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Distribution Statement A

Approved for public release; distribution unlimited.
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 520th Transportation Battalion (AM&S)(GS), Period Ending 31 January 1968

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation in accordance with paragraph 5b, AR 525-15. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT RD, Operational Reports Branch, 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

DISTRIBUTION

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Defense for Information (C)
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 520TH TRANSPORTATION BATTALION (AVAS)(GS)
APO 96289

9 February 1968

AVGFP-CO

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,

GNS GSFOR-65

TO: Commanding Officer
34th General Support Group (AVAS)
APO 96307

1. Under the provisions of the United States Army Vietnam Regulation 1-19,
dated 8 February 1967, the following is submitted.

SECTION I

2. ORGANIZATION:

During the reporting period this Battalion consisted of Headquarters
and Headquarters Company, 20th Transportation Company (Aircraft Direct Support),
605th Transportation Company (Aircraft Direct Support), 539th Transportation
Company (General Support), and the AVEL Company Central (Provisional).

3. MISSION:

Provide, as directed, Army aircraft maintenance and supply support, aircraft
recovery support, aviation electronics support and aircraft armament support
to units stationed within the Battalions assigned geographical area of responsi-

5. PERSONNEL:

A total of 222 contract civilian maintenance personnel are now assigned
to the Battalion. They continue to be a valuable asset to the Battalion. A
problem exists however when new aircraft such as the AH-1G Cobra and OH-6A LOH
are introduced into the inventory. Since they are new aircraft the contractor
is not able to provide personnel qualified on these aircraft. Statutory pro-
visions prevent the use of AAMTF schools to qualify these people so they must
acquire the training on an OJT basis. This is not wholly satisfactory. The
contractor has instituted night classes for its personnel to attempt to alleviate
this problem. Military instructors are paid by the contractor to instruct these
classes in their off duty time.

6. OPERATIONS:

The continued drain upon the personnel resources of the Battalion by
having to maintain a provisional company in support of the 3/17th Cavalry Squad-
don reduces our capability. No date has been established for the arrival of KD
teams to support the 3/17th Cavalry Squadron.

7. AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE:

a. Construction has begun on a 175'x190' aircraft maintenance hangar
for the 20th Transportation Company. It's estimated completion date is 15 March
1968. The completion will enhance the maintenance capability of the 20th con-
siderably.

b. The lack of hardstand and an adequate maintenance hangar continues to
be a major problem in the 539th. The dust during the dry season causes much lost
time trying to keep parts clean. Operating efficiency of a turbine engine repair
facility where close tolerances and precision fits are a routine requirement, is
reduced by at least 50%.

c. Through an aggressive self help program the 605th Transportation
Company has transformed a bare shell of a hangar into an extremely functional
aircraft maintenance facility. All allied shops have been moved from mobile
vans into bays of the hangar.

d. During the reporting period the consolidated Battalion Recovery
Section recovered 175 downed aircraft from field positions and performed 165
maintenance extractions.

8. MISSION SUPPLY:

a. The NCR 500 vans are both sophisticated and expensive pieces of
equipment. With a limited number of these vans available to the Army their
maximum protection from hostile action is essential. The NCR 500 systems within
this battalion have been reveted to a height of nine feet to preclude damage
from small arms fire and mortars.

b. During the reporting period the volume of reparable aircraft parts
shipped has increased considerably. The average shipment for a week during the
month of December was 70,000 pounds.
AVCFF-GO
9 February 1968
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CSR
CSFOR-65

SECTION II

ITEM: Night Defensive Personnel

DISCUSSION: Due to increased hostile acts and a rising security threat at
night to the Phu Loi Base Camp, the night shift has been enlarged and consists
of nearly all available military maintenance personnel. These men constitute
an immediate armed reaction force ready to reinforce any section of our defense-
ive perimeter. The day shift consists almost entirely of our civilian personnel
with only enough military personnel to maintain continuity.

OBSERVATION: Night maintenance personnel are a ready pool of alert, armed
troops for use as a reaction force.

ITEM: Supplementary and Secondary Defensive Bunkers

DISCUSSION: It has been necessary to construct additional defensive bunker
positions due to recent increases in enemy activity.

OBSERVATION: Adequate bunkers with overhead cover can be constructed rapid-
ly using sand bags and M8A1 airfield matting to provide support for overhead cover.

ITEM: Aircraft Recovery Support

OBSERVATION: At the current time recovery support is the responsibility
of each 34th Group Aircraft Maintenance Battalion. Each Battalion handles
its recovery mission in a different way. The recovery support must be tailored
to the tactical situation and density of supported aircraft. No TO&E provisions
are made for recovery personnel and equipment. This imposes a considerable drain
on Battalion resources to provide sufficient personnel and aircraft to pro-
vide responsive support.

