**UNCLASSIFIED**

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<td>AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980</td>
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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

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FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, A/P: 0-479, for Period Ending 31 January 1970

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village of Xa Binh Hoa. D Company remains at their base camp on QL-20 and the La Ngac River. On 1 December 1969 the 544th Engineer Company (CS) moved from their base camp at Nui Ba Linh to the industrial site and base camp located on QL-20 at Nui Soc Lu. The entire company was moved by 12 December 1969. The 92nd EM platoon arrived at C Company on 4 December 1969 and moved to D Company base camp on 20 December 1969.

f. Visitors and Awards:

(1) During this reporting period the work sites and base camps of the 169th Engineer Battalion were visited by LT General Clark (Chief of Engineers), BG John A. Dillard (Command General Engineer Troops USARV), BG Robert M. Turbox (Command General USACOM) and MG R.D. McBurney (16th Army Co., CS), COL D.J. Fuller (Dpty CO, 18th SBE) and COL John C. Reding (16th Army Co., CS).

(2) During this reporting period the battalion has awarded 35 Bronze Stars, 101 Army Commendation Medals, 5 Purple Hearts, and 6 20th Brigade Certificates of Achievement. Breakdown for the three months reflects a marked increase in January due to the use of the new pre-printed format for recommendations for the Bronze Star and Army Commendation Medal, which was initiated in mid-November.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Bronze Star</th>
<th>Army Commendation Medal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Personnel, Morale and Discipline:

c. Personnel:

(1) General Order No. 609 reorganized the 169th Engineer Battalion effective 25 October 1969 under TOE 5-115G, with a total authorized strength of 38 Officers and 869 Enlisted men. One of the two major attached units, the 43rd Engineer Company (DT) is organized under TOE 5-124G with a total assigned strength of 4 Officers and 109 Enlisted men. The other, the 544th Engineer Company (CS), attached on 31 October 1969 per General Orders 53, Headquarters 159th Engineer Group dated 31 October 1969, is organized under TOE 5-114B plus an augmentation of two Quarry Sections assigned per General Orders 61, Headquarters 159th Engineer Group dated 27 December 1969, bringing their total authorized strength to 4 Officers, 2 Warrant Officers, and 111 Enlisted men. The personnel strengths of the 169th Engineer Battalion and attached units for the reporting period were as follows:

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, APO 96491, for Period Ending 31 January 1970

(a) November 1969 (As of last day of the month)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authorized</th>
<th>OFF</th>
<th>WO</th>
<th>FM</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1153</td>
<td>1203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>974</td>
<td>1020</td>
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(b) December 1969

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>60</td>
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<td>1153</td>
<td>1203</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1134</td>
<td>1186</td>
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(c) January 1970

<table>
<thead>
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<th>FM</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1085</td>
<td>1135</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

(2) The following is critical over-strengths and under-strengths according to TOE:

(a) Six MOS overstrengths are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>AUTHORIZED/AUTHORIZED</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>51N20</td>
<td>Water Supply Spec</td>
<td>E-4/3</td>
<td>9/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62E20</td>
<td>Crawler Tractor Op</td>
<td>E-3,6</td>
<td>44/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52K20</td>
<td>Grader Operator</td>
<td>E-5</td>
<td>33/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7610</td>
<td>Supply Clerk</td>
<td>E-3</td>
<td>12/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>76Q20</td>
<td>Repair Force Spec</td>
<td>E-3,4</td>
<td>11/9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7630</td>
<td>Unit Supply Spec</td>
<td>E-4</td>
<td>8/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Significant areas of under-strength include construction equipment and maintenance. These include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MOS</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>RANK</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>56J20</td>
<td>Winchman</td>
<td>E-7,3</td>
<td>7/13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51L40</td>
<td>Utilities Worker</td>
<td>E-3</td>
<td>4/26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51B20</td>
<td>Carpenter</td>
<td>E-3,6</td>
<td>64/72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91H40</td>
<td>Construction Supv</td>
<td>E-7,6</td>
<td>26/32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52L20</td>
<td>Truck Tower Operator</td>
<td>E-3,4</td>
<td>34/35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21N20</td>
<td>Traffic Operator</td>
<td>E-3,6</td>
<td>10/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91S10</td>
<td>Unit Supv</td>
<td>E-7,6</td>
<td>12/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51Q20</td>
<td>Crane Truck Driver</td>
<td>E-3,4</td>
<td>118/146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>51D20</td>
<td>Data Spec</td>
<td>E-3</td>
<td>1/6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, AIF 96491, for Period Ending 31 January 1970

