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OAG ltr 29 Apr 1980

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

130-24-3  
INDEXED CR

IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (2 Oct 67) FOR OT RD 670316

5 October 1967

AD 874188

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters,  
58th Medical Battalion

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

DB

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

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(Continued on page 3)

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 58TH MEDICAL BATTALION  
APO 96491

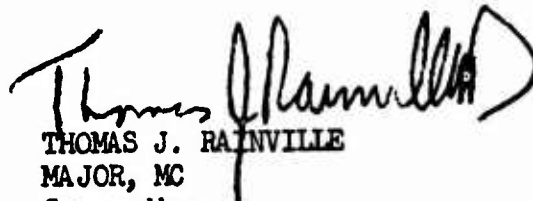
AVCA MB-GD-BA-S3

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

THRU: Commanding Officer  
68th Medical Group  
ATTN: AVCA-MB-GD-PO  
APO 96491

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

The OPERATIONAL REPORT-LESSONS LEARNED of this headquarters for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded in accordance with Army Regulation 1-19 and LC Regulation 870-3.

  
THOMAS J. RAINVILLE  
MAJOR, MC  
Commanding

FOR DT RD File  
670316

4  
4 May 1967

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

A. This headquarters continued its mission of command, control, and staff supervision of all assigned and attached units in support of its mission of providing clearing and holding facilities and evacuation to US Forces, Free World Military Forces, and Republic of Vietnam Forces within Corps Tactical Zones III and IV. Major Thomas J. Rainville, MC, Commanded the Battalion during the entire 89 day report period.

1. Task Organization

- a. 50th Medical Company (Clr)
- b. 439th Medical Detachment (TEAM RB)
- c. 498th Medical Detachment (TEAM RB)
- e. 561st Medical Company (Amb)
- f. 584th Medical Company (Amb)
- g. 616th Medical Company (Clr)

2. 50th Medical Company (Clearing)

a. The 50th Medical Company has continued maintaining services of a clearing company in support of operations in Corps Tactical Zones III and IV. Holding facilities are maintained in support of the 24th and 93rd Evacuation Hospitals for patients not requiring hospital care in excess of 7 days. The unit continues its operation of a treatment and holding facility for Vietnamese Detainee patients and Viet Cong prisoners not released to RVN.

b. The acquisition of an interpreter has greatly improved the ability to understand Vietnamese patients complaints and instruct patients in treatment proceedings. Approximately 50% of patients admitted to this facility are Vietnamese, the majority being orthopedic cases with few medical cases. Weight gain among all Vietnamese patients is noticeable indicating that they thrive well on American type diet. A supplemental diet of steamed rice is included.

c. No significant personnel problems have been evident during the report period.

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d. Plans for the ready platoon have been revised to provide for both motor and air movement. The following dignitaries visited this unit during the report period:

- (1) COL Zarafonitis, Director of Professional Service, OTSG Office.
- (2) COL R. W. Blohm, Medical Consultant, USARV Surgeon's Office.
- (3) COL S. Woodworth, Chief, IG Team, 1st Logistical Command.
- (4) COL Monnen, Project Officer, MUST, OTSG.
- (5) LTC Murphy, ANC, Project Officer, MUST, OTSG.

e. Air conditioning units have been installed in A & D and Ward #1. Self help construction of 5 Adams Hut buildings for EM billets has been completed greatly improving living conditions. Approval for 8 straight wall quonset huts has been received to replace existing temporary frame tent ward facilities. Area drainage has been improved and a grease trap completed for the mess. Drainage facilities and a sump has been approved by Post Engineer and a closed pipeline drainage for the shower facility was completed by the 159th Engineer Battalion.

f. The annual IG Inspection was conducted by 1st Logistical Command on 2 March. The overall rating was satisfactory.

g. CPT James D. Burkholder, MC, Commanded the unit during the entire report period.

