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AUTHORITY
AGO D/A ltr, 29 Apr 1980
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DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A

APPROVED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE;
DISTRIBUTION U-LIMITED.
SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 45th Surgical Hospital (MA)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Forwarded as inclosure is Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 45th Surgical Hospital (MA) for quarterly period 1 November 1966 - 31 January 1967. Information contained in this report should be reviewed and evaluated by CDC in accordance with paragraph 6f of AR 1-19 and by CONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d of AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to the Commandants of the Service Schools 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:

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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(Continued on page 2)
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Assistant Chief of Staff for
Force Development
SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

I. COMMAND:

a. Unit Move: This organization began the report period in a staging area adjacent to Headquarters, 68th Medical Group, at Long Binh, RVN. At this time an advance party of 35 EM and two officers were at the hospital site at Tay Ninh in the vicinity of Headquarters, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. On 4 November 1966, a mortar attack by hostile forces resulted in thirteen hits in the hospital area. The Hospital Commander, Major Gar P. Wratten was killed and one enlisted man was injured. Damage was sustained to the unoccupied nurses quarters, the packaged inflatable shelters and other elements of the MUST (Medical Unit Self-Contained Transportable) equipment. Repairs were made without difficulty. On 6 November 1966, the main body was transported to Tay Ninh and joined the advance party. The ten female nurses arrived on 9 November 1966. The unit spent 3 days in troop movement during the reporting period.

b. Command Group Activities: Distinguished visitors to this hospital during the reporting period were as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GEN William C. Westmoreland</td>
<td>COMUSMACV</td>
<td>9 Nov 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Jean Engler</td>
<td>Dep CG, USARV</td>
<td>10 Nov 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Leonard D. Heaton</td>
<td>The Surgeon General DA</td>
<td>21 Nov 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG William A. Hamrick</td>
<td>Ch, Med Service Corps</td>
<td>21 Nov 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG James A. Wier</td>
<td>Surgeon, USARV</td>
<td>21 Nov 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable Henry M. Jackson</td>
<td>US Senator, State of Washington</td>
<td>5 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG R. J. Seitz</td>
<td>C/S USARV</td>
<td>5 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG J. J. Irvin</td>
<td>G-1, USARPAC</td>
<td>8 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Op Repts - Lessons Learned, Qtr Pd 1 Nov 66 to 31 Jan 67, DA, 45th Surg Hosp (MA), APO 96256, 31 Jan 67, (Cont'd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LTC Rogers</td>
<td>Ch Surgeon, Australian</td>
<td>10 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Nguyen-Van-Thieu</td>
<td>Ch of State, RVN</td>
<td>13 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Nguyen-Hun-Co</td>
<td>Minister of Defense, RVN</td>
<td>13 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Jonathan O. Seaman</td>
<td>CG, II Fld Forces, VN</td>
<td>13 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His Excellency L. Moreno Salcedo</td>
<td>Ambassador, P.I.</td>
<td>13 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Fred C. Weyand</td>
<td>CG, 25th Inf Div</td>
<td>13 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BG James O. Lindburg</td>
<td>Dep Ch, A/AF Ex Svc</td>
<td>15 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Honorable George W. Grider</td>
<td>Member of Congress, Tenn</td>
<td>23 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Hank Snow &amp; Party</td>
<td>Entertainers, Nashville, Tenn</td>
<td>24 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman</td>
<td>Archbishop of New York</td>
<td>24 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GEN Harold K. Johnson</td>
<td>C/S US Army</td>
<td>25 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LTG Harry J. Lemley, Jr.</td>
<td>Dep C/S for Mil Op, DA</td>
<td>25 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Le Phy Nhan</td>
<td>Dep Province Ch, Tay Ninh</td>
<td>25 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Col Mildred Irene Clark</td>
<td>Ch, US Army Nurse Corps</td>
<td>27 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Keith L. Ware</td>
<td>Ch, of Info, US Army</td>
<td>28 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss Martha Raye</td>
<td>Entertainer, L.A. Calif.</td>
<td>28 Dec 66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MG Byron L. Steger</td>
<td>Surgeon, USARPAC</td>
<td>4 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premier Nguyen Ky</td>
<td>Premier, RVN</td>
<td>11 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary Stanley Resor</td>
<td>Secretary of the Army</td>
<td>14 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Incl 1
Op Repts - Lessons Learned, Qtr Pd 1 Nov 66 to 31 Jan 67, DA, 45th Surg Hosp (MA), APO 96256, 31 Jan 67, (Cont'd)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>POSITION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Various Attache (19)</td>
<td>Embassies of Saigon</td>
<td>18 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Sullivan &amp; Mr. McMillan</td>
<td>OSD, Department of Research and Engineering</td>
<td>22 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BJ George Hays</td>
<td>Ch, Prof Svc, OTSG, DA</td>
<td>24 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rear Admiral Cowan</td>
<td>Navy Surgeon's Office</td>
<td>25 Jan 67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Headquarters, CINPAC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. PERSONNEL: NONE

3. INTELLIGENCE: NONE

4. PLANS, OPERATIONS, TRAINING:

Opening of Hospital: After arrival of the main body on 6 November 1966, the hospital erection program was begun immediately and seven days later, 13 November 1966, operations began with the receipt of the first patient, a battle casualty. During the week the hospital was being erected, professional assistance was rendered to the clearing station, 196th Light Infantry Brigade. Since the opening of the hospital to the close of this reporting period, a total of 384 patients have been admitted and 208 Surgical Procedures performed. The hospital was operational 79 days during the reporting period.

