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TO:

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FROM:

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AUTHORITY

AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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

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AGDA -A (M) (15 Mar 71) FOR OT UT 703156 19 March 1971

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 40th  
Signal Battalion, Period Ending 31 July 1970

AD 882427

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. The attached report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with para 4b, AR 525-15.
2. The information contained in this report is provided to insure that lessons learned during current operations are used to the benefit of future operations and may be adapted for use in developing training material.
3. Information of actions initiated as a result of your evaluation should be forwarded to the Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, ATTN: FOR OT UT within 90 days of receipt of this letter.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

*Verne L. Bowers*  
 VERNE L. BOWERS  
 Major General, USA  
 Acting The Adjutant General

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 ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FORCE DEVELOPMENT  
 (ARMY) ATTN: FOR OT UT, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)  
APO 96491

SCCPV-UG-FS-0

13 August 1970

**SUBJECT:** Operational Report - Lessons Learned for 40th Signal Battalion  
(C), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Operations: Significant Activities

a. At the close of the period, the Battalion was organized and located as follows:

(1) Battalion Headquarters located at Long Binh, RVN.

(2) Headquarters Company located at Long Binh, RVN.

(3) Company A:

(a) Headquarters at Long Binh, RVN.

(b) 1st Platoon at Long Binh, RVN.

(c) 2nd Platoon at Long Binh, RVN.

(d) 3rd Platoon at Saigon, RVN.

(4) Company B:

(a) Headquarters at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.

(b) 1st Platoon at Nha Trang, RVN.

(c) 2nd Platoon at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.

(d) 3rd Platoon at Cam Ranh Bay, RVN.

(5) Company C:

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- (a) Headquarters at Bien Hoa, RVN.
- (b) 1st Platoon at Bien Hoa, RVN.
- (c) 2nd Platoon at Bien Hoa, RVN.
- (d) 3rd Platoon at Bearcat, RVN.
- (6) 221st Signal Company (Pictorial):

- (a) Headquarters at Long Binh, RVN.

- (b) Detachments located at:

- Da Nang
- Qui Nhon
- Cam Ranh Bay
- Fleiku
- Saigon
- Can Tho

- (c) Unit is OPCON to the Commanding Officer, Southeast Asia Pictorial Center, Long Binh, RVN; assigned to the 40th Signal Battalion for command, logistical support and administration.

- (7) Move of Construction Platoons:

- (a) On 27 June 1970 the 2nd Platoon of Company A returned to Company Headquarters at Long Binh from Quan Loi. The 2nd Platoon then departed on 28 June 1970 for Vinh Long and returned to Long Binh on 28 July 1970.

- (b) On 25 June 1970 the 3rd Platoon of Company A departed for Soc Trang and returned to Saigon on 29 June 1970.

- (c) On 20 May 1970 the 1st Platoon of Company B departed for Nha Trang for the purpose of deactivating the Nha Trang Old Control Cable and the installation of an outside cable plant to provide a direct cable route for circuits from the Air Force DTE to the 459th Signal Battalion Franc.

- (d) On 30 June 1970 the 1st Platoon of Company C returned to Company Headquarters from Quan Loi. The 1st Platoon then departed for Vung Tau on 24 July 1970 to replace the present deteriorated Baseband cables with new Quad cable at ICS Site 11.

- (e) On 1 July 1970 the 3rd Platoon of Company C departed for Bearcat.

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b. Since its arrival in Vietnam during September 1966, the Battalion has installed a total of 4,899,392 feet of multi-pair communications cable. During the period covered by this report, the Battalion installed 93,362 feet of multi-pair communications cable.

