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LESSONS LEARNED, HEADQUARTERS, 500TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP (MOTOR TRANSPORT)

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE (ARMY) WASHINGTON DC

09 MAY 1967

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO
AGAM-P (M) (4 May 67) FOR OT

9 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport) for quarterly period ending 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools 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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(Continued on page 2)

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Asst. Chief for Force Dev.
Dept. of Army — Wash DC 20310 Attn: OTRD

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 500TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP (MOTOR TRANSPORT)
APO US Forces 96312

AVCA CR-MT-S3 9 February 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967

TO: Commanding General
1st Logistical Command
ATTN: AVCA GO-O
APO 96307

1. Section 1, Significant Organization or Unit Activities:

a. The 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport) supports the logistical effort of the US Army Support Command, Cam Ranh Bay. This support includes port and beach clearance, local and line haul movement of supplies to multiple destinations (Nha Trang, Phan Rang, Tuy Hoa, Dalat, and Ban Me Thuot), and clearance of the 14th Aerial Port at Cam Ranh Air Base.

b. Several changes in the organizational structure of the 500th Trans Gp (MT) were made during the period 1 November 1966 through 31 January 1967 (See Inclosure 1).

(1) The 10th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Cargo) deployed to Saigon on 11 November 1966 at full TOE strength and was assigned to the 48th Trans Gp (MT).

(2) Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 39th Trans Bn (Trk) deployed to Tuy Hoa on 28 November 1966 and was reassigned to Tuy Hoa Subarea Command.

(3) The following units were released from this Command and reassigned to the 39th Trans Bn (Trk).

(a) 24th Trans Co (Lt Trk)

(b) 151st Trans Co (Lt Trk)

(c) 564th Trans Plt (Lt Trk)

(d) 360th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Petrl) company headquarters, one task platoon, and maintenance section (-).

(4) On 23 December 1966, the 442d Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Cargo) arrived at Cam Ranh Bay and was assigned to the 500th Trans Gp (MT).

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AVCA CR-MT-S3 9 February 1967 2
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967

(5) The 566th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Cargo) and the 529th Trans Co (Lt Trk) arrived at Cam Ranh Bay 2 Jan 67 and were assigned to the 500th Trans Gp (MT).

(6) The 529th Trans Co (Lt Trk) was reassigned to Phan Rang Subarea Command on 5 Jan 67.

c. During the reporti period, the following tonnage and POL were transported by units attached to this headquarters:

Month	Port & Beach S/T	Local S/T	Line S/T	POL (Gal)	Total S/T
Nov 66	117,808	7,028	15,321	1,720,000	140,157
Dec 66	117,987	19,258	11,720	320,000	148,965
Jan 67	127,440	28,700	14,934	1,571,800	171,074
TOTAL	363,235	54,986	41,975	3,611,800	460,196

d. The 500th Trans Gp (MT) was engaged in operations for 92 days during the reporting period. Training was scheduled and integrated so as not to disrupt operations and was equivalent to one day of training per individual assigned.

e. The loss of the previously mentioned medium truck unit to Saigon resulted in decreased line haul tonnage during most of the reporting period. The new units were rapidly processed and were operational for the last seven days of the reporting period with a resultant increase in line haul activity.

(1) Resupply of Tuy Hoa by land LOC increased during the period and presently averages one convoy per week. Normal turnaround time averages three days. Due to an overall increase in traffic on QL 1 (Nha Trang to Vung Ro Bay), the Traffic Management Agency, MACV initiated highway regulation on 27 January 1967.

(2) Two convoys to Ban Me Thuot and one convoy to Dalat were effected. Primary emphasis was on resupply of Class III and IIIA petroleum products. The condition of bridges on the road between Phan Rang and Dalat necessitated reducing each tanker from 5,000 gallons to 3,000 gallons permitting utilization of only 60% of each tanker's capability. This coupled with the narrow and winding mountainous roads has led this headquarters to request that 5 ton cargo trucks with collapsible drums be used in lieu of M131 5,000 gallon tankers on line haul movements to Dalat. Successful completion of these convoys did provide a basis for additional limited line haul operations. Of particular note is the exceptional well coordinated security provided by ROKA and ARVN on these convoys.