5. LOGISTICS: NONE

6. SPECIAL STAFF SECTIONS: NONE

SECTION II, PART I
OBSERVATION (LESSONS LEARNED)

1. LOGISTICS:

ITEM: Foundations for the MUST inflatable shelters.

DISCUSSION: It was believed that the MUST (Medical Unit Self-Contained Transportable) shelters would be functional on any flat surface. The laterite base for the hospital site seemed to be satisfactory even though it was not completed at the time the hospital was erected. At the time the ground was too wet to be rolled, scraped, or

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Op Repts - Lessons Learned, Qtr Pd 1 Nov 66 to 31 Jan 67, DA 45th Surg Hosp (MA), APO 96256, 31 Jan 67, (Cont'd)

leveled. To have waited for the ground to dry would have meant a delay of several days or weeks before becoming operational. The original concept for the foundations were to be slightly oval. Thorough ditching was also planned. However, due to the urgent need for a surgical hospital at Tay Ninh to support Operation Attleboro, the hospital shelters were erected and operations began as quickly as possible. Unfortunately a heavy rainfall occurred before the ditching and foundation preparations were completed. Water accumulated under the shelter floors and in the interior of the inflatable shelters. The foundations could not dry because of the plastic composition of the floors and the mud became a serious problem.

OBSERVATION: The floor foundation for the MUST inflatable shelters must be several inches higher than the terrain it is situated on and there should be deep ditches around the shelter. The shelter floor is simply a plastic mat and therefore must have a relatively smooth surface. The surface and drainage must prevent water from running under the shelter's floor. This problem was corrected by removing the shelter and preparing the foundation properly.

2. PERSONNEL:

ITEM: Replacement of MUST Maintenance Personnel.

DISCUSSION: The TO&E of this hospital was modified to include two power pack specialists and one refrigeration specialist. In addition, one warrant officer and seven enlisted men were assigned as a MUST technical team and were intended to be assigned to the 32nd Medical Depot for depot maintenance of all MUST equipped units deploying to Vietnam. However, it has been shown that more than three maintenance personnel are required to provide the necessary maintenance to the equipment of this hospital. For this reason, and due to the fact that there are no other MUST equipped units in-country, this team has remained assigned to this hospital. The problem now is how to requisition replacements for the technical team since they occupy no spaces on the 45th Surgical Hospital's authorization and they will rotate to CONUS in September 1967.

OBSERVATION: Appropriate authority has been informed that replacements should be trained and programmed for the replacement of these personnel. A possible solution might be to assign the team to the 32nd Medical Depot with duty at this hospital. At the same time, augment the TO&E of the depot so as to authorize the team. Requisitions for replacements could then be made by the depot.
Op Repts - Lessons Learned, Qtr Pd 1 Nov 66 to 31 Jan 67, DA, 45th Surg Hosp (MA), APO 96256, 31 Jan 67, (Cont'd)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That all MUST inflatable shelters be erected on firm, smooth, and raised foundations in the future.

2. That replacements be trained and provided for each of the MUST maintenance personnel currently assigned.

CHARLES M. LYON
MAJ, MC
Commanding
AVCA LD-GL-PC (10 Feb 67) 1st Ind
SUBLECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 Jan 67
(RCS CSFOR-65) (45th Surgical Hospital)

HEADQUARTERS, 68TH MEDICAL GROUP, APO 96307 20 February 1967

TO: Commanding Officer, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307

Concur in recommendations.

TEL: Long Binh 3326

[Signature]

CHARLES O. PIXLEY
Colonel Medical Corps
Commanding
AVA-ME-PO (10 Feb 67)  
SUBJCT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period Ending 
31 January 1967 (ROG CSFTR-65) (45th Surgical Hospital)  

HEADQUARTERS, 44th Medical Brigade, APO 96307, 21 February 1967  

TO: Commanding General, 1st Logistical Command, ATTN: AVCA-GO-0, APO  
96307  

Concur with observations and recommendations of the basic report.  

Lynx 382  

1 Incl  
CRL (dup)  

[Signature]  
RAM. MILLER  
Colonel, MC  
Commanding
AVCA 00-0 (10 Feb 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report For Quarterly Period Ending 31 January 1967, (RCS CSFCR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, 1ST LOGISTICAL COMMAND, APO 96307 26 FEB 1967

TO: Deputy Commanding General, United States Army, Vietnam, ATTN: AVHGC-DH, APO 96307

1. The Operational Report - Lessons Learned submitted by the 45th Surgical Hospital for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1967 is forwarded herewith.

2. Concur with the basic report. The report is considered adequate.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

TEL: Lynx 782/430

GLEN A. DOYLE
Cdr, AGC

Incl 1

nc

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Incl 1
AVHGC-DH (10 Feb 67) 4th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending 31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 11 MAR 67

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 31 January 1967 from Headquarters, 45th Surgical Hospital (MA).

2. Reference Paragraph 2, Part I, Section II, Page 4, and Paragraph 2, Recommendation, Page 5. The Surgeon General, Department of the Army is taking action to provide enlisted replacement of two 51L20 (E-4), two 52C20 (E-5), and two 52020 (E-4). All replacements are programmed for arrival in Vietnam prior to the DEROS of incumbents.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

STANLEY E. SCHULTS
Major, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

1 Inc1

9
GPOP-OT (10 Feb 67) 5th Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
31 January 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 45th Surg Hosp (MA)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558

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

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

[Signature]

S. L. McMULLIN
CPT, AGO
Asst AG

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