#### 4. 498th Medical Detachment (Team RB)

This unit joined the 58th Medical Battalion from CONUS on 2 February 1967 and was assigned to support the mission of the 584th Medical Company (Amb). The unit became operational on 29 March and currently has 2 buses evacuating patients from the 93rd and 24th Evacuation Hospitals to Bien Hoa AFB, for evacuation to the 600th Convalescent Center and 1 bus evacuating patients of the 36th Evacuation Hospital to the air base at Vung Tau. To date 196 patients have been evacuated.

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5. 500th Medical Detachment (Team RB)

This unit joined the 58th Medical Battalion on 29 March 1967 from CONUS and was further assigned on 8 April to the 561st Medical Company (Amb). Equipped with 6 - M43 ambulances, its mission, since it became operational has been to evacuate patients from the Tan Son Nhut AFB Dustoff Helipad to the 3rd Field Hospital and to Republic of Vietnam medical facilities in the Gia Dinh area.

6. 561st Medical Company (Ambulance)

a. The 561st Medical Company (Amb), supported by the 439th and 500th Medical Detachments (RB) has continued its mission of evacuation in Corps Tactical Zones III and IV during the entire report period. Primarily engaged in evacuating medical facilities in the Saigon/Cholon/Tan Son Nhut areas, unit accumulated 89 accident free days in this hazardous driving area.

b. A joint project with the 584th Medical Company (Amb) has been started utilizing self help to construct 12 Adams Huts and 1 Pasco building to house both units in permanent facilities. Three Adams Huts have been completed at the end of the report period.

c. While enlisted personnel problems have largely been resolved during this period the unit still operates short 1 officer. Primary personnel problems exist in the constant shortage of qualified maintenance personnel. This, in the face of the age of the ambulances creates extreme hardship in maintaining an effective maintenance program.

d. This unit continues operations 8 ambulances short. While continual estimations and dates of arrival for replacement vehicles are received replacements fail to materialize. A total of 58,865 miles were logged during the report period.

e. CPT Lauren G. Bock, MSC, assumed command on 1 February and has remained in command during the entire report period.

7. 584th Medical Company (Ambulance)

a. The 584th Medical Company (Amb) continued its evacuation of Corps Tactical Zones III and IV during the entire report period. Medical facilities evacuated include, 1st Platoon, 616th Medical Company (Clr), 1st Division Artillery at Phu Loi; 1st Medical Battalion at Dian; 12th Evacuation Hospital at Cu Chi; 45th Surgical Hospital (MUST) at Tay Ninh; 7th Surgical Hospital (SMBL) at Xuan Loc; 3rd Surgical Hospital (SMBL) at Bien Hoa, as well as medical dispensaries of the 74th Medical Battalion in the Long Binh area.

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b. The unit is presently engaged, in a joint effort with the 561st Medical Company (Amb), in the construction of permanent facilities at Long Binh.

c. Enlisted personnel problems have lessened but the unit remains short 1 officer.

d. No major problems exist in the area of logistics.

e. The unit evacuated 9,986 patients and recorded 89,905 miles during the report period.

f. CPT Robert C. Paxton, MSC commanded the company until his departure on 21 February at which time CPT Derek Cohn, MSC assumed command.

### 8. 616th Medical Company (Clearing)

a. With the exception of the 1st Platoon located at Phu Loi, the operational mission for the 616th Medical Company ceased on 14 February in preparation for movement. Orders were received to reassign the unit to the 55th Medical Group effective 1 May minus the 1st Platoon which was assigned to the 58th Medical Battalion to continue its support of the Phu Loi area. Vehicles and equipment were loaded on LST's for movement to Qui Nhon on 27 April and personnel scheduled to move by air on 2 May.

b. CPT Llewellyn Phillips II commanded the unit during the entire report period.