OBSERVATION: Aircraft recovery companies could be organized similarly to
the current Medical Ambulance Companies. Platoons could then be assigned on an
area basis and be shifted easily as the tactical situation changes. Additional
platoons could be called in from other areas to support major tactical efforts.

ITEM: Overflight of Combat Assault Aviation Missions

DISCUSSION: At the present time, units are requesting a recovery team to
overfly their combat assault missions with no regard to the distance from the
base of operations of the recovery activity or the number of aircraft involved.

OBSERVATION: Overflights should be flown dependent on availability of air-
craft when the distance from recovery activity's base is greater than 30 minutes
flight time and at least 20 troop carriers are involved.
Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CRS
CGOR-65

ITEM: Proper timing to request aircraft recovery

DISCUSSION: At the present time, units are requesting aircraft recovery prior to the accident board's release and or prior to the area being secured. Recoveries are accomplished in order as they are received. When the team is delayed awaiting the security of an area or completion of the accident board investigation, valuable time is lost and at times has precluded the possibility of other recoveries.

OBSERVATION: A request for aircraft recovery should not be initiated until it is known that the area will be secured by at least a light fire team plus ground troops and the accident investigation board has released the aircraft.

ITEM: Ideal sling length for field evacuation

DISCUSSION: A number of different sling lengths have been experimented with in recovery operations in an attempt to limit the recovery sections required inventory to as few different types and lengths as possible.

OBSERVATION: It was determined that a 20 foot, 18,000 pound sling was most effective in that it allows for maximum sling load airspeed with a minimum of vibration and oscillation. For various terrain situations it was also learned that 40 foot and 60 foot, 18,000 pound slings were the next most useful length.

ITEM: Evacuations in dusty locations

DISCUSSION: Evacuations involving dusty locations, either at the "pick up" or "drop off" points, attempted with 20 foot slings have resulted in dangerous situations of nearly zero visibility.

OBSERVATION: In dusty locations a 40 or 60 foot sling is preferable to minimize the dust clouds developed from rotor wash.

ITEM: Evacuations of UH-1 aircraft with the rotor blades locked in a cocked position from the longitudinal axis

DISCUSSION: Evacuations of UH-1 aircraft with the transmission seized and the rotor blades locked in a 20 to 90 degree position from the longitudinal axis of the aircraft have a tendency to rotate and oscillate severely, placing extreme strain on the sling and endangering the recovery ship.

OBSERVATION: Downed aircraft with the rotor blades locked in an off center position above 30 degrees should, if the tactical situation permits, have both main rotor blades removed prior to evacuation.

ITEM: Unstable power to Aviations Repair Facilities

DISCUSSION: Power supplied to avionics equipment repair facilities generally is not stable enough for safe and efficient operations of the many complex pieces of test equipment used in the repair of avionics equipment. Various power problems have been encountered.
a. Low input power (caused by line drop, etc.)
b. High input power (caused by power surge)
c. Frequency of input power varying.
d. Fluctuating power (constantly increasing and decreasing during short intervals)

These power problems have caused increased test equipment failures. As generator problems become more prevalent, so does test equipment failure. The present high failure rate of test equipment is seriously limiting the capabilities of this G-6 facility.

**Observation:** Power will continue to be a problem area in NV. Reliable generators as a source of power will alleviate part of the problem. However, the only real solution here would be installation of automatic voltage regulators between the supply source and the repair facility.

**Discussion:** Contact teams

During the reporting period, supported units experienced an increased number of aircraft damaged in combat action. Airframe repair contact teams have been used extensively to work with organic maintenance personnel. The organizational maintenance personnel have continued to correct deficiencies at their echelon while the field maintenance personnel did their work. This has resulted in a more rapid return of aircraft to an operational ready status.

**Observation:** The use of contact maintenance teams from airframe and bullet damaged repair in conjunction with organizational maintenance activities expedites the return of battle damaged aircraft to service.

**Discussion:** Return of repairables

An intensive program has been initiated to generate customer interest in the return of repairable parts and components to the supply system. Visits by technical assistance personnel to assist supported units in proper packing, preservation and documentation has increased the flow of turn-ins.

**Observation:** Only by an aggressive technical assistance program can sufficient quantities of repairables be generated from supported units.

**Discussion:** Cracked transmission mounts of U-1 helicopters

The beginning of repair on cracked damaged U-1 aircraft prior to determining if the transmission mounts were cracked has resulted in wasted manhours on aircraft that would have to be evacuated to CAS for repair.

