

UNCLASSIFIED

AD NUMBER

AD844153

LIMITATION CHANGES

TO:

Approved for public release; distribution is unlimited.

FROM:

**Distribution authorized to U.S. Gov't. agencies and their contractors;
Administrative/Operational Use; 06 MAY 1967.
Other requests shall be referred to Office of the Adjutant General (Army), Washington, DC 20310.**

AUTHORITY

AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980

THIS PAGE IS UNCLASSIFIED

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN DELIMITED
AND CLEARED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
UNDER DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.20 AND
NO RESTRICTIONS ARE IMPOSED UPON
ITS USE AND DISCLOSURE.

DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
DISTRIBUTION UNLIMITED.

AD844153



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

1

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (13 Sep 67) FOR OT RD 670599

19 September 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,
55th Medical Group

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to 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

DISTRIBUTION:

Commanding Generals

US Continental Army Command

US Army Combat Developments Command

Commandants

US Army Command and General Staff College

US Army War College

US Army Air Defense School

US Army Armor School

US Army Artillery and Missile School

US Army Aviation School

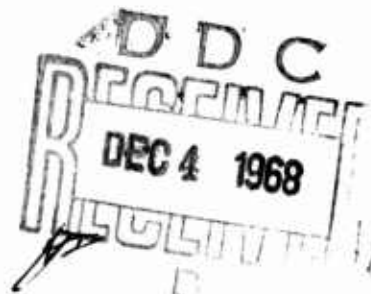
US Army Chemical School

US Army Civil Affairs School

US Army Engineer School

US Army Infantry School

US Army Intelligence School



(Continued on page 2)

670599

UNCLASSIFIED REPORT
DISTRIBUTION NO FOREIGN WITHOUT APPROVAL OF
ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT
(ARMY) ATTN FOR OT RD. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

20

3

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 55TH MEDICAL GROUP
APO San Francisco 96238

OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED
FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD
ENDING 30 APRIL 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65)

ACSFOR - RD File
670599

1

4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
SECTION I, Significant Organizational Activities	1
SECTION II, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)	6
Medical	7
SECTION II, Part II, Recommendations	8
Medical Evacuation	9
INCLOSURES	10
1. List of Assigned Units	11
2. Visitors to the Command	12

5

SECTION I
SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR - 65)

A. Mission of 55th Medical Group to provide command and control of five hospitals, one medical Battalion, and other specialized units, with responsibility for hospitalization, evacuation, and area medical support of United States Army Vietnam (USARV) and other Free World Military Assistance Forces (FWMF) located in Corps Tactical Zone II, North (CTZ II-N), to include Provinces of Kontum, Binh Dinh, Pleiku, Phu Bon, and so much of Phu Yen Province located north of horizontal grid line BQ - CQ 60, remains unchanged. Four (4) major tactical operations were supported, of which two (2) continue.

B. On 1 February 1967, SFC (E-7) Edward E. Nosbaum was assigned to Group Headquarters as Personnel Sergeant. He served in this capacity until 10 April 1967 at which time he temporarily assumed duties as Group Sergeant Major, succeeding SGM Buck Meacham who returned to CONUS for retirement from the Army after 27 years of active federal service.

C. On 26 April 1967, SGM Edmund L. Bald, reported to Group for duty as Group Sergeant Major.

D. On 8 February 1967, Major Earl W. Lauck, MSC, was assigned to 55th Medical Group as the S-4 Officer, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel Hillard F. Wiatrowski, who departed for a new assignment with 3d Medical Depot in Cam Ranh Bay. 3rd A

E. First Lieutenant Alan R. Giefer, MSC, joined Group Headquarters on 6 March 1967, succeeding First Lieutenant Ernest C. Boeuf, MSC, as Group Personnel Officer. First Lieutenant Boeuf returned to CONUS for release from active duty.

F. Lieutenant Colonel Henry C. Cosand has assumed duties as Acting Group Commander replacing Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Hall, MC, who departed for reassignment to Madigan Army Hospital, Tacoma, Washington.

G. Consolidation of personnel at Group level in both Qui Nhon and Pleiku which was effected 1 December 1966, has now progressed to a point where it is considered to be one of the finest in Viet Nam. On 1 February 1967, Team # 2, of the 222d Personnel Service Company, assumed full responsibility for the area and has continued to raise the quality of personnel administration. As a result of attachment of this trained Personnel Service Company, Group has been able to reduce the number of personnel formerly assigned to this duty and to provide better service to units of this command.