(3) The imbalance in MOS strength is a result of the difference between the requirements listed in the TOE and the present mission of the battalion. Replacements having different MOS are given OJT in the needed MOS. For example, plumbers (SK) who are not essential to the present mission are being trained as construction foremen, truck drivers, and equipment operators.

b. Health and Sanitation:

   (1) The physical conditions and overall health of the personnel are excellent. Good personal hygiene, cleanliness, and personal protective measures are emphasized continuously.

   (2) The mess halls and sanitation facilities are inspected regularly, and have been found to be in satisfactory condition. Deficiencies and recommendations are reported to the respective companies for corrective action.

   (3) Venereal Disease remains a major problem within the battalion. Personal protective measures are continuously stressed to the troops.

c. Morale:

   (1) The battalion theater continues to show movies 7 nights a week and movies are shown 5 nights out of seven in each of the four (4) isolated base camps.

   (2) The isolated companies have improved morale during the quarter by establishing joint officer/ES clubs operated as other sundry fund activities.

   (3) The PX lounge in the battalion continues to service the isolated companies by weekly visits to each base camp with the "Mobile PX".

   (4) During the past reporting period each of the base camps had the benefit of Special Services sponsored entertainments which visited each isolated location.

(5) R&R allocations for the 169th Engineer Battalion averaged 60 leaves per month for out-of-country locations. Out-of-country R&R allocations are deemed adequate although each month many people are unable to go to the more popular sites such as Australia, due to insufficient allocations to that site. Those people are either routed to other countries or instructed to reapply the following month. In-Country R&R allocations to Vung Tau are not deemed adequate. This battalion received 5 allocations in November, 5 allocations in December and no allocations in January. In-Country R&R's are used to reward personnel who perform in an exemplary manner and are also used in conjunction with the resilient/stint incentive program, therefore play an important part in 169th morale.
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, APU 96491, for

Discipline: During the reporting period there have been 106 company
grade article 15's given and 26 field grade article 15's. The majority of
these article 15's were for failure to report for duty and disobedience of
orders. Nine special court martials have been convened during the reporting
period.

Casualties: During the reporting period the battalion has suffered
the following casualties:

1. Killed: 2, Two personnel, were killed when their helicopter
(bo-6) struck a power line.
2. Wounds in Action: Three personnel suffered grenade fragment
wounds when their truck was ambushed on QL-20.
3. Injuries, non-hostile causes: The battalion suffered 16 persons
injured during the period. The majority of these injuries were sustained in
vehicle accidents. One of the injuries was caused by an accidentally self-
inflicted gunshot wound during an attack on the Long Binh perimeter. Three of
the 16 required medical evacuation to out-of-country hospitals.
4. The battalion had 7 personnel evacuated from Vietnam due to disease
and 2 for psychiatric disorders.

Intelligence, Counter Intelligence, and Enemy Activity:

a. Intelligence and Counter Intelligence:

1. The battalion has performed no Combat Intelligence Functions
during the past reporting period other than reporting to higher headquarters
all incidents involving enemy activity in the AOR that involve either units
within the battalion or security forces provided for the battalion.
2. The battalion receives intelligence information concerning the
Long Khan area and Long Khan province in the form of intelligence summaries
from Long Khan Post, 11 PNC Post, 2 PNC Post, and Long Khan Province Advisory Team.
These INTELS are received daily.
3. Periodic intelligence briefings are given to officers of the
battalion by the 18th ARVN Division, the district town QL-20, and the 199th
Light Infantry Brigade. By means of close personal contact with the ARVN and
districts, the battalion is kept abreast of the patrol situation.
4. Recon's have been made for bridge placement on QL-20.
5. Recon's in the form of sweep teams are conducted three (3) times
a week in front of the battalion's sub-sector of the Long Binh Post Perimeter.

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(6) Periodic sweeps have been conducted in areas on Long Binh Post within the battalion's sub-sector which were suspect areas.

b. Enemy Activity:

(1) There were no construction days lost due to enemy activity during the period.

(2) On 7 December 1969, at 0915 hours water point personnel at YT 439327 received small arms fire. There were no casualties.

