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AGO ltr, 29 Apr 1980

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

20

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGDA (M) (4 Jun 70)

FOR OT UT 701192


9 June 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 79th Engineer Group, Period Ending 31 January 1970

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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:

  
ROBERT E. LYNCH  
Colonel, AGC  
Acting The Adjutant General

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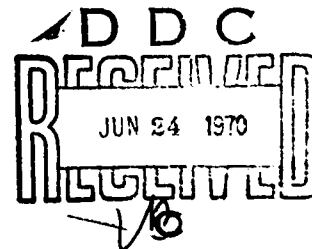
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 79TH ENGINEER GROUP  
APO 96491

ECR-CO

14 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction)  
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

THRU: Commanding Officer  
20th Engineer Brigade  
ATTN: AVBI-OS  
APO 96491

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

Commanding General  
United States Army, Pacific  
ATTN: GBOP-OT  
APO 96588

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

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701192  
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Section 1. Significant Organization Activities

**A. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 79th Engineer Group**

**1. General:**

a. The 79th Engineer Group (Construction) command post remained at the "Plantation Compound", Long Binh, RVN, throughout the reporting period.

b. Enemy activity throughout the Group Area of Operations continued to decrease, except for sporadic rocket or mortar attacks on isolated sites. Land Clearing units sustained a fairly heavy volume of enemy harassment in the form of RIG and Mortar attacks on NDP's and mines in the cut. During the reporting period, the Group suffered one hundred and seventeen casualties, four KIA and one hundred and thirteen WIA.

**2. Command and Control:**

a. The only major change of command that occurred during the reporting period took place in the 31st Engineer Battalion. On 14 January 1970, LTC Gwynn Teague, formerly of the USARV Engineer Staff, assumed command from LTC George Andrews. Other personnel changes in the Group Headquarters staff included CPT Christopher Dulski who replaced CPT Shigeyoshi Morita as Adjutant, CPT Hugh P. Morton who replaced CPT Bernard Stalman as Assistant S-3, and Cpt Lamonte Allen who replaced MAJ Blair Hillis as Construction Plans Officer. CPT Bruce Starling also joined the staff in the capacity of Defense Counsel replacing CPT Miles Franklin, and CPT Norman Luedtke replaced CPT Joseph Ponce as Group Signal Officer when the latter assumed the 20th Engineer Brigade Signal Officer Position.

**3. Personnel, Administration, Morale and Discipline:**

a. **Personnel:** During the reporting period, no significant problems arose in the area of personnel management. However, there continued to be a shortage of NCO's in the Grade of E-6, particularly in the areas of Squad Leaders (12B40) and Supply Sergeants (76Y40). Shortages also exist among heavy truck drivers (64B) and cooks (94B20). Despite a shortage of Lieutenants, the Group Officer and Warrant Officer strength remained at or near the authorized level. Excellent management of the personnel assets allowed Group Operations to remain at its usual high level of performance.

b. **Morale:** Morale was maintained at a high level throughout the command as evidenced by the high rates of promotion and excellent Espirit De Corps. The Group had two hundred and eleven extensions of six months or longer and eighty-two reenlistments.

c. A total of 1,107 decorations were awarded throughout the period. These included one Legion of Merit, one Silver Star, one Soldier's Medal,

280 Bronze Stars, 752 Army Commendation Medals, 11 Air Medals, and 61 Purple Hearts.

d. Disciplinary punishment began to rise slightly mainly due to the widespread use of Marijuana and consequent efforts to dissuade its use. Incidents of venereal disease continued to decrease.

e. There were 27 Congressional Inquiries during the period. A significant number of these inquiries concerned incidents of alleged racial prejudice. Command emphasis is continually placed on the reduction of Congressionals.