AVGA CR-MT-S3 9 February 1967
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f. Intelligence: Initially, intelligence information was sporadic or not timely in nature. USASC CRB now conducts a weekly intelligence briefing providing more effective and timely information for convoy planning.

g. Maintenance of Routes: Land LOC's utilized by units of the 500th Trans Gp (MT) have seriously deteriorated due to the increased volume of vehicular traffic. Of particular note are QL 1 from Phan Rang to Nha Trang and Route 421 (Nha Trang By-pass from Dien Khanh to CP 034621). Conditions of routes are being forwarded to USASC CRB and the 35th Engineer Group based on Convoy Commanders' after action reports and spot reports from observation during daily operations.

h. Personnel: As of 1 November 1966 the assigned officer and warrant officer strength was 84 (90% of authorized strength) and the assigned enlisted strength was 1887 (97.5% of authorized strength). As of 31 January 1967 the assigned officer and warrant officer strength had decreased to 65 (89% of the authorized strength) and the assigned enlisted strength had decreased to 1510 (94.5 of the authorized strength). Existing personnel shortages of officers and non-commissioned officers (E-7 - E-9) have been requisitioned and the lower grade enlisted (E-3 - E-6) have been appropriately reported on monthly MOS Inventory Reports. The changes in the personnel strength of the Group are due in part to the significant change in the number and types of units assigned to the Group during the reporting period.

i. Continued use of the AN/VRC-12 family of radios over long distances illustrates that the effective transmission range of these sets at High Power settings is considerably further than their 20 - 30 mile rating. High terrain point transmissions have proven effective over 60 mile distances. This factor will require adjustment in frequency assignment procedures, such as the commonly-used ABM method.

j. Drops on tactical switchboards such as the SB-86TP frequently stick or fail to function due to excessive heat, humidity, and dust. This headquarters solved this problem by fabricating a drop light and reflector which was focused on the open back of the jack field, TA-207-B. The cord, equipped with a 150 watt bulb, is operated 24 hours a day and precludes drop malfunction in all but the highest (97% and above) humidity periods, when combined with normal cleaning procedures.

k. Experience gained illustrates the need for retransmission or relay stations for FM radio sets during long-distance convoy operations. Communications must be maintained with these convoys when extended range or terrain features limit the direct contact of mobile stations to the base station. As an interim solution, airborne relay stations are used whenever possible (through the FAC aircraft accompanying the convoys). Also, existing AN/VRC-47 resources are used at high terrain locations to retransmit messages to and from convoys. This method, however, ties up sets badly needed for other operational communications requirements, and it is unacceptable

as a permanent solution. This headquarters submitted an MTOE request in November 1966 for the addition of one each Radio Set, AN/VRC-49, including its ¼ ton vehicle prime mover, to be added to TOE 55-12E. This set has the capability of relay and retransmission of FM voice messages.

l. Mission operations require that unit maintenance facilities be utilized twenty four hours per day. Insufficient lighting during the hours of darkness at maintenance facilities was resolved by the issue of four floodlight sets per unit. Units are presently using TOE generator equipment as the power source.

m. A 1st Log Comd requirement to maintain 60% of non-committed M131 5,000 gal tankers loaded with different types of POL presents a parking and storage problem. A letter was forwarded to CRB Depot requesting sufficient parking space be provided. Action is pending. As an interim measure, M131 tankers are parked along the road in designated areas.

2. Section 2, Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned): None

3. Section 2, Part II, Recommendations: None

H. E. Tistadt
H. E. TISTADT
Colonel, TC
Commanding

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AVCA CR-GO-P (9 Feb 67) 1st Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967

HEADQUARTERS US ARMY SUPPORT COMMAND CAM RANH BAY, APO 96312 15 FEB 1967

THRU: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, APO 96307

Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, APO 96307

Commander-in-Chief, United States Army, Pacific, APO 96558

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

The inclosed Operational Report on Lesson Learned submitted by the 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport) adequately reflects the activities of that command for the period indicated.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

for Lloyd M. LaBarge

WILLIAM R. JENKINS
CPT AGC
ASST. AG

TEL: CRB 231

1 Incl
nc

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AVCG GC-O (9 Feb 67) 2d Ind 6
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 5 MAR 1967

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 500th Transportation Group for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1967 is forwarded herewith.

