

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Signals units

Item number: 6/3/46

Item: 110 Signal Squadron

Narrative

Annexes

[1-30 Apr 1971]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. R707/4/10

To: OIC, Military History Section, AHQ.

1. I enclose Commanders Diary (AF C 2118) (Adapted) as indicated at Part 2.

2. Please return receipt below.

(Signature) *[Signature]* MAJ

Appointment Officer Commanding
(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

Recd 23/5/71

SECRET

ORIGINAL } Strike out where
DUPLICATE } not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation 110 Sig Sqn

From 1 Apr 71 To 30 Apr 71

INDEX

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- * A Duty officer's log Monthly Report
- * B Messages connected with log
- C Operation orders and instructions issued
- D Operation orders and instructions received
- * E Sitreps issued
- F Orders of battle and location reports issued
- G Intelligence reports and summaries issued; appreciations made
- H Administrative orders and instructions issued
- I Administrative orders and instructions received
- J Administrative reports and bulletins; ammunition returns; field strength returns
- * K Standing orders issued
- L Commander's policy and demi-official letters
- M Action reports (if required)
- N Other papers, eg, maps and diagrams, air photos, reports from sub units
- O Periodical summaries of operations
- Z Top Secret Supplementary Diary

Enclosure Numbers

1	to	-
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† NIL
† RETAINED
† Despatched to

on.....

* Only to be included during operations.
† Cross out whichever is not applicable.

COMMANDERS DIARIES INSTRUCTIONS

AIM

1. The aim of a Commanders Diary is to provide data on which to base future improvements in Army training, equipment, organization and administration, and to furnish historians with a record of the activities of units and formations in operational and non-operational periods in peace and in war.

GENERAL

2. *Entries are to be made daily on AF C 2118 (Adapted)* each entry being initialled by the officer detailed to keep it.
3. Commanders Diaries will conform with the rules for drafting orders given in "Staff Duties (Australia)" Chapter 2, Section 12.

RESPONSIBILITY

During Non-operational Periods

4. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled by commanders of all formations.

During Operational Periods (1)

5. A Commanders Diary is to be compiled in duplicate by:
 - a. Commanders of all formations.
 - b. Each branch of the staff at formation headquarters commanded by a brigadier or above.
 - c. Heads of services not below the rank of lieutenant colonel.
 - d. Personal staffs and officers holding special appointments.
 - e. Unit commanders.
 - f. Commanders of a detachment of a unit when so ordered.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:
 - a. Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
 - b. Index as printed on cover.
 - c. Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
 - d. Annexes as shown in the Index.
7. All details of the unit or formation (if a detachment is concerned, the name of the parent unit), period covered and enclosure numbers of the annexes are to be shown on the cover. If there has been a change of command since the last report, the date of assumption by the new commanding officer is to be included.
8. The annexes are to be assembled in the groups shown on the cover. If there are no enclosures for an annex NIL will be entered on the cover. If additional annexes are convenient for a particular headquarters, the relevant papers should be grouped as annexes starting at B.

for operations form Annex "Z", "TOP SECRET" the document. It is to be prepared and disposed of as

TENTS

es as well as map references), establishment, equipment
d orders given.
he day's fighting, including company movements.
omander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

oment captured.

employed in the time not accounted for. The type of

and to save work as much information as possible is to
ments issued and received, routine returns, etc. All
and the time of receipt or despatch is to be given.

ie annexes, but need not give a precis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

DISPOSAL

13. **Original Commander's Diary.** This is to be forwarded monthly, unless otherwise ordered, by the seventh day of the succeeding month direct to AHQ.

14. **Duplicate Commander's Diary.** This must be clearly marked as a duplicate. It is to be sent separately from the original to AHQ one month after the original has been despatched but not before the former has been acknowledged.

15. When overseas, both copies of diaries are to be sent through the Army Records organization in the overseas theatre but at different times.

16. **TOP SECRET Supplementary Diaries.**

a. The documents referred to in Paragraph 9 together with a list of them made out on AF C 2118 (Adapted) must be placed in separate cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted). All details must be filled in and the cover clearly marked in red: "ANNEX Z — OFFICER ONLY". It may be convenient to group the papers by appendices.

b. Supplementary diaries must be forwarded under the normal rules for TOP SECRET correspondence, to AHQ. The inner envelope must be plainly marked:

TOP SECRET

ANNEX Z to

Commanders Diary of.....(Formation or Unit)

From.....to..... (Dates)

c. The duplicate supplementary diaries must be despatched as shown in Paragraph 14 as soon as receipt of the original has been acknowledged.

1 BP Coy—274/65—55m

AWM 95

[6/3/ Apr 71]

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)

Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR Apr 71

REFERENCE MAP Special Use SE Asia, 1:100,000
Sheet 6430, Series L607

UNIT/FORMATION 110 SIG SQN

COMMANDING OFFICER Maj D.R. OVERSTEAD

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	1 Apr		To Saigon and had long talks with CSO & C of S about Det 110 Sig Sqn personnel being free of regimentation out of duty hours. Cof S is going to tighten up Control at Canberra BEQ. Our "Easter Cross" was illuminated & shines over the 1 ALSG Camp at Easter.	
	2 Apr		Grenade practice cancelled after four blinds and faulty explosive. The boom was placed on the HLPAs at the Transmitter Station. Commander's Conference.	
	3 Apr		Squadron Conference. Lunch with the CGS.	
	4 Apr		Works Parade laying earth mats under VLPAs and cementing at Sandbagger's Inn. Helped erect tents for 200 Cambodian drivers at 1 ALSG ready to drive gift trucks to Cambodia. Overnight patrol.	
	5 Apr		First Subject A Course started. Students from 547 Sig Tp, 104 Sig Sqn and 2 AOD as well as 110 Sig Sqn. Welding of earth mats started.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF - C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP..... -2-.....

UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	6 Apr		VD Lectures in Kevin Wheatley Stadium	
	7 Apr		I visited Nui Dat & The Horseshoe. I met CSO & OC 10 ⁴ Sig Sqn at Nui Dat, and CSO quashed a proposal for 10 ⁴ Sig Sqn to take over our SCO Det, and Deployment Tp Det at Nui Dat.	
	8 Apr		Two of our soldiers injured in a bombing incident at a riverside restaurant in Saigon.	
	10 Apr		Told by 369 Sig Bn that we may have to shift our Seimen's Relay Station to another building. 369 Bn are running down & building may be demolished.	
	11 Apr		Volleyball versus Pro Unit - we won. Aust Rules against HQ AFV in Saigon called off because of the heat at half time. Subject A Course finished. All passed but two & they are being put on next course.	
	12 Apr		Unit Lecture on "Shock" by the hospital. MRS finally caught up from a backlog of traffic & services, but Melbourne Rear Link out for 8 hours.	

