the request of Mr Ya, VIS Chief, arranged for Chieu Hoi leaflets to be dropped in areas where enemy activity had been spotted. Mr Van, Chief of Montagnard Affairs, spoke to the people from the aircraft. This method proved to be very effective during April and is believed to be one of the reasons for the return of Montagnards to the Resettlement Area in May.

Most of Platoon 7's activities have been coordinated with PSYOPS. They have participated in several task force, or "County Fair" type missions visiting areas which have been considered insecure since Tet. Platoon 7 holds a MEDCAP and discusses CA needs with the hamlet officials while the PSYWAR teams convince the people of GVN interest in their welfare.

At Edap Enang, Platoon 9 has received assistance from Co B, 8th PSYOPS Bn. LT Kuehn and his PSYOPS team have showed movies and played tape recordings, including recordings of Jarai Music to the Montagnards at the Resettlement Center. These have been very popular and draw huge crowds. The MEDCAP/PSYOPS Operation has been a great asset to the platoon in establishing rapport with new Montagnard arrivals in the area.

Platoon 13 has coordinated with a detachment from 8th PSYOPS Bn for joint operations. Movies were shown in various locations throughout the district with great success, and PSYOPS literature was distributed during the movies. The villagers asked for additional showings on different days so all the people can participate. At Dien Khanh (BR 878902) the movies were shown in the local dispensary which holds 150 people. This hamlet dispensary serves as an ideal meeting place for the community and the varied uses of the building have drawn the people closer together and increased their pride in their hamlet.

f. LOGISTICS:

(1) Supply:

Supply support was furnished by 148 S&S Co, APO 96350. Maintenance was furnished by the 129th Maintenance Co, APO 96350.

(2) Civilian Supply:

Since CASE closed its Nha Trang office and stopped supplying the various kits, it has been virtually impossible to obtain these kits. They are supposed to be available through COMUSMACV channels but none have been supplied through them so far. In fact COMUSMACV has requested them from this unit on occasion.

With increased emphasis on the use of GVN Channels, and the increasing efficiency of these channels it has become unnecessary for Civilian Supply to obtain such items as cement, tin and lumber. Further development of the Vietnamese logistical system should eliminate a need for this function.

g. PERSONNEL: ←

(1) Although the drain on the officer strength of this unit through levies has slackened somewhat, coupled with normal rotation, leaves and R&R it has limited the ability of many platoons and is further creating a situation in which it will shortly be necessary to place inexperienced personnel in leadership positions:

(2) Authorized Strength: 140

Average Strength for: May 1968 - 117  
 Jun 1968 - 111  
 Jul 1968 - 107

## (3) Casualties

May		Jun		Jul	
KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA	KIA	WIA
0	1	0	0	0	2

## (4) Promotions:

<u>CPT</u>	<u>1LT</u>	<u>E-7</u>	<u>E-6</u>	<u>E-5</u>	<u>E-4</u>	<u>E-3</u>
2	8	1	1	6	3	3

## (5) Awards and Decorations:

<u>BSM</u>	<u>ARCOM</u>	<u>PH</u>	<u>CHIEF OF ACHIEVEMENT</u>
6	13	3	3

## 2. SECTION II, LESSONS LEARNED: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

## a. PERSONNEL:

NONE.

## b. OPERATIONS:

## (1) ITEM: IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS SURVEY AND ESTIMATE.

(a) OBSERVATION: Platoons which have prepared a good Civil Affairs Survey and Estimate for their Area of Operation are more successful.

(b) EVALUATION: A good Civil Affairs Survey gives a more complete and accurate picture of an area than any single document. When the platoon personnel prepare the survey they visit the area personally. They also must make contact with the existing departments of government and with other agencies in the area. They gain first hand knowledge of the needs of the area and of the long range plans for the area. Armed with this information they can form a better estimate and develop a plan of action.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Upon entering an area the Civil Affairs platoon commander should immediately begin preparation of a Civil Affairs Survey and estimate. If a survey already exists it should be checked for and updated if necessary.

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... ITEM: YOUTH ACTIVITIES

(a) OBSERVATION: The youth of Vietnam, ages 12 through 17, could be developed into one of the most valuable assets in a community.

(b) EVALUATION: Examples have already proved the value of utilizing the young people in civic action projects. At Song Mao, students are building an addition to their school; in Ham Thuan they are learning sanitation and hygiene practices that they will in turn pass on to their villages, at Phan Thiet during Tet, youth groups administered the refugee camps. In every instance they have proved to be eager and enthusiastic workers and quick to learn new ideas.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That efforts be made to provide assistance and training for the youth of Vietnam.

(3) ITEM: TASK FORCE OPERATIONS

a. OBSERVATION: Task Force Operations are an extremely effective method of extending GVN influence and Civil Affairs Operations into insecure areas.

EVALUATION: Platoon 7 has participated in several of these type operations and reports that they had a powerful effect on the populace of the areas visited. These operations normally include a mixture of the following groups and are tailored to fit the situation: American and Vietnamese infantry, armor and engineer units, National Police Field Force, PRU, Vietnamese Information Service, PSYOPS and civil affairs teams, and various officials from district or province level. During the conduct of the operation the combat units provide security while the NPF check ID Cards and question suspects and the PRU acts on intelligence information to apprehend suspects. The PSYOPS representatives distribute leaflets, make loudspeaker broadcasts and show movies while the civil affairs team holds a MEDCAP and discusses civil affairs needs with the local leaders. Government officials from district and province discuss problems with the village and hamlet chiefs and listen to their grievances. The task force engineers are used to complete quick impact projects such as grading areas, filling unwanted holes or building bypasses around blown bridges.