(1) Significant accomplishments during the period were the completion of the following cable projects:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NO. FEET CABLE</u>	<u>PROJECT NO.</u>
Long Binh	46,329	CTO 10-70
Quan Loi	21,048	CTO 16-70
Soc Trang	990	CTO 24-70
Long Binh	1,247	MO 25-70
Saigon	10,100	MO 31-70
Newport Complex	2,400	MO 40-70
Long Binh	200	MO 55-70
Long Binh	800	MO 59-70
Long Binh	2,188	MO 60-70
Long Binh	2,130	MO 61-70
Long Binh	NA	MO 71-70
Saigon	650	MO 78-70
Soui Lo O	5,280	CMO 31-70

(2) Major projects nearing completion at the close of the period are as follows:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NO. FEET CABLE</u>	<u>PROJECT NO.</u>
Vinh Long	23,320	CTO 20-70
Bearcat	19,750	CTO 25-70
Vung Tau	610	CTO 29-70
Long Binh	NA	MO 47-70
Long Binh	21,000	MO 76-70
Long Binh	1,700	MO 81-70
Saigon	NA	MO 88-70

(3) Major projects that have been tasked or just started:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>NO. FEET CABLE</u>	<u>PROJECT NO.</u>
Long Binh	6,700	CTO 19-70
Can Tho	1,620	CTO 28-70
Long Binh	1,200	MO 93-70
Long Binh	1,700	MO 96-70

(4) During this period a total of 8 new major projects were received and 13 major cable projects were completed.

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(5) The Battalion devoted available mandays during the period as follows:

Primary Mission	51%
Mission Support & Administration	16%
Maintenance of Equipment	19%
Security	5%
Training	3%
Area Requirements & Work Details	5%
Other	1%
	<u>100%</u>

2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations:

a. Personnel:

(1) Shortage of Trained Supply Sergeants:

(a) **OBSERVATION:** The Battalion is presently authorized five (5) supply sergeants, grade E-6. Only one (1) is assigned and he is a 30 day loss.

(b) **EVALUATION:** This Battalion must have trained supervisory supply personnel to accomplish its mission. The S4 Officer and his NCO assistant will both DEROS in less than 30 days leaving no continuity in the S4 office. On-the-job training of junior enlisted personnel has proven to be inadequate because of the lack of available supply supervisors. The Warrant Officer and E-7 currently assigned are in the Battalion Direct Support Unit and cannot be moved to fill the requirements of the S4 office.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That higher headquarters monitor the requisition and assignment of supply sergeants; that every effort be made to assign trained supply sergeants to battalion/company level first, and then to higher staff positions.

(d) **CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** Correspondence has been forwarded to higher headquarters requesting assistance in the acquisition of qualified supervisory supply personnel.

(2) Shortage of Qualified Cable Splicer Supervisors:

(a) **OBSERVATION:** Due to the continuing heavy commitment for cable construction projects, experienced cable splicers are required.

(b) **EVALUATION:** This Battalion must have qualified supervisory cable splicer personnel assigned to adequately accomplish its mission. Lack of

assigned supervisory personnel impairs accomplishment of the Battalion mission. At present, the Battalion is authorized sixty-one (61) 36E with four (4) of these in the E-7 grade and three (3) in the grade of E-6. Of the seven (7) E-7 and E-6 positions, there are only three (3) assigned E-6's and one (1) E-7. This problem is compounded by the fact that there are only thirteen (13) of the twenty-seven (27) authorized E-5's assigned. The three (3) additional 36E40's that have been assigned have greatly aided this Battalion in completing OJT projects for the junior enlisted personnel that must fill the E-5 positions. Their skill and experience prove to be invaluable to this Battalion.

(c) **RECOMMENDATIONS:** That higher headquarters continue to monitor the requisition and assignment of cable splicer supervisors and that every effort be made to assign these personnel to the 40th Signal Battalion (Construction).

(d) **CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** Correspondence has been forwarded to higher headquarters requesting assistance.

b. Intelligence: None

c. Operations:

(1) Evaluation of Entrencher, Cleveland J-36:

(a) **OBSERVATION:** During the reporting period the Battalion completed receipt of three (3) Cleveland Model J-36 Entrenchers. During digging operations it was found that the Boom Frame Crumbing Shoe, following the Digging Wheel and designed to clean the trench, would catch on obstructions left either on the walls or the bottom of the trench.