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

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UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	13 Apr		Second VD Lecture at Kevin Wheatley Stadium. MRS getting busy again & falling behind with services. Wrote "Training Information Report".	
	14 Apr		MRS snowed under with multi-routes & services. Many complaints of delayed signals. We ordered "MINIMIZE" 1200hrs 14 Apr to 1200hrs 16 Apr to help us catch up. I wrote a D/O letter to D Sigs explaining what steps had been taken to improve Rear Link. Transmit HPLA used for the first time.	
	15 Apr		Rugby versus 5 Coy. Delays in MRS continue. Lots of telegraph faults in MRS on an unprecedented scale. Two Oks sent from 104 Sig Sqn & I recalled COMSEC Ops from Nui Dat. Promoted a Cpl Cipher Tech to Sgt.	
	17 Apr		Offrs/Sgts "Night Out" - a very successful party at the Grand and Sgt's Mess. CSO said a few words. Still behind with multi-route traffic & services in MRS.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR

REFERENCE MAP -4-

UNIT/FORMATION

COMMANDING OFFICER

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	18 Apr		Kerr Committee in the area & met all Officers in the Offr's Mess.	
	19 Apr		Second Subject A Course commenced. Range Practice for Det 110 Sig Sqn Saigon. Col Burnard visited the squadron.	
	20 Apr		Range Practice Saigon Dets.	
	21 Apr		To Horseshoe & Nui Dat Dets.	
	22 Apr		Rigger Team 127 Sig Sqn departed for Singapore after about 6 weeks in theatre helping with move of HLPAs from Nui Dat, and maintenance on all antennae.	
	23 Apr		Rugby & Soccer matches.	
	25 Apr		ANZAC DAY Parade, on St Kilda Pad. We provided the PA system. Maj Gen VINCENT (AG AHQ) visited.	

This form is to be enclosed with the annexes in AF-C 2119 (Adapted).

COMMANDERS DIARY NARRATIVE

AF - C 2118 (Adapted)
Revised Jun, 1965

MONTH AND YEAR.....

REFERENCE MAP.....

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UNIT/FORMATION.....

COMMANDING OFFICER.....

Place and grid reference	Date	Time	Event or information	Annex letter and enclosure number
	26 Apr		Lecture - Current Military Situation in SVN & Phuc Tuy. Two officers and six ORs visited PHU LAM automatic relay station.	
	27 Apr		Volleyball v 5 Coy RAASC	
	28 Apr		To Saigon. Talks with CSO on withdrawal comms.	

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R723/1/6

110 Sig Sqn
VUNG TAU

8 May 71

CSO HQ AFV (8)

110 SIG SQN MONTHLY REPORT : APR 71

Reference: A. Maps Special Use, SE Asia, 1:100,000, Series L607
Sheet 6430.

GENERAL

1. As predicted in the March Report, April was a busy month, and much was achieved. The majority of the technical projects are now complete, and the squadron has reduced the likelihood of any major systems failure. Minor projects will continue, but the immediate future will see a bid to introduce a realistic equipment maintenance programme, specifications testing, and adherence to firm Standing Operating Procedures.
2. April was also the busiest month on record for traffic in the MRS, HQ AFV Comcen and 1 ALSG Comcen with an overall figure of 146,800 transactions.
3. Highlights of the month were:-
 - a. Cutover to the HLEPA at the Transmitter Station.
 - b. Installation of 300 ohm, 4 wire transmission lines to both VLPAs and the HLEPA at the Transmitter Station.
 - c. Completion of earth matting under the transmit VLPAs.
 - d. Modifications to AN/FGC - 61A ready for use on the National Rear Link in early May.
 - e. Two long (but not serious) outages on the National Rear Link.
 - f. Rerouting of telegraph and voice trunks between Nui Dat and Saigon via Vung Tau leaving System 103 in reserve.
 - g. Installation of a "hot line" for the Chief of Staff AFV from Saigon to the Ebony Switchboard.
 - h. Rewiring of HF House.
 - i. Removal of the old Emu switchboard, and associated equipment.
 - j. FSK trials on the National Rear Link.

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- k. RATT tests with HMAS Sydney.
- l. An abortive Grenade Throw, cancelled because of the number of blinds and faulty demolition charges.
- m. Two Subject A Courses.
- n. Three unit lectures.
- o. Display of an illuminated cross for Easter.
- p. A bombing incident in Saigon injuring two members of the squadron.
- q. A crisis in traffic handling in the MRS necessitating "minimize" action.
- r. An all-time high in traffic handled.
- s. An Officers/Sergeants Night Out.
- t. Departure of Det 127 Sig Sqn Rigging Team.
- u. A visit to the Phu Lam AUTODIN station.
- v. Dispatch of a technician to Vientianne to repair Australian Embassy Equipment.
- w. A visit by the Adjutant General.
- x. A large turn-over in personnel, and an ever-increasing number of replacements arriving late in theatre.
- y. Completion of "Operation Spot Check" in readiness for the handover stocktake May/Jun.

TAPE RELAY TRAFFIC

Traffic Figures and Traffic Analysis

- 4. MRS Traffic Summary. Annex A.
- 5. The Squadron handled 8,000 transmissions more than in March, and reached record figures for traffic handling in this theatre. Each of the figures below is a record:

a.	<u>MRS</u>	110,700	
b.	<u>HQ AFV Comcen</u>	23,600	
c.	<u>1 ALSG Comcen</u>	12,500	
		<hr/>	
		146,800	Total
		<hr/>	

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6. It is to be hoped that this trend will NOT continue, and that it is not indicative of traffic to be generated during a major reduction or force withdrawl.
7. Percentage variations in traffic over 5% in comparison with last month's figures are:
- | | | |
|----|----------------|----------------|
| a. | To Melbourne | 14% increase |
| b. | From Long Binh | 10% increase |
| c. | From 1 ALSG | 11.5% increase |
| d. | From 1 OSU | 8% increase |
| e. | To 1 OSU | 11% increase |
8. Rerun Summary. Annex B
9. Long Term Trends. Annex C
10. Traffic Precedence Break-up Annex D

OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

1 ALSG Switchboard (Emu)

11. "New Emu" has settled down to the point where technical faults are rare.
12. "Old Emu" has been dismantled and removed on the basis that it is useless - even as a stand-by facility. An SB - 86/P has been wired in parallel with the AN/MTC - 1 to handle essential calls in the event of a major switchboard failure.
13. The board is handling an average of 4,000 calls per day.

Signal Dispatch Service

14. 1 ALSG

- a. SDS figures are:

(1)	Dispatches OUT	4575	
(2)	Dispatches IN	403	
		<hr/>	
		4978	Total

- b. The total mileage was 1968 miles shared by two landrovers.

