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

AD 862697

AGDA (M) (3 Dec 69)

IN REPLY REFER TO

FOR OT UT 693344

5 December 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 37th Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1969

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 4b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT UT, 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

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as

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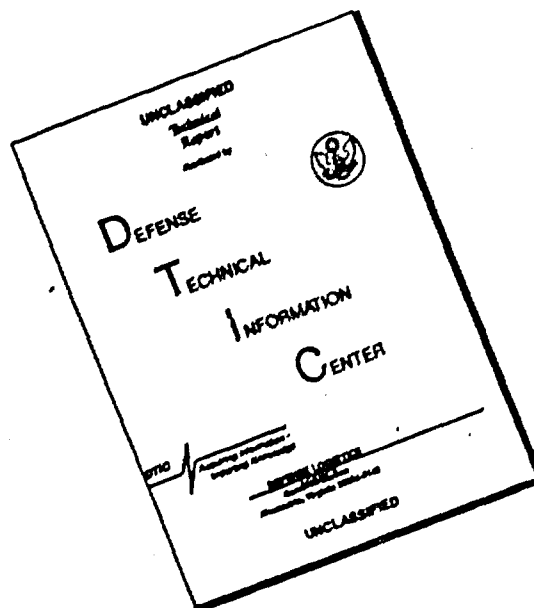
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 37th Signal Battalion (SPT)
APO 96337

SGCFV-PG-DN-OF

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for the
Period ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

COMMANDING GENERAL
1st Signal Brigade
ATTN: SGC-V-OP
APO 96334

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

- a. The 37th Signal Battalion's mission is to provide Corps Area Communications support to III MAF, U.S. Army tactical and logistical forces, the advisory effort and other free world forces and agencies throughout the northern and southern sectors of the I Corps Tactical Zone. This Battalion also operates tactical tropospheric scatter and microwave systems, as directed, throughout the ICTZ, and performs other communication missions as assigned by the Commanding Officer of the 12th Signal Group.
- b. On 22 May 1969, CPT David T. O'Connor assumed command of Company D, 43/37th Signal Battalion. CPT O'Connor replaced CPT John T. Swindell III who returned to CONUS.
- c. On 7 June 1969, CPT Gregory A. Rice assumed command of Company A, 37th Signal Battalion. CPT Rice replaced CPT Robert N. Seltzer.
- d. On 1 July 1969, Major William E. Webb replaced Major Rodney Logan as Executive Officer of the 37th Signal Battalion.
- e. On 5 July 1969, the Deputy Commanding General of 1st Signal Brigade, BG Jack L. Albright attended the 37th Signal Battalion Change of Command Ceremony. LTC Phillip M. Francis assumed command from LTC Robert W. Watson. COL Albert B. Crawford Jr, 12th Signal Group Commander was the reviewing officer.
- f. On 15 July 1969, a Quarterly Review and Analysis Briefing was conducted by the 37th Signal Battalion for COL Albert B. Crawford Jr, 12th Signal Group Commander.
- g. On 31 July 1969, the 37th Signal Battalion received a Meritorious Unit Commendation, with COL Medinger, 1st Signal Brigade Chief of Staff as the Reviewing Officer.

FOR OTUT

693344

Inclosure

12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for the Period ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

h. During the past ~~quarter~~ the following positions were filled by new personnel:

- (1) Battalion Commander
- (2) Battalion Executive Officer
- (3) Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment Commander
- (4) A Company Commander
- (5) D Company Commander

The only unit organizational change during the quarter was the addition of the 51st Signal Detachment (TROPO) to the 337th Signal Company.

i. Overall personnel strength remained almost constant for the 37th Signal Battalion during the quarter, however, the fill required was not balanced. MOS areas such as 31L, 31M and 72B did not receive sufficient fill to offset the heavy rotational losses. Heavy rotational losses are projected for the next 60 to 90 days which will put further drain on critical MOS areas unless sufficient fill is received.

