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AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980
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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 34th Engineer Battalion (Const), Period Ending 31 Oct 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 34TH ENGINEER BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)
APO San Francisco 96394

EBD-3

15 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

THRU: Commanding Officer
79th Engineer Group
ATTN: EGE-3
APO US Forces 96491

Commanding General
20th Engineer Brigade
ATTN: AVIT-OPN
APO US Forces 96491

Commanding General
United States Army Engineer Command (Prov)
ATTN: AVCC-P&O
APO US Forces 96491

Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DH
APO US Forces 96307

Commander in Chief
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-OTh
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OPERATIONAL REPORT LESSONS LEARNED (RCS-OSFOR 65) FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD ENDING 31 OCTOBER 1967

SECTION I: SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITY

1. General

During the period 1 August-31 October the 34th Engineer Battalion successfully accomplished various engineer construction projects in the III Corps area. The battalion was primarily engaged in maintaining lines of communications, construction and development of a brigade supply facility, EM Clubs, mess halls, steel frame hangars, an I'C5S, helicopter revetments, MEF construction, hardstands, and six cantonment areas. Initially the greatest part of the battalion construction effort was at Bien Hoa, but with the deployment of D Company, reinforced with an extra construction platoon, to Phu Loi, and platoon size elements to Di An and Lai Khe, the greatest part of the construction effort at the end of the reporting period was at Phu Loi. The battalion has now been in country for six months and during this last quarter the troops have gained a substantial amount of experience in both vertical and horizontal construction activities and techniques.

2. Command

a. The Battalion Headquarters and all company headquarters remained at Bien Hoa with the exception of D Company whose headquarters moved to Phu Loi on 9 September 1967. This move created no major difficulties, though it was necessary to give some increased attention to communication and close coordination between D Company and Battalion Headquarters.

b. The command structure of the battalion for this reporting period has been as follows:

BATTALION COMMANDER: LTC John C. Cgilvie  
(CE) 28 Jul 66-Present

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: MAJ Kenneth D. Moore  
(CE) 20 Aug 66-Present

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY: 1LT Larry L. Payne  
(CE) 1 Aug 67-28 Aug 67

1LT Edward F. Covell  
(CE) 29 Aug 67-Present

A COMPANY: CPT Wilbur E. McConico  
(Arty) 1 Aug 67-Present

B COMPANY: CPT Charles L. Mills  
(Arty) 1 Aug 67-4 Sep 67
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS-GSFOR65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

ILL James J Reed
(OS) 5 Sep 67-Present

C COMPANY:
CPT Larry K Seitz
(CE) 3 Dec 66-28 Aug 67
CPT Roger C Strom
(CE) 29 Aug 67-Present

D COMPANY:
CPT Robert E Frederick
(Arty) 12 Jul 67-Present

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, Discipline

a. The average battalion strength for the quarter was 889 (94% of authorized strength). The officer strength remained at approximately 100% (short 1 WO Personnel Officer; excess 1 lieutenant; Executive Officer TDY to MTOE Board for 30 days). The Battalion was short two E-6s and several NCOs in the grade of E-5 (primarily MOS of 51H).

b. During this period it became necessary to reduce the large rotational hump of approximately 540 people with DEBOS in April 1968. An intra-group transfer reduced the rotational hump by 60 people. Plans were made and started in late October to infuse approximately 250 people during November and December.

c. A vigorous safety program is being conducted within the battalion with some apparent effectiveness since the number of accidents in October dropped to less than half of those in September.

d. The Battalion's Savings Bond Program remained high with 96% of personnel participating.

e. Morale of the unit has remained high as reflected by outstanding troop effort on the job. Troop morale was bolstered by movement from a battalion consolidated mess into individual company mess halls of tropicalized wood frame construction. Professional entertainment shows are held about twice a month and unit cook outs are held often. Movies are shown six nights a week and each company has a television set and tape recorder provided by Special Services.

f. There were no significant medical problems among battalion personnel. There were no cases of malaria. Ring worm was contracted by several personnel.

g. Religious services are held in the battalion area for Protestant and Catholic faiths each Sunday, where the average battalion attendance has been 60 and 35 respectively. Transportation is provided for Jewish services held in the Field Forces II Chapel in Long Binh.
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

Religious films are shown every Tuesday evening, and religious education is conducted for interested personnel.