15. HQ AFV Two landrovers shared exactly 2000 miles in delivering official mail, Air Dispatch Bags, and Safehand Bags around Saigon.

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Air Dispatch Service

16. ADS figures are:

a.	ADS Bags	170	
b.	Safehand Bags	38	
		<hr/>	
		208	Total
		<hr/>	

17. Comcens at HQ AFV, HQ 1 ATF and HQ 1 ALSG have been clearing more traffic by ADS to relieve the pressure on the telegraph system, and to preserve and practise ADS procedures. Normally one clearance per day is used, however this could quickly become two per day if necessary.

18. The bags used are normal issue "overnight" bags with ADS painted in large yellow letters on both sides. DR vehicles meet the Caribou aircraft at each location and exchange bags with the escorting DR. Rough flight schedules are:

a.	0730 hrs	Wallaby Flight departs Vung Tau
b.	0750 hrs	departs Nui Dat
c.	0910 hrs	departs Saigon
d.	0950 hrs	departs Nui Dat
e.	1005 hrs	arrives Vung Tau

Radio

19. 2 Sqn RAAF Phan Rang The secure HF RATT back-up link was activated for traffic on 3 and 5 Apr. The link was also tested successfully on 17 Apr. Rewiring of HF House prevented a test on 24 Apr.

20. 1 OSU RAAF Vung Tau. Weekly HF back-up tests were satisfactory except on 25 Apr when 1 OSU "claimed" they had transmitter problems (ANZAC Day).

21. AFV Emergency Frequency Permanent listening watch was maintained. There were occasional bursts of CW interference.

22. Vung Tau - Saigon - Nui Dat. Back-up HF comms were tested weekly.

23. Shipping.

a. HMAS Jeparit. The vessel was contacted on 18 Apr and comms have been maintained ever since. She is now well down the Queensland coast. Better comms are attributed to better frequency selection, and rewriting of SOPs.

b. HMAS Sydney. A CW schedule was worked 3 - 5 Apr, and tests with FSK were successful later in the month.

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24. Radio Australia. Transmissions were monitored throughout the month.
25. 1 ALSG Defence Net. The standard of Radiotelephone Procedure is poor despite several coaching courses and constant reminders to all units. This reflects the generally low standard of procedure throughout the AMF at the moment.
26. HQ AFV Defence Net (Ribbon Atlas). This is working well, but procedure leaves something to be desired.
27. Security Monitoring. The ad hoc Comsec Det of Cpl OKR and two OKR lent to 104 Sig Sqn for monitoring duties has returned to Vung Tau to assist with ever-increasing tape relay traffic. 104 Sig Sqn is to monitor 1 ATF nets in future.

Communication Centres

28. HQ 1 ALSG Comcen. There appears to be another wiring fault in the Comcen. This will be rectified once the 2 AOD Tributary Station is opened and capable of handling all local traffic for a day or two.
29. 2 AOD Tributary Station. The installation is complete except for final testing. It should be handling traffic in mid May.
30. HQ AFV Comcen. Problems are occurring in obtaining acknowledgements of receipt (ZDF⁴) of high precedence and sensitive (COMAFV, C of S etc) messages. Messages have to be retransmitted if the receipt has not been acknowledged within a certain time. This causes invalid duplications and a rise in service traffic as acknowledgement of receipt are requested several times. An alarming service rate is being recorded at this comcen because of the failure of distant stations to observe correct ZDF⁴ procedures, and because of the amount of this type of traffic being generated by the headquarters.

Major Relay Station

31. From a combination of technical faults, a surge in traffic density and a shortage of trained operators (75% of each shift consisted of new arrivals), the MRS was swamped on 13-14 Apr. At our request HQ AFV imposed MINIMIZE action 141200H - 161200H Apr. The situation was in hand by 16 Apr, although cross-checking and servicing remained behind until 18 Apr. No problems have been encountered since, and none are expected.
32. A second Services Position has been installed. This was necessary to cope with the volume of service traffic mid month. Unfortunately the training position had to be utilized for this, but another Training Position will be set up in May.
33. The multi-route position has been split to provide two banks of reperforators - one working on 75 bauds, the other at 50 bauds. Records are being kept to compare their performances.

Australia Call - Home Telephone Service

34. The system continues to operate fairly smoothly with only minor problems of co-ordination between local controllers and Vietnamese technicians in Saigon.

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35. One member of the unit called Brisbane recently. The connection took only two minutes, and the quality of the circuit was excellent.

ENGINEERING

General

36. Telegraph Circuit Availability. Annex E

National Rear Link

37. Outages. Although the availability of the rear link dropped, no effect was noticed on the traffic flow as the two major outages (and most other outages) were at night. At least one channel was available to Melbourne for 74.5% of the month.

38. Red Transmitter. This (third) transmitter came into use on 11 Apr.

39. Transmitter Availability Figures are:

a.	Blue	94.43%
b.	Yellow	91.69%
c.	Red	94.46%

40. HLPAs. The transmit HLPAs were used for the first time on 14 Apr, but the control wiring has only just been installed. It is too early to comment on its performance.

41. Earth Mats. Both earth mats are installed, bonded together, and connected to the Transmitter Station/Generator Shed earth grid. Again it is too early to comment on their effect on the system.

42. 300 ohm Feeders. No difficulties have been encountered with the installation of 300 ohm, 4 wire feeders between the transmitters the two VLPAs and the HLPAs. RF problems in the meter circuits of the generators have all but disappeared since the conversion.

43. Transmit VLPAs. Further problems have been experienced with salt deposits on the antennae. With slight rain, the salt and water form a conductive solution which causes shorting and fusing. Currently they are clean after a heavy downpour.

44. FSK. The unit's FSK capability is now installed and should prove a benefit. Both Melbourne and HMAS Sydney have been worked in this mode.

45. AN/FGC - 61A. Modifications have been completed, and installation should be finished in early May. It is proposed to use the 61A on one transmitter, and the 1851D on a second.

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System Control

46. Controllers. There has been a large turnover in System Controllers due to RTA schedules and unit commitments, however the use of Senior NCOs as Senior System Controllers has had a marked effect on the system. Although the unit's establishment does not cater for them, two sergeants have been found and placed on permanent evening and night shifts with occasional relief from other senior technicians.

47. SCO Education.

a. An SCO's course is to be conducted in late May.

b. Technical SOP's are about to be issued to replace interim instructions.

c. Ssgt Shields has replaced WO2 Ring as STT in charge of the MRS. Unlike his predecessor, he will be relatively free of project work, and will remain in the MRS/Systems area in a supervisory role.

48. System 103 (Nui Dat to Saigon Direct). All telegraph and voice channels have been rerouted through Vung Tau to Saigon (Systems 101 and 102) because of the poor performance of the direct system. System 103 is being held in reserve to support systems 101 and 102 if necessary. It is adequate for this task but should not be used whilst better quality channels are available elsewhere.