j. On the average, a 45 day time lag exists on personnel fill, however, in shortage MOS areas the time lag is often of 2 month duration. Fill was inadequate in the following MOS areas:

- (1) 31L *
- (2) 31M
- (3) 31N
- (4) 32F
- (5) 32G
- (6) 72B Reported for five consecutive quarters
- (7) 72C
- (8) 76Y40 *

NOTE: * Reported for second consecutive quarterly period.

k. The turnover in personnel occurred as follows:

<u>LOSSES</u>	<u>GAINS</u>
Officers 7 (1 LTC, 1 MAJ, 1 CPT, 4 LT)	10 (1 LTC, 2 MAJ, 3 CPT, 4 LT)
WO 2	2
EM 205	216

l. Appointments: Promotion allocations continued to be adequate.

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m. Awards and Decorations: The following awards and decorations were approved at the end of the quarterly period:

<u>Award/Decorration</u>	<u>Requested</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Pending</u>
Bronze Star Medal	60	15	45
Army Commendation Medal	92	52	40
Certificate of Achievement	195	195	0

n. Listed below are the major accomplishments of the 37th Signal Battalion during the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969. The 37th Signal Battalion was operational for the entire 92 days of the past quarter.

- (1) On 11 May 1969, the 77UT5F 24 channel troposcatter system from Phu Bai to Dong Ha was deactivated freeing two AN/TRC-129A TLOPO Vans for further use.
- (2) On 22 May 1969, tropo systems FFT26 and FFT27 (AN/TRC-129A) were upgraded to quad diversity operation between Quang Tri Air and Phu Bai.
- (3) On 1 June 1969 an SB-86 was installed to replace the SB-86 already in operation at Hoi An Signal Site. The SB-86 taken out of operation was in need of rehabilitation.
- (4) On 5 June 1969, a new 50 pair perimeter cable was installed providing the 37th Signal Battalion compound bunkers and towers with phone service which improved the 37th Signal Battalion Compounds security posture.
- (5) On 25 June 1969, a new multipair outside cable plant distribution system was accepted at Duc Pho. The new cable upgraded the quality of phone service and increased the number of subscribers served by the Duc Pho Switchboard.
- (6) On 1 July 1969, Da Nang South was deactivated freeing personnel and equipment for use at other sites.
- (7) On 14 July 1969, a 12 channel AN/TRC-24 system (FFH82) was established between Chu Lai and Quang Ngai serving the Americal Division and MACV Advisors.
- (8) On 14 July 1969, a 12 channel AN/TRC-24 (FFH79) system was established between Quang Ngai and Duc Pho providing service to MACV Advisors and Americal Division Units.

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(9) On 15 July 1969, a 12 channel AN/TTC-24 (FFH68) system was installed between Chu Lai and Duc Pho. System FFH68 replaced system FFH51 to provide Americal Division Units with more reliable communications.

(10) On 29 July 1969, a new multipair outside cable plant distribution system was completed and accepted at Quang Ngai. The new plant will provide higher quality communications and allow service to more subscribers.

(11) As of 30 July 1969, the following facilities were operated by the 37th Signal Battalion:

(a) Long Lines Communications:

1	VHF Systems (12 channel)	9
2	UHF Systems (12 channel)	6
3	Tropo Systems (48 channel)	2
4	Tropo Systems (24 channel)	5
5	Microwave Systems (45 channel)	2
6	V.F. Circuits	312
7	Teletype Circuits	28
8	EAC Circuits	4
9	Autosevocom Circuits	5

(b) Communication Centers:

1	Major Relays	1
2	Minor Relays	1
3	Tributary Stations *	6

* (The minor and major relays have tributary sections)

(c) Telephone Switchboards:

1	200 Line Manual Switchboards	4
2	120 Line Manual Switchboards	1
3	60 Line Manual Switchboards	2

(d) Secure Voice Switchboards: 1

(e) Radio Operations:

HF Radio Teletype	6
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12 August 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for the Period ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR) (Rt)

o. Training:

In addition to training on subjects listed on the Master Training Schedule, the following special training classes were conducted for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969:

- (1) Field Sanitation
- (2) Drivers Training
- (3) Gas Chamber Exercises
- (4) Weapons Familiarization and Safety
- (5) Operation and Maintenance of the AN/GRC-142 RTT Van.

p. Intelligence:

(1) Enemy activity involving elements of the 37th Signal Battalion decreased during the quarterly period. There were 14 reports of enemy activity, which included 1 KIA and 2 WIA during an attack on Duc Pho during June.