h. Disciplinary problems within the battalion have been minimal. Two court martials were convened.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence:

a. A major change occurred in physical security status as the 34th Engineer Battalion responsibility increased to more than 30% of the Bien Hoa Army perimeter with the deployment of the 173rd Airborne Brigade (Sep) from Bien Hoa. The Commanding Officer, 34th Engineer Battalion was given responsibility for security of a designated sector, all sectors coordinating through a Tactical Operations Center. A major improvement in the control between bunkers and sector operations center was the installation of an underground communications system which raised the assurance of positive communication during any enemy action.

b. At Phu Loi, D Company provided guards to man four perimeter bunkers as part of an integral base security system.

c. The S-2 receives daily intelligence briefings from the Bien Hoa Army TOC and daily reports from II Field Forces. This information is used for planning both local security at Bien Hoa and other areas where elements of the battalion are located.

5. Plans, Operations, and Training

a. Plans and Operations:

(1) The 34th Engineer Battalion has remained heavily committed on construction projects in RVN. Several elements of the battalion were sent to perform priority projects at locations other than Bien Hoa. By the end of the reporting period, only about one half of the battalion strength remained at Bien Hoa. One full company plus one construction platoon was at Phu Loi, one platoon was at Lai Khe, one platoon was at Di An, the quarry section was at Tay Ninh and several individuals were on TDY at other base camps.

(2) Productivity of the battalion increased as troops became more familiar with local conditions and gained additional experience with laterite and in building tropicalized wooden buildings and pre-engineered structures. One hundred twenty-eight thousand square feet of buildings were completed, 3,010 CY of concrete were placed, 54,000 CY of laterite were hauled and compacted, and 74,000 SY
were treated for dust control. Less frequent rains toward the end of the period allowed greater efficiency in earthwork.

(3) The battalion operated pre-fabrication shops utilizing local nationals at both Bien Hoa and Phu Loi. These pre-fab shops produced over 600 wall panels, and 400 trusses, and 20 portable showers and burn out type latrines. Vietnamese carpenters organized in squad units or "packs" were utilized to assist in on-site erection of structures. After on the job training in the construction of standard wooden structures, little supervision was needed and the units took great pride in producing excellent structures.

b. A resume of major projects assigned to the battalion is as follows:

(1) The battalion continued work on the 173rd Airborne Brigade Supply Yard (BSO) meeting required BOD of 15 September. This enabled the 173rd Airborne Brigade to move their old BSO yard, thereby allowing a contractor (RMK) to continue on a second runway at Bien Hoa. Electrical systems on four buildings, a T-shape mess hall (2800 SF) a parachute packing and maintenance building with shake out tower (40 x 225') and finger berms for four pads in the Class V yard were completed.

(2) Constructed 7 mess halls and 2 EM Clubs totaling 33,000 SF for the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

(3) LOC maintenance continued on approximately 4.4 miles of QL-#1. Large potholes in the paved surface were repaired using a pre-blended dry patch of cement, sand and aggregate and just enough water for hydration. Asphalt hot-mix and a single surface treatment was applied as needed to prevent ravelling and surface deterioration.

(4) Earthwork began and was 50% complete after hauling and compacting 4,835 CY of laterite on a 500'x600' motor pool for the 5th Special Forces Group.
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(5) Construction continued on five steel rotary wing aircraft maintenance hangars (75'x202') at Phu Loi. A 34E concrete mixer on loan was utilized to place the large quantity of concrete in use at the end of the reporting period.

(6) An IWCS site at Phu Loi was essentially completed. The project included reinforced concrete tower foundations and slabs for a power equipment and electronic equipment building.

(7) The battalion erected two pump houses and two steel towers with tanks for water fill points at Phu Loi.

(8) At Lai Khe work began on nine Pascoo buildings (20'x18'). At the end of the reporting period nine laterite pads, seven concrete slabs and one building were completed with the second, third and fourth in progress.

(9) The battalion undertook many projects in addition to the major ones listed above. Among these were the construction of sixty-one M8A1 type helicopter revetments; construction of a 40'x60' penprimed parking and maintenance area for fifteen Chinook helicopters; delivery of materials for ARVN dependent housing; operation of laterite pits extracting a total of 54,000 CY; maintenance of 13 miles of road within Bien Hoa Army Cantonment area; construction of a 20'x50' VN labor office; placement of 1100 CY of concrete for a tennis court; erection of several bunkers; construction of three 20'x18' quonset huts, comprising an equipment and maintenance building for a microwave relay station; construction of a BOQ addition at Long Binh; and site preparation for a Signal company MFR and an Infantry Battalion MFR.