(3) On 21 December 1969, at 0800 hours a jeep with two (2) passengers was ambushed in the vicinity of YT 439316. Both were members of 199th LIB. There were 1 KIA and 1 WIA.

(4) On 17 January 1970, at 2400 hours, the battalion's sub-sector perimeter on Long Binh Post received small arms fire.

(5) On 19 January 1970, at 2355 hours, individuals were observed in front of battalion's sub-sector perimeter on Long Binh Post.

(6) On 28 January 1970, at 1720 hours, an individual at YT 341159 shot approximately 10 rounds at personnel of the 544th Engineer Company (OS). There were no casualties.

(7) On 29 January 1970, at 0815 hours, a claymore mine exploded in vicinity of YT 545369. Target was ARVN 25 Ton. There were no US casualties or damage. Two ARVN Troops were WIA.

4. Operations Plan Training:

a. Project Completed During the Reporting Period.

(1) Combat and Operational Support


(b) 180-3515-0-20, Dozer Support, 199th LIB, Company D, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed firing positions and begun started 10 January 1970; Completed 17 January 1970.


(c) 243-5841-0-20, Active Defense of POL Storage: Project terminated on 7 January 1970.


(c) 290-5756-0-20, Construction of Guard Towers and Receiving, Xuan Loc, Company C, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed 24 aircraft runways and 4 guard towers. Started 27 August 1969; Completed 4 December 1969.


(2) H.A. Living Facilities: None

(3) H.E.B.: None

(4) LOG:

(a) 22-575-142-0-20, Restoration of QL-20, from QL-1 to Trin Lon Gap, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed 2.5 kilometers of QCV Standard A Highway and 30 kilometers of 20-foot highway. Started 31 October 1969; Completion 17 December 1969.


(e) None

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b. Active Projects:

(1) Combat Support and Operational Support


(b) 289-5945-0-20, Living Fighting Bunker Construction for 3 Company, 169th Engineer Battalion, Company E, 169th Engineer Battalion:

(2) MACV Advisor Facilities:


(b) 312-0310-0-01, Water Well for MACV Advisors at Trung Bang, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Drilled to potential water source. Waiting for engine for drill, will then initiate pumping. Started 4 October 1969, estimated completion 17 February 1970.

(3) MFR: 399-5304-0-20, Hardstand, Open Storage Area, mess hall, 2nd Battalion, 15th Artillery: Construct hardstand, open storage area and mess hall for FSB. Project to start 31 July 1970.

(4) LOC:


(b) 417-5301-0-20, 2nd Engineer Battalion, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Drilled well for 2nd Engineer Battalion Pitch Plant at Long Binh. Present well has 5 GPM which is insufficient. Rig was moved to higher priority project. Started 16 November 1969. Expected completion 30 March 1970.

(c) 499-5303-0-20, Base Camp Construction for 2 Company, 169th Engineer Battalion: Constructed mess hall, water storage, maintenance shop, showers, project 92% complete. Started 31 October 1969, expected completion 7 February 1970.


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(6) Base Construction:

(a) 43-280-01-2-78 (MD) Outdoor Recreation Facilities, Long Binh Post, Company C & G, 169th Engineer Battalion: Project consists of constructing four softball fields, four tennis courts, four basketball courts, and thirty volleyball courts. Project has not been started due to low priority.

(b) 543-0307-0-01, Water Well 169th Light Infantry Brigade, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Low priority. Start date TBD.

(c) 543-0308-0-01, Road Paving, Long Binh Post, Company A, 169th Engineer Battalion: Consists of paving arterial streets on Long Binh Post, project to be started after completion of QL-20.

(d) Engineer Plans: During this quarter this battalion has received the 90% drawings for QL-20. The plans for the Gia Kiem industrial site were finalized and the site was cleared. The road design through villages on QL-20 has been altered so that the design will call for a 40' paved surface with curbs. Several field changes along QL-20 have been affected, particularly in the northern section where cutting operations had to be abandoned and fill had to be used instead, due to extensive surface and subsurface boulder fields.


(f) Training:

(1) Formal training is conducted in the battalion on Sunday and Tuesday evenings. Manditory 1A and 1BHW subjects are taught. The majority of the training is carried on at the company level in commander's lectures and regular classes. At battalion level, a course in Counter-Sapper techniques is conducted every two weeks by the S-2 staff and officers from the companies. The class is given to all new personnel and includes the skill that relates to perimeter and ditch - such as weapons familiarization, artillery fire and adjustment enemy sapper techniques, and night-light road operations.