#### 4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence:

a. The 79th Engineer Group Headquarters continues to receive and distribute intelligence documents and information from 20th Engineer Brigade, II Field Force, Vietnam and other Higher Headquarters. Spot Reports on enemy activity are required of all units within the command; these are promptly forwarded to 20th Engineer Brigade Headquarters.

b. Initial security briefings to all newly arrived personnel who are assigned to HHC, 79th Engineer Group, 66th Engineer Company (TOPO), 104th Engineer Company (BT), and 79th Engineer Company (Bridge) (Provisional) were continued by this Headquarters. The daily intelligence briefing continued to give the Group Staff a current picture of the military and operational highlights throughout III Corps.

c. The Group continues to handle security actions for personnel assigned to HHC, 66th TOPO, 104th and 79th. This includes validation of clearances up to and including Top Secret. Personnel security actions for the Group's Battalions and their attached companies are administered by the Battalion S-2's.

#### 5. Plans, Operations, and Training:

a. General: The command emphasis placed on the Group's quality control and construction management programs continues to improve not only the quality of our construction but also our adaptability and responsiveness to any operational requirement that presents itself. The diligent efforts of the Group Headquarters Staff in assisting the Battalions with planning, design, surveying and material-testing and analysis have resulted in the highly professional program of providing quality construction on a timely basis. The overall efforts of the 79th Engineer Group (Construction) have allowed the Group to continue providing excellence in construction under combat conditions, thus enabling the Group to maintain its reputation as the SUPER GROUP.

b. Operations: During the period, the 79th Engineer Group continued to divide its efforts between the responsive accomplishment of operational and combat support missions, and the construction of paved highways for the LOC Program and opening Secondary Roads for the Pacification Program. The completion of the LZ Buttons expansion project on schedule was a major accomplishment of the "Super Group" during the

period. An exceptionally well managed construction program allowed the 1st Air Cavalry Division to relocate a Brigade at LZ Sustons and immeasurably increase their combat effectiveness in this region. Under the LOC program, activities involved in the construction of QL-13 are now progressing at full speed. Soil-cement base course operations are proceeding as planned under an intensively managed, quality-control program. A great boon to the construction of this highway was the decision to construct it parallel to the existing road, so that civilian and military convoy traffic do not interfere with construction. A major project undertaken to construct secondary or farm-to-market roads commenced during this period; the objective is to improve both the economy and the accessibility for tactical vehicles of areas off the main roads. Currently some 42.0 km have been completed and are in use. Based on the success of the Tay Ninh Airfield upgrade, which utilized a soil-cement base with asphaltic concrete wearing surface, a decision to use an identical design for the Phuoc Vinh Airfield upgrade was implemented with record speed. The entire runway was paved in four days. This operation achieved the desired results, and has provided yet another airfield capable of handling the heavy volume of traffic required with a minimum of maintenance.

c. Land Clearing:

(1) The 60th Land Clearing Company, 62nd Engineer Battalion completed their maintenance standdown at the beginning of this period and commenced clearing operations in the Gang Toi area, northeast of Long Binh in support of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade. This operation progressed smoothly, with very little enemy contact. From here, the 60th moved south to the Hat Dich region and completed their cutting cycle. Upon completion of their maintenance standdown, this unit moved to the Nhon Trach region, south of Bearcat. Operating in support of the 18th ARVN Division, these engineers cleared over 7,000 acres of light jungle. However, enemy contact was heavy, and on one particular occasion 26 men were wounded and evacuated. At the close of the report period, the 60th LCC was preparing to move back to the Hat Dich region southeast of Bearcat.

(2) The 501st Land Clearing Company completed cutting operations in the northern Hat Dich at the start of the period and returned to Long Binh for maintenance standdown. The next operation conducted by the 501st Engineers was in support of the 1st ACD. QL-14 was cleared from the vicinity of Bunard to Duc Phong, the unit then moved to an area south of Phuoc Vinh known as AO Chief. Excellent cutting conditions were experienced during both of these operations with no enemy contact. With time still remaining in their cycle, the 501st Engineers once again returned to the Hat Dich area and operated in support of the 199th LIB. During their maintenance standdown, these Land-Clearers undertook the training of a platoon from the newly formed 318th ARVN Land-Clearing Company. Upon completion of their standdown, the 501st moved to War Zone C together with the ARVN Trainees; and clearing operations in support of the 1st ACD commenced.

