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Trip #19, OCE Liaison Officer, SE Asia

b. FM5-25, Explosives and Demolitions, provides the basic doctrine for use of explosives in clearing landing zones. 7½ ton bombs ("Daisey Cutters") have been used in a few instances. They are dropped from USAF aircraft, stabilized during fall by parachut, and are detonated at the proper height by means of a 30 ft stand-off pole. CEP is 500-1000 meters.

c. Aerial Imagery:

(1) The 579th Engineer Detachment (Terrain) has received very few requests for assistance in locating construction materials in the Delta. Recent requests have been for help in locating quarry sites and borrow pits in Military Regions I and II. Aerial photographs have been used extensively in these projects. For those areas where more recent USARV Otter Contract photography was not available, the coverage used was from Project Wanda. Reconnaissance photography has not been required to support these projects.

(2) WES Tech Report S-69-7 (Distribution of Coarse-Grained Construction Materials and Potential Construction Sites in the Mekong Delta - Vol I and II) has not been used extensively by the 579th Engineer Detachment (Terrain), as they had few recent projects in the Delta. Judging from the interest expressed by the 20th Engineer Brigade during and after the visit of Mr. D. K. Dornbusch (one of the authors), the report has had considerable use in the field.

d. OCE recommended CD & ME Project status:

(1) FY 71: Countermine - Cancelled

(2) FY 72:

(a) Fire Support Base Defense - Data collection will begin in Aug 71 and take three months. Report is scheduled for completion in February 72.

(b) Bridge Protection - Data collection will begin in January 1972 and take three months. Report is scheduled for completion in July 1972.

(c) Mine Warfare - Recommendation has been made by ACTIV to cancel.

e. USARV Mine Warfare Center:

(1) The current organization is a Chief (LTC), and NCOIC (E-7), a three-man Countermine/Booby Trap Assistance Team (CBAT) (1 E-7; 2 E-5's) which travels to units in the field to present instruction in the latest techniques and doctrine in countermine warfare, and a Clerk Typist (E-4). The Center is temporarily augmented with a Captain who is the project officer for the infrared mine detection testing currently underway. Future plans include the completion of the infrared testing, the coordination of increased use of unattended ground sensors along roads with high mining histories and the continuation of current missions.

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(2) The subject of MACV assuming responsibilities of the Mine Warfare Center has not been discussed, but appears logical. MACV is presently the source of most statistical data and is certainly in a position to provide guidance and direction to the overall countermine program.

f. Mine dogs have been used for road clearing for quite some time. Experience with them has been good. They are capable of finding mines that detectors often miss, such as those buried over or near culverts. One dog found three mines in one day on a stretch of road in Binh Tuy Province. We plan to continue using dogs as long as personnel assets are available for training handlers. Currently 50 mine dogs in country; of these twenty are assigned to Engineer Command Units. Scout/tracker dogs are being retrained in-country to meet need for additional mine dogs. ARVN has a dog training school, but it isn't known whether they train mine dogs. Future of the program including whether or not they go to ARVN is currently unknown.

g. 169th Engineer Battalion and its parent 159th Engineer Group are both very receptive to the use of the mini-computer. The battalion would commit enough people to the test to make it valid and the computer would probably be utilized by all the battalions in the group. Direct Liaison between the battalion and The Engineer School has been very beneficial. A list of potential applications, generally in engineer functions (CPM), as opposed to personnel or logistics, was forwarded to the school. Detailed planning of the field evaluation will have to wait until the hardware is selected and its specific characteristics are known. The Group is awaiting this final selection.

h. Probable CY 72 construction projects, forseeable at this time, include seven battalions on LOC construction, and one construction battalion supporting the Da Nang/Phu Bai railroad field station.

i. (See Incl 2) Also, the trailer brakes require full air pressure at all times, or they will lock. Damage to the wheel rims and tires is caused by the fact that the wheels extend outside the body of the trailers approximately six inches and are not provided with any form of guard. The suspension system, which is extremely complex and therefore difficult to maintain, causes individual wheels to bridge over depressions in the surface of the road, so that the load is seldom evenly distributed on all wheels. When the individual wheel recontacts the road surface, the tire is very susceptible to blowing out.

j. USAECV does not have any staff responsibility toward supporting DCPG. It is done by a special staff section in the Office of the USARV DCSOPS. Engineer Units primarily use STANO devices in a countermine role and are getting more of them as combat units stand-down. Engineers also use night vision devices on perimeter security and have received adequate numbers of them. The basic doctrine/ philosophy on their use is to use them, as required, as much as possible.