RECOMMENDATION: That commanders and advisors exploit the possibilities of this type operation for their initial programs in the less secure areas.

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(3) ITEM: EMPLOYMENT OF CA PLATOONS

(a) OBSERVATION: Civil Affairs Platoons are more successful when in support of district or smaller areas.

(b) EVALUATION: Civil Affairs Platoons that attempt to support an entire province are spread so thin that their influence is difficult to measure. In some instances, civil affairs officers operating at province level develop additional programs that create added workloads for district advisors. In other instances they weaken the role of the district advisor by acting as the contact between the CORDS officials at province and the district or village officials. However, when Civil Affairs Platoons focus their effort onto the people and the specific problems of a district or smaller area, they create a marked impact. They can detect and support those important existing problems that are faltering because the district advisory detachment is understaffed and overburdened. This technique of placing a civil affairs platoon in support of a district gives the DSA a means of monitoring and catalyzing the RD program in priority areas.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: Province Senior Advisors supported by a civil affairs platoon should consider utilizing this platoon in direct support of a specific district.

c. TRAINING:

(1) ITEM: TRAINING OF RD CADRE

(a) OBSERVATION: While working with RD and Truong Son Cadre teams, it has become apparent that many of these teams are apprehensive about undertaking even the most simple engineering tasks.

(b) EVALUATION: The reluctance on the part of these teams can be traced to technological incompetence. Effort should be made to increase the skill levels of these teams. In Song Mao this has been done with local villagers and the results are promising. In Tri Duc hamlet, the construction of the first concrete bridge required much supervision by Platoon 4's engineer officer. The second bridge required almost no supervision from the platoon because one villager studied the construction methods used on the first bridge and then proceeded to direct the work on the second bridge.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: On-the-job training can be set up by taking a member of an RD or Truong Son team and offering him the opportunity to observe and participate in construction activities on which the civil affairs platoon are working.

(c) **ITEM: LANGUAGE TRAINING FOR CA OFFICERS**

(a) **OBSERVATION:** The Vietnamese people show a great deal of respect for individuals who can talk with them in their own language.

(b) **EVALUATION:** Civil affairs officers are in contact with the Vietnamese people every day - counterparts, village chiefs, Vietnamese medics and the general population. They are usually accompanied by an interpreter and must establish rapport with the people through this interpreter with the usual result that the people become closer to the interpreter than the officer who is actually in charge. In some cases it becomes very obvious, for example, when the interpreter is invited to the home of the hamlet chief and the officer is not. In one case where one of the officers on the team spoke the language he was shown greater respect than the team chief even though the people understood the difference in rank. Although an interpreter is normally available, there are times when the CA officer must get by without one. Language training would be a valuable asset to the CA officer, improving his ability and freeing him from many restrictions.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** That each civil affairs officer receive a minimum of 12 weeks training in the language of the country where he will be stationed.

d. **INTELLIGENCE:**

NONE

e. **LOGISTICS:**

NONE

f. **ORGANIZATION:**

NONE

g. **OTHER:**

NONE

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*James R. Mingle*  
 JAMES R. MINGLE  
 1LT, Armor  
 Adjutant

1 Incl

as

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AVFA-GC-OT (9 Aug 68) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Civil Affairs Company for Period  
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1) (U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350 230700Z

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the 41st Civil Affairs Company and concurs. Reference paragraph 1g, Personnel, page 16: The 41st CA Co is short primarily in combat arms captains and engineer lieutenants. Outlook for improvement in the status of captains is unknown. The engineer lieutenant spaces are scheduled for fill in September and December 1968.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



MAJOR B. BUSBY, J  
Colonel, AGC  
Adjutant General

Copies furnished:  
2 - ACSFOR, DA, Wash D. C. 20310  
1 - 41st CA Co

AVHGC-DST (9 Aug 68) 2d Ind MAJ Klingman/ds/LBN 4433  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 41st Civil Affairs Company for Period  
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)


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HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 4 SEP 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 31 July 1968 from Headquarters, 41st Civil Affairs Company.
2. Reference item concerning language training for CA officers, page 20, paragraph 2c(2): Concur. This item should be considered by higher headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
A.R. GUENTHER  
CPT. AGC  
ASST. ADJUTANT GENERAL

Cy furn:  
HQ I FFV  
HQ 41st CA Co

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GPOP-DT (9 Aug 68) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 41st Civil Affairs Co for Period  
Ending 31 July 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 20 SEP 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*

C. L. SHORTT  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

## DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R &amp; D

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The following items are recommended for inclusion in the Lessons Learned Index:

ITEM 1

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\*\* FOR OT RD # \_\_\_\_\_  
\*\*\*PAGE # \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM 2

SUBJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
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ITEM 3

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ITEM 4

SUBJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR OT RD # \_\_\_\_\_  
PAGE # \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM 5

SUBJECT TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
FOR OT RD # \_\_\_\_\_  
PAGE # \_\_\_\_\_

\* Subject Title: A short (one sentence or phrase) description of the item of interest.

\*\* FOR OT RD # : Appears in the Reply Reference line of the Letter of Transmittal. This number must be accurately stated.

\*\*\*Page # : That page on which the item of interest is located.

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