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**TO:**
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**FROM:**
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**AUTHORITY**
AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980
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APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2D Surgical Hospital (Mobile Army)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 2D Surgical Hospital (Mobile Army) 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.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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THRU:
- Commanding Officer
  55th Medical Group
  ATTN: Historian
  APO 96238

- Commanding Officer
  44th Medical Brigade
  ATTN: Historian
  APO 96307

- Commanding General
  1st Logistical Command
  ATTN: AVG-GO-H
  APO 96307

- Commanding General
  United States Army, Vietnam
  ATTN: AVG-DH
  APO 96307

- Commander-in-Chief
  United States Army, Pacific
  ATTN: GPOP-WH

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Forces Development
   Department of the Army
   Washington, D.C. 20310
SUBJECT: Operational report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period 
Ending 31 January 1967 (MW C/FOR-65)(U) 

SECTION I 

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES 

During the reporting period, much progress was made to improve the 
hospital complex. Major items completed by other than troop labor were: 
plumbing throughout hospital area, installation of heating system for 
hot water throughout the area to include showers and kitchen area, and 
installation of lighting system for the helipad. Using the self-help 
program (troop labor), the unit completed the following projects: covered 
ropes throughout hospital area, repainted the entire interior of hospi-
tal, and remodelled the Hospital Headquarters, Cast Room, Medical Library 
and Red Cross Recreation area. 

Construction on the permanent billeting complex for hospital person-
nel has come to a virtual stand still. Inclement weather hindered the 
project much of the reporting period, however since the advent of favor-
able weather conditions, no progress has been made. Requests for engin-
ner support for site preparations have been to no avail. 

During the quarter, the hospital admitted for definitive treatment 
653 military personnel, three (3) American civilian employees, sixteen 
(16) Vietnamese military personnel and two (2) Viet Cong and/or North 
Vietnamese Army Prisoner of War. 

During the period 1 November 1966 through 31 December 1966 thirty 
(30) enlisted men rotated to Camp with limited number of replacements 
at that time. Liaison with higher headquarters resulted in twenty (20) 
filler personnel from other group units being assigned which enabled the 
unit to continue performing its mission with no loss of efficiency. 

Change in key personnel was made on 29 December 1966 when LGS 
Donald G. Carlander was transferred and replaced by SFC (E7) Marion D. 
Terris. 

The annual AGI/CMI Inspection was conducted by the 1st Logistical 
Command Inspector General team on 29 November 1966 with a resulting rating 
of satisfactory. 

Two General Surgeons, Captain Albert F. Fisters, 0513061 and Captain 
Robert Gasior, 05518882 were administered the first part of General 
surgical Specialty Board in Saigon, Vietnam on 7 December 1966 and 
successfully completed it. 

Under the provisions of paragraph 3, Special Order 203, Headquarters, 
United States Army Support Command, Qui Nhon dated 2 December 1966, the 
26 Surgical Hospital was released from attached to 34th Supply and Service 
Corps and attached to an Nha Sub Area Command for Logistical Support 
only.
SUBJECT: Operational report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 January 1967 (HCS CGFOR-65)(U)

Visitors during the reporting period were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Visitor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4 November 1966</td>
<td>Larrna Haye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 December 1966</td>
<td>Colonel Margaret Clark, Army Chief Nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 December 1966</td>
<td>Chris Noel, Armed Forces Network</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 December 1966</td>
<td>LTC Nguyen Van Tu, Chief of Staff, II Corps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 December 1966</td>
<td>Doctor Billy Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 December 1966</td>
<td>Job Hope and Anita Bryant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 December 1966</td>
<td>Major General Byron Steger, MACPACOM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 January 1967</td>
<td>Brigadier General George J. Hayes, NC</td>
</tr>
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Some of the major items of equipment received during the reporting period included:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Stretcher, Hospital wheeled</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Frame, overhead, hospital bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Refrigerators, household 12.5 cubic feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Tables, operating hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sterilizers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Truck, tank water 2½ ton, 1,000 gallon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MELOGP ACTIVITIES: The 2d Surgical Hospital (M) has been actively supporting the Vietnamese and Montagnard people in need of medical care, particularly those who have been injured as a consequence of hostile activity. MELOGP activities have been significantly accelerated as of 1 January 1967 with the introduction of an organized medical care program being offered to the people of outlying villages and hamlets within military secure boundaries but outside the confines of An Khe proper. Together with MACV and USAU, greater opportunities are being offered to these people relative to their medical, educational and social development.