(10) Technical assistance on a self help basis was provided for four cantonment areas at Bien Hoa, one at Phu Loi (the entire base) and one at Cat Lai. At Bien Hoa, three T-shape mess halls (8,100 SF), three maintenance buildings and two billets (20'x100') were completed. At Phu Loi, well trained VN carpenters and masons in squad size units or "packs" were utilized to build an initial billet in each area as model structure. Approximately three billets (20'x108') were 80% completed, and plumbing and electrical system were installed in a mess hall.

c. Training

(1) Formal training consisted of in-country orientation for new arrivals and several officer and NCO classes on topics such as preparation of Bills of Materials, use of grade stakes, proper culvert design and preparation of construction schedules. All guard personnel were trained in the use of the M-79, Claymore, and M-60 machinegun at the 173rd Airborne Brigade Jungle School.
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS-CPOR-65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

(2) An electrical distribution team consisting of 15 men was trained by a civilian contractor coordinated through USAECV(P). Training consisted of proper methods of placing poles, rigging of poles, stringing both primary and secondary conductors and installing service drops.

6. Logistics:

a. S-4 activities functioned smoothly with no significant problem. Prior to D Company's deployment, direct coordination was made with the supply facilities at Phu Loi, enabling D Company to pick up Class I and III supplies immediately on arrival. Class II, IV, and V are supplied to D Company by this battalion.

b. Critical shortages of materials were: small electrical fixtures (e.g. toggle switches), large timbers, various plumbing fixtures, electrical wire, 8' pickets, limestone and drawing reproduction paper.

c. Since activation on 1 July 1966, the battalion has been short the following TOE items: three water distributors, one ten ton crane, two woodworking equipment shops and one rotary mixer. During this period, the battalion received ten 3/4 ton trucks and six AM radios (AN/GRC 106) to complete the TO&E compliment in these areas. One scraper and one entrenching machine were combat losses while working on TDY with another organization.

d. The battalion has maintained an accumulative deadline rate of 1.9% for reportable items. The few vehicle deadlines resulted from parts wearing out and minor accidents except for above combat losses.

e. Some repair parts are currently being received, with approximate rates of 42% and 25% for Red Ball and normal requisitions respectively. The following data reflect ordnance, engineer and signal repair parts supply status for the reporting period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REQUISITIONS</th>
<th>HQ</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Ball Submitted</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Ball Filled</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Submitted</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>458</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Normal Filled</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

7. Force Development: None

8. Command Management:

a. The projects and missions assigned to the 314th Engr En are managed by the Battalion Operations Officer. Daily operations meetings are held to discuss problems and project priorities, to coordinate survey requirements, and coordinate equipment for efficient utilization. Weekly staff meetings are held and once monthly all officers in the battalion except those on guard or other scheduled duty are assembled and briefed by the staff and company commanders. The latter is very helpful in keeping everyone thoroughly informed. The high rate of officer turnover due to replacement and infusion requires frequent briefing sessions on objectives and policies.

b. When a project directive is received, a battalion directive is assigned to the appropriate company. The S-3 Section accomplishes the design and drafting to accompany the battalion directive. The company is then responsible for submitting a complete BOM, construction plan, construction schedule, drainage plan, and safety plan to the S-3 Section for approval. A project officer within the S-3 Section checks for quality control and resolves problems that arise. In addition, close coordination with base development boards is maintained for planning purposes.

9. Inspector General: Several informal complaints were received by the acting IG, the Battalion Executive Officer. Through investigation and discussion with the parties concerned, acceptable solutions were reached within the organization. No formal complaints were received during this period.

10. Information:

a. The battalion receives the following newspapers: The Army Reporter, The Observer, The Castle Courier, and the Pioneer during the month. The Pacific Stars and Stripes is distributed daily through the 79th Engineer Group by courier. The battalion receives the following magazines: Army, Commander's Digest, and The Army Digest.

b. The battalion began publishing a bimonthly newspaper this period entitled "The Volcano" (taken from our battalion shield).

c. Hometown News Releases and news articles are submitted to the 79th Engineer Group.