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(2) Company L, Direct Support Maintenance Section conducts OJT for ARVN mechanics. There is an average of ten ARVN mechanics per class, and three classes have been graduated to present. The classes are run on a rotation basis with each mechanic getting a chance to become familiar with both engineer and ordnance equipment. The program is working well, but a lack of TM's in Vietnam makes the task more difficult and detracts from the overall effectiveness of the program.

(3) A school has been set up for the drivers of the new GMC dump trucks that are being received under the FAC/LOC buy program. The school is conducted by the technically trained RCC's. These instructors were trained by GMC instructors, making them fully capable of administering detailed technical instruction to students.

(4) In addition to formal driver training a program of OJT training for military dump truck drivers has been set up by the 43rd Engineer Company (DT) to insure a maximum of qualified operators at all times.

5. Logistics:

c. Emittent Status: The following list reflects Mission Essential TOE/MTOE equipment which is short in the battalion and impacts upon mission accomplishment.

<table>
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<th>O/H</th>
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<tr>
<td>Truck, Dump 5T</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi, water, tank type, tank etd, 1000 gal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck, water, Water 5T</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semi-Trailer, 8', 5T</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paving Machine, 6', 1-1/2'</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welding Shop, 6' Hid, 1-1/2'</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pneumatic Tool &amp; Compressor kit, 250 CFM</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roller, Metal, 6 x 5 Whl, 10'</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roll &amp; Choker 4, 6 Whl</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Set, 5V/WRC 600</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
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NOMENCLATURE

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<td>Tool Kit, Automotive</td>
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<td>106</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bucket, concrete, 1 cu yd</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

b. MCA/LOC Programs:

(1) The battalion was tasked by the 20th Engineer Brigade to pick-up,
process and make available all of the incoming MCA/LOC equipment on the MCA/LOC
buy program.

(2) During this period, the following equipment was received, deproces-
sed and distributed to all Groups of the 20th Brigade:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>169th</th>
<th>57th</th>
<th>54th</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plant, crushing &amp; screening, 250TH</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pump, centrifugal</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Truck, Dumper, 12 cu yd, 20T</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welder, 400 AMP</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(3) At the end of this reporting period the 169th Engineer Battalion
including the 43rd Engineer Company (43) and the 54th Engineer Company (54),
will be assigned one-vehicle of three (10) pieces of MCA/LOC equipment on hand.

ea. Maintenance Plant Items: Of the 52 normal pieces of heavy and light
equipment authorized for use, 23 are in the Battalion. The following:

(a) 650alic All Tractor                   1 ea
(b) D2E Tractor                           4 ea
(c) Scoop Loader                         3 ea
(d) 2½ Ton Truck                        4 ea
(e) Generator 50kW                      6 ea

The following items on requisition in Company 2, Technical Supply:

4. General Supplies: Continued shortage of expendable self-service
items such as toilet tissue, laundry soap, upright brooms, paper products.

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and general office supplies as well as some equipment is still being noted in the battalion. These items are not available, or a limit has been imposed on the purchase of such items from the SSC making it difficult to perform required daily duties. The group supply office has been notified verbally of the existing problems in this area.

c. Ammunition:

(1) During this reporting period numerous types of explosives required for successful quarry operations have been in less than normal supply. This situation began to improve towards the end of the reporting period. As the Banana Quarry moved into full operation a continued high supply rate of explosives is necessary.

(2) During this reporting period the following items have been designated as USARV Controlled and are in critically short supply.

(a) K317 Thickener H-4
(b) L312 Signal Illumination CD-Fumichute, White
(c) L499 Flare, surface trip

f. Maintenance:

(1) The battalion deadline rate for the quarter averaged 10% for USARV critical items and 8.6% overall. A major portion of the maintenance effort continues to be expended on the requisitioning and acquisition of repair parts.

(2) The battalion maintenance problems were intensifies by the addition of a large amount of heavy equipment common to a quarry operation. One maintenance part of this problem has been solved to some extent by giving the 544th Engineer Company the personnel to perform up to 12 school repairs on all stationary equipment and some of the heavier mobile engineer and ordnance equipment. A company's direct support maintains the remaining equipment and handles any overflow the Support Engineer Company (C3) might have.

