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AUTHORITY
AGO ltr 29 Apr 1980
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IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAM-P (M) (13 Sep 67) FOR OT RD 670599 19 September 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 55th Medical Group

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

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
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

1 Incl

as

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(Continued on page 2)
OPERATIONAL REPORT - LESSONS LEARNED
FOR QUARTERLY PERIOD
ENDING 30 APRIL 1967
(ROG OSFOR-65)
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SECTION I
SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

AVCA MB-GE-C

6 May 1967

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

A. Mission of 55th Medical Group to provide command and control of
five hospitals, one medical Battalion, and other specialized units,
with responsibility for hospitalization, evacuation, and area medical
support of United States Army Vietnam (USARV) and other Free World
Military Assistance Forces (FWMAF) located in Corps Tactical Zone II,
North (CTZ II-N), to include Provinces of Kontum, Binh Dinh, Pleiku,
Phu Bon, and so much of Phu Yen Province located north of horizontal
grid line BQ - CQ 60, remains unchanged. Four (4) major tactical
operations were supported, of which two (2) continue.

B. On 1 February 1967, SFC (E-7) Edward M. Hoebum was assigned
to Group Headquarters as Personnel Sergeant. He served in this capacity
until 10 April 1967 at which time he temporarily assumed duties as
Group Sergeant Major, succeeding SGM Buck Meacham who returned to CONUS
for retirement from the Army after 27 years of active federal service.

C. On 26 April 1967, SGM Edmund L. Beld, reported to Group for
duty as Group Sergeant Major.

D. On 8 February 1967, Major Earl W. Lauck, MSC, was assigned to
55th Medical Group as the S-4 Officer, succeeding Lieutenant Colonel
Hillard F. Wiatrowski, who departed for a new assignment with a
Medical Depot in Cam Ranh Bay.

E. First Lieutenant Alan R. Gietfer, MSC, joined Group Headquarters
on 6 March 1967, succeeding First Lieutenant Ernest C. Beauf, MSC,
as Group Personnel Officer. First Lieutenant Beauf returned to CONUS
for release from active duty.

F. Lieutenant Colonel Henry G. Cosand has assumed duties as
Acting Group Commander replacing Lieutenant Colonel Robert M. Hall,
NC, who departed for reassignment to Madigan Army Hospital, Tacoma,
Washington.

G. Consolidation of personnel at Group level in both Quy Nhon
and Pleiku which was effected 1 December 1966, has now progressed to
a point where it is considered to be one of the finest in Vietnam.
On 1 February 1967, Team # 2, of the 222d Personnel Service Company,
assumed full responsibility for the area and has continued to raise
the quality of personnel administration. As a result of attachment
of this trained Personnel Service Company, Group has been able to
reduce the number of personnel formerly assigned to this duty and to
provide better service to units of this command.
H. Group Safety Program has continued to receive maximum command emphasis. There were eight (8) reportable accidents within 55th Medical Group during period covered by this report as compared to 16 during previous reporting period.

I. On 31 January 1967, Group strength was 1802. As of the end of this quarter, our strength was 1931. There have been no critical shortages of key personnel which would seriously hamper the ability of any unit of this command to perform its assigned mission. It has been necessary, however, to effect numerous intra-group reassignments, primarily enlisted personnel, in order to assure that no unit would be affected by unexpected loss of key personnel.

J. The Command Information Program continues to be both active and effective. Command Information classes are held on a regularly scheduled basis and well received in units of the command.

K. 174 Hometown News Releases were submitted during reporting period.

L. On 1 February 1967, First Lieutenant William W. Braun, MSC, assumed the primary duties of PIO, OIC of the Group R & R Activities, Civic Actions Officer, Coordinator of Civilian Personnel Affairs, and Passport Control Officer. Under his guidance, 55th Medical Group's monthly newspaper, has resumed publication, providing an additional effective means for distributing items of command-wide information to Group units.

M. Personnel of the 25th Casualty Staging Flight began arriving in Qui Nhon on Tuesday, 7 February 1967. Main body arrived on 13 February 1967. This unit began processing patients on 25 March 1967. Physically located at the 85th Evacuation Hospital, this unit services the 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital, 67th, and 85th Evacuation Hospitals. System has been highly successful. Selected patients from 85th Evacuation Hospital and all patients from 6th ROK Evacuation Hospital are admitted to this facility the day prior to their scheduled out-of-country evacuation. Patients are then transported by USAF and Army buses to Qui Nhon Army Air Field for evacuation to 19th Casualty Staging Unit at Clark Air Base, Philippines. 67th Evacuation Hospital which is physically separated from CSF by approximately three miles of rough roads, the patients are not physically moved. Completed Clinical Record Cover Sheets, plus evacuation request forms are furnished CSF on day prior to evacuation. CSF contacts FEJMRQ (Far East Joint Medical Regulating Office) to determine destination hospital, prepares necessary travel orders, and manifests patients for movement. On
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

6 May 1967

The patients are moved to the flight line upon arrival of evacuation aircraft. This has been a highly successful bi-service operation. Utilisation of USAF CSF has greatly reduced the work load of Registries Operations of the evacuation hospitals in Qui Nhon and created a more orderly method of patient evacuation.