11. Civic Affairs:
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a. Due to a heavy project workload, civic action effort was relatively minor. On several occasions equipment was used to haul supplies for local construction projects. The battalion plans to increase effort in this area and has plans for construction of a local school.

b. The Medical Section began MEDCAP work in 2 villages (Bui Thai & Tam Hiep) in the Duc Tu District during the last week in September. The medical section participates in the MEDCAP program on Tuesday & Thursday afternoons. There are approximately 100 people examined per afternoon session and the effort expended has produced very favorable results, both in bettering general health and social relations.

c. The Battalion Chaplain was active in aiding two orphanages in Ho Nai. Voluntary contributions were made and distributed to the orphans in the form of candy and clothing. A party was held in the battalion area on 29 October 1967 for approximately 50 orphan children.

d. The battalion employed a total of 110 MCA and 165 O&M, Local Nationals at Bien Hoa and Phu Loi.

(1) The following is a breakdown by job classification:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCA</th>
<th>O&amp;M</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>113 Carpenters</td>
<td>60 KPs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Masons</td>
<td>21 Mechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 Painters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Clerk Typists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24 Laborers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Driver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Electrician</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Warehousemen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>27 Maintenanceen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5 Latrine attendents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1 Plumber</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(2) In addition to the local nationals listed above, the battalion hires approximately 135 Vietnamese on a daily hire basis to perform unskilled labor, such as sand bag filling, carrying and stacking lumber, and carrying sand and gravel to concrete mixers.
ITEM: Excavation for footers.

DISCUSSION: During the horizontal construction phase for concrete slabs it was found that by slightly increasing the size of the pad it is possible to utilize an entrenching machine for footer excavation.

OBSERVATION: The quality and efficiency of footer excavation is generally improved by use of the entrenching machine.

ITEM: Lack of Weapons Training

DISCUSSION: It was necessary to train many new arrivals in country on the use of the M-79 grenade launcher, M-60 machinegun, shotgun and the Claymore mine. These weapons are employed by this unit on perimeter defense and operations in hostile areas. Several hours were lost on engineer construction missions training personnel on these weapons.

OBSERVATION: Although not infantry troops, construction engineers are often involved in situations that require use of non TOE weaponry (The M-60 machinegun is a TOE item but others mentioned above are not.) It is felt that the use of these weapons by engineer troops is widespread, and therefore personnel deploying to Vietnam should be trained in these basic small arms before arrival, so that valuable troop construction hours are not lost.

ITEM: Assembling a 36 ft tower on the ground

DISCUSSION: Assembling a 36 ft steel water tower can be very dangerous and requires many safety measures when erected vertically.

OBSERVATION: It was found that a large amount of construction time could be saved by assembling the water tower frame on the ground while placing the concrete footers at the same time. By the time the frame is assembled the footers are ready for the frame. Two cranes, one on each side of the frame, can place the frame in position with very little difficulty.

ITEM: Batch Plant Operations

DISCUSSION: A great number of projects at Phu Loi require concrete for building slabs. These projects are spread over the whole cantonment area. Transporting and setting up 16S mixers does not prove profitable due to the time lost.

OBSERVATION: A central batch plant with 2 or 3 16S mixers, Vietnamese laborers, and dump trucks proved to be far more practical than moving...
the mixers around to different job sites. When a job requires considerable concrete, the mixers can be moved to the site, otherwise they should be left at the batch plant.

ITEM: Use of 10 ton roller

DISCUSSION: After a rain, areas with inadequate compaction absorbed water which, in turn, caused situations where profitable earthwork could not be done due to the instability of the soil.

OBSERVATION: It is well documented that properly graded and well compacted laterite will shed water readily. Hence, the last operation of the day during the monsoons should be rolling the entire work area to insure better soil stability and to minimize the presence of water-catchung voids. Moving more earth than can be effectively compacted with available equipment is a frequent temptation and a very poor gamble in the monsoons.

ITEM: Use of Entrenching Machine

DISCUSSION: While being used on a search and destroy mission, the entrenching machine was taken into uncleared areas for the purpose of digging emplacements. While being used in these areas, the entrencher was mired several times and was badly damaged by the heavy underbrush.

OBSERVATION: Unless an area is relatively clean and the terrain stable, it is impractical to use the entrencher on these type operations due to its lack of cross country mobility.

ITEM: Repair of potholes in macadam road surface with continuous traffic flow.

DISCUSSION: Due to frequent rainstorm, wet conditions and heavy traffic interference, asphalt hot-mix patching was impractical at times. Under such conditions a well graded, pre-blended mix composed of cement, sand, 3/8" minus aggregate and 1/4" minus aggregate was used to rapidly restore the road surface as an interim measure. Later a better surface treatment or suitable seal coat is placed.

