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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION SUPPORT COMMAND
APO San Francisco 96225

AVDCSF-C

2 May 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report and Lessons Learned of the 25th Infantry Division Support Command for the Period Ending 30 April 1970 (RLS CSFOR-65) (rl)

Commanding General
25th Infantry Division
ATTN: AVDCSF-C
APO 96225

1. SECTION I - OPERATIONS: Significant Activities.

a. Organization: The organization of the 25th Infantry Division Support Command (DISCOM) during this reporting period was as follows:

- (1) RHC & Band, DISCOM, with 341st Aviation Detachment (Division), 165th Aviation Group attached.
- (2) 25th Medical Battalion, with following attached units:
 - (a) 159th Medical Detachment (Air Ambulance).
 - (b) 20th Medical Detachment (Preventive Medicine).
 - (c) 40th Medical Detachment (Dental).
 - (d) Battle Damage Assessment and Reporting Team (BDART).
- (3) 25th Supply and Transport Battalion, with 390th Quartermaster Detachment (Petroleum) attached.
- (4) 725th Maintenance Battalion.
- (5) 25th Administration Company.
- (6) Detachment 1, 25th Inf. Div Augm (Provisional), 25th AG Section.

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b. Headquarters, 25th Infantry DISCOM:

(1) The 25th Infantry Support Command continued to provide division level combat service support to all divisional and several non-divisional units in the area of operations. Because of the reduction of troop strength in Vietnam as part of the Vietnamization program, many changes were made in the disposition of troop units within the division's expanding Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI). This necessitated adjustments in DISCOM's support operations and the location of supporting units and facilities. Following are the highlights of these changes:

(a) To support an increase of Division units in the Michelin Plantation Area, forward supply and maintenance elements were established at Dau Tieng Base Camp. By direction, C1 I, III, IIIa and VI (to include sundry packs) support was provided to all US units located in the Dau Tieng area. The Saigon Support Command continued to throughput C1 V and, occasionally, C1 IIIa. In addition, the Saigon Support Command transported two C1 I reefers to Cu Chi Base Camp for further movement to Dau Tieng by Division 5-ton tractors.

(b) During late February the division assumed responsibility for operation in an area south of Bearcat, called AO Chop. To support the brigade sized force in that area, Company C, 725th Maintenance Battalion, an FSE from the 25th S&T Battalion and a small medical supply element from the 25th Medical Battalion were located at Bearcat Base Camp. C1 I, III, IIIa and VI and some medical services were provided by the Saigon Support Command's Bearcat Logistics Support Activity and other units stationed there. Units drew C1 V from the Long Binh ASP. Some throughput support for C1 V was provided by the Saigon Support Command. By arrangement, the Australian Command at Nui Dat provided refuel and rearm support for Division aircraft. C1 II, IV and VII requirements were transported by the FSE to Bearcat Base Camp from Cu Chi Base Camp or the Long Binh Army Depot. The 40th Medical Detachment (Dental) provided dental care, on an experimental basis, by moving a mobile dental clinic directly to the fire support bases. This proved to be most effective.

(2) During April the Division was tasked to temporarily backup C1 III, IIIa, V and medical evacuation support to ARVN forces operation in the western portion of the Division's TAOI. Two aircraft refuel points and one dustoff control point were established.

(3) As part of a reduction in support provided to the Division by the Saigon Support Command, operation of the Cu Chi Base Camp ASP was assumed by DISCOM effective 15 March. All artillery units operating in the Cu Chi area were required to transport on organic vehicles all C1 V (artillery)

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requirements directly from the Long Binh ASP. Other types of ammunition (small arms, grenades, etc.) were transported from the Long Binh ASP to the Cu Chi Base Camp ASP on Division vehicles for issue to using units. To provide the Division a capability to offset the loss of support from the Saigon Support Command, Hq USARV authorized the division to draw six 5 ton tractors, five 12 ton S&P trailers, three 5,000 gal tankers and three fork lifts.

(4) During this period salvage operations were improved and expanded. Procedures were revised and a directive on property turn-in procedures was prepared as a Division Regulation.

(5) DISCOM elements participated in 358 Integrated Civic Action Programs (I-CAPs) during the period. There were 19,470 patients treated, of which 1,717 were dental. During the reporting period construction was begun on two schools. One school, in Lao Tao, is sponsored by 725th Maintenance Battalion; the other, at Thai My, is sponsored by 25th Administration Company.

(6) Following are significant projects accomplished by the office of the Installation Coordinator, Cu Chi Base Camp.

(a) A new on-post sanitary fill was established and operated by the Pacific Architects and Engineers (PA&E). Previously, the sanitary fill was located off-post and caused numerous problems.

(b) A conservation program was initiated to conserve electric power.

(7) By direction of Headquarters II FFV, the number of CH-47 aircraft available for division support was sharply reduced. To offset this air transport loss, an increased use of road transportation was required of all units. During the quarter, a 98.5% utilization of CH-47 aircraft assets allocated to the Division was achieved.