B. During the entire report period the 58th Medical Battalion designated a Personnel Staff NCO to coordinate personnel problems for all assigned units with the 68th Medical Group personnel officer. The result has been a more efficient implementation of personnel actions and a decrease of the work load previously carried by the Battalion Adjutant subsequently resulting in an improved S-1 operation. Reassignments, R&R's and related procedures, previously accomplished by 68th Medical Group, are now cut on Battalion Special Orders effecting not only a more timely and accurate publishing of appropriate orders, but a decrease in the work load at the higher headquarters. Personnel problems continue and the battalion shortage of maintenance personnel, clinical specialists, and Medical Service Corps Officers is acute. Coordination with 68th Medical Group S-1 is constant but replacement personnel are not received at that level and estimated time of arrival in many cases fails to be accurate.

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Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR - 65)

C. During the report period numerous changes in operations occurred. The 616th Medical Company was alerted to move to Qui Nhon on 1 May posing a problem in the support of the 1st Infantry Divisions' Phu Loi area. The decision was made to leave the 1st Platoon assigned to the 58th Medical Battalion to render this support and the remainder of the company prepared for departure on or about 1 May. During the entire report period this headquarters maintained two clearing platoons on alert for contingency plans but with the departure of the 616th Medical Company the requirement for one platoon was released from this organization. Three practice alerts were initiated by Long Binh Post during the report period. Notification procedures were followed and no problems were encountered. During the months of February and March, due to the constant shortage of drivers in the ambulance units, ambulance commitments were constantly shifted between assigned ambulance units. This was somewhat alleviated with an increased influx of replacements in early April and current commitments remain fairly stable. The 58th Medical Battalion Drivers Course was continued during the report period and approximately 180 newly assigned personnel were oriented in the specific hazards of driving in Vietnam in addition to maintenance procedures and defensive driving techniques. Having been conducted weekly since it started on 19 December the 45 hour course will be reduced to 1 time per month beginning in May. The course has been well received by commanders and students. The success of our program is evident in the reduction of accidents even though logged road mileage has increased almost 100% over the last report period of 1966. Plans include retraining drivers involved in accidents before relicensing if the accident did not involve serious bodily injury and his commander recommends he be relicensed.

D. Logistical problems have manifested themselves primarily in the construction area. The physical plant for the new battalion consolidated mess was completed during the first week in April but problems of power, water and equipment shortages delay its utilization at this time. It is expected that these problems will be solved and the mess opened during the early part of the next reporting period. The construction of Adams Huts for EM billets is proceeding well but shortages of "ready mix" and missing accessories to the Adams Huts keep progress slower than it could be. Present program includes 12 Adams Huts and 1 Pasco building for the 561st and 584th Medical Companies and 8 Adams Huts in the 50th Medical Company area. Completion of this project is expected during the next report period. Generators currently on hand have accumulated an excess of hours running time and breakdowns become frequent. A strict program of maintenance has assured adequate power for operations. Currently all generators are being turned into maintenance support activities, when required, and support service has been improving.

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Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR - 65)

E. A Chaplin has been authorized and assigned to each organic Medical Company (Clearing) during this report period. Activities have included conducting worship services, both for assigned patients, and at the near-by evacuation hospitals. Fellowship services have been held during the week and active Bible study groups meet regularly. Chaplins visits are conducted daily to patients and religious counselling is available to aid in the comfort of personnel experiencing family or other problems, as well as counselling and instruction for personnel contemplating marriage. Visits have been made to local native churches and pastoral coordination has been very rewarding.

F. Dental Activities: Omitted

G. Veterinary Activities: Omitted

SECTION II PART I  
OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

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A. PERSONNEL:

DISCUSSION: Normally consolidation of related activities at higher command levels considerably reduces the work load of subordinate units. At times, though, efficient operations necessitates feeder information being required by these units and if it is not closely watched these requirements result in as much administrative work at the lower level as before the consolidation. Additionally, in the personnel field, the required personal contact becomes lost and the feel of personal service to the individual is gone causing reduced moral.

OBSERVATION: When personnel services are consolidated at levels greater than one command channel above the serviced units a staff individual must be integrated into lower headquarters units to assure the personal contact necessary and be responsible to assure that assigned units interests are not lost in the consolidation. This has been done in the units within the 68th Medical Group and the overall result, within this battalion, has been to put the "personal" back in personnel.