OBSERVATION: A minimum of effort is required in preparing the pothole to receive this mix. The pothole should be reasonably free of standing water and loose material. The most critical item in employing the pre-blended cement mix is the moisture content. It was found the ideal time to add the water was as the mix was being dumped from the 16S mixer into the front loader (adding water to the 16S causes excessive amounts sticking to the walls and adding water after the mix is in the hole does not permit complete hydration. The mix should be placed in thin lifts and compacted with tampers until high enough to be compacted with a steel wheel roller. This material can be placed during
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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 Oct 67

light rains and when the road surface is wet. When the road dries, a RC-3 and 3/8" minus aggregate can be used to seal the pothole.

ITEM: Raising back walls on Aircraft Maintenance Hangars.

DISCUSSION: During construction of a prefabricated steel hangar, all of the back wall was bolted together on the ground. Upon trying to raise the back wall in one large section, the steel members were too cumbersome and unwieldy.

OBSERVATION: While preassembly of steel on the ground is generally advantageous it must be done judiciously to preclude creation of unwieldy and dangerous situations in handling assemblies.

ITEM: Construction safety of metal hangars.

DISCUSSION: During the construction of metal hangars there is often a requirement for workers to be on members high above the ground. They should always be tied into the member upon which they are working. It was difficult to find leather safety straps adequate for this type of work.

OBSERVATION: We found that if the person ties a "Swiss Seat" on himself with a sling rope, and tied into the member, he had more maneuverability and protection from falling.

ITEM: Use of spreader bar on heavy steel beams.

DISCUSSION: While erecting aircraft maintenance hangars it was found that a crane or even two cranes could not lift the beams with out damaging them due to unequal weight distribution.

OBSERVATION: Use of spreader bars that can be locally fabricated solves this problem quickly.

ITEM: Use of local nationals to build standard billets.

DISCUSSION: Local nationals were employed in squad size units or "packs" with a Vietnamese supervisor in charge to build standard 20' x 52' billets. A US soldier was assigned to each pack as a technical assistant and working advisor. Experience in leadership and supervision was gained by the US personnel while the Vietnamese normally used in prefabrication of components gained the stimulus and satisfaction of building a complete structure.

OBSERVATION: The Vietnamese response to any degree of personal consideration and normal stimuli is obvious in the work they accomplished. The Vietnamese have a very definite supervisor-worker relationship, and
the Vietnamese carpenter can be very productive if managed properly. Many of the younger workers can speak some English. Making a younger person a supervisor over an older person just because he can speak English often proves to be a big mistake. Patience on the part of the American in trying to communicate with the older supervisor appears to be a vital factor in good management.

ITEM: Berm Erosion Control

DISCUSSION: Newly formed berms eroded quickly in the monsoon season.

OBSERVATION: Local nationals were used to shape the berm using a dragging motion with long boards and then to hand tamp the berm using short boards. Penetronite was then applied to the surface at approximately 1/4 gal/yr. This produced satisfactory berm erosion control, but the entire experience emphasized the desirability of accomplishing as much earthwork as possible during the dry season so that areas are well drained, well compacted and in the case of berms protected by an initial stand of grass before heavy monsoon rains begin.

ITEM: Daylighting Puddles

DISCUSSION: Very often during the monsoon season, despite persistent efforts to keep an area drained, large puddles would form preventing use of earthmoving equipment in that area.

OBSERVATION: It is essential to keep puddles daylighted, but often handle shovels or personnel were not readily available and leldon is a relief channel of more than an inch or two in width needed. A solution was to have vehicles carry a U shaped picket with a bent end that could be used to quickly scrape a narrow ditch to daylight puddles. This method was employed successfully to dispose of puddles throughout the monsoons allowing earlier resumption of earthmoving activities after rains.

ITEM: 7.62mm Link Ammunition

DISCUSSION: 7.62mm ammunition became badly corroded and dirty when repeatedly exposed to the elements in spite of attempted preventive measures. This condition can lead to a weapon stoppage.

OBSERVATION: 7.62mm link ammunition easily becomes corroded and dirty, and it must be inspected, cleaned and/or replaced frequently.

2. Other

ITEM: Gonorrhea, resistant to usual dosage of Penicillin.
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) for
Quarterly Period Ending 31 Oct 67

DISCUSSION: Gonorrhea is prevalent among the prostitutes in South Vietnam. One third of the cases experienced in this unit have not responded to the usual treatment of 2.4 million units of procaine penicillin. Because of the high rate of resistant cases, an increase of the dosage has been made to 4.8 million units of procaine penicillin for initial treatment of gonorrhea. This dosage appears adequate for out-treatment of gonorrhea.