Technical Maintenance

49. With a swing back from project work to routine maintenance the unit aims to bring all station drawings up to date and follow a vigorous preventative maintenance programme. Already this is starting to pay dividends.

50. A large number of 1851 modules have been repaired during the month.

51. B2 Stores Accounting. The Ord Cell and Tech Maint Wkshp are to convert to EME1 PO 50 Series accounting. This involves slightly different procedures, but the advantages are obvious:

a. It will bring our accounting into line with other RAAOC Cells.

b. It will provide an authority for accounting and do away with an ad hoc system.

c. It will satisfy the Auditor.

d. It will ensure that certain unserviceable components find their way back for base repair or salvage.

52. Telegraph Workshop Vung Tau.

a. The workshop remains busy tending to the needs of well-used telegraph machines.

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b. The MIJI LIFT has not been installed due to the pressure of work and the lack of RAE assistance and stores. It is included on the Jul - Dec 71 Works Programme, but will be installed with unit resources should they become available.

53. Cipher Workshop Vung Tau. The workshop has kept well ahead of repairs, and has tackled the task of enlarging the working space and installing airconditioning.

54. Australian Embassy Circuit. The installation was completed last month, however as has been the case for a year or so now, the Embassy Staff appears unable to solve its own domestic problems, and the link is inoperative because of a power problem and the absence of the Comms Officer. Activation is entirely up to the Embassy, and the project has been labelled "finished" as far as the squadron is concerned.

55. PA Systems. The squadron installed two PA systems for ANZAC Day:

a. In Saigon at the Australian Ambassador's residence for a dawn service.

b. At St Kilda Helipad Vung Tau for a dawn service and parade.

56. Repairs to Radio Equipment LAOS. WO2 O'Connor spent one week in Vientianne repairing an Embassy RACAL Transceiver and off-line crypto equipment. He may have to return for continuation repairs in May. It would seem that the squadron has taken on yet another new commitment.

Line and Antennae

57. Line. The Line Section has had a busy month removing disused cable, and replacing multi runs of D10 with 12 pair and 25 pair cables. The latter action has significantly lowered the number of "permanent light" cases on Emu Switchboard. It has been a race to do this before the wet season.

58. Antennae.

a. During the month the Rigger Sect:

(1) Repaired the 2 SAS Sqn Log Periodic Antennae.

(2) Continued normal maintenance tasks.

(3) Assisted Det 127 Sig Sqn Rigger Team.

(4) Erected an illuminated Cross on Logan's Hill for the Easter Period.

(5) Erected a Buddhist symbol (reversed swastica) on Logan's Hill ready to shine out over Vung Tau on Buddha's Birthday 9 May.

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b. Det 127 Sig Sqn Rigger Sect departed for Singapore on 22 Apr after some eight weeks in theatre. Their assistance with HLPAs was invaluable.

c. Outstanding Rigging Tasks are:

(1) Recovery of the feeder route to the old rhombic site at Nui Dat.

(2) Final maintenance on the receive HLPAs when the necessary stores arrive.

(3) Tensioning of both transmit VLPAs.

Deployment Troop

59. The Horseshoe/Nui Dat circuit had an availability of 99.77% for the month with yet another dead rat accounting for some of the outage time.

60. The future of the Horseshoe feature is in some doubt, and HQ 1 ATF agrees that the AN/MRC-69 Det can be removed on the basis that HQ 3RAR will not return there. It is anticipated that the det will begin to move out in late May.

61. After the Nui Dat/Horseshoe trunk system is removed, two exercises are planned for Deployment Tp to test AN/MRC-69 comms in configurations likely to be used in support of a withdrawal.

TRAINING AND DEFENCE

62. Range Practices.

a. Weekly practices continued at Vung Tau.

b. All ranks of Det 110 Sig Sqn Saigon fired their personal weapons and the GFMG at a range practice 19-21 Apr.

63. Grenade Throw. A grenade throw was conducted on 2 Apr, however it had to be cancelled after most of the morning was wasted in dealing with blinds and faulty demolition charges. Subsequently the complete batch of grenades was condemned.

64. Runs. Weekly runs continued at Vung Tau.

65. Unit Lectures. Three unit lectures were conducted. They were.

a. "Treatment for shock and Snake Bite", by a medical officer from 1 Aust Fd Hospital.

b. "The Current Military Situation in SVN, Phuoc Tuy and Vung Tau", by the IO, HQ 1 ALSG.

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c. "Venereal Disease", by the 1 ALSG team of VD lecturers (chaplain, MO and Pro), and unit officers.

66. Visit to Phu Lam AUTODIN. Eight members visited the US Sig Corps Automatic Digital Network Station at Phu Lam (Saigon) on 26 Apr. Further visits are planned.

67. Patrols.

a. Weekly wire patrols continued.

b. The unit was rostered by HQ 1 ALSG for four overnight Standing Patrols.

68. Projectionist's Course. Two members qualified as projectionists.

69. Subject A Courses. Two Subject A Courses for promotion to Cpl and Sgt were conducted. Forty four students from this unit, 10⁴ Sig Sqn, 2 AOD and 1 Aust Field Hospital qualified.

70. SCO's Course. A System Controller's Course is planned for late May.

71. AN/GRC-106 Maintenance Course. Two members are attending this course at 1st Sig Bde Training Centre at Long Binh.

72. Incidents. Two members were injured and subsequently evacuated to Australia, as a result of a terrorist bombing incident at a riverside restaurant in Saigon on 8 Apr 71.

CIVIL AFFAIRS

73. CA Lecture. A talk on Australian CA Projects in SVN is programmed for 10 May. It is to be given by the HQ 1 ALSG CA Officer.

74. An Phong Orphanage Vung Tau.

a. Many boxes of gifts from AVCAP, organization and individuals in Australia have been received and distributed. In all cases, letters of thanks have been dispatched to the donors.

b. Commodity Support. This included:

- (1) Firewood
- (2) Surplus kitchen utensils
- (3) Tinned fruit juice
- (4) 150 lbs of bread mix
- (5) 15 lbs of noodles

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(6) 24 cans of tomato juice

(7) Clothes pegs

75. Vagabond Boys Home Vung Tau. Deployment Tp visited the home regularly to talk to the boys, give them small tasks to do, and to inspect the chicken run now boasting 100 birds.

76. RVNAF Signal School.

a. Liaison with the scouts continues, and forty used slouch hats were made available for conversion to scout hats (hard to obtain in SVN).

b. Op Tp Comd visits the school regularly to assist where he can with scouting requirements, empty oil drums, old signal equipment, supply of gravel etc.

77. Dong Chua Orphanage Saigon.

a. Commodity support continued.

b. 150 bags of cement were made available on behalf of the Murchison Catholic Ladies Guild, with another 100 bags to follow.