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3. The 984th Land Clearing Company completed clearing operations in the Trapsold at the beginning of the period, thus successfully eliminating what was once a highly impenetrable enemy position. Upon completion of their maintenance stand down, the 984th moved north for clearing operations in support of the 1st ACD around Bu Dop. The unit opened QL-14A from Loc Ninh to Bu Dop and then continued cutting Recon-in-Force lanes in the area. The 984th experienced extremely heavy jungle, especially gigantic, 4 to 5 foot-diameter trees. Cutting operations proceeded at a slow pace and explosives were continually utilized in removing the larger trees. A 15-day extension was added to this operation in order to enable reasonable accomplishment of this difficult mission. The 984th returned to Long Binh at the close of the period for maintenance stand down. Currently the 984th Jungle Eaters are training the second platoon of the 318th ARVN Land Clearing Company and will take these allies to the field for their next cutting cycle.

d. Airmobile Equipment: The 31st Engineer Battalion continues to provide airmobile equipment support throughout III Corps. Equipment support missions during the period were mainly limited to the provision of dozer and backhoe support for isolated fire support bases.

e. Quarry Operations: During the month of November, the quarry at Nui Ba Den was shut down and its assets transferred to the 159th Engineer Group. The Group now relies on the 159th Engineer Group and contractors for its rock and asphalt requirements.

f. Training: The 79th Engineer Group continued its weekly training in Army and USARV Mandatory subjects, as well as weekly officer classes. Classes on scheduling, design, quality control, and status reports were given by the Group Staff at each Battalion to improve construction management and quality control at the small unit level.

#### 6. Logistics:

##### a. Supply:

(1) During the reporting period, major items of equipment continued to arrive and were distributed to subordinate units. Due to the shortage of certain items of equipment, a command policy continues in effect for placing equipment where it is most needed. In an effort to establish "Audit Trails", comprehensive efforts have been made to account for this equipment on the unit records which authorize the equipment and then to hand-receipt it to the using unit.

(2) During the reporting period, 12 months of replacement data on selected critical items of equipment were assembled and forwarded to Commanding Officer, 20th Engineer Brigade for possible use in programming input for these items. Information was provided on: 5 ton dump trucks; scoop loaders; graders; wheeled, DSC and DMB tractors; semi-trailer, 25 ton; full-tracked, DED tractors.

(3) All units inspected during the reporting period by the 20th Engineer Brigade Supply Inspection Team received satisfactory ratings.

(4) During the reporting period, a Logistical Operation Plan for re-deployment of subordinate units was developed and implemented.

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(5) All units of the command are now equipped with the M-16 rifles.

b. ARVN Equipment Program: This Group was not levied for any equipment for the ARVN modernization program during the reporting period. Plans are being prepared for the turnover of the majority of assets of one land clearing company to outfit the ARVN Company currently being trained.

c. Reports of Survey: The monetary value of reports of survey processed during the last reporting period is \$141,000. Stringent controls continue to be applied in this area and security of government property continues to receive command emphasis.

d. Food Service:

(1) Quarterly reviews of mess accounts were conducted in January for the months of October through December. Twenty-four of the twenty-six operational mess accounts were reviewed. Two accounts were delayed pending relocation of the messes. Some major deficiencies were found in MCI accounting, but immediate remedial procedures were adopted.

(2) Several messes were consolidated during the quarter in the interests of mess personnel economy. The consolidation has proven to be very successful.