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR - 65)

H. Group Safety Program has continued to receive maximum command emphasis. There were eight (8) reportable accidents within 55th Medical Group during period covered by this report as compared to 16 during previous reporting period.

I. On 31 January 1967, Group strength was 1802. As of the end of this quarters, our strength was 1931. There have been no critical shortages of key personnel which would seriously hamper the ability of any unit of this command to perform its assigned mission. It has been necessary, however, to effect numerous intra-group reassignments, primarily enlisted personnel, in order to assure that no unit would be affected by unexpected loss of key personnel.

J. The Command Information Program continues to be both active and effective. Command Information classes are held on a regularly scheduled basis and well received in units of the command.

K. 174 Hometown News Releases were submitted during reporting period.

L. On 1 February 1967, First Lieutenant William W. Braun, MSC, assumed the primary duties of PIO, OIC of the Group R & R Activities, Civic Actions Officer, Coordinator of Civilian Personnel Affairs, and Passport Control Officer. Under his guidance, 55th Medical Group's monthly newspaper, has resumed publication, providing an additional effective means for distributing items of command-wide information to Group units.

M. Personnel of the 25th Casualty Staging Flight began arriving in Qui Nhon on Tuesday, 7 February 1967. Main body arrived on 13 February 1967. This unit began processing patients on 25 March 1967. Physically located at the 85th Evacuation Hospital, this unit services the 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital, 67th, and 85th Evacuation Hospitals. System has been highly successful. Selected patients from 85th Evacuation Hospital and all patients from 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital are admitted to this facility the day prior to their scheduled out-of-country evacuation. Patients are then transported by USAF and Army buses to Qui Nhon Army Air Field for evacuation to 19th Casualty Staging Unit at Clark Air Base, Philippines. 67th Evacuation Hospital which is physically separated from CSF by approximately three miles of rough roads, the patients are not physically moved. Completed Clinical Record Cover Sheets, plus evacuation request forms are furnished CSF on day prior to evacuation. CSF contacts FEJMRO (Far East Joint Medical Regulating Office) to determine destination hospital, prepares necessary travel orders, and manifests patients for movement. On

7
AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

day of movement CSF positions prepared litters on appropriate ward for each patient. The patients are moved to the flight line upon arrival of evacuation aircraft. This has been a highly successful bi-service operation. Utilization of USAF CSF has greatly reduced the work load of Registrar Divisions of the evacuation hospitals in Qui Nhon and created a more orderly method of patient evacuation.

N. On 3 February 1967, 14th Medical Detachment (Team MC)(Dispensary) became operational, providing primary medical care to eligible personnel in Qui Nhon. On that date, 152d Medical Detachment (MA) was relieved of the mission assumed by 14th Medical Detachment and moved to Cha Rang to assume the mission formerly performed by Provisional Cha Rang Dispensary.

O. 501st Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary) was released from attachment to 18th Surgical Hospital and attached to 71st Evacuation Hospital on 21 February 1967. Change was appropriate because 501st Medical Detachment is an area dispensary and is more fittingly assigned under Sub-Area Command Surgeon who is Commanding Officer, 71st Evacuation Hospital.

P. 55th Medical Group continued to provide hospitalization, evacuation, and medical regulating for numerous tactical operations conducted in Corps Tactical Zone II, North, and Corps Tactical Zone I, Republic of Vietnam. The concept of direct coordination with division level medical service by use of Field Medical Regulator, continued. Operations in progress at end of report period include:

1. Operation Francis Marion: Immediately following Operation San Houston on 5 April 1967, this operation involves the 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, plus attached units. They are conducting an active defense along Se San River and Cambodian border to the South.

2. Operation Pershing: 1st and 2d Brigades, 1st Cavalry Division, are conducting a search and destroy operation in northern Binh Dinh Province. Commencing 15 February 1967, the operation immediately followed Operation Thayer II.

Operations supported during the period which have terminated include:

1. Operation San Houston: 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, conducted an active defense along Se San River and Cambodian border during period 1 January 1967 to 4 April 1967.

2. Operation Thayer II: 1st Cavalry Division and the 3d Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (-) conducted a search and destroy operation in northern BINH DINH Province during period 24 October 1966 - 15 February 1967.

8.