78. Terres Des Hommes Saigon. Commodity support continued.

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

Establishment and Posted Strength

79. Variations from the establishment are shown on Annex F.

80. The large turn-over of personnel continued during April. Difficulty was experienced at times because of cancellation of some posting orders, and the non-arrival of members because of faulty DP1 procedures in Australia.

Personnel Changes

81. Twenty nine members joined the squadron, and twenty eight returned to Australia.

82. There were 67 in-country movements.

Promotions

83. Promotions were:

a. To LCpl 7

b. To Sgt 1

8 Total

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 12 -

Visitors

84. Visitors were:
- a. Lt Col G.J. Mapson CSO AFV 17-18 Apr.
 - b. Maj A.G. Roberts OC 104 Sig Sqn 17-18 Apr.
 - c. Col W.F. Burnard Advisor Kerr Committee 19 Apr.
 - d. Maj Gen D. Vincent AG, AHQ 25 Apr.

Manning Problems

85. Many manning problems have been experienced by the unit over the past two months. Some of these were:

- a. Cancellation of Posting Orders for numerous reasons and late movement of replacements.
- b. Late movement of replacements from Australia because members were not DPI.
- c. Apparent slow reaction in Australia to Immediate Replacement Demands. This unit has submitted seven during 1971. Most demands take three months to be satisfied.
- d. Late notification of cancellations and substitutions have caused considerable embarrassment. On occasions the unit has not been notified of cancellations until two days before the member was to arrive. The unit is reluctant to cancel the RTA of the member who was being replaced at such a late stage.

86. The causes of these problems lie in many quarters; for example:

- a. Parent units in Australia are obviously not conducting efficient DPI checks and are not complying with the instructions on Posting Orders. This is highlighted by several examples:
 - (1) One member arrived in theatre with three months residual service and refused to re-engage in theatre.
 - (2) One member was medevac to Australia as a result of a medical board conducted in Australia prior to his departure.
 - (3) One member (yet to arrive) has been delayed indefinitely because he is not dentally fit.
- b. CARO is not notifying units in SVN as soon as a posting is cancelled or delayed. If the units received early notification arrangements could be made to retain the member due to RTA.
- c. Obviously the Corps is finding it difficult to maintain a pool of replacements who can be moved at short notice.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

- 13 -

87. All these factors are creating manning problems within the unit. When combined with the large turn-over of personnel, the arrival of inexperienced operators and technicians, and the increase in signal traffic, it is obvious that the unit has difficulty in maintaining a high standard of efficiency.

Amenities Tapes.

88. Amenities tapes cut were:

- a. Vung Tau 137
- b. Saigon
 - (1) Open reel 79
 - (2) Cassettes 34

Sport

89. Volleyball. Games go on, and on, and on.

90. Rugby Union. Three social games were played. Two wins and a loss were recorded.

91. Soccer. The 1 ALSG competition continues, and the soccer team played five games winning three and losing two.

92. Australian Rules. A social match against HQ AFV in Saigon 11 Apr had to be abandoned at half-time because of the heat.

93. 1 ALSG Swimming Competitions. The squadron took the honours in the time trials by winning the trophies for both team and individual trials. Unfortunately the team was soundly thrashed in the carnival 1 May due to the RTA of key swimmers in April.

94. Tennis. The 1 ALSG Competition is still running, but we are competing for fifth place at the moment.

Morale

95. Morale in the theatre generally has slumped somewhat because of the build up to, but non-arrival of the Wet Season. There is a certain lethargy in the air which is hard to overcome and most unit commanders have commented on this.

96. Officers and Sergeants Night Out. Unit officers and Seniors, joined by friends from 104 Sig Sqn and 547 Sig Tp and the CSC, dined at The Grand Hotel on 17 Apr, then adjourned to the Sgt's Mess.

97. A unit swim, followed by a midday barbeque and buffet in swimming togs, is planned for 16 May.

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Q ADMINISTRATION

Q Accounting

98. Boards of Survey and Write-off Action. Values of stores written off were:

a.	<u>Boards.</u>	\$140-35
b.	<u>Written Off.</u>	646-40
		<hr/>
		786-75
		<hr/>

99. "Operation Spot Check". This has been very successful, and as a result of this 100% spot check, deficiencies and surpluses have been adjusted in readiness for the handover stocktake. Certain SPS anomalies have yet to be remedied.

100. Stocktake. The handover/takeover stocktake is to commence 28 May. No problems are expected.

Works

101. Major and minor Works Programmes for the period Jul - Dec 71 have been submitted. The main requests are for:

- a. Adequate drainage to ensure the MRS does not flood in heavy rain. The importance of this has been stressed - loss of communications and possibly loss of life.
- b. Fencing around the HHPA and feeders at th Transmitter Station.
- c. Greater fuel tank capacity for the 62.5 KVA generators at the Transmitter Station.
- d. Installation of the MIJI LIFT.
- e. Floor coverings for the Technical Maintenance and Cipher Workshops.

CONCLUSION

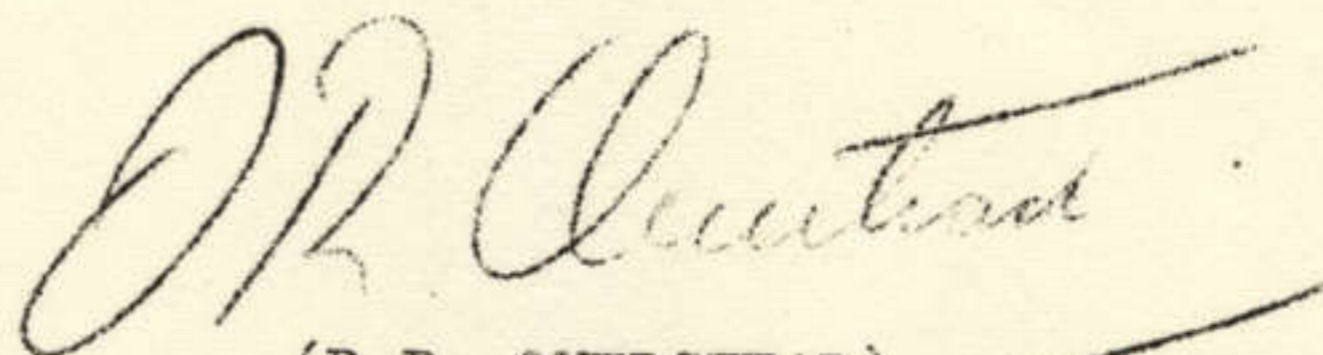
102. We are fated to be a busy squadron, but having most of the major projects out of the way, with preventative maintenance catching up, a rearrangement of manpower, new shift timings, heavier supervision, and an acute awareness of our responsibilities, May and June should see some upward trends in technical and operating efficiency. It is doubtful however if very much more can be done to improve the availability of the rear link. Nevertheless the squadron is still open for suggestions, and incidentally still passing all its traffic.