(2) The security posture at all sites remains good. Security SOP's are being updated and improvements in defenses are being made. Counterintelligence technical surveys were conducted at all comm-centers during May. Hoi An and Da Nang ACC must be resubmitted due to a rebuilding program at these locations.

(3) Two security violations occurred during the quarterly period. Both involved the possible compromise of cryptomaterial. Both incidents occurred at Quang Ngai Signal Site. Supervisory personnel at Quang Ngai have been replaced and the SOP rewritten. It is felt that these were isolated incidents and do not indicate any significant trend.

2. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations, and Recommendations.

a. Personnel: None

b. Operations:

- (1) AN/MCC-6 Handset Damage
 - (a) OBSERVATION: The operator's handset in the MCC-6 van often gets damaged due to being dropped.

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(b) EVALUATION: When the MCC-6 handset is damaged, replacement telephone handsets are not always available, especially at isolated sites.

(c) RECOMMENDATIONS: Put a spring (shortend trip flare) in a loop with one end attached to the handset cradle and the other end taped to the handset cord so that the handset hangs approximately 4 to 6 inches above the floor of the van.

(2) Realigning Antennas:

(a) OBSERVATION: When the 337th Signal Company (R&R) added 3 new sections and an AN/TRC-29 antenna to a tower (AB-216) with other antennas already in use, the tower guy wire were adjusted. The tightening of the guy wires changed the tower's original position and other antennas at the same time.

(b) EVALUATION: The tightening of the guy lines and subsequent tower and antenna movement caused two other systems to experience an extreme drop in signal strength.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that anytime antenna tower guy wires are adjusted, both ends of all systems affected should be notified to have antenna orientation meters immediately available to properly realign the antennas once guy wire adjustments are complete.

(3) Quad Diversity Operation of the AN/TRC-129A Van.

(a) OBSERVATION: When systems FFT26 and FFT27(AN/TRC-129A) were converted to quad diversity operation, it was discovered that two pair of wires with two resistors used as noise suppressors in a dual diversity operation of the radios must be removed in order to terminate the input to the Super Group Modulator. TM11-5820-519-12 fails to mention this fact.

(b) EVALUATION: This omission of important information caused a delay in the conversion from dual to quad diversity operation.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: It is recommended that the TM be amended to reflect the necessary removal of the above mentioned resistors in order to connect Base Group 1 & 2 information from the remote van into the Super Group Module in the local van.

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Period ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOE.) (R1)

c. Training:

Teaching of mandatory Subjects.

- (a) OBSERVATION: The normal range of DA mandatory training subjects is very difficult to present to the majority of a signal unit in one or even two classes due to the predominance of shift workers and the scattered location of a signal unit's personnel.
- (b) EVALUATION: At some isolated sites, formal instruction on mandatory training subjects is not possible at all times.
- (c) RECOMMENDATION: The preparation of a written summary (not lesson plans) that can be passed from person to person on the mandatory training subjects. The summaries are passed from section to section and read and initialed by each individual.
- (d) Intelligence: None
- (e) Logistics: None
- (f) Organizational: None
- (g) Other: None

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PHILLIP M. FRANCIS
LTC, SigC
Commanding

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SCCPV-PGOI (12 Aug 1969) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for the
Period Ending 31 Jul 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (RL)

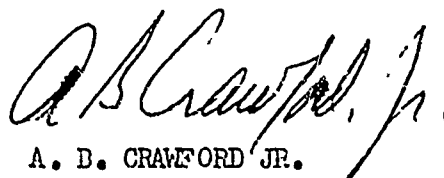
DA, HQ 12th Signal Group, APO 96308

22 Aug 1969

TO: **Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade (USA BRATON), ATTN: SOCVOP,**
APO 96308

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with 1st Signal Brigade
Regulation 1-19.