(3) Mess personnel strength dropped from 109% in October to 79.5% in mid-January. Projected losses by the end of February will further drop the on-hand strength to 50.2%. Barring a major influx of replacements, the end of February strength will be as follows:

	<u>AUTH</u>	<u>O/H</u>	<u>SHORT</u>	<u>FEB LOSSES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
E7/E6 (94B40)	32	24	8	0	75%
Cooks (94B20)	167	134	33	58	45.5%
Totals	199	158	41	58	50.2%

(4) Maximum effort is being directed toward prevention of mess deterioration during this critical period.

(5) The shortage of mess personnel, although critical, has been helped immeasurably by command response to the QJT Cook Program so often stressed in conferences and management goals. Continued emphasis in this area should be of immediate concern to all commanders.

(6) Each land clearing company was provided with two 70CF mechanical refrigerators and 18 styrofoam ice cream containers. Perishable items such as milk and ice cream may now be sent to field sites without fear of spoilage or deterioration.

(7) The 79th Engineer Group earned two 20th Engineer Brigade Best Mess Awards during the quarter.

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e. Maintenance: Average Dead-Line statistics for the three month period are as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Overall (Engineer and Ordnance).	11.0
Critical (Selected Engineer and Ordnance)	12.3

The division of deadline between items requiring organizational maintenance at the end of the reporting period was 45% organizational and 55% direct support.

f. LOC Program: No new items of LOC equipment were received during the reporting period. The Group's density has been reduced to 57 items on hand. Problems in maintenance and repair of this equipment continue; however, close supervision, extensive follow-up and implementation of a controlled substitution program for the MCA/LOC 12 CY dump truck has reduced the deadline rate. Problems with the lack of repair parts for the dump truck continue to account for the excessively high deadline rate of 12.3%.

7. Force Development: During the month of January, the 714th Power Line Detachment was transferred to the 159th Engineer Group. In accordance with the next scheduled troop withdrawal, the 79th Engineer Group will effect the redeployment of the 168th Engineer Battalion. Also being deactivated is the 501st Engineer Company (LC). The 100th Float Bridge Company was reassigned to the 79th Engineer Group from the 159th Engineer Group. The unit was then consolidated with the 500th Panel Bridge Company to form the 79th Engineer Company (Bridge Provisional).

B. 66th Engineer Company (Topographic)

1. General: The 66th Engineer Company remained located on the Plantation Compound, Long Binh, RVN.

2. Command: On 5 December 1969, CPT Robert Campbell assumed command from CPT Billie A. Harkins. The company remained attached to the 79th Engineer Group and under operational control of the M&I Division, USARV Engineer Section.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, and Discipline:

a. Personnel: A reduced manning level was imposed upon the company resulting in the loss of 28 slots. The unit continues to have a shortage of personnel in the 547th Engineer Detachment (Map Depot) as the detachment is down to 73% strength. The unit has not had a Chief Topographic Computer MOS 82E40, or a Reproduction Equipment Repairman, MOS 41K, assigned for a long period of time as was indicated in the last report. This impairs mission capability.

b. Morale: The morale of the unit remains at a normal level in spite of the increased work schedule.

c. Discipline: The unit had a total of 7 Article 15's and no Courts Martial during the reporting period.

4. Intelligence and Counterintelligence: This unit continues to provide support in this field through the printing and distribution of mapping intelligence and survey data.

5. Operations:

a. Major projects completed during this period were several base-planning mosaics, a tactical scale study, and several construction support projects.

b. The unit continued direct support of Task Force Alpha, a USAF unit located in Thailand. The support consisted of printing and overprinting 127 selected topographic maps in support of the Task Force mission.

C. 79th Engineer Company (Bridge Provisional)

1. General: As a result of the merger of the 500th Engineer Company (FB) and the 100th Engineer Company (FB), the unit was redesignated as the 79th Engineer Company (Bridge Provisional). The company remained stationed at Long Binh Post in Camp Frenzell Jones.