(3) The repair parts problem has been solved to some extent by the origination of projects PME and PME. Project PME provides authorization to requisition parts for Rock Crushers and related equipment in bulk. Project PME authorizes bulk requisitioning of repair parts for Asphalt Plants and related equipment.

g. Construction Materials:

(1) No project was started during this reporting period for lack of construction material.

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(2) The following materials have been in short supply:

(a) All sizes of lumber with special emphasis on 3X.
(b) Concertina Wire.
(c) Steel stock for weld, to include plate, sheet, and bar
stock.
(d) Electrical wire to include: 4/0, 10/4, #8AWG, #10AWG,
and #12AWG.
(e) Culvert, to include: 48", 60", and 72".
(f) Steel mesh screen for reinforcement.
(g) Nuts, bolts, and washers, assorted sizes.
(h) Cement

(3) Plywood has been in critically short supply. Several projects
have been slowed because of lack of this material for handwall
construction. Some relief is at hand at present, however, excessive
amounts are still needed to complete the creation of more than 200
handwalls on the QL-20 Highway project.

h. Mineral Production:

(1) OICC Contract for HMR-89J supplied asphalt and base rock
were not available for the battalion for the initial construction phase of QL-20
in November and December and approximately 25,000 cubic yards of base rock
and 4962 tons of asphaltic concrete was provided by HMR-89J under OICC Contract

4. Control Requirements: No civilian trucks have been provided to the
battalion in this report. The final requirement is met with ROE and MSA/LOC

1. Improvement: During the reporting period the 169th Engineer
Battalion continued its participation in the 3C/MF improvement and modernization
program by transforming the 3C/3C 2a to the Republic of Vietnam.

6. Force Development: The 169th Engineer Battalion and subordinate company
orders received, included for the reporting period. The 5th Engineer Company
(CE) assumed the new activity of operating the industrial site at Gia Kien
which consists of concrete, decision, and oilfield plant.

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SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, AFO 66421, for Period Ending 31 January 1970

required information is received in a form of daily feeder reports from the command. This method has proven to be the most effective means for accumulating correct information on the construction projects.

3. Inspector General Activities:

   a. Annual General Inspection: The battalion underwent the annual general inspection on 1 January and received an over-all rating of satisfactory. The newly attached company, the 97th Engineer Company, was not inspected on their first LOP was in pursuit.

   b. Inspector General Complaints: The battalion's Acting Inspector General investigated and referred to SAK 10 6 15 complaints during the reporting period.

   c. HQ: During the past reporting period the battalion submitted 17 feature stories and 208 Rome were never released, of which 12 were published in journals circulated within. When not in journals with circulation outside VI. In addition to the above 3 articles were submitted for publication in "The Military Engineer".

10. Civic Action:

a. Social Welfare:

(1) The 169th Engineer Battalion spent a total of 46 man days on Civic Action projects and contributed a total of $11,000.00 during the past quarter.

(2) Assistance was render to two (2) schools, two (2) orphanages, two (2) church organizations, and the villages around the BRAVO, CHAN, and DELTA Vic area as 61-63.

b. Specific Projects:

(1) Headquarters Company gave a Thanksgiving Party for school children of Tan Kr.

(2) The battalion visits in pile of Christmas cards for a church group in Binh Hoa.

(3) The battalion distributes 1000's to a Protestant church organization in Kung Hoa.

(4) Relief services for a Christmas Party for the elderly in Ho Kr.

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Section 1: Operations Report:

(5) Draw Company gave a Christmas Party for the villagers in Phuon Lrn.

(6) Charlie Company built 1 kilometer of peripheral road and repaired 2 kilometers of road for villagers in Gin Kien.

(7) Contributions of 160 heavy stuffs, 1700y clothing, and 80% health items were distributed among the various departments, schools, and church groups.

(8) Personnel from the 169th Engineer Battalion Aid Station provided MEDCAPS (Medical Civic Action Project) for 142 patients in local villages.

(9) The 169th Engineer Battalion trained 15 hours of sweat, 30 foot of 24 inch culvert, and 2 foot of 18 inch culvert at 3-5 km from II Field Forces for civic action projects.

Section 2: Significant Lessons Learned:

1. Personnel: None

2. Intelligence: None

3. Operations:

   a. Dust Hazards

   (1) Observations: Traffic in the construction area creates extreme dust hazards from both the safety and health point of view.