2. The report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is concurred in
as inclosed.



A. D. CRAWFORD JR.
Colonel, SigC
Commanding

SCCPV-OP-SD (12 Aug 69) 2nd Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for the
Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384

8 September 1969

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

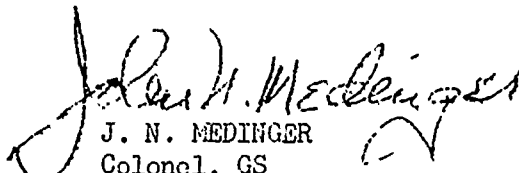
1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15.

2. This headquarters has reviewed the report and concurs in it as indorsed with the following comments and/or exceptions:

a. Paragraphs 1i and 1j, page 2. Arrival of replacements for MOS's listed as shortage continued to fall below requisition requests throughout the Brigade during the reporting period. Consequently, this headquarters has continued to monitor the assignment of all input to insure equitable distribution to all groups. Subsequent to the reporting period shortages within the 37th Signal Battalion and all other units in MOS's 31N, 32G and 72C have been relieved by assistance from CG USARV, by diversion of other assets into the Brigade and further allocated to groups based on operational commitments.

b. Paragraph 2c, page 7. This is an approved and recommended method of providing information to personnel in isolated areas or in areas where qualified, capable and knowledgeable instructor personnel are not readily available. Normally lesson plans and instructor notes are used for this method of training however, written summaries would be equally as beneficial providing they are comprehensive papers. This method in no way relieves an individual of the responsibility for attending mandatory training classes under normal conditions, e.g., when classes are available in the immediate area.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


J. N. MEDINGER
Colonel, GS
Chief of Staff

CF:

Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications Command,
ATTN: DCSOPS, SCC-OPS-RT, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613
Commanding Officer, 12th Signal Group, APO 96308
Commanding Officer, 37th Signal Battalion (SPT), APO 96337

AVHGC-DST (12 Aug 69) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT) for
the Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (RL)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 11 00 000

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

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

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 31 July 1969 from Headquarters, 37th
Signal Battalion (SPT) and concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

BA Goodwin
B. A. GOODWIN

MAJ, USA

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
37th Sig Bn
1st Sig Bde

SCCP-OP (12 Aug 69) 4th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of the 37th Signal Battalion (SPT)
for the Period Ending 31 July 1969 (RCS CSFOR-65) (R1)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-Pacific,
APO San Francisco 96557 0 5 NOV 69

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AF 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed subject report and offers the following comments:

a. Reference item concerning "Quad Diversity Operation of the AN/TRC-129A Van", paragraph 2b(3), page 6. The information submitted is insufficient to permit a proper evaluation of the recommendation. Additional information is being obtained by this headquarters and based on this information, unit will be advised to submit an Equipment Improvement Recommendation (EIR) or a DA Form 2028 (Recommended Change to DA Publication), as appropriate.

b. Concur with the remainder of the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Frank C. Nahin
FRANK C. NAHIN
COL, GS
Chief of Staff

CF: w/o Incl
CG USARV
CG 1st Sig Bde
CO 12th Sig Gp
CO 37th Sig Bn

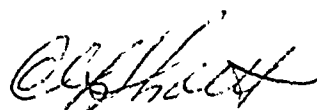
GPOP-DT (12 Aug 69) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 37th Signal Battalion
(Spt) for Period Ending 31 July 1969, RCS CSFOR-65
(R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 7 NOV 69