(b) **EVALUATION:** On two (2) occasions the Crumbing Shoe caught on rocks and limbs imbedded solidly in the trench walls and ripped the welds loose from the Boom Frame. This causes a total operational loss of the entrencher until the welds can be remade. This Battalion has received satisfactory results without using the shoe. Trenches are kept clean enough to lay cable and the missing weight has very little effect on the "setting in" and trenching of the Digging Wheel.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** Request that any information from other organizations having had similar problems provide data to this organization as to corrective actions taken.

(d) **CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** To correct the condition within this organization the Crumbing Shoes were removed from all three (3) of the Cleveland J-36 Entrenchers.

(2) New MTOE Submission:

(a) **OBSERVATION:** The Battalion is authorized heavy equipment but no operator and maintenance personnel for this equipment.

(b) **EVALUATION:** Currently the Battalion is authorized two trenchers, a bulldozer, a Ryan Super "C" Cable Plow, a Pitman "Polecat" and a low-bed tractor trailer for each construction company. Operator and maintenance personnel for this specialized equipment are trained from existing personnel resources.

(c) **RECOMMENDATION:** A heavy equipment section should be established to operate and maintain this equipment.

(d) **CORRECTIVE ACTION TAKEN:** A new MTOE has been prepared by this unit and submitted to higher Headquarters. The changes will add the required personnel qualified to operate and maintain the engineer items of equipment that are on hand and required to accomplish the mission of this Battalion. Also included in this document are D-5 Bulldozers specifically designed for trench back-filling. These bulldozers are air transportable items which can be easily moved in support of projects throughout Vietnam.

d. Organization: See Inclosure

e. Training: None

f. Logistics: None

g. Communications: None

h. Material: None

i. Other: None



NORMAN L. RUE  
LTC, SigC  
Commanding

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1. Organization Structure

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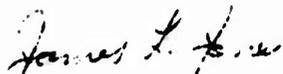
- 2 - CG, USARPAC, ATTN: GPOF-DT, APO 96558
- 3 - CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375
- 1 - CG, USASTRATCOM-PAC, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, APO 96557
- 1 - CG, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRATCOM), ATTN: SCCFV-OP, APO 96384
- 5 - CO, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491
- 5 - CC, 40th Signal Battalion (C), APO 96491

SCCPV-UG-OP-PT (13 Aug 70) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for the 40th Signal  
Battalion for Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, Headquarters, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491 25 August 1970

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Report contained in basic communication is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. The following comments apply to the Commander's observation in paragraph 2a(1): The shortage of supply sergeants ( MOS 76Y40 ) is a longstanding problem, groupwide in scope. Group personnel procedures have been instituted to monitor the assignment of incoming supply sergeants though as yet the group has not received sufficient numbers of incoming supply sergeants to relieve the problem. This MOS was reported to higher headquarters on the critical MOS shortage list.
3. Concur in the Commander's observations, evaluations, and recommendations.

  
JAMES L. JONES  
COL, SigC  
Commanding

DISTRIBUTION:

- 2 - Assistant Chief for Force Development,  
DA (ASCFOR, DA) Washington, DC 20310
- 2 - Commanding General, 1st Signal Brigade  
(USASTRATCOM) ATTN: SCCPV-OP APO 96384

SCCPV-OP-CC (13 Aug 70) 2nd Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for 40th Signal  
Battalion (C), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, HQ, 1st Signal Brigade (USASTRAVCOM), APO 96384 15 Sep 1970

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters has reviewed the report as indorsed with the following comments:

a. Reference item, "Shortage of Trained Supply Sergeants" para 2.a.(1)(d), pg. 4. Presently there is a shortage of 76Y40's throughout this command. This headquarters has requisitions into DA for all positions, however, the fill has been slow.

