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AUTHORITY

AGO ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (20 Jan 70) FOR OT UT 694198 21 January 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 79th Engineer Group, Period Ending 31 October 1969

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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

1 Incl
as

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 79TH ENGINEER GROUP
APO 96491

EGE-CO 14 November 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 31 October 1969

THRU: Commanding General
20th Engineer Brigade
ATTN: AVBI-OS
APO 96491

Commanding General
United States Army, Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DST
APO 96375

Commanding General
United States Army Pacific
ATTN: GBOP-OT
APO 96558

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

FOR OT UT
694198
Inclosure 1

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Section I, Significant Organization Activities

A. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Engineer Group

1. General:

a. The 79th Engineer Group (Construction) command post remained at the "Plantation Compound", Long Binh, RVN, throughout the reporting period.

b. Enemy activity throughout the Group area of operations generally decreased, with the exception of a few high points in September. The activity consisted mostly of rocket and mortar attacks on isolated sites. land clearing units experienced a decrease of enemy contact. During the reporting period, the Group suffered eighty-seven casualties, five KIA and eighty-two WIA.

2. Command and Control:

a. Command: Several major changes in the command structure occurred during the reporting period with three battalion commanders rotating to new assignments. LTC H. McK Roper assumed command of the 168th Engineer Battalion on 31 August 1969 from LTC Albert Romaneski, who returned to CONUS for duty at the US Army Research Office. On 30 September 1969, LTC James Lynch assumed command of the 554th Engineer Battalion from LTC Elbert D. H. Berry, who also returned to CONUS for duty at Ft. Leavenworth. On 5 October 1969, LTC John A. Poteat, 588th Engineer Battalion CO, was reassigned as the Chief of Staff, Engineer Troops, Vietnam. LTC Thomas Stumm, at that time serving as Executive Officer of the Group, assumed command of the battalion. On 8 October LTC C. D. Gilkey assumed the duties of Group Executive officer. Other personnel gains in headquarters included CW4 James F. Gotham who replaced CW3 Hernandez as personnel officer, CPT Bernard Stalmann who replaced CPT Cheal as Assistant S-3, CPT Walter Evans who was assigned as trial counsel, and CW2 Russell Preston who replaced WO1 Frank Poveromo as Group Food Service Advisor.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline:

a. Personnel: Although there remains a shortage of junior NCO's and critical MOS personnel, Group operations were maintained at a high level of performance. The critical shortage of captains has been relieved. Due to the large turnover of officer personnel during the month of August, the rotational hump in August 1970 exceeds the 15 per cent level which will require Brigade assistance to reduce this to an acceptable level.

b. Morale: Morale at all levels within the command continues to be excellent.

d. A total of 447 decorations were awarded, including 10 Bronze Stars with "V" device, 1 ACM with "V" device, 1 Soldier's Medal and 35 Purple Hearts.

e. There were a total of 37 congressionals for the reporting period. The majority of these inquiries pertained to the service member's health or the possibility of returning the man to CONUS. Command emphasis is continually placed on the reduction of congressionals. A letter of introduction sent by some unit commanders to the relatives of each new arrival continues to be an effective tool towards this goal.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence:

A. The 79th Engineer Group Headquarters continues to receive and distribute intelligence documents and information from 20th Engineer Brigade, II Field Force, Vietnam and higher headquarters. Spot reports on enemy activity are required of all battalions and forwarded to 20th Engineer Brigade Headquarters.

b. Initial security briefings to all newly arrived personnel who are assigned to HHC, 79th Engineer Group, 66th Engineer Company (Topo), 104th Engineer Company (DT) and 500th Engineer Company (PB) were continued by this headquarters. The daily intelligence briefing continued to give the staff a current picture of the military and operational highlights in III Corps.

c. The Group continues to handle security actions for personnel assigned to HHC, 66th Topo, 104th, and 500th. This includes validation of clearances up to and including TOP SECRET. Personnel security actions for separate companies or detachments are administered by the higher headquarters to which they are attached.