N. On 3 February 1967, 14th Medical Detachment (Team MC)(Dispensary) became operational, providing primary medical care to eligible personnel in Qui Nhon. On that date, 152d Medical Detachment (HA) was relieved of the mission assumed by 14th Medical Detachment and moved to Cha Hang to assume the mission formerly performed by Provisional Cha Rang Dispensary.

O. 501st Medical Detachment (Team HA)(Dispensary) was released from attachment to 18th Surgical Hospital and attached to 71st Evacuation Hospital on 21 February 1967. Change was appropriate because 501st Medical Detachment is an area dispensary and is more fittingly assigned under Sub-Area Command Surgeon who is Commanding Officer, 71st Evacuation Hospital.

P. 55th Medical Group continued to provide hospitalization, evacuation, and medical regulating for numerous tactical operations conducted in Corps Tactical Zone II, North, and Corps Tactical Zone I, Republic of Vietnam. The concept of direct coordination with division level medical service by use of Field Medical Regulator, continued. Operations in progress at end of report period include:

1. Operation Francis Marion: Immediately following Operation Sam Houston on 5 April 1967, this operation involves the 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, plus attached units. They are conducting an active defense along So San River and Cambodian border to the South.

2. Operation Parshing: 1st and 2d Brigades, 1st Cavalry Division, are conducting a search and destroy operation in northern Binh Dinh Province, commencing 15 February 1967, the operation immediately followed Operation Thayer II.

Operations supported during the period which have terminated include:

1. Operation Sam Houston: 1st and 2d Brigades, 4th Infantry Division, conducted an active defense along So San River and Cambodian border during period 1 January 1967 to 4 April 1967.

During this reporting period this group supported one operation in CTZ I which still continues. On 10 April 1967 a command element of 55th Medical Group departed Qui Nhon for Chu Lai to coordinate activities of 44th Medical Brigade units committed in support of Operation Oregon. The medical mission for this operation involves hospitalization and evacuation of US and other FMFAP under operational control of III MAF, in vicinity of Chu Lai and Duc Pho, RVN.
SECTION II PART I  
OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)  

AWA MD-62-6  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period  
Ending 30 April 1967 (REO GSFOR-65)  

6 May 1967  

A. MEDICAL  

ITEM: Patient Evacuation.  

DISCUSSION: It has been noted during several recent operations in the Pleiku/Kontum area that the HU-1D is not satisfactory for hoist operations. The HU-1D is adversely affected by both altitude and atmospheric conditions. Use of the HU-1D subjects the helicopter crew, the patients and the ground attendants to unwarranted hazards.  

OBSERVATION: The C-47 has sufficient stability to perform hoist operations without unduly endangering the personnel involved and is preferable to the HU-1D for this use.
MEDICAL EVACUATION: TOE of each Medical Company, Air ambulance, should be modified to include four (4) CH-47 helicopters. In addition to providing a safer and more reliable means for hoist pickups, capacity of aircraft would facilitate patient evacuations between surgical and evacuation hospitals. Having aircraft this size would greatly improve efficiency of intra area evacuations.
The following units were assigned to 55th Medical Group at end of report period:

1st Medical Company (Ambulance)
2d Surgical Hospital
14th Medical Detachment (Toan ND)(Dispensary)
18th Surgical Hospital
48th Medical Detachment (Toan KD)(Surgical Detachment)
51st Medical Company (Ambulance)
67th Evacuation Hospital
70th Medical Battalion
71st Evacuation Hospital
85th Evacuation Hospital
138th Medical Detachment (Toan KE)(Neurosurgical)
139th Medical Detachment (Toan KB)(Orthopedic)
142d Medical Detachment (Toan ML)(Dispensary)
152d Medical Detachment (Toan ML)(Dispensary)
240th Medical Detachment (Toan KP)(Thoracic)
438th Medical Detachment (Toan KL)(Ambulance Detachment)
463d Medical Detachment (Toan KH)(X-Ray)
495th Medical Detachment (Toan LC)(Company Headquarters)
501st Medical Detachment (Toan ML)(Dispensary)
542d Medical Company (Clearing)
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

The following VIP's visited the 55th Medical Group during the period of this report:

2 February 1967

COL Justin S. Zask
Dental Surgeon
USARV

COL Walter Z. Brown
Dental Surgeon
44th Medical Brigade

19 February 1967

MG E. E. Eifler
Commanding General
1st Logistical Command

20 February 1967

COL J. A. Orbison
Medical Consultant
USAF Reserve Surgeon's Office

COL T. J. Whelan
Surgical Consultant
USAF Reserve Surgeon's Office

LTC A. C. Gomez
Surgical Consultant
USARV

22 February 1967

COL Clyde C. Currier
Director, Medical Administrative Services
7th US Air Force

LTC Lawrence A. Sonlo
Chief, Plans, Programs & Facilities
7th US Air Force
SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSPOR-65)