b. Reference item, "Evaluation of Entrencher, Cleveland J-36:" para 2.c.(1)(c), pg. 5. When digging in rocky or rooty terrain, the hoisting and lowering of the digging wheel should be done with the front cables, leaving the back cables slack so that the shoe is free to ride or float on the bottom of the ditch.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
T. M. BEYERSDORF  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

CF:  
Commanding General, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command,  
ATTN: SCC-OPS-RT, Ft Huachuca, Arizona 85613  
Commanding Officer, 160th Signal Group, APO 96491  
Commanding Officer, 40th Signal Battalion, APO 96491

AVHDO-DO (13 Aug 70) 3d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for 40th Signal Battalion  
(C), Period Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, United States Army Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 12 NOV 1970

THRU: Commanding General, United States Army Strategic Communications  
Command-Pacific, APO 96557

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 July 1970 from Headquarters, 40th Signal Battalion and concurs with comments of indorsing headquarters.

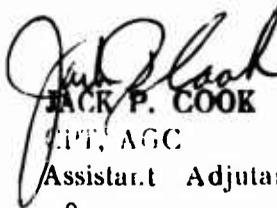
2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "Shortage of Trained Supply Sergeants and Qualified Cable Splicers," page 4, paragraph 2a; 1st Indorsement, paragraph 2 and 2nd Indorsement, paragraph 2a. This Headquarters is aware of the personnel shortages being experienced and recommends that this be intensively managed by USASTRATCOM. Unit has been so advised.

b. Reference item concerning "Evaluation of Entrencher, Cleveland J-36," page 5, paragraph 2c(1) and 2nd Indorsement, paragraph 2b. This Headquarters is not aware of subordinate units encountering similar problems; however, in this application, the entrenchers may be operated without the crumbing shoe. The crumbing shoe should not be discarded since it does serve a useful purpose when operating in loose soil and in digging pipeline trenches. No action by DA or USARPAC is recommended. Unit has been so advised.

c. Reference item concerning "New MTOE Submission," page 6, paragraph 2c(2). The proposed addition of operator and maintenance personnel required in support of heavy equipment currently authorized is appropriate. The new MTOE submission requesting authorization for D-S bulldozers appears to be in keeping with the mission of this cable construction battalion. However, since MTOE submissions of 1st Signal Brigade units are forwarded directly through USARSTRATCOM channels, comments or recommendations should be obtained from 1st Signal Brigade. Unit has been so advised.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

  
JACK P. COOK  
1PT, AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

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Cy furn:  
1st Sig Bde  
40th Sig Bn

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SCCP-OP (13 Aug 70) 4th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for 40th  
Signal Battalion (C), Period Ending 31 July 1970,  
RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

Headquarters, U. S. Army Strategic Communications Command-  
Pacific, APO San Francisco 96557 **21 NOV 1970**

THRU: Commander in Chief, U. S. Army Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,  
APO 96558  
Commanding General, U. S. Army Strategic Communications  
Command, Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613

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

1. Subject report is forwarded in accordance with AR 525-15.
2. This headquarters concurs with the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



ANN M. RIOU  
CPT, WAC  
Acting Asst AG

CF:  
CG, USARV, APO 96375 wo incl  
CG, 1st Sig Bde (USASTRATCOM), APO 96384 wo incl  
CO, 160th Sig Gp (USASTRATCOM), APO 96491 wo incl  
CO, 40th Sig Bn (Construction), APO 96491 wo incl

GPOP-DT (13 Aug 70) 5th Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 40th Signal Battalion (C) for Period  
Ending 31 July 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558

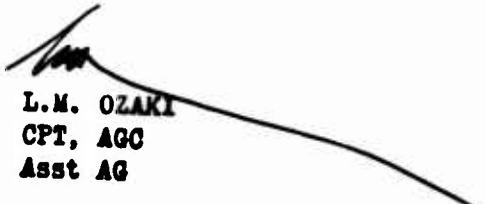
88 DEC 70

~~THRU: Commanding General, U.S. Army Strategic Communications Command,  
Fort Huachuca, Arizona 85613~~ *12 Dec 70 JLB*