5. Plans, Operation, and Training:

a. General: The emphasis placed on quality control and construction management programs has continued to improve the quality of our construction. The concentrated effort of the Group Headquarters staff in assisting the battalions on design and planning has resulted in this quality construction being completed on a priority basis. The overall efforts of the 79th Engineer Group (Construction) have allowed the Group to continue providing excellence in construction under combat conditions.

b. Operations: During this period the 79th Engineer Group continued to direct its primary effort at handling increased combat and operational support requirements with a large amount of effort expended on base construction. The completion of project OQO, maintenance facilities for the 1st Cav throughout III Corps, on schedule was the major accomplishment of the "Super" Group. The upgrade of the Tay Ninh Airfield was also successfully completed during this period. This project was the first major airfield upgrade to be attempted and completed during the monsoon season. Under the LOC program, work has begun on the upgrade of QL-13 from Lai Khe to An Loc and will continue through the coming dry

season. During this period, the 31st Engineer Battalion undertook the task of expanding LZ Buttons to accomodate a brigade of the 1st Air Cav Div. This project will consume a large percentage of the 31st Engineer Battalion's construction effort during the coming quarter. Strong emphasis has been placed on management to insure the completion of this high priority mission on time.

c. Land Clearing:

(1) The 60th Land Clearing Company, 62d Engineer Battalion, completed cutting operations in the vicinity of FSB Crook at the beginning of the reporting period. After their maintenance stand down, they moved to the Hat Dich area, replacing the 501st Land Clearing Company, in support of the 1st Australian Task Force. The 60th experienced very wet jungle throughout their operation. This wet terrain severly hampered their maintenance capabilities and resulted in low acreage totals. As an aid to their operations, a combat engineer squad was assigned to each land clearing company to provide assistance in maintaining the NDP in a passable condition. They constructed maintenance hardstands for the Rome plows using cut timber and provided other assistance as necessary. As of the end of the period they were on maintenance stand down at home station.

(2) The 501st Land Clearing Company continued clearing operations in the Hat Dich area until mid-August when they were relieved by the 60th Land Clearing Company. They also experienced very wet terrain in the Hat Dich. Terrain in this region afforded little opportunity for the land clearing companies to fully exploit their techniques. Extremely tall trees caused the plows to operate singly when clearing. After their maintenance stand down, they returned to the northern Hat Dich area in support of the Royal Thai Army Volunteer Force. They continued to experience terrain similar to their first cut in this area. Enemy contact was light, although numerous enemy bunkers were uncovered.

(3) The 984th Land Clearing Company continued clearing operations in the Trapezoid. Enemy harrassment continued to be very heavy as the 984th uncovered many bunkers and base camps. This operation is proving to be very successful in robbing the enemy of a once untouchable base camp and rest area. After their maintenance stand down they moved to the Boi Loi Woods area for their next cutting operation. They experienced light enemy contact but still managed to clear large areas of jungle. Upon completion of this cut, they returned to the Trapezoid area for the third time. During this latest operation, they experienced very wet jungle and heavy enemy contact.

d. Airmobile Operations: The 31st Engineer Battalion continues to provide airmobile equipment support throughout III Corps. In addition to their forward airfield program, they provide dozer and backhoe support for isolated fire support bases throughout the area. Airfield maintenance projects completed during the period included fields at Loc Ninh, Tonle Chon, Duc Phong, and Dong Xoai.

e. Quarry Operations: The Nui Ba Den Quarry continued to provide base rock and asphalt aggregate for the construction of QL-22 and maintenance of secondary roads in the Tay Ninh - Dau Tieng area. The 410 ton per hour primary crushing unit came into full operational status during this period. Plans now call for these quarry assets to be transferred to the 159th Engineer Group (Construction) during the month of November.

f. Training: The 79th Engineer Group continued its weekly training in Army and USARV mandatory subjects and instituted weekly classes for all officers covering a variety of subjects from maintenance to quality control. The Group now has the capability to train its own operators for both LOC trucks and transit mixers. Classes on scheduling, design, quality control, and status reports were given at each battalion to improve construction management at the small unit level.