**Observation:** Prior to starting repair on cracked damaged aircraft, the transmission should be removed and the transmission mounts are checked for cracks.
SUKTI  Operation Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CRS

SUS 3-65

I.T.E.M.:  Rotor blade tracking at night

DISCUSSION: It is sometimes desirable to accomplish main rotor blade tracking at night; however, this is difficult and often hazardous.

OBSERVATION: UH-1 main rotor blades can be successfully and safely tracked at night by adjusting the searchlight to fall on the yellow tip path plane of the blades.

I.T.E.M.:  Aircraft defueling for maintenance

DISCUSSION: Lost manhours have been experienced in attempting to defuel an aircraft already located in the maintenance hangar and partially dismantled for repair.

OBSERVATION: Prior to entrance into the hangar, aircraft should be thoroughly inspected for damage that will require removal of fuel cells, so that aircraft can be defueled before they are dismantled for repair.

I.T.E.M.:  Replacing grip seals in UH-1B and D model main rotor hubs

DISCUSSION: Excessive down time has been experienced in replacing grip seals in the UH-1B and D model main rotor hubs because of the waiting period necessary for newly installed grip seals to "set up" on the grip plates.

OBSERVATION: Extra grip plates, PS. 1615-445-6378, can be obtained and the seals inserted and allowed to set up, which takes approximately four hours. Then when a main rotor hub is received for repair, the grip plates are ready to be installed immediately with no time delay for the seals to set up.

I.T.E.M.:  A pinpoint distribution system for "combat zone" located organizations

DISCUSSION: The DA Pinpoint Distribution System provides an excellent source for obtaining and maintaining a current and efficient Publications Library. It is essential for aircraft maintenance units to maintain up-to-date manuals and regulations in order to insure proper maintenance procedures.

OBSERVATION: Units who have not established Pinpoint Distribution with Publications Centers should take action to obtain appropriate DA Form 12 series for establishment of account. Units presently receiving Pinpoint Distribution should periodically review their requirements and submit revised DA Form 12 series to the appropriate Publications Center. This action, in addition to maintaining a current system, will save the government dollars by causing a decrease in printing, handling and shipping costs.
Subject: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CRS GS/OR-65

ITEM: Replacement TOE equipment for aircraft maintenance units

DISCUSSION: Replacement TOE equipment for aircraft maintenance units is requisitioned through normal supply channels. Some of this equipment is readily available in-country. Items that are not readily available in-country must be requisitioned through a depot from a non-TOPUS source, causing in certain cases an unacceptable delay in the receipt of critical items of equipment.

Observations: Depots/Organizations supporting aircraft maintenance units should maintain float equipment for direct exchange of selected critical items, i.e., forklifts, hydraulic test stands, etc.

ITEM: Expandable type shop vans

DISCUSSION: The use of expandable type shop vans creates a ventilation and insect problem in the Republic of Vietnam. The canvas side covering creates very hot and uncomfortable working conditions and provides insignificant protection from insect bites.

Observation: This problem can be overcome by replacing the canvas with a portable fine mesh screen.

ITEM: Mobile power, air and light platform (PAL)

DISCUSSION: A problem existed due to the lack of a mobile source of illumination and air for aircraft maintenance. By mounting a gas engine generator, compressor, and a telescopic floodlight on a trailer, a mobile (PAL) has been developed.

Observation: By the use of this device, many hours are saved by cutting down the "set up" time on these items of equipment. This device can be moved from one job to another with a minimum of effort instead of having to move the aircraft.

ITEM: Reparable turn-in section (CS: SUPPLY)

DISCUSSION: Manhours may be saved by functionalizing each major section in the reparable turn-in section. The section is divided into three main functions: Receiving Reparable Control and Shipping Section.

Observation: Functionalization in this area significantly reduced the time required to determine the status of reparables and for proper documentation and preservation of reparables prior to shipment. In addition, duplicate of effort was also decreased considerably.

ITEM: Aviation units are arriving in RVN without float equipment and direct support avionics repair facilities.
9 Feb 68

SUBJ: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CRS

AIRFRAME:

As units arrive in ROK with no means of avionics support, they are saturated on a 54th Group General Support Company. The company is not equipped to accept this added direct support and must use its own float equipment to accomodate this. This added burden affects all customers of the general support company by the decrease in reaction time.

OBSERVATION: Aviation units should not deploy to ROK without adequate avionics support and float equipment.

EQM: TOE equipment for transportation of potable water

DISCUSSION: Equipment authorized by TOE for the transport of potable water is insufficient for most units located at base camps. The TOE requirements are based on a unit's need under field conditions.