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103. It is to the credit of all ranks here that they have **coped** with a record month of 146,800 tape relay transactions, 4,000 telephone calls a day, poor propagation conditions to Melbourne, and managed to continue project work, and live and **train** from day to day.



(D.R. OVERSTEAD)

Maj

OC

- Annexes:
- A. MRS Traffic Summary.
 - B. Traffic Rerun Summary.
 - C. Long Term Trends.
 - D. Traffic Precedence Build-up.
 - E. Telegraph Circuit Availability Summary.
 - F. Establishment Variations.

Copy to:

1 ALSG
104 Sig Sqn
Radio Offr 1 OSU (info)

Internal

OC (3)
Ops Offr (3)
QM
Vung Tau Op Tp Comd
Vung Tau Tech Tp Comd
Deployment Tp Comd
Saigon Det Comd
Comd's Diary (3)
File
Float
Spare (2)

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MAJOR RELAY STATION VUNG TAU

SUMMARY OF TRAFFIC APR 71

Ser	Circuit		FLASH	IMMEDIATE	PRIORITY	ROUTINE	TOTAL	ZFX
1	Melb A	In		2,175	3,181	5,309	10,665	427
		Out		1,966	3,249	4,628	9,843	38
2	Melb B	In		1,584	2,310	3,815	7,709	583
		Out		1,382	2,204	3,500	7,086	32
3	AFV Comcen A	In		543	2,187	1,815	4,545	58
		Out		782	2,963	3,841	7,586	5
4	AFV Comcen B	In		458	1,963	1,708	4,129	139
		Out		947	3,129	3,282	7,358	4
5	Phan Rang	In		106	1,040	737	1,883	81
		Out		174	1,284	959	2,417	2
6	Nui Dat A	In		332	1,512	958	2,802	41
		Out	6	441	1,841	2,510	4,798	3
7	Nui Dat B	In		365	1,475	1,107	2,947	83
		Out	9	647	1,795	1,917	4,368	2
8	Long Binh	In	38	2,371	239	196	2,844	225
		Out	7	1,848	115	58	2,028	5
9	1 ALSG Comcen	In		427	1,733	3,262	5,422	133
		Out		688	2,656	3,768	7,112	5
10	1 OSU	In	1	300	1,529	641	2,471	136
		Out	33	848	1,801	1,122	3,804	17
11	Canberra	In						
		Out						
12	Services	In	8	1,416	2,413	1,115	4,952	
		Out		1,761	1,623	522	3,906	5
13	TOTALS	In	47	10,077	19,582	20,663	50,369	1,906
		Out	55	11,484	22,660	26,107	60,306	118
14	Multi Routes (Processed)		7432					

(Percentages calculated on all services) TRAFFIC RERUN SUMMARY - APR 71

ANNEX B TO
110 SIG SQN 723/1/6

VUNG TAU MAJOR RELAY STATION

Ser No	Channel	As % of IN traffic		As % of OUT traffic		Remarks
		This month	Last month	This month	Last month	
1	MELB A	7.4	9.6	14.8	13.2	
2	MELB B	10.8	20.7	11.9	12.6	
3	HQ AFV A	3.4	3.5	1.6	1.5	
4	HQ AFV B	4.8	5.0	1.7	1.8	
5	1 ATF A	2.6	4.7	4.0	3.9	
6	1 ATF B	4.7	4.2	3.1	3.2	
7	PHAN RANG	6.4	3.8	2.8	3.5	
8	LONG BINH	13.5	17.9	3.1	4.2	
9	1 ALSG	2.8	3.4	1.3	1.4	
10	1 OSU	7.0	3.1	2.4	5.1	

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ANNEX C TO
110 SIG SQN 723/1/6

LONG TERM TRENDS

- Notes: 1. Numbers are rounded to three significant figures.
2. There is no direct relationship between traffic and Australia - Vietnam availability.

MONTH	AUSTRALIA - VIETNAM AVAILABILITY		MRS		COMCEN	
	A%	B%	SAIGON	VUNG TAU	HQ AFV	1 ALSG
May 69	97.0	62.5	90,500	35,700	19,400	10,200
Jun			83,500	29,900	18,500	9,200
Jul			98,000	35,900	21,600	11,500
Aug	79.0	56.5	103,300	36,500	22,800	11,600
Sep	86.0	78.7	104,900	35,600	22,000	11,000
Oct	91.5	86.7	99,000	35,600	21,400	11,000
Nov	90.4	84.7	86,600	30,700	19,100	9,800
Dec 69	91.8	89.0	86,800	30,600	19,100	7,700
Jan 70	93.1	89.4	84,800	30,600	18,400	9,700
Feb	88.7	89.7	84,900	29,800	19,700	10,200
Mar	80.8	80.0	93,600	32,600	20,200	10,600
Apr	88.9	83.1	93,600	35,300	19,800	11,100
May	92.5	87.1	93,700	35,200	19,300	10,000
Jun	88.8	80.0	91,600	33,800	18,100	8,900
Jul	88.8	86.0	93,200	35,900	19,000	10,900
Aug	87.2	81.2	90,700	*	17,800	11,500
Sep	88.0	82.0	88,800	*	17,000	11,200
Oct	93.2	82.2	99,700	2,000	19,800	12,300
Nov	73.0	59.0	1,400	104,300	20,600	12,100
Dec 70	66.8	67.0	-	95,000	19,500	9,800
Jan 71	46.8	58.3	-	92,000	18,900	9,800
Feb	78.4	71.2	-	85,900	17,900	10,200
Mar	75.4	41.3	-	104,900	21,900	12,000
Apr	56.2	47.2	-	110,700	23,600	12,500

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ANNEX D TO
110 SIG SQN 723/1/6

TRAFFIC PRECEDENCE BREAKUP FOR APR 71

Rear Link

	In	Out	Total
Flash			
Immediate	3,759	3,348	7,107
Priority	5,491	5,453	10,944
Routine	9,124	8,128	17,252
Total	18,374	16,929	35,303
ZFX	1,010	70	1,080

In Theatre

	In	Out	Total
Flash	47	55	102
Immediate	6,318	8,136	14,454
Priority	14,091	17,207	31,298
Routine	11,539	17,979	29,518
Total	31,995	43,377	75,372
ZFX	896	48	944

Total

	In	Out	Total
Flash	47	55	102
Immediate	10,077	11,484	21,561
Priority	19,582	22,660	42,242
Routine	20,663	26,107	46,770
Total	50,369	60,306	110,675
ZFX			

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ANNEX E TO
 110 SIG SQN
 R723/1/6
 DATED * MAY 71