6. Logistics:

a. Supply:

(1) During the close of the reporting period, cement became a critical item. O/H balance was reduced, while due-in quantities soared above 200,000 bags. Relief is anticipated in November.

(2) Shortages of 1x, 2x, 3x, 4x, and all sizes of plywood became critical as the reporting period ended. An Operational Storage Level was approved which permits units to establish on-hand stockages of lumber, enabling timely response to combat and operational projects. Due to the shortage of the above small sizes of lumber, excessive substitution was required to meet minimum requirements, and very little stockage of the OSL was accomplished.

(3) Major items of equipment continue to be received within the Group. Receipt of command controlled items remains somewhat limited. Four critically required items are listed below:

	AUTH	O/H
1. Tractor, 10 ton.	139	117
2. Tractor, wheeled 290	62	42
3. Grader, road	48	37
4. Truck, 5 ton dump	385	307

b. ARVN Equipment Program: During the reporting period, this Group was levied for only minor amounts of equipment to be turned in for the ARVN modernization program. Tentative requirements have been reviewed for the next reporting period and plans for the next levy are in the formative stage at this time pending receipt of confirmed requirements.

c. Reports of Survey: Monetary value of reports of survey processed during the last reporting period is $139,000.00. Stringent controls continue to be applied in this area and security of government property continues to receive command emphasis.

d. Food Service: The food service section visited, inspected, and advised between 23 and 31 separate messes each month during the period. Quarterly reviews of mess accounts were made in October for the preceding quarter and only minor deficiencies were noted.

(2) The installation of garrison mess equipment, as programmed by USARV Regulation 30-10, is in progress in the Lai Khe area.

(3) Condiment stores have been set up by the supporting ration breakdown in the Tay Ninh areas with extremely favorable results. Condiment supply is still inadequate in the Lai Khe area.

(4) Mess operations and mess morale increases in proportion to the number of courtesy visits by the food service staff. Constant attention of higher headquarters is instrumental in solving their problems.

(5) PA&E support of garrison mess equipment has been woefully inadequate. Local nationals hired by PA&E do not have the technical knowledge to service or install sophisticated mess equipment such as steam vats, stack ovens, etc.

e. Maintenance: Average deadline statistics for the 3 month period are as follows:

CATEGORY	PER CENT
Overall (Engineer and Ordnance)	11.6
Critical (Selected Engineer and Ordnance)	15.9

The division of deadline between items requiring organizational maintenance and those requiring direct support maintenance at the end of the reporting period was 42% organizational and 58% direct support.

f. LOC Program: Several items of LOC equipment were received during the reporting period and are in operation throughout the Group. Initially, problems were experienced in the maintenance and repair of this equipment; however, close supervision and follow-up action on the part of the owning unit have removed several items from deadline. Problems with the lack of repair parts for the MCA-LOC 12 CY dump truck continue to account for the excessively high deadline rate of 23%.

7. Force Development: On 1 August 1969, the 168th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was transferred from the 159th Engineer Group to the 79th

Engineer Group. Since joining the Group in August, they have deployed companies to Dau Tieng, Quan Loi, and Cu Chi. Effective 1 November 1969, the 595th Engineer Company (Light Equipment) is being transferred from the 35th Engineer Group to the 79th Engineer Group and further attached to the 168th Engineer Battalion at Cu Chi. The 554th Engineer Battalion will complete its redeployment to Lai Khe in late November. During the month of November the Group will lose the 515th Asphalt Platoon and the 544th Engineer Company (Construction Support) to the 159th Engineer Group.