2. Command: The unit remained under the command of CPT Torbjorn Ommundsen during the reporting period.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, and Discipline: During the reporting period, the 79th Engineer Company (BP) maintained high individual morale with few disciplinary problems. There were no Courts Martial and 22 punishments under Article 15, UCMJ.

4. Intelligence and Counter Intelligence: The 79th Engineer Company (BP) receives continuous distribution of intelligence documents from the 79th Engineer Group Headquarters and higher echelons. Requests for granting, validating, and upgrading of security clearances are submitted as required.

5. Plans, Operations, and Trainings:

a. During the reporting period the 79th Engineer Company (BP) served in both its primary mission of providing panel bridge and float bridge support and technical assistance and in its secondary mission of providing dump truck support to the 79th Engineer Group and other units in the III Corps area.

b. The company completed ten separate bridge support missions during the period.

c. Total haul for the Period was 13,246 tons of rock, 10,051 CY of sand, 1,741 pallets of cement, 4,525 tons of asphalt concrete, 30 tons of lumber, and 3,740 CY of laterite. For the quarter, a total of 245,105 miles were traveled.

d. Training: Required replacement training was given to all newly arrived personnel. The personnel of the old 100th Engineer Company (FB) were issued M-16 rifles.

6. Logistics: With the merger of the 500th Engineer Company (PB) and the 100th Engineer Company (FB), this company currently maintains two panel bridge platoons, two float bridge platoons, one reinforced maintenance platoon and one headquarters platoon. This merger has now altered the role of this company's capabilities to include M4T6 float bridge, footbridge, light tactical raft, dry-span, panel-bridge, and material support missions. This unit currently has twenty nine five-ton dump and thirty-four five-ton bridge trucks.

7. Civic Action: This company provided technical assistance for construction of four classrooms for the Tam Hiep Orphanage and School. Also, during the month of December, 295 CY of sand were delivered to the Mai Lai Education Center for construction of a double-story building.

D. 104th Engineer Company (Dump Truck)

1. General: The 104th Engineer Company remained stationed at Long Binh Post in Camp Frenzell Jones.

2. Command: CPT Bruce E. Brockway remained in command during the report period.

3. Personnel, Administration, Morale, and Discipline: During the reporting period there were two Courts Martial and 19 men were administered punishment under Article 15, UCMJ.

4. Intelligence and Counter Intelligence: The 104th Engineer Company (DT) receives continued distribution of intelligence documents from the 79th Engineer Group (Const) Headquarters. Requests for granting, validating, and upgrading security clearances are submitted as required.

5. Plans, Operations, and Training:

a. Operations:

(1) During the reporting period the unit continued to fulfill its primary mission of operating dump trucks for movement of bulk materials in support of the 79th Engineer Group (Const).

(2) During the period, dump trucks of the 104th Engineer Company (DT) amassed 463,058 miles, hauling 30,374 CY of rock, 30,716 CY of sand, and 9,626 tons of asphalt.

b. Training: Required replacement training was given to newly assigned personnel. Vehicle operators received refresher training in operator's maintenance responsibilities.

6. Logistics: The unit received seven new five-ton dump trucks during the period.

7. Civic Action: The unit provided a limited amount of transportation support to the Mai Lai Trade School, Ho Nai Village.

Section II, Lessons Learned, Commander's Observation, Evaluation, and Recommendations

A. Personnel: None

B. Intelligence: None

C. Operations:

1. Distance Hauling of Asphalt:

a. Observation: Asphalt hauled over great distances loses heat and arrives too cold on site for laydown.

b. Evaluation: A suitable cover could be placed over the asphalt to retain the heat.

c. Recommendation: Salvageable canvas should be procured and used to cover the asphalt. This technique has proven very successful.