TELEGRAPH CIRCUIT AVAILABILITY SUMMARY

VUNG TAU

Ser No Channel		Availability	Percentage of OLC faults and alignments	Other Eqpt Faults	Bearer	Propagation
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)
1.	MELB A	56.2%	2.9	7.9		12.6 IN 20.4 OUT
2.	MELB B	47.2%	3.7	5.1		13.7 IN 30.3 OUT
3.	HQ AFV A	91.1%	4.8	4.1		
4.	HQ AFV B	91.2%	3.2	5.6		
5.	1 ATF A	93.9%	4.0	2.1		
6.	1 ATF B	93.2%	4.1	2.7		
7.	PHAN RANG	93.4%	2.2	4.4		
8.	LONG BINH	92.1%	3.9	2.9	1.1	
9.	RAAF VUNG TAU	94.0%	3.6	2.4		
10.	HQ 1 ALSG	84.0%	4.1	11.9		

MANNING

ESTABLISHMENT VARIATIONS

Note: Civilian establishment is not included.

1. Net Manpower Position

Establishment 252 Restricted by 22 Strength 217 Net - 13

2. Trade Position Surpluses are shown against deficiencies where none of the surplus skills balance none of the deficient skills.

<u>Trade deficient</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Trade surplus</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>No</u>
Clerk	Cpl	1	Vacant		
Dvr	Sig	3	Vacant		
Tech Cipher	Sig	1	Vacant		
Tech Sig	Sig	1	Vacant		
Op Swbd	Sig	3	Lmn PL	Sig	1
Tech Elec	Cpl	1	Vacant		
OKR	Sig	1	Vacant		
OKC	Sig	6	OK	Sig	4
OKC	Cpl	1	Vacant		
OK	Cpl	1	Vacant		
			Cook	Pte	1
		<u>19</u>			<u>6</u>

3. Supervisory Positions This shows the net deficiency of supervisory effort. Numbers are not related to the net strength.

<u>Rank Deficient</u>	<u>Trade</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>Filled by</u>
Ssgt	Clerk	1	WO2 Clerk
Sgt	Tech Tg	1	Ssgt Tech Tg
Sgt	OKC	1	Ssgt OKC
WO2	SCC	1	Ssgt SCC
Cpl	Mech Elec	1	Spr Mech Elec
Cpl	Tech Elec	2	Sig Tech Elec
Cpl	Tech Sig	1	Sig Tech Sig
Sig	Tech Cipher	1	Cpl Tech Cipher
Cpl	OK	1	Sig OK
Cpl	OKC	2	Sig OK

.../2

PROMOTIONS

4. a. To Lcpl OK - 2
- b. To Lcpl OKC - 1
- c. To Lcpl Tech Elec - 3
- d. To Lcpl Tech Sig - 1

RESTRICTED

ANNEX D TO
AFV (ARMY COMPONENT)
ADMIN INSTR NO 3
AMDT NO 3 DATED 22 JUN 68

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN (SPECIAL) REVISED JUN 68 as at 0800hrs WED
To reach HQ AFV (Records Det) by 1200hrs Wednesday of each week.

7 APR 71

STRENGTH

	ESTB	POSTED STR
Offrs	9	9
WOs	10	9
ORs	234	202
Total	253	220

ARA/NS BREAK UP

	ARA	NS
Offrs	9	
ORs	162	49
Total	171	49

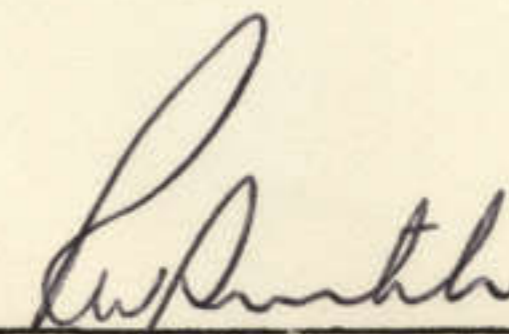
LOCATION OF POSTED STRENGTH

	With unit & physically located			Not physically with unit					Total
	Saigon	1 ATF	1 ALSG	Leave	Hosp	AWOL	Detn	Aust	
Offrs	2		7						9
WOs	2		7						9
ORs	40	8	151		3				202
Total	44	8	165		3				220

AHQ ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name
35194	Capt	FILES W.E.
43269	Ssgt	BURGESS W.T.
1201905	LCpl	BURLEY R.F.
44555	Sig	HAGGERTY R.F.
55450	Sig	EVANS H.D.
39785	Sig	DANAMER W.J.
313683	Sig	ADAMS B.L.
39630	Sig	THOMAS I.A.
219038	Sig	THOMAS F.E.

Movement details attached.


(SIGNATURE AND RANK) of
110th Signal Squadron
(APPOINTMENT)

RESTRICTED

MARCHED OUT

<u>NO</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME AND INITIALS</u>	<u>SVN P/O</u>
2791080	CPL	BOWER S.	617/71
37935	CPL	MURCOTT H.J.	635/71
38872	CPL	PEARCE A.B.	7248/70
3411715	CPL	TORMEY J.S.	636/71
217455	CPL	WEBSTER C.W.	634/71
218090	LCPL	SMITH C.S.	1628/70
215579	SIG	BUXTON J.G.	646/71
217974	SIG	DASH R.J.	629/71

MARCHED IN

1201823	CPL	LAMBERT R.W.	687/71
39384	LCPL	GOULD D.R.	495/71
218409	LCPL	STEVENS R.F.	697/71
312588	SIG	DONALDSON I.J.	702/71
2793187	SIG	HOLLEY L.R.	698/71
219940	SIG	KEILEY A.J.	7177/70
312786	SIG	PRESSWELL R.W.	966/71
313453	SIG	SODERBLOM R.J.	700/71
45022	SIG	SULLIVAN B.D.	706/71

LOCATION OF POSTED PERSONNEL

Not physically with unit				When unit is physically located			
NO	RANK	NAME	INITIALS	NO	RANK	NAME	INITIALS
2				7			
2				7			
505				121	8		
505				125	8		

ATTACHED PERSONNEL

NO	RANK	NAME	INITIALS
21701	SIG	THOMAS	T.H.
21702	SIG	SMITH	S.M.
21703	SIG	WALKER	W.A.
21704	SIG	YOUNG	Y.O.
21705	SIG	ROBERTS	R.O.
21706	SIG	EVANS	E.V.
21707	SIG	DANIELS	D.A.
21708	SIG	JONES	J.O.
21709	SIG	WILLIAMS	W.L.
21710	SIG	GREEN	G.R.

Government data is attached.