B. 66th Engineer Company (Topographic)

1. General: The 66th Engineer Company remained located on the Plantation Compound, Long Binh, RVN.

2. Command: CPT Billie A. Harkins remained in command of the 66th Engineer Company. The company remained attached to the 79th Engineer Group and under operational control of the M&I Division, USARV Engineer Section.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, and Discipline:

A. Personnel: The unit has a critical shortage of personnel in the 547th Engineer Detachment (Map Depot) as the detachment is down to 53% strength. The company has a critical shortage of NCO's, one each in the following MOS's: 81D40, 76V40, 94B40, and two in 81C40. The unit has not had a Reproduction Equipment Repairman, MOS 41K, assigned for a long period of time.

b. Morale: The morale of the unit remains at a very high level as is evidenced by the continuously high production output.

c. Discipline: Disciplinary actions remained low, with 6 Article 15's and two Court Martials.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence: This unit continues to provide support in this field through the printing and distribution of mapping intelligence and survey data.

5. Operations:

a. Major projects completed during this period were the production of map controlled mosaics and reprinting of map sheets of Series L7014 and L001.

b. The unit has undertaken the direct support of Task Force Alpha, a USAF unit located in Thailand. The support consists of overprinting selected topographic maps in support of their mission. The project started in August and will continue for an indefinite period.

C. 104th Engineer Company (Dump Truck)

1. General: The 104th Engineer Company remained stationed at Long Binh Post in Camp Frenzell Jones.

2. Command: Change of command ceremonies were conducted by COL A. L. Wright, 79th Engineer Group Commander, on 22 September 1969, when CPT Bruce E. Brockway assumed command.

3. Personnel Administration, Morale and Discipline: During the reporting period there was one Special Court Martial and 10 men were administered punishment under Article 15, Uniform Code of Military Justice. The average company strength was 104 enlisted, 1 Warrant Officer, and 3 Commissioned Officers.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence: The 104th Engineer Company (DT) receives continuous distribution of intelligence documents from the 79th Engineer Group (Const) Headquarters. Requests for granting, validating and upgrading security clearances are submitted as required.

5. Plans, Operations and Training:

a. Operations:

(1) During the reporting period the 104th Engineer Company (DT) continued to serve its primary mission of the operation of dump trucks for movement of bulk materials in support of the 79th Engineer Group (Const). During the period of 6 - 8 August 1969, the issue of 28 GMC 20-ton LOC dump trucks to the company significantly increased the hauling capability of the unit. In September, the company was organized into a 5-ton tactical dump truck platoon with 25 5-ton dump trucks and a 20-ton dump truck platoon. Operators for the 20-ton dump trucks were trained by civilian instructors for 20-ton dump trucks and for the 6 CY transit mixers.

(2) During the reporting period, dump trucks of the 104th Engineer Company (DT) accumulated 359,019 miles, hauling 31,844 cubic yards of rock, 10,223 cubic yards of sand and 4,102 tons of asphalt.

b. Training: Required replacement training was given to newly assigned personnel. Vehicle operators received refresher training in the preparation and maintenance of TAERS Forms and in operator maintenance responsibilities. Special training was conducted for all personnel on the operation, care and cleaning of the M16A1 rifle and familiarization firing was conducted 19 October 1969.

6. Logistics: During the period 6 - 8 August 1969, 28 20-ton dump trucks were issued to the unit in support of the Line of Communications Improvement Program.

7. Force Development: N/A

9. Civic Action: N/A

D. 500th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge)

1. General: The 500th Engineer Company (PB) remained stationed at Long Binh Post in Camp Frenzell Jones.

2. Command: Change of command ceremonies were conducted by Colonel A. L. Wright, 79th Engineer Group Commander, on 22 August 1969 when CPT Torbjorn Ommundson assumed command.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, and Discipline: During the reporting period, the 500th Engineer Company (PB) maintained high individual morale with few disciplinary problems. There were no court martials and 8 punishments under Article 15, UCMJ.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence: The 500th Engineer Company (PB) receives continuous distribution of intelligence documents from the 79th Engineer Group Headquarters and higher echelons. Requests for granting, validating, and upgrading of security clearances are submitted as required.