Medical care has been scheduled in an organized fashion offering consultation and therapy every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, visiting a different area each day. Return visits are made to each village twice each month for follow up care. Approximately 672 patients were seen in January, 441 of which were treated. Diseases were primarily respiratory and pulmonary infections, parasitic gastrointestinal afflictions and cutaneous eruptions. An educational program advising native population as to their self care has been initiated however learning processes are slow but hopeful.

Growth of this program should be progressive as increasing numbers of people are approached and cared for.

Section II

Part I

Commander's Observations and Recommendations

ITEM: Adequate electrical power continues to be a problem.

DISCUSSION: At present time electrical power to this hospital is supplied by two 100 kW generators. The current lead peaks at about 120 kw almost daily. This necessitates running both generators simultaneously. A malfunction of either generator would result in immediate loss of part of our primary power and total loss of back up power.

On several occasions during the reporting period, line overload has caused total power failures while surgical procedures were in progress. The power was off in the operating rooms for periods of seconds to 25 minutes. We found that our storage of battery lights, though available for use in the operating rooms, were inadequate for abdominal and thoracic surgery. As an expedient the 15 kw generator by TOAE has been connected to our operating rooms for emergency back up power.

Plans are in progress to rewire the entire Camp Radcliffe area and install a central power plant. At the present time the best estimates place the completion of this project in September 1967.

ITEM: The need for adequate back up for organic water truck.

DISCUSSION: Since arrival in country, water for the unit has been trucked into the area from the base water point and stored in lister bags, five gallon water cans and more recently in a 10,500 gallon water tank. The water truck was in continuous use to keep the water level up to meet daily requirements. During scheduled maintenance and/or any period when the vehicle was non-operational, the hospital was faced with a critical problem.

An attempt to drill a well in the hospital area was to no avail.

A requisition along with complete justification was submitted and on 25 January 1967 a truck tank water, 2½ ton, 1,000 gallon was received.

ITEM: Inadequate space in Receiving and Evacuation section for outpatient clinic.

DISCUSSION: This hospital provides consultation service in orthopedics and general surgery for the Camp Radcliffe area. There has been a gradual increase in the number of out patients seen during the past three months from 750 patients seen in October to 1175 patients seen in December. This created a problem in the Receiving and Evacuation building. Patients accumulating in the waiting area of Receiving and Evacuation impeded the smooth flow of acute casualties through the Receiving and Evacuation section.
SUBJECT: Operational report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 31 January 1967 (w/ OPR-65)(U)

OBSERVATION: A covered outdoor waiting room was constructed adjacent
to the Orthopedic Cast Room. The orthopedic consultations and out patient
treatment is carried out in the cast room. A similar type construction is
planned adjacent to the receiving and evacuation section to serve as a
general surgical patient waiting area.

DISCUSSION: The TO&E X-ray developing equipment is inadequate

... (text continues)

DISCUSSION: The TO&E X-ray developing equipment is inadequate for the
efficient handling of large numbers of acute casualties, because of the slow
hand developing process, a bottleneck invariably occurs in the X-ray
section delaying patient care. The wet film that is eventually produced,
while technically good initially, becomes streaked and scratched if carried
to the Operating Room or otherwise delayed from final washing and drying.

Polaroid films are not of adequate quality to substitute for regular
negative image films especially in the evaluation of injuries caused by
missiles.

OBSERVATION: Rapid, efficient early processing of X-rays can be done
by a small portable machine such as the Speed-X "K" manufactured by the
General Aniline and Film Corporation. This developing unit is portable,
produces a dry negative image within sixty (60) seconds, can be used in
daylight and could be used readily in X-ray building, operating room or
field tent. Personal experience with this unit leads me to believe that it
would provide a means of relieving the bottleneck that exists in the X-ray
section during the processing of large numbers of acute casualties.

Part 2 Recommendations

It is recommended that pending the completion of the central power
plant, a 100 KW generator be provided this organization for back up
power supply.

