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SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 19th Engineer Battalion
(Combat), for the period ending 7 November 1970 RCS CSFOR-65

DA, Headquarters, 937th Engineer Group (Combat), APO 96226, 15 Dec 70

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army (ACSFOR-DA), Washington, D.C. 20310
Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: AVBC-CG, APO
96377

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned from the 19th Engineer Battalion (C) is forwarded IAW 18th Engineer Brigade Regulation 525-15. Reporting period 31 October through 7 November 1970.
2. This headquarters has reviewed paragraph 1, Operations: Significant Activities and considers it to be an accurate account of 19th Engineer Battalion (C) activities for the reporting period.


WILLIAM J. SCHUDER
COL, CE
Commanding

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 19TH ENGINEER BATTALION (COMBAT)
APO San Francisco 96297

7 November 1970

EGCA-OP

SUBJECT: Operational Report Lessons Learned for the 19th Engineer Battalion (Combat) (Army) for the period ending 7 Nov 70

THRU: Commanding Officer, 937th Engineer Group (Combat), ATTN: EGC-OP, APO 96226

Commanding General, 18th Engineer Brigade, ATTN: OSS, APO 96377

Commanding General, United States Army Engineer Command, Vietnam, ATTN: AVCC-MO-B, APO 96384

Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHG-C (DST), APO 96375

TO: Commander-in-Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96538

SECTION I. OPERATIONS: SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES

The 19th Engineer Battalion, organized under TOE-36G consists of Headquarters Company and (4) line companies. The 610th Construction Support Company was attached throughout the period. The 171st Well Drilling Detachment remained OPCON through the period.

During the reporting period, the primary mission of the Battalion was the upgrading of QL-21 from Ninh Hoa to Ban Mo Thuot. Additional project receiving effort included Project "1000", MACV Team 25 and MCA Warehouse in Cam Ranh Bay.

Changes in the command and staff of the 19th Engineer Battalion during the reporting period were:

- 4 Nov 70 - LTC Pleasant H. West, Battalion Commander, reassigned to Hawaii.
- 4 Nov 70 - LTC Robert D. Carpenter, assumed command of the Battalion
- 6 Nov 70 - 1LT Barry E. Lundvall, B Company XO, reassigned to CONUS

At the end of the reporting period, total assigned strength was 791 of 891 authorized (assigned and attached units). During the period no personnel were assigned to the Battalion and 40 departed.

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Significant personnel action included the presentation of 32 ARCOM's.

There was one enemy attack against members of the 19th Engineer Battalion. On 5 Nov 70, a B/19th convoy received automatic weapons fire from B-40 rockets in the Duc My pass. This contact resulted in two casualties and loss of one (1) 5 ton dump truck.

There was one case of malaria in the period. It occurred at the 610th Construction Support Company. There were no psychiatric cases in the period. The venereal disease rate remained constant.

During the reporting period the Battalion Communications Center worked with 937th Engineer Group to improve landline communications.

The disruption of supply routes due to the loss of bridge QL21-13 caused an acute shortage of diesel and other POL within the Battalion. This lack of diesel caused a reduction in the amount of effort expended by the Battalion on its assigned projects. The reopening of QL-21 brought about resupply and return to normal work capacity.

The reestablishment of two S-4 sections greatly aided the effort for Keystone Robin Bravo.

The Chaplain has moved worship services to early morning hours so men who wish to attend can do so and still be available on the job site. The literature ministry has become of great importance. Gospel tracts, magazines, and Bibles have been given out in increasing numbers with excellent results.

The Quality Control section has continued its utilization of 2 laboratories, one at Khanh Duong and one at Camp Swampy.

Headquarters Company continued to support line companies with dozers and graders. It also provided convoy security for movement of 19th Engineer Battalion vehicles.

A Company continued work on road shoulders on QL-21 near Ban Me Thuot. This work consisted of placing and compacting fill and grading shoulders to within $\frac{1}{2}$ " of the road. Work was hampered by diesel shortage resulting from the loss of bridge 21-13 by pass.

Company B man power was devoted to various bridging projects. B Company restored bridge QL1-10 (CQ066023). A 150 foot double-single bailey was installed with the help of D/299th. B Company repaired the Minh Hoa bypass on QL-1 (BP973817). A 70 foot double-single bailey was placed at this location. B Company assisted C/19th in the repair of bridge 21-13.

From 1 November 1970 to 7 November 1970, Company C was involved in two significant operations.

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The first and third Platoons constructed a 140 foot double-double bailey bridge at QL21-13. The second Platoon continued operations at MACV Team 25 in Ban Me Thuot. Additional activities were hampered by the shortage of diesel.

During the period operations of D Company like the other companies was hampered by the lack of diesel. In order to save enough diesel to keep the critical items running. The road construction was stopped. No asphalt was produced so the MCA dump trucks did not haul and no pot-holing was performed.

On 3 November 1970, one Platoon was sent to bridge 13 to assist C Company with the construction of the bailey bridge. These personnel remained at the bridge site until 7 Nov 70.

Typhoon rains partially eroded the by-pass around bridge 31. On 5 and 6 November, a detail of two (2) dump trucks, a loader, and two (2) graders were sent to repair the damage and improve the by-pass.

The 610th Construction Support Company was attached to the 19th Engineer Battalion for the quarter. It was responsible for quarry operations, rock crusher operations, and asphalt plant operations. During the period the crusher produced 459 cy of 3/4"(-) and 305 cy of fines. The asphalt plant was unable to produce due to the shortage of diesel.

SECTION II: Lessons Learned, Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations

NONE.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Edward W. Willdrick III
EDWARD W. WILDRICK III
MAJ, CE
Assistant Adjutant

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