5. Plans, Operations, and Training:

A. During the reporting period the 500th Engineer Company (Panel Bridge) served in both its primary mission of providing panel bridge support and technical assistance and in its secondary mission of providing dump truck support to the 79th Engineer Group and other units in the III Corps area.

b. The company completed seven separate bridge missions during the period.

c. Total rock haul for the quarter was 14,232 tons, 1090 CY of sand, and 490 tons of asphalt.

d. Training: Required replacement training was given to all newly arrived personnel. Weekly training, conducted by the company, was held within the company area and attendance was mandatory. On 30 September 1969 the company was issued and trained in the use of M-16 rifles.

6. Logistics: At the end of September, this company received ten 5-ton dump trucks on hand receipt from the 104th Engineer Company (DT) and six 5-ton dump trucks from the US Army Depot, Long Binh.

7. Force Development: N/A

8. Inspector General: A CMMI was given to the 500th Engineer Company (PB) by the 20th Engineer Brigade on 15 September 1969. The overall rating was satisfactory.

9. Civic Action: This unit operates in support of the 2d Air Force Advisory team from Bien Hoa Air Base in supporting the Ho Nhi Vien orphanage located in the nearby village of Ho Nhi. Two loads of 3/4" rock (20 tons) and one load of sand were provided to the orphanage.

SECTION II, LESSONS LEARNED, COMMANDER'S OBSERVATION, EVALUATION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. PERSONNEL:

1. Officer Replacements:

a. Observation: Advance information has not been provided on company grade officer replacements arriving at the 79th Engineer Group. Often, due to losses within a battalion, an officer must be assigned to staff position without any prior experience, only to have a qualified replacement for that position assigned within a matter of days.

b. Evaluation: The lack of advance background information on new officer arrivals has prevented the implementation of an effective officer management program.

c. Recommendation: Advance information on new officer personnel should be made available at least 30 days prior to their arrival to facilitate officer reassignments and reduce officer turbulance within the Group.

B. OPERATIONS:

1. Survey Platoon Projects:

a. Observation: The Survey Platoon of the 66th Topographic Company suspended work on the Delta Traverse project pending a review by USARV Mapping and Intelligence Division.

b. Evaluation: With the coming of the dry season, there is not sufficient work to keep the platoon fully employed in topographic surveying. Although the company is constantly encouraging units requiring survey work to contact its operations section, only construction-type low order work is available.

c. Recommendation: That with the suspension of the project in the Delta, measures be taken to employ the platoon in 2d and 3d order survey projects. If this is not accomplished the advantages of the dry season will be lost.

2. Topographic Map Overprinting:

a. Observation: One of the major operations in a Reproduction Platoon of the Engineer Company (Topographic)(Corps) is the overprinting of existing topographic maps from the marginal area on the individual sheets supplied by the depot.

b. Evaluation: The printing presses utilized in the Engineer Company (Topographic)(Corps) are single color sheet-fed presses. It is impossible to set them so as to position the image to be printed in a different position on each sheet passing through the press. The press is set so that the image being printed falls in the same position of each sheet. This is done mechanically by the press immediately before it receives the overprint impression. Consequently, if the marginal area to the edges of the sheet varies within a stack of maps, it is impossible to pass them through the press for an overprint impression and have the overprint image fall in the same position on each sheet. This situation cannot exist due to the critical registration required on the overprint.

c. Recommendation: That units of the Topographic Command such as the Base Battalions and the Graphic Arts Division of the Topographic Command, who print 22"x30" map sheets two up on their large presses, control the gripper and side guide margins when trimming out the sheets. Unless this is done and register is able to be maintained in the field by the smaller units, it will constantly remain an impossibility. This is especially true when a large number of sheets are required to be overprinted.

3. Soil Cement:

a. Observation: Lessons learned on soil cement - Tay Ninh Airfield

b. Evaluation and Recommendations:

(1) Soil cement is best compacted with the 27-ton Hyster compactor (sheepsfoot), followed by the 50-ton compactor. Use Hyster until it walks out and then use 50-ton. Vibratory compaction does not work, as it tends to crack the soil-cement.

(2) Time is definitely a factor in compacting soil cement. Compaction should not be delayed more than 30 minutes after mixing, due to the hydration of the cement.

(3) The 27-ton Hyster can successfully compact lifts up to eight inches compacted thickness.