(8) The 341st Aviation Detachment (Divisional), 165th Aviation Group, USARV, was detached from the 25th S&T Battalion and attached to Headquarters and Headquarters Company and Band, 25th Infantry Division Support Command by General Order 3585, 25th Infantry Division.

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c. 25th Medical Battalion:

(1) The 25th Medical Battalion supported both Division and non-divisional units with Medical service and Supplies.

(a) Medical Totals:

Patients Seen:

(1) Disease: 3094

(2) Non-battle Injuries: 641

(3) IRHA: 123 (NOTE: Seriously wounded patients are dusted off directly to the 12th Evacuation or 45th Surgical Hospitals.)

(b) Supply and Services:

Line items issued: 1989

MEDCAP line items issued: 152

Bulk pharmacy items issued: 3

(2) The 40th Medical Detachment (KJ), attached to the 25th Medical Battalion, provided dental treatment for the Division.

(a) Total treatments: 8973

(b) Civic actions: 875

(3) The 159th Medical Detachment (HA), attached to the 25th Medical Battalion, provided evacuation to divisional and non-divisional units.

(a) Total Patients: 1,097.

(b) Total Missions: 538.

(c) Flying Time: 445 hours.

(d) Aircraft Availability: 74%.

(e) Aircraft Flyable: 66 2/3 %.

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d. 25th Supply and Transport Battalion:

(1) During the month of March, due to the tactical situation, the perimeter of the Dau Tieng Base Camp was drawn in. This necessitated the relocation of the entire Class I operation.

(2) On 12 February 1970 at 2100 hours, Company A was notified of a requirement to set up a temporary four point JP-4 refuel operation at Thien Ngon.

e. 725th Maintenance Battalion:

(1) The 725th Maintenance Battalion continued to provide direct support maintenance and repair parts and supply to the 25th Infantry Division. A new low in equipment backlog of 112 pieces was reached on 23 February 1970. Aircraft availability during this period averaged 87.2%.

	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>
WHEEL	195	245	199
TANKS & TRACK	115	138	175
SMALL ARMS	1302	926	1001
ARTILLERY	44	70	82
CONSTRUCTION EQUIP.	37	24	24
GENERATORS	80	112	110
COMMEL	1735	2402	2181
OFFICE MACHINE	119	78	155
AIRCRAFT	233	370	312
REFRIGERATION EQUIP.	2	16	19
OTHER	97	102	95
TOTALS	3959	4483	4353

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(2) Significant relocation of divisional units within the TAOI necessitated the use of heavy contact teams in widely scattered locations. The 725th Maintenance Battalion supported divisional maneuver battalions (1 Armor, 3 Mech Inf) and supporting units from as many as six separate locations simultaneously. The addition of another mechanized infantry battalion and supporting units for maintenance required personnel and equipment not available from maintenance battalion resources. An augmentation of 22 personnel, a 5 ton wrecker and selected special tools was requested.

(3) Significant MOS and skill shortages continued to plague the battalion. In addition, the majority of automotive repairmen authorized possessed organizational repair MOS 63B and 63C. An MTOE change was submitted to redesignate seventy-five percent of these MOSs to 63H to reflect the direct support maintenance work performed. Shortages of MOS 67W20, rotary wing technical inspector, have necessitated "on the job" training of personnel to fill existing vacancies.

(4) To provide more effective repair parts supply support to the division's widely scattered units, a 100% location survey and inventory was conducted. In addition, \$61,523 in excesses were identified and retrograded in a continuing effort to purge the system. Country stores were established in each company technical supply, including aircraft, to provide low cost, fast moving repair parts with a minimum of administrative workload.

2. SECTION II - LESSONS LEARNED: Commander's Observation, Evaluation and Recommendation.

- a. Personnel: None
- b. Intelligence: None
- c. Operations: None
- d. Organization:

(1) MOS Redesignation

(a) OBSERVATION: The majority of the automotive repairmen authorized in the Division maintenance battalion possess organizational repair MOS 63B and 63C.

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(b) EVALUATION: Organizational repair men possessing the MOS 63B and 63C do not have the technical skills necessary to perform the direct support maintenance required by the mission of their battalion.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That the TOE of the infantry division maintenance battalion be reviewed in order to insure that the skill level of the repair men authorized is sufficient to perform the battalion's direct support mission.

(2) TOE Review

(a) OBSERVATION: When operating in an extended TAOI, the heavy duty transport equipment authorized for the division supply and transport battalion is inadequate to move supplies.

(b) EVALUATION: Heavy duty transport equipment authorized for the infantry division supply and transport battalion under the ROAD concept is inadequate when operating in an extended TAOI as was done by the Division during this reporting period. When the Division was required to assume responsibility for hauling much of its own supplies from Long Binh Depot to FSE and to fire support bases, additional vehicles were required.

(c) RECOMMENDATION: That the TOE of the infantry division supply and transport battalion be reviewed in light of experiences gained in Vietnam.

- e. Training: None
- f. Logistics: None
- g. Communications: None
- h. Materiel: None
- i. Other: None

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By AAC NARA Date 4/2/01