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

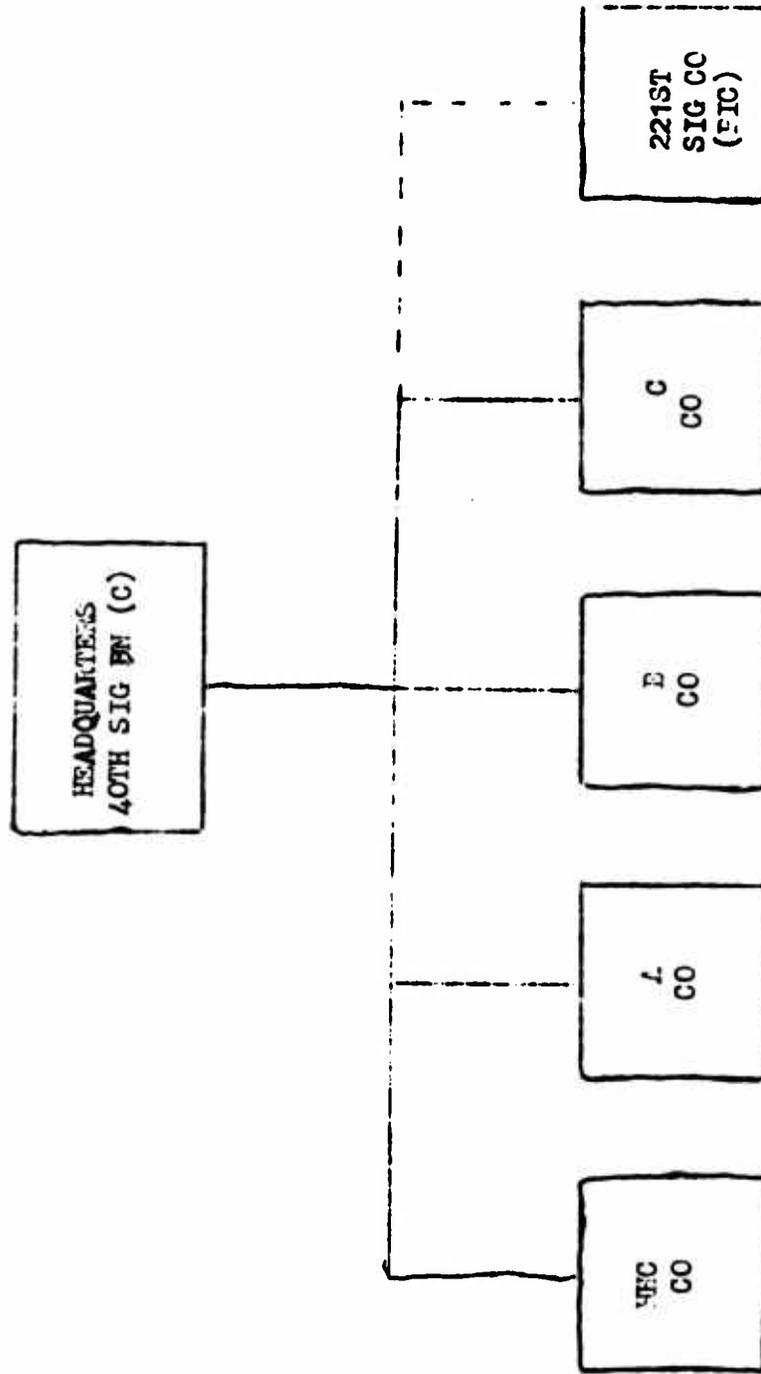
This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

  
L.M. OZAKI  
CPT, AGC  
Asst AG

CF:  
DA ACSFOR  
CG USASTRATCOM-PAC

40TH SIGNAL BATTALION (CONSTRUCTION)



221ST SIGNAL COMPANY (FICTORIAL) ATTACHED FOR ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. OFCON REMAINS WITH SEAPC.

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