2. Dump Truck Management:

a. Observation: With the requirement to haul over 70,000 tons of asphaltic concrete (AC) and over 75,000 CY of rock from the Long Binh Area to QL-13 and QL-22, during the period 1 February - 1 July 70, dump trucks become a critical asset.

b. Evaluation: With sudden asphalt plant breakdowns and unforecasted rock requirements from outside the Group shutting down our haul, we decided that one responsible individual was needed permanently on site at sources of AC and rock to make rapid decisions on diverting trucks to other industrial plant sites. Delays involved in communicating back to Group S-3 for guidance can not be accepted.

c. Recommendations: A dump-truck manager for the 79th (BR) and the 104th (QT) assets was designated; one lieutenant from each of these companies on alternate months will serve under the operational control of the Group S-3. Being at the site where problems will develop and having been briefed on the Group's priorities, he will be able to shift the trucks between hauling assignments with minimum loss of effort.

3. California Bearing Ratio Testing:

a. Observation: Because of the necessity of rapid and timely horizontal construction in the theater of operations many projects must be started without the necessary soils testing and subsequent design work. This is particularly true with design CBR's which take approximately 7 days of lab work for each soil type.

b. Evaluation: 79th Engineer Group Materials Testing Laboratory has developed design CBR summary sheets which will aid in estimating design CBR's for untested materials based on the classification parameters. A summary sheet was prepared for each soil type based on the Unified Classification System. Each design CBR then performed on this type of soil was

listed giving the soil's percentages of gravel, sand and fines, its liquid limit, plastic limit, plasticity index, and finally the design CBR.

c. Recommendations: If a soil has to be evaluated quickly, a classification can be done and, based on the parameters of Atterburg limits and gradation, this soil should be compared to the soil most similar on which a design CBR had already been performed. If desired these summary sheets could be expanded to include OMC, maximum dry density, and specifications for moisture control and compaction. It is recommended that summary sheets such as this be compiled from data provided by all other engineer units operating in Vietnam; this should be published for use by soils analysts in the field.

D. Organization: None

E. Training:

1. Maintenance Management:

a. Observation: The high rate of personnel turn-over combined with heavy operational commitments contributed to high organizational maintenance deadline rates.

b. Evaluation: Units need a comprehensive operator and supervisor training program which could be scheduled on a quarterly basis.

c. Recommendations: All replacements receive a minimum of three days of refresher training before being allowed to operate vehicles. Squad level supervisors should be thoroughly indoctrinated into the operator training program. New operators should be closely supervised and checked for several weeks.

F. Logistics:

1. Order Processing:

a. Observation: On 27 November the 66th Topo Company received 27,500 Lithographic Press Plates, FSN 3610-200-1700, with an expiration date of January 1970. This quantity of plates is more than this unit would use in 5 years under its present work load and could not possibly be used prior to the expiration date. About two weeks later the unit was notified of another 30,900 lithographic press plates that had been shipped from COMUS. Proper authorities have been notified to try to divert this second shipment of press plates. The first shipment has been divided among all U.S. and allied topographic units in Vietnam. Ten thousand of these press plates are on hand awaiting instructions to return them to depot.

b. Evaluation: Due to a computer error in the supply system, the shipments sent were ten times greater than requested. A possibility exists that the unit of issue requested was confused between box nomenclature in the packing procedure for these items.

c. Recommendations: That all requests be carefully checked to insure all information reported on DA Form 2763-1 is correct. Also due to the

small number of units in the Army needing lithographic press plates, FSN 3610-200-1700; using units should be allowed to contract these items from civilian firms. This would insure that the plates were properly stored and that the photosensitivity date of the plates has not expired. If these plates are still purchased by the Army for the supply system, it is recommended that the purchaser pay strict attention to the expiration date and that correct handling information of these photosensitized material be placed on the shipping crates. A system should be devised to intercept erroneous shipments when these type of errors occur. Personnel in the logistics channels were notified of the error when it was first reported but were unable to intercept the shipment once it had been shipped from the point of origin in CONUS.