Anthony Ballard
Major, MC
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:
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ATTN: GHQ-AH, AFO 96558
(Direct)

1 - Commanding General, U.S.A.V
ATTN: Historian, APO 96238
(Direct)

3 - Commanding General, USARV
ATTN: AVG-DH, APO 96307
(Direct)

1 - Commanding Officer, An Hueub Sub
Area Command, ATTN: 5-1
AIO 96294 (Direct)
1. I concur generally in the observations and recommendations submitted by the Commanding Officer, 2d Surgical Hospital.

   a. Construction of a permanent billeting complex for hospital personnel is continuing on a self-help basis. The Commanding Officer, 2d Surgical Hospital, advised this headquarters on 8 February 1967 that engineer support for site preparation for troop billets has commenced again on a limited basis.

   b. This hospital does not have a MEDCAP Program approved in accordance with USARV Regulation 40-39. Their support of the Vietnamese and Montagnard population in the An Khe area consists of providing professional personnel to assist MILFAP and USAID activities, including limited hospitalization of indigenous personnel when operational conditions permit, and should be reported as a civil affairs program.

   c. The problem of adequate electrical power for the hospital complex has apparently been solved. The Commanding Officer, An Khe Sub-Area Command, has indicated that a 350 KW generator is programmed for installation at the 2d Surgical Hospital in the near future.

   d. The Commanding Officer, 2d Surgical Hospital, has been directed to submit USARV Form 13 through channels requesting the non-standard x-ray equipment alluded to in the basic communication.
2. The 26 Surgical Hospital does not have any units assigned, attached, or under its operational control as of 31 January 1967.

ROBERT M. HALL
Lieutenant Colonel, MC
Commanding
AVCA-MB-PO (6 Feb 67) 2nd Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSKUR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307  19 February 1967

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-30-0, APO 96307

1. This headquarters concurs with comments and observations of the basic report as modified by comments in the 1st endorsement.

2. Reference to Section II, Part I, ITEM: Inadequate space in Receiving and Evacuation Section for Outpatient Clinic. 44th Medical Brigade, was not previously informed of the problem area. The 2nd Surgical Hospital will be notified to submit a construction plan to enlarge the inadequate area.

RAY L. MILLER
Colonel, MC
Commanding
AVCA GO-0 (6 Feb 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307

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

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 2d Surgical Hospital for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1967 is forwarded herewith.

2. Reference 1st Indorsement, paragraph 1c, Item: (Electrical Power). Non-concur. Permanent power for the 2d Surgical Hospital is to be provided from a power plant consisting of ten (10) 1,500 KW generators. The contractor for the construction of this plant and the associated distribution system has been given notice to begin construction. A letter has been sent to the 55th Medical Hospital and the An Khe Sub-Area Command informing them of this fact.

3. Reference Section I, page 1, paragraph 2, Item: (Cantonment Construction). Concur. Construction of the 2d MASH Cantonment has been directed by the 18th Engineer Brigade for self-help construction. The 70th Engineer Battalion (Combat) administers the program and supplies horizontal effort for site preparation and prefabrication of materials for cantonment.

4. Reference Section II, page 3, Part I, Item: (Adequate Electrical Power Continues to be a problem) and page 4, Section II, recommendations: Concur. The use of 15 KW generators for emergency backup power, and the use of battery lights during abdominal surgery are inadequate. To satisfy the requirement for adequate backup power, the 2d Surgical Hospital has been provided an additional 100 KW generator from the resources of the Engineer, United States Army Support Command, Qui Nhon.

5. The 2d Surgical Hospital engaged in combat support operations for 92 days during the reporting period.

6. Concur with the basic report as modified by the comments contained in the preceding indorsements. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

TEL: Lynx 430-782
AVHGC-DH (6 Feb 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 15 APR 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons
Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 2d
Surgical Hospital (Mobile Army) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference Item concerning electrical power problem, Page 3;
Recommendation, Page 4; Paragraph 1c, 1st Indorsement; and Paragraph 2,
3d Indorsement: Nonconcur with Paragraph 1c, 1st Indorsement. Concur
with Paragraph 4, 3d Indorsement. Action taken by Qui Nhon Support Com-
mand is considered adequate for emergency power supply requirements un-
til the completion of the central distribution system.

b. Reference Item concerning inadequate space for out-patient
clinic, Page 3; and Paragraph 2, 2d Indorsement: Concur. Action taken
by 44th Medical Brigade is appropriate. The construction plan from the
2d Surgical Hospital should be directed to the base development board,
1st Logistical Command has been so informed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

STANLEY E. SCHULTZ
Major, AGC
Asst. Adjutant General
TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

G. R. ROBALY
CPT, AG
Asst AG