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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
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IN REPLY REFER TO  
AGAM-P (M) (20 Mar 67) FOR OT

23 March 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 44th Signal Battalion

AD827559

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 44th Signal Battalion for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of 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 the Commandants of the Service Schools to insure appropriate benefits in the future from lessons learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 44TH SIGNAL BATTALION  
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96227

SCCVSG-BH-H

SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, Reports Control Symbol CSFOR-65.

TO: Commanding Officer  
2d Signal Group  
APO 96491

In accordance with AR 1-19, USARV Regulation 870-2 and 1st Signal Brigade Regulation 870-2, the following report is submitted.

SECTION I UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. GENERAL:

a. The reported period was marked by the activation of the Battalion on 15 December 1966, and the resultant expansion of operational facilities and commitments from support company type operations.

b. On 22 December 1966, ceremonies were held officially activating the Battalion, and de-activating the 232d Signal Company (SPT). Dignitaries on hand for the ceremonies included Col. Cole, Commanding Officer, 2d Signal Group, Col. Merritt, Signal Officer, II Field Forces Vietnam, and Major Phoung, Signal Officer, III ARVN Corps. Col. Cole was reviewing Officer and passed the colors of the newly formed Battalion to Major Jay B. Raney, Commanding Officer of the Battalion.

c. The Battalion moved to the new cantonment area, located in the 173d Airborne area, Bien Hoa, RVN. The move was made during the period 14-15 January 67. Because of the lack of a signal maintenance facility in the new area, the signal maintenance section of the Battalion remained at the old cantonment area located on Honour-Smith Compound, Bien Hoa, RVN. A maintenance facility is being constructed to house the signal maintenance section. Upon completion of the facility the section will move into the Battalion area.

d. It is important to note that though the unit went from company size operations to Battalion size operations, with no immediate increase in trained personnel, there was no letdown in the high standards of operation demanded by the unit, and morale remained OUTSTANDING.

e. The Battalion had to provide electrical power and water for the cantonment area which had no power facilities and logistical support for water.

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SCCVSG-BH-H

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned

2. OPERATIONS:

a. The Battalion began the report period by training and placing incoming personnel in sections where they could be guided by their more experienced counterparts. This program insured not only that the right man was placed in the right job but also that the high standards of efficiency expected by this organization were maintained.

b. The number of circuits terminating in the III ARVN Corps Headquarters area Communications Center is steadily increasing. To minimize handling times and reduce the possibility of backlog, each of the circuits to the subordinate divisions was upgraded from half to full duplex.

c. VHF and carrier commitments have greatly increased. When the Battalion was activated, a total of 12 VHF and carrier cable systems were in operation. At present, the Battalion is involved in a total of 21 VHF and carrier cable systems. Through the judicious use of cable, terminal sites were consolidated and additional systems were initiated with a minimum increase in personnel requirements. The most significant effort was the establishment of a technical control center at all of the Battalion's sites. Use of teletype and order wire circuits between the Battalion systems control centers and company technical control centers greatly reduces the time required to analyze system or circuit difficulties and increases efficiency in reporting procedures and restoration priorities.

d. High frequency radio commitments for the Battalion were also increased. The Battalion is responsible for the III Corps O&I Net which increased from four teletype stations to six.

e. Consolidation and enlargement of two manual central offices in the Bien Hoa area began just prior to the New Year. Service was improved by better utilization of personnel and technical improvement of the facilities.

3. TRAINING: Concurrent with accelerated operations, a comprehensive training program evolved. On the job training programs were set up to cross train personnel as teletype, switchboard and VHF carrier operators. All incoming personnel are trained as to technical reporting and operating procedures pertinent to their section. Weapons are fired quarterly and all Battalion personnel have fired their basic weapons. All crew served weapons personnel have received in-country training. The command information program is used extensively by commanders of sites to keep their men informed and up to date on happenings in the RVN and around the world. All personnel of the Battalion have been informed of their security duties in the Battalion.

3  
SCCVSG-BH-H

SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned

4. LOGISTICS:

a. Lack of parts was a major problem in maintaining power generators. The problem has been somewhat eased with incoming flow of "Red Ball" parts. Because of the climate and continuous mission, all power generators require constant care and maintenance.

b. The flow of parts and supplies placed on normal requisition is not adequate to meet demands.

c. For a period of time the Battalion faced a shortage of all skilled maintenance personnel. However, trained personnel are now being assigned to the Battalion and are being placed on the job with minimum delay. There is still a initial shortage of teletype and crypto repairmen.

d. Overall, though the logistical area is not what it should be, it is greatly improving through the use of the "Red Ball" requisitioning program and the assignment of skilled maintenance personnel to the Battalion.

5. PERSONNEL:

a. The Battalion has had no great difficulties in the personnel area. The major problem faced was the lack of trained maintenance personnel in all areas, as mentioned in 4. c. above.

b. Timely receipt of assignment instructions from DA for those personnel completing their tour is a problem. Most personnel returning to CONUS are being sent back unassigned to OART Oakland California. This creates a morale problem. Personnel returning to CONUS unassigned can make no plans for their families until they receive assignment instruction. In many cases this creates a hardship on the serviceman and his family.

c. Replacements continue to adequately maintain the Battalion strength though some critical MCS shortages exist.

