

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Headquarters, 937th Engineer Group (Combat)
APO 96318

EGC-OP

31 January 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Report of 937th Engineer Group (Combat) for the period
ending 31 January 1969, RCS CSFOR-65 (R1)

THRU: Commanding General
18th Engineer Brigade
ATTN: AVBC-CB

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

Commanding in Chief
United States Army, Pacific
ATTN: GPOP-DT
APO 96558

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development
Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA)
Washington, D.C. 20301

1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. General

(1) The 937th Engineer Group (Combat) is attached to the 18th Engineer Brigade and is presently organized as shown in Inclosure 1. The Group has been assigned an Area of Operations (AOR) which extends over most of the Central Highlands portion of the II Corps Tactical Zone from the South China Sea Coast to the western border of the Republic of Vietnam. Inclosure 2 is a pictorial representation of the Group's AOR indicating also the AOR's assigned by this headquarters to subordinate engineer battalions.

(1)

Involved in penneprime operations in an attempt to control dust at both Dak To and Kontum Airfields. Although nonavailability of penneprime became critical at one time, the operation was continuous and quite effective.

(2) Operation Cochise

The 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) was attached to the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) during this reporting period effective 1 Nov 1968. The battalion is located near Bong Song with the primary mission of upgrading QL-1 and construction of English Airfield. During the reporting period the battalion rendered engineer support to the 173rd Airborne Brigade, including a daily nine-sweep along QL-1 of 41.6 miles. The 19th was responsible for continuous maintenance of QL-1 along with its upgrade responsibility. During the reporting period a major portion of effort was exerted on construction of English Airfield. The scope of work involves maintaining 1600 feet of runway open for traffic while repairing the subgrade, which had failed, and paving the 3500 foot runway and apron with three lifts of asphalt. Rain greatly hampered work during this period, but a great deal of progress was made. Another problem hampering the overall effort was the ambushing of minesweep parties on QL-1. The battalion organized, trained, and sent out teams as counter-ambush patrols, and this greatly reduced enemy ambushes. On 28 December the 19th completed paving half of the runway at English Airfield with a 3 inch lift of asphalt. At the end of the reporting period the airfield was 26% complete with an EDC of 15 March 1969.

c. Construction Operations:

(1) General:

(a) During the reporting period an average of 70% of the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) effort was devoted to LOC and base construction. The nature of construction continued to place emphasis on providing basic operational type facilities for base camps in the Pleiku and Qui Nhon areas, and to some extent upgrading troop cantonment areas from field to intermediate/modified standard. Generally speaking, the logistical and cantonment facilities presently directed in the Pleiku area should be complete within six to nine months. It is anticipated that much of the directed construction in the Qui Nhon area will be transferred to Contract Construction freeing a Construction Battalion for upgrading of QL-1 from Qui Nhon to Tuy Hoa.

(b) During the reporting period, the coastal monsoon hampered construction there, while the highlands experienced weather conducive to construction. Very few new construction directives were received during the reporting period. The major new directives, being the MACV "Get Well" Program, consists of billets, water supply facilities and in many cases, water borne sewage.

(2) LOC Construction:

(a) The coastal monsoons hampered horizontal construction efforts of two battalions in the coastal regions while in the highland regions the 937th Engineer Group (Combat) concentrated its effort on LOC. Quarries had been allocated prior to this reporting period and during this period they were put into full operation.