OBSERVATION: Units operating at a fixed installation should be authorized to draw excess TOE equipment in order to meet mission requirement for transport of potable water.

EQM: N-37 field range (generators, manifold lines)

DISCUSSION: Due to a shortage of N-37 Field Range Generators and manifold lines it was necessary to seek ways to repair worn out inoperable parts.

OBSERVATION: The life of old generators can be extended by 100 hours or more by sawing off the ends, removing old insulation, repacking with steel wool and rewelding ends. Manifold lines can be repaired by sawing off the worn flange and reflanging. This process has been proven to be effective in approximately 80% of the times attempted.

EQM: Truck, Cargo 2ton, M55A2

DISCUSSION: Brake linings on the M55A2 deteriorate rapidly in a tropical climate. Numerous inspections revealed the deterioration was caused primarily by mud and grime in the brake drums.

OBSERVATION: This situation can be greatly alleviated by performing a 1,000 mile/month inspection and cleaning the brake lining and drum instead of the semi-annual service.

EQM: Preservation of Water Cooled Engine

DISCUSSION: During the dry season, water cooled engines have a tendency to overheat. This is largely due to the radiator becoming clogged with dust thus reducing the flow of air through the radiator.

OBSERVATION: This problem can be solved by adding air-cleaning of the radiator to the daily norton stable checklist.
AVCP-O CO
SUBJ: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, CRS
GSFOR-65

SECTION 2. PART II

RECOMMENDATIONS

IDLE

DONALD H. JERSEY
LTC, TC
Commanding

2 Incl
1-Maintenance Operations
2-Aircraft Supply Operations Summary

TRUE CERTIFIED COPY

Danny M. Bogart
1LT AGC
Adjutant
AVOF-B (9 Feb 68)  1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1968, CRS CSFOR-65

HQ, 34th General Support Group (AM&S), APO 96309, 11 March 1968

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

Concur with basic report as written with the following addition:

Add UIG: WDFH TQA in the heading of the report.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

[Signature]

JOHN O. NORTHRIDGE
CPT, TC
Adjutant

HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375

4 APR 1968

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 January 1968 from Headquarters, 520th Transportation Battalion (AM&S)(GS) as indorsed.

2. Pertinent comments follow:

   a. Reference item concerning aircraft recovery support, page 3. Plans are now in effect to provide CH-47 Aircraft to each general support company for recovery purposes.

   b. Reference item concerning overflight of combat assault aviation missions, page 3: Concur. Due to the shortage of recovery aircraft, considerations should be given to commit these aircraft only when the need arises rather than in anticipation of the need. This necessity is closely related to item: Proper timing to request aircraft recovery, page 4. The utilization of recovery aircraft must be so planned to realize profitable flying time as much as possible.

   c. Reference item concerning unstable power to aviation repair facilities, page 4. The problem seems to be organizational in nature. Intensive organizational maintenance to insure proper operation of generators is indicated. If the source is centrally operated, this problem should be resolved with agency responsible for power supply.

   d. Reference item concerning aviation units arriving in RVN without float equipment and direct support avionics repair facilities, page 7. If this item refers to air cavalry units, action is now being taken to provide RL team support down to the troop level. Units to provide this support are programmed into the country on or about July 1968.

   e. Reference item concerning TO&E equipment for transportation of potable water, page 8. If the needs of the unit require more equipment to haul water, a request for MTOE action should be submitted through channels with full justification.
AVHGC-DST (9 Feb 68) 2d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967,
CRS CSFOR-65

3. A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

CHARLES A. BYRD
Major, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies furnished:
HQ 520th Trans Bn
HQ 34th GS Group (AM&S)
GPOP-DT (9 Feb 68) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for HQ, 520th Trans Bn (AM&S)(GS) for
Period Ending 31 January 1968, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 2 MAY 1968

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

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and forwarding indorse-
ments and concurs in the report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

K. F. OSBOURN
MAJ, AGC
Asst AG
## MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

### TABLE 1

Number of Aircraft Recoveries from 1 November 67 to 31 January 68: 175

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### NUMBER OF A/C COMPLETED AND RETURNED TO CUSTOMER

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Incl 1
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### Replenishment Request Submitted

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNIT</th>
<th>NOVEMBER</th>
<th>DECEMBER</th>
<th>JANUARY</th>
<th>AVERAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th TC</td>
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<td>605th TC</td>
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### EDP's Submitted

<table>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20th TC</td>
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Operational Report - Lessons Learned, hqs, 520th Transportation Battalion (AM&S)(GS)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations, 1 Nov 67-31 Jan 1968

CO, 520th TC Battalion (AM&S)(GS)

9 February 1968

681242

N/A

N/A

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

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16