B. MEDICAL SERVICE

DISCUSSION: The movement of patients in buses in Vietnam causes unnecessary discomfort because of the intense heat and the dust that enters windows open for ventilation. Air conditioning of ambulance buses is highly desirable but available buses are not air conditioned. The wiring, structural reinforcement, and metal ducting necessary make the addition of air conditioning in this command virtually impossible.

OBSERVATION: Bus ambulances deployed to tropical area should be furnished fully air conditioned.

SECTION II PART II  
RECOMMENDATIONS

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A. PERSONNEL: A staff personnel NCO should be authorized in every headquarters element below the level furnishing personnel service support to provide better coordination of personnel actions initiated by subordinate units.

B. MEDICAL SERVICE: Ambulance buses should be provided with air conditioning prior to shipment to tropical zones.

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AVCA MB-GD-PO (4 May 67) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR . 65) (58th Medical Battalion)

HEADQUARTERS, 68TH MEDICAL GROUP, APO 96491 15 May 1967

THRU: Commanding Officer, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307

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


Reference Part II, Section II

1. Paragraph A, Personnel. Regardless of the authorization, an individual can and should be designated to coordinate personnel actions initiated by subordinate units. At present, each major subordinate unit of this headquarters has designated at least one unit representative.

2. Paragraph B, Medical Service. The S4, 58th Medical Battalion, is working with Mr. Parker, 1st Logistical Command, on securing air conditioning units for assigned ambulance buses.

TEL: Long Binh 3326

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CHARLES C. PIXLEY  
Colonel, Medical Corps  
Commanding

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AVCA-MB-PO (4 May 67) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending  
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (58th Medical Battalion)

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307 22 June 1967

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-0  
APO 96307

1. The contents of basic document and first indorsement thereto have been reviewed.

2. Section II, Part II, paragraph B, MEDICAL SERVICE: Concur, Ambulance Buses should be equipped with air conditioning prior to shipment to any tropical area.

TEL: Lynx 382

1 Incl  
nc

F. W. TIMMERMAN  
COL, MC  
Commanding

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AVCA GO-0 (undated) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 16 June 1967

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

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 58th Medical Battalion for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded.

2. Reference page 9, paragraph A: Comments in paragraph 1, 1st Indorsement, are appropriate.

3. The 58th Medical Battalion engaged in combat service support for 89 days during the reporting period.

4. Concur with basic report as modified by Indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

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nc

TIMOTHY S. O'HARA  
1st, INF  
Acting Asst AG

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AVHGC-DST (1 May 67)

14th 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 16 AUG 1967

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, 58th Medical Battalion as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning air conditioning for ambulance buses, Section II, Part I, paragraph 13, page 9; Section II, Part II, paragraph 13, page 11; paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement and paragraph 2, 2d Indorsement: Concur in unit observation and recommendation. This headquarters has contacted the Supply Officer, 58th Medical Battalion regarding the procurement and installation of air conditioners in buses presently on hand. He stated that the make and models of air conditioners used in Air Force ambulance buses had been determined and these units are presently available either through supply channels or by direct purchase. The remaining problem of availability of an in-country capability to modify buses and install air conditioners has been referred to the Maintenance Officer, 29th General Support Group for study. Future actions will depend upon the outcome of this study.

b. Reference item concerning Personnel Services NCO, page 11 and paragraph 1, 1st Indorsement: Concur. With implementation of Personnel Services Company coverage in the command, a Personnel Staff NCO is needed at Battalion level. However, this requires a change to present TOE or TD. If a commander feels he must have a PSNCO before his TOE/TD is changed, he should designate this as an additional duty for currently assigned NCO.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
nc

  
E. L. KENNEDY  
CPT, AGC  
Asst Adjutant General

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GPOP-DT (4 May 67) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 Apr 67  
from 58th Med Bn (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 1 3 SEP 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:



D. SNYDER  
CPT, AGO  
Asst AG

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