1 March 1967

LTC Thomas A. Hanson
Surgeon
IFFV

4 March 1967

CPT James Schlack
Executive Officer
Company B, 15th Med Bn

14 March 1967

COL Larry W. Coker
Executive Officer
44th Medical Brigade

22 March 1967

LTC Erwin Zinov
3-4 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

25 March 1967

MAJ Harrison
Unit Utilization Team
USARV

MAJ Pearson
Unit Utilization Team
USARV

LTC Jennie L. Caylor
Chief Nurse
USARV

LTC Rose Straley
Chief Nurse
44th Medical Brigade
AVCO-MB-GB-C

6 May 1967

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

30 March 1967

LTC Robert Miller
Deputy Commander
44th Medical Brigade

LTC Bernard F. Kerwin
Incorporated S-4 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien
Assistant S-1 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

COL Mary E. Lipscomb
Chief, MESTC Branch
Department of the Army

LTC Patricia Accountius
Chief, Food Service
44th Medical Brigade

Maj Westhoven
Chief, Physical Therapy
3d Field Hospital

2 April 1967

BG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV

4 April 1967

BG Shelton E. Lollis
Deputy Commanding General
1st Logistical Command

5 April 1967

COL Herbert R. Faust
Veterinary Staff Officer
44th Medical Brigade
Subject: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RRC CSFOR-65)

6 April 1967

COL Kwang
Surgeon
Republic of Korea Army

COL Kim, Jong Ho
Commanding Officer
6th ROKL. Evacuation Hospital

COL Kim, Nyung Chul
Surgeon
ROK Tiger Division

LTC Darvin O. Patrick
USRV Escort Officer

CPT Kim (Nurse)
Surgeons Office
Republic of Korea Army

LT Perry (USN)
Advisor
Free World Medical Command

7 April 1967

DG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV

COL Willard E. Thompson
Executive Officer, Surgeons Office
USARV

LTC A. C. Ryan
Surgical Consultant
USARV
AVCA MD-63-C

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

8 April 1967

LTC Hose Staley
Chief Nurse
44th Medical Brigade

11 April 1967

LTC Robert Miller
Deputy Commander
44th Medical Brigade

CPT Joseph D. O'Brien
Assistant S-1 Officer
44th Medical Brigade

13 April 1967

LTC David Duttwiler
Preventive Medicine Section
USARV

MAJ William O. Lamb
Preventive Medicine Section
USARV

18 April 1967

COL Hinton J. Baker
In-coming Commanding Officer
9th Medical Laboratory

LTC Pierre A. Pink
Commanding Officer
9th Medical Laboratory

27 April 1967 (Chu Lai & Duc Pho facilities)

BG James A. Wier
Surgeon
USARV
AFC: MD-GB-C
6 May 1967

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

COL Ray Miller
Consigning Officer
44th Medical Brigade

LTC A. C. Gonz
Surgical Consultant
USARV
AVCA-MB-PO (9 May 1967) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operation Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 26 May 1967

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

1. The contents of basic document has been reviewed.

2. This report is forwarded with comments pertaining to Section II,
Part II, as follows: Medical Evacuation: Nonconcur. A request for CH-47
helicopters to augment the AMEDS Aeromedical Evacuation capability was
submitted to this headquarters by the 498th Air Ambulance Company on
18 November 1966. This request was forwarded to USARV with the recomma
dation that it be approved. After being staffed at USARV, the request
was forwarded to MACV where it was disapproved. Disapproval was based
on the shortage of CH-47 helicopters within the US Army, and the fact
that responsibility for evacuating patients between hospitals has been
assumed by the 7th USAF.

Tel: Lynx 382

RAY L. MILLER
Colonel, MC
Commanding
Subject: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967

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

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 55th Medical Group for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 is forwarded.

2. The 55th Medical Group engaged in combat service support operations for 89 days during the reporting period.

3. Concur with basic report as modified by 1st Indorsement. The report is considered adequate.

For the Commander:

Timothy S. O'Hara
1st, INF
Acting Asst AG

TEL: Lynx 430/782

1 Incl
AVHGC-DST (15 May 67) 3d 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 21 JUL 67

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, 55th Medical Group as indorsed.

2. Reference item concerning patient evacuation, pages 7 and 8 and paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement: Concur. The problem encountered in UH-1D hoist operations in the central highlands area of Vietnam is well known to this headquarters. For this reason, UH-1D helicopters assigned to the 2d Platoon, 498th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) at Pleiku have been replaced with the UH-1H helicopter which has a more powerful engine and should provide the capability of performing hoist evacuations. The request for CH-47 helicopters was previously staffed at this headquarters as indicated in paragraph 2, 1st Indorsement.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. E. ST. MARTIN
Capt. AGC
Asst AG

1 Incl
nc
GPOP-DT (15 May 67)  4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967
       from HQ, 55th Med Gp (RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco  96558 25 AUG 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:

       [Signature]

       H. Snyder
       CPT, AGO
       Asst AG

1 Inc 1
nc