OBSERVATION: Initial treatment of gonorrhea contracted in Vietnam should be 4.8 million units procaine penicillin. Increase in initial dosage, although more painful, has unfortunately had little effect in deterring troops from contacting Venereal Disease, but has materially lessened repetitive treatments required because of cases resistant to standard dosage.

ITEM: Ringing devise for switchboard

DISCUSSION: Battalion wire communications are consolidated on one switchboard which requires three SB-22 stacked on a total of approximately 36 lines. Due to the large volume of calls, the switchboard operator spent a great deal of time manually ringing.

OBSERVATION: An automatic ringing device was made by utilizing a "Terminal, Telegram, TH-22/7G" (a component of the AN/TCC-29, normally used for teletype operations). Using this system, the operator simply presses a button to ring a phone, which reduced the time required to handle each call.

SECTION 2, Part II

Recommendations:

1. During a 30 day period the battalion executive officer attended a MTO&E Board at USAECV(P) to discuss what changes in equipment were necessary for engineer units in Vietnam. Our recommendations in this field were presented at this board and therefore are not listed here.

2. Heavy demands for construction, tight suspense dates, and overenthusiasm frequently prompts personnel to ignore fundamentals such as drainage, complete planning, good site selection, timely verification of availability of initial equipment, etc. More often than not, the deliberate gamble or hurried oversight results in significant delays, confirming the old adage that "haste makes waste."
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All persons preparing for assignment to Vietnam should be cautioned to be on guard, not to subcome to temptation to ignore fundamentals unless exigencies of the situation fully justify the inherent risks.

Incl
1. Organization Diagram

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8-CO, 79th Engr Grp, ATTN: EGE-3
APO 961.91 (Courier)
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR 65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

DA, Headquarters, 79th Engineer Group, APO 96491, 19 November 1967

TO: Commanding General, 20th Engineer Brigade, APO 96491

The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 34th Engineer Battalion has been reviewed and is considered adequate.

JOSEPH K. JANSEN
Colonel, OE
Commanding
AVBI-OPN (15 Nov 67) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR-65) for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967

DA, Headquarters, 20th Engineer Brigade, APO 96491, 27 Nov 67

TO: Commanding General, USAECV(P), Attn: AVCC-P&O, APO 96491

1. The subject report submitted by the 34th Engineer Battalion has been reviewed by this Headquarters and is considered comprehensive and of value for documentation and review of the reporting units activities and experiences.

2. This Headquarters concurs with the submitted report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

CECIL D. CLARK
Major, CE
Adjutant

COPY FURNISHED
CO, 34th Engr Bn

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned (KCS CSFOR-65) for Period Ending 31 October 1967

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY ENGINEER COMMAND
VIETNAM (PROV), APO 96491

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHOC-DN, APO 96375

The subject report, submitted by the 34th Engineer Battalion, has been reviewed by this headquarters and is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

PAUL A. LOOF
Colonel, CE
Chief of Staff

C/S Furla:
CG, 20th Engr Bde
CO, 79th Engr Cp
CO, 34th Engr Bn
AVHGC-DST (15 Nov 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned (RCS-CSFOR65) for Quarterly Period ending 31 October 1967

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 2 DEC 1967

TO: Commanding Officer, 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 October 1967 from Headquarters, 34th Engineer Battalion (Construction) (DZNA) as indorsed.

2. Concur with report as indorsed. Report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

JOHN V. GETCHELL
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

cc:
HQ, 34th Engr Bn (Const)
HQ, USAECV (P)
HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558  9 JAN 1968

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

1. This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as indorsed.

2. Reference Section 2 Part I, paragraph 2, pages 13 and 14: ITEM: Gonorrhea resistant to usual dosage of penicillin:

   In recent years, there has been a generalized increase in the dosages of penicillin required in the treatment of a case of gonorrhea in Vietnam. However, this is not a uniform across the board increase. In many areas, a lesser dose than was suggested in this ORLL has been successful. Therefore, it is felt that the decision of how much of this drug to use on a specific case must remain the decision of the individual physician and not be dictated by an SOP.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG
Inclosure 1
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 34th Engineer Battalion (Const)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967

CO, 34th Engineer Battalion (Const)

15 November 1967

N/A

N/A

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D. C. 20310