2. Equipment Shortages:

a. Observation: The 66th Topo Company is not capable of performing its assigned survey mission due to lack of authorized Electronic Distance Measuring Equipment.


b. Evaluation: Electronic Distance Measuring Equipment (EDME) which was on hand for part of 1969 has all been turned in and evacuated to CONUS depots. The last MRA 301 EDME instrument which had been issued on 4 June 1968 without support maintenance available in country, was returned to CONUS on 13 December 1969. In late November, information was received from USARV, USAMECOM representative that the equipment which had previously been sent to CONUS for repair and return had actually been repaired and sent to CONUS depot stock. Turn-in credit was received from our DSU and six instruments have been on O2 priority requisition since 19 December 1969.

c. Recommendations: Command interest should be directed toward expediting the replacement issue of EDME Model MC-8 to restore mission capability to our survey platoon. Also, depot stocks of maintenance float EDME instruments should be increased to provide greater depth to back up field, artillery and engineer units authorized the equipment.

G. Communication: None

H. Material: None

I. Other: None

  
A. L. WRIGHT  
COL, CE  
Commanding

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AVBI-OS (14 Feb 70) 1st Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group for the Period  
Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R2)

DA, Headquarters, 20th Engineer Brigade, APO 96491

10 MAR 1970

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

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

1. Submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 525-15, dated 13 April 1968.
2. Subject report has been reviewed by this headquarters and is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*For* *Kenneth J. Koschke Lt Col*  
H. V. GOSWEILER III  
1LT, CE  
Assistant Adjutant

Copy Furnished:  
CO, 79th Engr Gp



AVHGC-DST (14 Feb 70) 2d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction)  
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 8 APR 1970

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 1970 from Headquarters, 79th Engineer Group (Construction) and concurs with the comments of indorsing headquarters.

2. Comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning "California Bearing Ratio Testing", page 10, paragraph C3: nonconcur. The purpose of soils testing is to provide design parameters. Index properties and previous experience will give approximate values but these are not a valid substitute for testing. Index properties only classify soils. There is no unique relationship between index and engineering properties of a soil. Summary sheets as described should be discouraged. A tendency will prevail toward assuming design parameters from the basis of past tests instead of testing the soil. It is realized that the Group Soil Labs are hard pressed to perform all work requested. However, summary sheets are a poor solution to the problem.

b. Reference item concerning "Order Processing", page 11, paragraph F1: concur. All requests should be carefully checked by the requester to insure data is correct. Authority for local purchase of items rests with the NICP's. The decision is based on many factors such as annual usage, standardization requirements, economy of centralized vs decentralized purchasing etc. A system is presently in being to intercept erroneous shipments and has proved effective in most instances, provided the Logistics Control Office, Pacific is notified before departure from the CONUS port. Editing and cancellation procedures to insure that requests are properly prepared, and supplies determined to be no longer required after requests are processed, are presently in effect with this Command. However, situations such as the one reported still occur. Present procedures for editing and cancellation requests will be reviewed with a view towards preventing recurrence of this type of situation.

c. Reference item concerning "Equipment Shortages", page 12, paragraph F2: concur. ICCV has placed Electronic Distance Measuring Equipment (EDME) under intensive management in an effort to improve the

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8 APR 1970

AVHGC-DST (14 Feb 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 79th Engineer Group (Construction)  
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

command asset posture. USAMECOM is aware of USARV requirements and is taking positive action to fill outstanding requisitions. Follow-up action has been initiated under MILSTRIP procedures. USARV is attempting to expedite delivery of EDME. Continued follow-up will be made until equipment is received.

FOR THE COMMANDER:



D. J. WINTER

1LT, AGC

Assistant Adjutant General

Cy furn:  
20th Engr Bde  
79th Engr Gp

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GPOP-DT (14 Feb 70) 3d Ind  
SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 79th Engineer Group for Period Ending  
31 January 1970

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 18 APR 70

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:

*DDCline*  
D.P. CLINE  
2LT, AGC  
Asst AG

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