2. Reference paragraph 1g, page 3: Headquarters, 1st Logistical Command prepared a command letter on this subject 1 December 1966 bringing the matter of QL 1 from Phan Rang to Nha Trang to the attention of USARV. In reply the USAECV committed engineer effort to the maintenance of this road and was preparing a plan for the rehabilitation of QL 1 as well as other roads in Vietnam. Recommend that USAECV continue to maintain QL 1 from Phan Rang to Nha Trang and undertake or coordinate the rehabilitation of this route at earliest opportunity.

3. Reference paragraph 1i, page 3: Good propagation (over 60 miles) is being experienced with the VRC-12 radios. As to this requiring adjustment in frequency assignment procedures, this fact would not necessarily indicate such a need unless there are also interference reports which would indicate a need for such an adjustment. The appropriate assignment authority is being made aware of this comment.

4. Reference paragraph 1k, page 3: No necessity exists for continual communications by a convoy with their home station. A necessity does exist for ability to make instantaneous contact with nearby tactical troops and this is possible with present equipment. Also contact with some fixed station which could relay to the convoy's home station is almost always possible. If a mobile relay is occasionally needed for some convoys, this should be arranged to be provided from other assets. This unit will be requested to submit their communications problems and requirements through channels, so that a communications plan can be developed. Also, a study of communications in truck companies and battalions will be proposed.

5. Reference paragraph 1m, page 4: Requirement for 500 Trans Gp to maintain 60% fill of non-committed M131 5000 gallon tankers was suspended by this headquarters in msg AVCG GC 01582, DTG 280912 Jan 67, pending construction of adequate hardstand parking area for loaded vehicles.

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AVCA GO-O

5 MAR 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

6. Concur with the basic report. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

GLENN A. DOYLE
Capt,
Asst. [redacted]

TEI: Lynx 430/782

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nc

AVHGC-DH (9 Feb 67) 3d Ind 8
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 29 MAR 1967

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

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 500th Transportation Group (Motor Transport) as indorsed.

2. Reference Section I, paragraph 1g, Page 3; and paragraph 2, 2d indorsement, concerning maintenance of routes: Repairs are made on a daily basis. Rehabilitation of the Cam Ranh Bay - Vung Ro and Phan Rang - Cam Ranh Bay MSRs is scheduled by the USAEC for the 3d and 4th Qtr, FY 68, respectively. The Vung Ro - Tuy Hoa MSR will be rehabilitated by a USARV contractor.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

R. J. THORNTON III
1st Lt, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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GPOP-OT(9 Feb 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 500th Trans Gp (Motor Transport)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 28 APR 1967

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

H. SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst. AG

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nc

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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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500TH TRANSPORTATION GROUP (MOTOR TRANSPORT)

1 November 1966

HHD 500th Trans Gp (MT)

HHD 36th Trans Bn (Trk)
63rd Trans Co (Lt Trk)
151st Trans Co (Lt Trk)
515th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
564th Trans Plat (Lt Trk)

HHD 57th Trans Bn (Trk)
360th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Petrl)
545th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
585th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
592d Trans Co (Lt Trk)

HHD 39th Trans Bn (Trk)
10th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
24th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
670th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)

31 January 1967

HHD 500th Trans Gp (MT)

HHD 36th Trans Bn (Trk)
63rd Trans Co (Lt Trk)
442d Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
515th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
670th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
1st & 2d Plat, 360th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)(Petrl)

HHD 57th Trans Bn (Trk)
566th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
545th Trans Co (Lt Trk)
585th Trans Co (Mdm Trk)
592d Trans Co (Lt Trk)

Incl 1