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

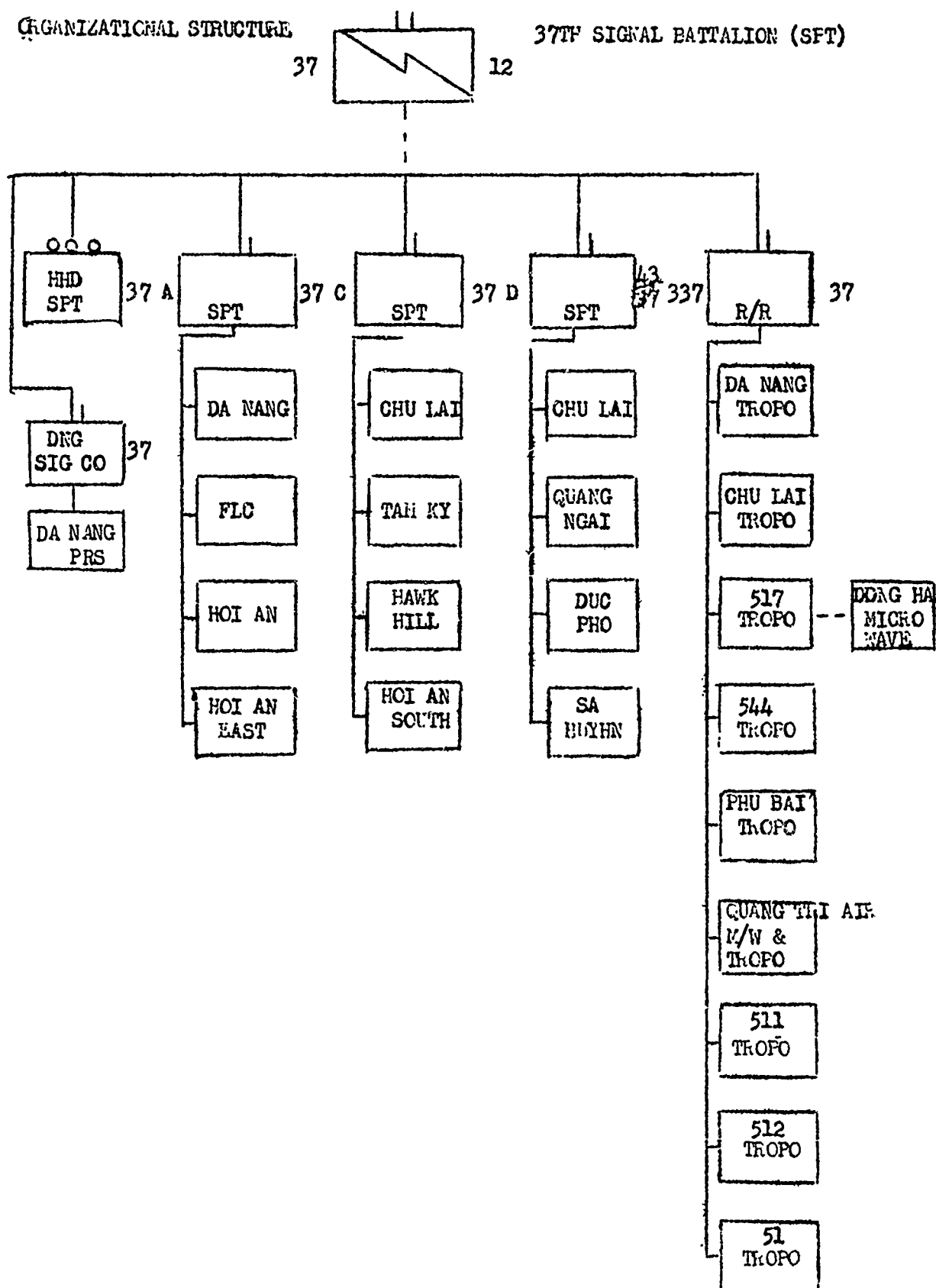
FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:



C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGG/
Asst AG

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

37TH SIGNAL BATTALION (SFT)



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