   (2) Evaluations: Fencing and other dust barriers are necessary in the construction area. Overall, 1½ hour by-pass roads can be built. Spreading using a cavity made by 1½ inch spray was tried but this method did not work, unless large areas.

   (3) Recommendations: Water trucks with pressurized or pressurized water can work well. In addition, using a high-speed air blower can be effective. Air by mixing diesel with 20% kerosene improves the "dusting" power of the MC-70. The exact proportion of diesel may vary from 1% diesel to 1½ diesel depending upon the amount of water in mix.

4. Traffic on Base Course Rock

   (1) Observations: Traffic movement on base course rock damages the finished surface.

   (2) Evaluations: Where it is impossible to provide a by-pass road, traffic must be permitted on the base course prior to paving. A method had to be devised to protect the finished surface from damage.

(3) Recommendation: Through several applications of surface treatment with NC-70, a hard, crack-resistant surface can be obtained. This surface will resist breakdown from traffic flow and, if retreaded every 10-14 days will maintain its grade until it can be paved.

c. Loss of Finish Grade:

(1) Observation: Due to heavy traffic, finished subbase grade would be lost within a few days.

(2) Evaluation: Heavy traffic has a tendency to destroy the finished subbase grade. Even in method of sealing the subbase is available, the grade is lost after a few days.

(3) Recommendation: When finishing the subbase, leave the grade about 5 centimeters above final grade if traffic has to be permitted on the subbase. This will reduce the need of having to repair and fill subbase material if the surface is broken. It is easier to blank off the excess material to bring the subbase a grade down, it is to add material. Naturally, providing a by-pass would be the best solution if it were feasible.

d. Changing Scrapers:

(1) Observation: D/L 290I tractors make it necessary to change scrapers to operational tractors.

(2) Evaluation: The conventional method for changing scrapers is to remove the scraper from the christmas tree and attach it to the tree on operational tractor, a process that takes approximately 3 hours.

(3) Recommendation: When changing scraper from a 290I to a 290II tractor the time acquired can be reduced to approximately 1 1/2 hours by interchanging the christmas tree. When changing a 290I to a 290II the conventional method must be used, as necessary times are not for reasonable.

4. Training: None
5. Logistics: None
6. Communications: None.
TO: Commanding Officer, 20th Engineer Brigade, APO 96491


2. Comments are made on the following paragraphs:

   a. Section I, paragraph 1 a (i) (b): Personnel critical RDS shortages are compiled and forwarded to 26th Engineer Brigade Weekly.

   b. Section I, paragraph 5 a: These shortages have been reported on the Commander's Critical Items List, and valid requisitions for all equipment have been verified.

   c. Section I, paragraph 5 a: Some of the problems experienced by the 169th Engineer Battalion have resulted from an insufficient understanding of what customer input is required. The group supply officer is working closely with the 169th Engineer Battalion to insure that the proper procedures are being used to request critical self-service items.

   

   [Signature]

   C. A. BEATON
   COL. US
   Commanding

   M. 169th Eng BN
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion (Construction) for the period ending 31 January 1970, R & I CSM 80-65 (32)

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


2. This headquarters concurs with the submitted report with the following comment:

Section 2, paragraph 3d., page 16: the replacement of the coupling and ball housing on the 290H is a general support echelon function. This is probably due to shimming requirements in seating the hitch ball in the housing assembly. The unit should submit an AIP on this recommendation in accordance with TM 38-750 if a change in the maintenance allocation chart is felt necessary and/or desirable.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

N. V. ESMEUKER III
Lt., CSE
Assistant Adjutant

Copies Furnished:
CO, 159th Engr Bn
CO, 169th Engr Bn

PROTECTIVE MARKING IS EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC TERMINATION (PARA. 11, AR 400-70)
AVHCO-DST (14 Feb 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 169th Engineer Battalion, APO 96491,
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned
for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 169th
Engineer Battalion and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn;
169th Engr Bn
20th Engr Brd
SUBJECT: Operational Report on Hq, 169th Engineer Battalion for Period Ending 31 January 1970

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 21 VAR 70

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

This headquarters concurs in subject report as endorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

[Signature]

R.D. Cline
FLT. AGO
AG 34-70
Operational Report - Lessons Learned, HQ, 169th Engineer Battalion

Experience of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 69 to 31 Jan 70.

CO, 169th Engineer Battalion

In February 1970