AVCA-MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

Q. During this reporting period this group supported one operation in CTZ I which still continues. On 10 April 1967 a command element of 55th Medical Group departed Qui Nhon for Chu Lai to coordinate activities of 44th Medical Brigade units committed in support of Operation Oregon. The medical mission for this operation involves hospitalization and evacuation of US and other FMAP under operational control of III MAF, in vicinity of Chu Lai and Duc Pho, RVN.

SECTION II PART I
OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

9
AVIA 88-43-6

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report- Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

A. MEDICAL

ITEM: Patient Evacuation.

DISCUSSION: It has been noted during several recent operations in the Pleiku/Kontum area that the HU-1D is not satisfactory for hoist operations. The HU-1D is adversely affected by both altitude and atmospheric conditions. Use of the HU-1D subjects the helicopter crew, the patients and the ground attendants to unwarranted hazards.

OBSERVATION: The OH-47 has sufficient stability to perform hoist operations without unduely endangering the personnel involved and is preferable to the HU-1D for this use.

SECTION II PART II
RECOMMENDATIONS

AVCA MB-GB-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

6 May 1967

MEDICAL EVACUATION: TOE of each Medical Company, Air ambulance, should be modified to include four (4) CH-47 helicopters. In addition to providing a safer and more reliable means for hoist pickups, capacity of aircraft would facilitate patient evacuations between surgical and evacuation hospitals. Having aircraft this size would greatly improve efficiency of intra area evacuations.

INCLOSURES

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

The following units were assigned to 55th Medical Group at end of
report period :

1st Medical Company (Ambulance)
2d Surgical Hospital
14th Medical Detachment (Team MC)(Dispensary)
18th Surgical Hospital
48th Medical Detachment (Team KA)(Surgical Detachment)
51st Medical Company (Ambulance)
67th Evacuation Hospital
70th Medical Battalion
71st Evacuation Hospital
85th Evacuation Hospital
138th Medical Detachment (Team KE)(Neurosurgical)
139th Medical Detachment (Team KB)(Orthopedic)
142d Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)
152d Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)
240th Medical Detachment (Team KF)(Thoracic)
438th Medical Detachment (Team RB)(Ambulance Detachment)
463d Medical Detachment (Team KH)(X-Ray)
495th Medical Detachment (Team AC)(Company Headquarters)
501st Medical Detachment (Team MA)(Dispensary)
542d Medical Company (Clearing)

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

The following VIP's visited the 55th Medical Group during the period of this report:

2 February 1967

COL Justin S. Zaak
Dental Surgeon
USARV

COL Walter Z. Brown
Dental Surgeon
44th Medical Brigade

19 February 1967

MG G. E. Eifler
Commanding General
1st Logistical Command

20 February 1967

COL J. A. Orbison
Medical Consultant
USARPAC Surgeon's Office

COL T. J. Wholan
Surgical Consultant
USARPAC Surgeon's Office

LTC A. C. Gomez
Surgical Consultant
USARV

22 February 1967

COL Clyde C. Carrier
Director, Medical Administrative Services
7th US Air Force

LTC Lawrence A. Sonlo
Chief, Plans, Programs & Facilities
7th US Air Force

13

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

MAJ Frank W. Dicker
Medical Regulating Officer
44th Medical Brigade

1 March 1967

LTC Thomas A. Hanson
Surgeon
IFFV

4 March 1967

CPT James Schlack
Executive Officer
Company B, 15th Med Bn

14 March 1967

COL Larry W. Coker
Executive Officer
44th Medical Brigade

22 March 1967

LTC Erwin Zinov
S-4 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

25 March 1967

MAJ Harrison
Unit Utilization Team
USARV

MAJ Pearson
Unit Utilization Team
USARV

LTC Jennie L. Caylor
Chief Nurse
USARV

LTC Rose Straley
Chief Nurse
44th Medical Brigade

AVCA MB-GB-C

14
6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operations Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

30 March 1967

LTC Robert Miller
Deputy Commander
44th Medical Brigade

LTC Bernard F. Kerwin
Incoring S-4 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien
Assistant S-1 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

COL Mary E. Lipscomb
Chief, AMESC Branch
Department of the Army

LTC Patricia Accountius
Chief, Food Service
44th Medical Brigade

MAJ Westhoven
Chief, Physical Therapy
3d Field Hospital

2 April 1967

EG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV

4 April 1967

EG Shelton E. Lollis
Deputy Commanding General
1st Logistical Command

5 April 1967

COL Herbert R. Faust
Veterinary Staff Officer
44th Medical Brigade

15

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCC CSFOR-65)