(4) After placing a lane of soil cement, it is necessary to shave off the edges of the lane. This is because compactors cannot adequately compact soil on the outside edges of the lift. However, this is not

necessary if adjacent lanes are placed nearly simultaneously. If this is the case, the compactor can compact the adjoining lane edges together (as in an asphalt hot joint).

(5) Soil cement should be wet cured until it is covered with another lift or with RC 800 on the final lift. Curing is as important a factor in soil cement as in concrete.

(6) Better results are obtained if soil is mixed slightly on the high side of OMC (approximately ½ percent above). This is because some mosture loss, due to evaporation, can be expected between mixing and compaction. This is even more important on hot, sunny or windy days.

(7) It is important to watch for changes in the soil being stabilized after construction begins. Significant changes within the borrow pit could become so pronounced as to change the design parameters.

(8) Working at night offered advantages of better control on moisture content, higher production rates and no delays due to approaching aircraft. Disadvantages were that no survey work could be done for final elevations and also presented an additional safety hazard to personnel working around moving vehicles.

(9) For plant maintenance, equipment should be kept on hand to make conveyor belt repairs, which can be the cause of considerable delays.

(10) Cement auger should be cleaned out daily at the end of operations. Otherwise, lost time will result due to the cement setting up within the auger.

(11) Plant operations would be enhanced if two teams of two men each were used to break open cement bags. Alternating shifts of 30 minutes each would probably keep the cement hopper full and avoid delays while the cement bag breakers catch up.

4. Stockage of Sand at Selected Locations:

A. Observation: The observation of an RMK-BRJ dredge in support of OICC operations at Phu Cuong led to the procurement of 30,000 CM of sand.

b. Evaluation: Sand requirements at all forward areas for this Group's AOR must be hauled from the Long Binh/Bien Hoa area. Coordination through USAECAV and OICC led to a contract to pump 30,000 CM of sand at Phu Cuong in addition to the requirements of OICC.

c. Recommendation: Taking advantage of this opportunity allowed this Group to stockpile sand at five locations throughout its AOR.

This has alleviated some problems for concrete sand and a select fill material while greatly assisting elements in the field by not having horizontal assets tied up hauling sand from the Long Binh/Bien Hoa area.

5. Revetment Design:

a. Observation: It was noted that certain revetments with one side wall perpendicular to the ground and the other wall at a diagonal to the ground have a tendency for failure.

b. Evaluation: In the unsymmetrical trapezoidal cross-section described above, the resultant vector of the forces in the downward direction does not go through the middle of the base of the revetment. The pressure reaction of the soil under the revetment is also trapezoidal. As a result, the revetment tilts.

c. Recommendation: In places where possible, revetments should be constructed symmetrical so that the resultant vector goes through the center of the base. Where there is a requirement for an unsymmetrical cross-section an appropriate "ooting should be provided.

C. TRAINING: None

D. INTELLIGENCE: None

E. LOGISTICS:

1. Shortage of Lithographic Press Plates:

a. Observation: During the report period, the 66th Topographic Company has not received Lithographic Press Plates, FSN 3610-200-1700, through the normal supply channels. The unit has borrowed 950 plates from the ARVN Topographic Company that must be replaced.

b. Evaluation: If it were not for the ARVN Topographic Company loaning the unit press plates, the reporduction capability of the unit would have been stopped in August 1969 and drastically affected the mission of the unit.

c. Recommendation: That positive action be taken to expedite the outstanding requisitions for the Lithographic Press Plates FSN 3610-200-1700. This Unit Document No. 02/9134138 for 800 plates has not yet been filled. If the company was authorized to order all technical supplies directly from Topographic Command rather than through normal supply channels, the problem of receiving the usable press plates would not exist. This problem was discussed in the last report and to the best of our knowledge no action has been taken to correct it. Three hundred press plates were received in an unserviceable condition because of improper packing and exposure to the elements.