6. SUMMARY:

The period reflects a continued expansion of Battalion missions and operations in all functional areas of communications. The ingenuity of command and staff personnel and effective utilization of personnel has made it possible to meet these expanding commitments without loss of responsiveness or quality.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned

SECTION II COMMANDER'S RECOMMENDATIONS

1. General: None.

2. Lessons Learned:

Grounding

Item: Equipment Grounding.

Discussion: Difficulty has been encountered in obtaining a good ground in many of the signal sites controlled by this unit. To alleviate the problem, a central ground was devised by placing Pierced Steel Planking (PSP) in a six (6) foot hole containing ash fill and salt. The PSP is connected to a central ground terminal by means of a ground strap. Another technique used for a small facility, i.e. a patch panel, is to place the ground rod directly under the drain hole of an airconditioner and allow the accumulated moisture to drip on the ground rod. As the absorption rate of the soil is slow the soil around the ground rod is constantly wet, providing an adequate ground.

Observation: Adequate grounds can be obtained by utilizing improved grounding techniques.

Power Generators

Item: Generator Maintenance.

Discussion: Lack of education of newly arrived personnel contributes to the problem of generator maintenance as well as motor vehicle maintenance. Power generator mechanics have a tendency to cannablize rather than requisition the necessary parts.

Observation: Operators must be made aware of their responsibilities. The mechanics must be made aware of the proper requisitioning procedures to include "Red Ball", "Blue Streak", etc.

Switchboard Cord Life

Item: Excessive wear of Switchboard Cords.

Discussion: Because the demand placed on a switchboard by local subscribers, cord wear has become excessively high. Wrapping the cord at the base of the plug with three (3) inches of plastic electrician's tape decreases the wear extensively.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report on Lessons Learned

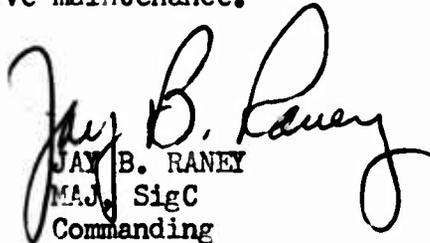
Observation: Life expectancy of telephone switchboard cords in multiposition switchboards can be lengthened by adapting the plastic tape modification.

Automotive Maintenance

Item: Daily User Maintenance.

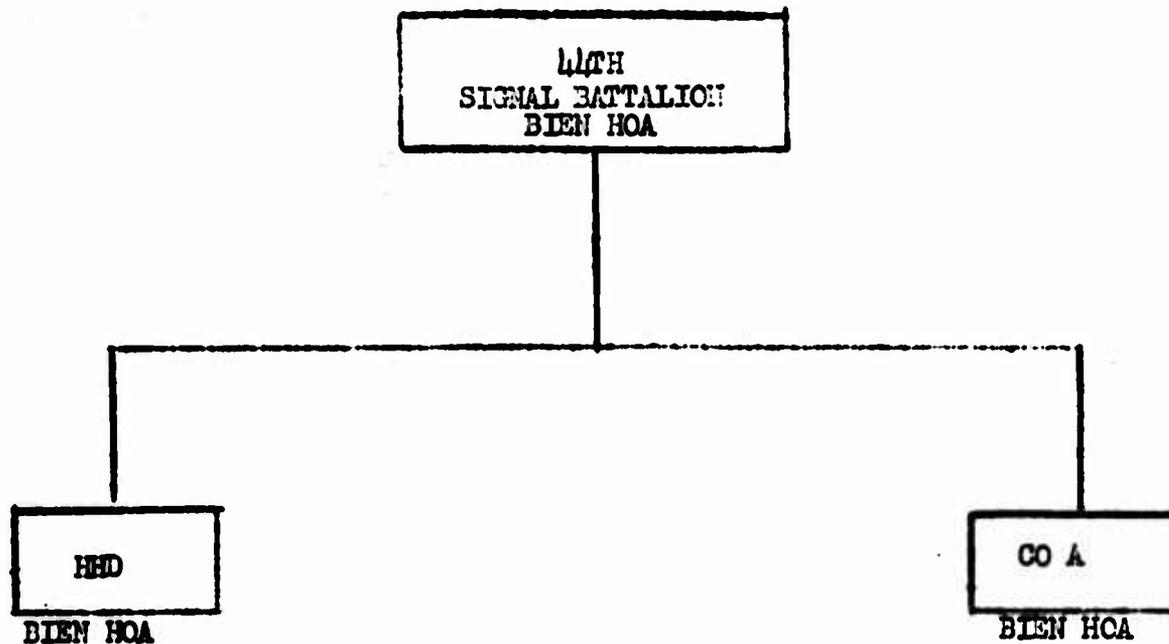
Discussion: Personnel serving their first tour of duty in the military usually are ignorant of maintenance procedures. Preventive maintenance geared to the climatic conditions of Vietnam such as clean-air filters daily, draining air tanks before and after daily operation, and draining the fuel filter on multi-fuel vehicles twice daily must be taught to the individual.

Observation: Vehicle operators must be made aware of the importance of proper preventive maintenance.

  
JAY B. RANEY  
MAJ, SigC  
Commanding

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

AS OF: 31 January 1967



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SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 2d Signal Group, APO 96491

: 2 MAR 1967

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

1. Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967  
submitted by the 44th Signal Battalion has been reviewed and found to be  
adequate.

2. Further, I fully concur in the Commander's Observations and  
Recommendations portion of the report.

1 Incl Added  
Organizational Chart

  
JACK N. COLE  
Colonel, SigC  
Commanding