COL Richard E. Morgan
In-Country Veterinary Staff Officer
44th Medical Brigade

LTC Milard Tierce
Area Veterinary Officer
Da Nang

6 April 1967

COL Kwang
Surgeon
Republic of Korea Army

COL Kim, Jong Ho
Commanding Officer
6th ROKA Evacuation Hospital

COL Kim, Nyung Chul
Surgeon
ROKA Tiger Division

LTC Darwin O. Patrick
USARV Escort Officer

CPT Kim (Nurse)
Surgeons Office
Republic of Korea Army

LT Perry (USN)
Advisor
Free World Medical Command

7 April 1967

EG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV

COL Willard E. Thompson
Executive Officer, Surgeons Office
USARV

LTC A. C. Gones
Surgical Consultant
USARV

AVCA MB-GB-C

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (HCS CSFOR-65)

6 May 1967

8 April 1967

LTC Rose Straley
Chief Nurse
44th Medical Brigade

11 April 1967

LTC Robert Miller
Deputy Commander
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien
Assistant S-1 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

13 April 1967

LTC David Duttwiler
Preventive Medicine Section
USARV

MAJ William O. Lamb
Preventive Medicine Section
USARV

18 April 1967

COL Hinten J. Baker
In-coming Commanding Officer
9th Medical Laboratory

LTC Pierre A. Fink
Commanding Officer
9th Medical Laboratory

27 April 1967 (Chu Lai & Duc Pho facilities)

BG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV

17

AVCA MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

COL Ray Miller
Commanding Officer
44th Medical Brigade

LTC A. C. Gomez
Surgical Consultant
USARV

19

AVCA-MB-PO (9 May 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operation Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

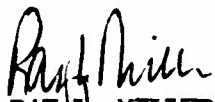
HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 26 May 1967

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-O
APO 96307

1. The contents of basic document has been reviewed.
2. This report is forwarded with comments pertaining to Section II, Part II, as follows: Medical Evacuation: Nonconcur. A request for CH-47 helicopters to augment the AMEDS Aeromedical Evacuation capability was submitted to this headquarters by the 498th Air Ambulance Company on 18 November 1966. This request was forwarded to USARV with the recommendation that it be approved. After being staffed at USARV, the request was forwarded to MACV where it was disapproved. Disapproval was based on the shortage of CH-47 helicopters within the US Army, and the fact that responsibility for evacuating patients between hospitals has been assumed by the 7th USAF.

Tel: Lynx 382

1 Incl
as


RAY J. MILLER
Colonel, MC
Commanding

AVCA GO-O (15 May 67)

2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
(RCS CSFOR 65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 **21 JUN 1967**

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN:
AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 55th Medical Group for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded.
2. The 55th Medical Group engaged in combat service support operations for 89 days during the reporting period.
3. Concur with basic report as modified by 1st Indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Timothy S O'Hara
TIMOTHY S. O'HARA
1LT, INF
Acting Asst AG

TEL: Lynx 430/782

1 Incl
nc

21
AVHGC-DST (15 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 21 JUL 67

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 55th Medical Group as indorsed.

2. Reference item concerning patient evacuation, pages 7 and 8 and paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement: Concur. The problem encountered in UH-1D hoist operations in the central highlands area of Vietnam is well known to this headquarters. For this reason, UH-1D helicopters assigned to the 2d Platoon, 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at Pleiku have been replaced with the UH-1H helicopter which has a more powerful engine and should provide the capability of performing hoist evacuations. The request for CH-47 helicopters was previously staffed at this headquarters as indicated in paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
nc

C. E. St. Martin
C. E. ST. MARTIN
Capt. AGC
Asst AG

22

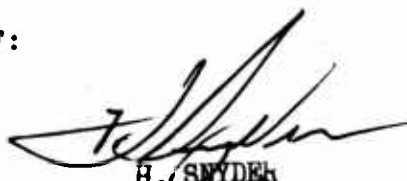
GPOP-DT (15 May 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
from HQ, 55th Med Gp (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 25 AUG 1967

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

This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs in the report
as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



H. SNYDER
CPT, AGO
Asst AG

1 Incl
nc