1970

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
124TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY(TERMINAL SERVICE)
APO SF 96384

AVCS TC XD 124 2 February 1971

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Supplement

TO: Commanding Officer
159th Transportation Battalion (Tml)
ATTN: S-3
APO 96384

1. Organization:

a. The 124th Transportation Company (TS) is organized under MTOE 55-1170 POOG369, dated 31 December 1966. Total authorized strength is 101 enlisted men, 1 warrant officer and 5 commissioned officers.

b. Three detachments augment the company's capabilities:

586th Transportation Detachment (Maintenance)
588th " " (Materials Handling)(Heavy)
592nd " " " " "

Authorized strengths are 2,8 and 8 respectively.

2. Mission:

a. The mission of the 124th Trans Co (TS) and detachments is to provide personnel and equipment to supervise operations at United States Army Terminal, Cat Lai, Republic of Vietnam. This includes:

1. Operational control of discharge and loading of all deep draft vessels.
2. Documentation of all ammunition loaded and off-loaded.
3. Maintenance of all equipment used in vessel discharge/off-loaded

b. The 124th Trans Co (TS) also supports several post functions, most notably, the battalion motor pool and security guards.

3. Operations: Accomplishments and Developments

a. The operation of Cat Lai Terminal is a mid-stream discharge of ammunition from ship to barge. Barges are taken in tow via tug boat to numerous river ports principally, Cogido, Binh Thuy, Newport and Binh Threiu, with US and RVN Army, Navy and Airforce as final consignees.

3. Operations: Accomplishments and Developments (cont)

b. Discharge continued throughout the year without any major setbacks. Backload of ammunition for rework in CONUS varied greatly, however, as figures indicate:

	SHORT TONS DISCHARGED	SHORT TONS BACKLOADED
Jan	51,129	3,739
Feb	36,840	2,533
Mar	48,664	560
Apr	44,106	1,511
May	67,589	none
Jun	52,421	365
Jul	69,879	308
Aug	54,209	2,470
Sep	37,051	3,782
Oct	33,610	2,461
Nov	31,037	1,149
Dec	44,551	664
Total 1970,	571,095	19,544

The July total of 69,879 short tons set a new record for ammunition discharge at Cat Lai Terminal and is a point of pride for the entire battalion.

c. Strikes by the Vietnamese stevedores against the Korean contractor Lai Hy caused minor problems in January, June and early July. During each strike discharge operations continued with the aid of boatmen from the 5th and 1099th Transportation Companies. In response to the July strike, which lasted 6 days a stevedore training program was established, for the battalion's clerks, truck drivers and boat personnel. Training continued into November on two week cycles and greatly improved the battalion's potential reaction to walkouts by the Vietnamese.

d. A project to fender barges was begun on 6 Aug in an attempt to lessen damages to ships. Some measure of success has been noticed, but the overall effectiveness has been diminished greatly by the rapid "disappearance" of the tires from the sides and corners of the barges. The fendering continues in a endless cycle of theft and replacement. (With permanent gain to the local sampans)

e. July saw the arrival of the 511th Transportation Detachment(contract supervision) from Vung Tau. It was not until October, however, that the 511th began to monitor ship operations and November before it assumed responsibility for administrative, legal and financial aspects of the contract. During November a major change occured: Control of the discharge operation was relinquished by the 124th Trans Co (TS) and assigned to S-3 of battalion.

AVGS TC XD 124

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Supplement

3. Operations: Accomplishments and Developments (cont)

e. The change is in preparation for the inactivation of the 124th scheduled for February of 1971. Until then the company will continue to support the discharge operation with personnel and equipment.

f. The General Inspection, held on 9-10 October 70 noted four commendable areas and gave the 124th an overall score of satisfactory. Results of the 28 Dec. CMMI, although satisfactory overall, revealed weakness in the areas of PLL and TAMMS procedures.

g. As part of the consolidation and control post support functions, the 124th Trans Co (TS) assumed full responsibility for the motor pool on 19 Oct 70. This change gave CW2 Phillips effective control, for the first time, of the personnel who worked for him. With the arrivals another officer and four experienced maintenance NCO's to supervise the administrative duties, the battalion motor pool made rapid improvements in overall effectiveness.

4. Command Changes:

Timothy D Fulton, CPT, TC: 10 Jul 69 - 14 Feb 70

Ronald L Wallick, CPT, TC: 14 Feb 70 - 26 May 70

Richard J Schnitzler, CPT, TC: 26 May 70 - 21 Nov 70

James R Finlay, 1LT, TC: 21 Nov 70 - Present

5. Conclusion

1970 was the final year of service for the 124th in Vietnam. Operation of the major ammunition port of Vietnam continued smoothly with peak output in July. After the inactivation of the 124th Transportation Company (TS) the discharge operation will be supervised by the much smaller 511th Transportation Detachment. As the Vienam War slows down further, the operation will be assumed completely by the ARVN.

The achivements of the 124th Transportation Company (TS) can be best summarized by its discharge record: Half a million tons of ammunition during 1970.

JAMES R FINLAY
1LT, TC
Commanding