2. Operational Stockage Level:

a. Observation: Considerable time delay was noted in getting sufficient Class IV material on hand for operational/combat support projects.

b. Evaluation: A review of past OS/CS projects revealed common supplies were required for these projects. The OS/CS projects represented approximately 80% of all directives issued to the 79th Engineer Group. In order to be responsive to these directives an operating stockage level had to be developed. An OSL was established consisting of 128 line items, including 321,000 BF of lumber, 950 pieces of culvert, and plumbing/electrical supplies. After two (2) months, the OSL has 52 lines at zero balance. The majority of these zero balance lines are lumber and plumbing supplies.

c. Recommendation: That engineer field units directly involved with OS/CS projects be authorized an Operational Stockage Level in order to be responsive to tactical commanders.

A. L. WRIGHT
COL, CE
Commanding

~~4 Incls~~
as
Incls 1 - 4 wd HQ, DA

AVBI-OS (14 Nov 69) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 20TH ENGINEER BRIGADE, APO 96491 5 DEC 1969

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375
Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.

2. This headquarters concurs with the submitted report woth the following comments:

a. Section II, paragraph B1, page 9: All Brigade units have been informed of the availability of the Survey Platoon services in order that this unit may be utilized to assist in survey requirements of the Brigade construction program.

b. Section II, paragraph E1, page 12: Coordination is being made with ICCV to determine if requisitions for Lithographic Press Plates can be made directly or hand carried. Also, action is being taken to see if a release can be obtained for those already on request.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

S. B. KENNEDY
Major, AGC
Adjutant

Copy Furnished:
CO, 79th Engr Gp

AVHGC-DST (14 Nov 69) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 31 October 1969

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY, VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 26 DEC 1969

TO: Commander in Chief, 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 1969 from Headquarters, 79th Engineer Group.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Personnel", section I, page 6, paragraph 3a. The 20th Engineer Brigade is at or over authorized strength in MOS 81D40, 79V40, and 41K20. They are being equitably maintained with the USARV command average in 94B40 and are programmed to receive the next available 81C40.

b. Reference item concerning "Officer Replacements", section II, page 9, paragraph A1. In view of the requisition lead time of eight months prior to the requirement month, the company grade officer accelerated promotion program, intercommand reassignments and other personnel turbulence, this headquarters cannot program company grade officer replacements in advance of their arrival in Vietnam. Replacements are assigned against existing requirements upon arrival in country. The 20th Engineer Brigade company grade officer strength compares favorably with other units within USARV. It is anticipated that replacements will continue to be provided in sufficient number to replace losses.

c. Reference item concerning "Topographic Map Overprinting", section II, page 10, paragraph B2; nonconcur. The problem of nonuniformity of registration will exist in any case where intermingled stocks printed by different agencies are present. The problem has been solved by in-country reprinting of base stocks when a requirement for overprinting is developed. For small overprint requirements, sufficient copies of a single press run are usually available and will provide uniform registration.

d. Reference item concerning "Soil Cement", section II, page 10, paragraph B3; concur. The recommendation of paragraph 3b(1) is appropriate only if more than 12 percent of the soil being used passes the #200 sieve. The Hyster compactor should not be used if less than 12 percent of the soil passes the #200 sieve. In addition the final lift may be sealed by use of the pneumatic-tired compactor.

e. Reference item concerning "Shortage of Lithographic Press Plates", section II, page 12, paragraph E1 and 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2b; nonconcur. There is currently no shortage of Lithographic Plates, FSN 3610-200-1700. Action has been taken to satisfy this unit's requirements. A change in existing supply channels would not produce any discernible advantage.

AVHGC-DST (14 Nov 69) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 31 October 1969

f. Reference item concerning "Operational Stockage Level", section II, page 13, paragraph E2; concur. However, several of these items are command controlled and will not be available for unit stockage until the supply status improves.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

B. A. Goodwin
Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:
79th Engr Gp
20th Engr Bde

GPOP-DT (14 Nov 69) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 79th Engineer Group (Construction) for Period Ending 31 October 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 6 JAN 70

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

C. L. SHORTT
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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CO, 79th Engineer Group

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