(Signature and Stamp)

(Signature and Stamp)

(Signature and Stamp)

(Signature and Stamp)

RESTRICTED

ANNEX D TO
AFV (ARMY COMPONENT)
ADMIN INSTR NO 3
AMDT NO 3 DATED 22 JUN 68

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN (SPECIAL) REVISED JUN 68 as at 0800hrs WED 14 Apr 71
To reach HQ AFV (Records Det) by 1200hrs Wednesday of each week.

STRENGTH

	ESTB	POSTED STR
Offrs	9	9
WOs	10	9
ORs	233	201
Total	252	219

ARA/NS BREAK UP

	ARA	NS
Offrs	9	
ORs	162	48
Total	171	48

LOCATION OF POSTED STRENGTH

With unit & physically located				Not physically with unit					
	Saigon	1 ATF	1 ALSG	Leave	Hosp	AWOL	Detn	Aust	Total
Offrs	3		6						9
WOs	2		7						9
ORs	37	11	149	2	2				201
Total	42	11	162	2	2				219

AHQ ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name	
43269	Ssgt	Burgess	W.T.
1201905	LCpl	Burley	R.F.
39785	Sig	Danaher	W.J.
313683	Sig	Adams	B.L.
39630	Sig	Thomas	J.A.
219038	Sig	Thomas	F.E.

Movement details attached.

Rupenth Capt
(SIGNATURE AND RANK)
Administrative Officer
110th Signal Squadron
(APPOINTMENT)

RESTRICTED

UNIT NO 3 DATED 25 JUN 58
 AMMUNITION NO 2
 1ST LIAISON COMPANY
 1ST AVIATION BATTALION
 1ST AVIATION BATTALION

MARCHED IN

<u>NO</u>	<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME & INITIALS</u>	<u>SVN P/O NO</u>
38395	Cpl	Pope G.S.	5/71
219484	Sig	McNee R.J.	1134/71
45149	Sig	Taylor M.J.	715/71

MARCHED OUT

58849	Cpl	Clare G.J.	647/71
2239579	Sig	Bowe P.G.	642/71
312934	Sig	Earl J.L.	647/71
44859	Sig	Uppington S.C.	612/71

With unit & physically located				Not physically with unit			
Total	Saloon	1 ATF	1 ALIG	Leave	Wagon	WAGL	Detn. Andst
2	2		2				
2	2		2				
203	27	17	149	2	2		
212	12	17	182	2	2		

ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name
120202	Capt	Burgess
32762	Cpl	Burley
31223	Sig	Hammer
32630	Sig	Adams
212028	Sig	Thomas
	Sig	Thomas

[Signature]
 (ADMINISTRATIVE AND RECORDS)
 1100 Signal Squadron
 (ATTACHMENT)

Movement details attached.

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX D TO
AFV (ARMY COMPONENT)
ADMIN INSTR NO 3
AMDT NO 3 DATED 22 JUN 68

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN (SPECIAL) REVISED JUN 68 as at 0800hrs WED 21 Apr 71
To reach HQ AFV (Records Det) by 1200hrs Wednesday of each week.

STRENGTH

	ESTB	POSTED STR
Offrs	9	9
WOs	10	9
ORs	233	203
Total	252	221

ARA/NS BREAK UP

	ARA	NS
Offrs	9	
ORs	164	48
Total	173	48

LOCATION OF POSTED STRENGTH

	With unit & physically located			Not physically with unit					Total
	Saigon	1 ATF	1 ALSG	Leave	Hosp	AWOL	Detn	Aust	
Offrs	2		7						9
WOs	2		7						9
ORs	38	7	154	3	1				203
Total	42	7	168	3	1				221

AHQ ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name	
43269	Ssgt	Burgess	W.T.
1201905	LCpl	Burley	R.F.
39785	Sig	Danaher	W.J.
313683	Sig	Adams	B.L.
39630	Sig	Thomas	J.A.
219038	Sig	Thomas	F.E.

Movement details attached.

[Signature]
Capt
(SIGNATURE AND RANK)
Administrative Officer
110th Signal Squadron
(APPOINTMENT)

RESTRICTED

MARCHED IN

<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Initials & Name</u>	<u>SVN P/O No.</u>
312515	Cpl	J.H. DUNN	1348/71
312975	Cpl	E.R. KELLY	688/71
312806	LCpl	J.K. BROWN	1269/71
3796611	LCpl	T.J. JAMES	1010/71
44305	LCpl	N.S. POWELL	68/71
3796383	Sig	J.G. ROSS	' !&+ 686/71
62064	Sig	M.J. PINKARD	701/71
3174952	Sig	M.T. DONOHUE	1078/71
2795012	Sig	K.S. BROWN	13330/71
48712	Sig	L.P. ALDENHOVEN	686/71
313627	Sig	N.L. OLSEN	1077/71
3799074	Sig	J.R. FRANCIS	686/71

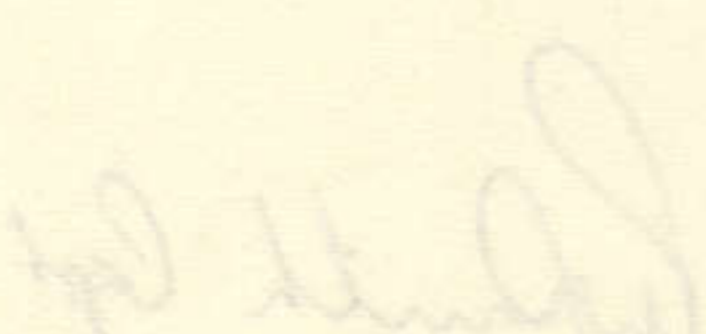
MARCHED OUT

218162	LCpl	W.J. LAWRENCE	635/71
218965	LCpl	J.C. LEDLIN	1149/71
3797075	Sig	E.T. HARVEY	618/71
4719704	Sig	T.J. HOILE	637/71
313145	Sig	N.A. STEVENSON	638/71
312766	Sig	L.M. WEBB	638/71
2141177	Sig	G.D. GIBBONS	TBA
313031	Sig	D.J. BARCLAY	640/71
1201302	Cpl	D.H. WHERRETT	-
2122404	Sig	S.N. ROBINSON	MEDEVAC

AND ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name
312515	Cpl	J.H. DUNN
312975	Cpl	E.R. KELLY
312806	LCpl	J.K. BROWN
3796611	LCpl	T.J. JAMES
44305	LCpl	N.S. POWELL
3796383	Sig	J.G. ROSS
62064	Sig	M.J. PINKARD
3174952	Sig	M.T. DONOHUE
2795012	Sig	K.S. BROWN
48712	Sig	L.P. ALDENHOVEN
313627	Sig	N.L. OLSEN
3799074	Sig	J.R. FRANCIS

Movement details attached.


 (Signature)
 Commanding Officer
 1st Battalion
 The Australian Army
 (Signature)

RESTRICTED

ANNEX D TO
AFV (ARMY COMPONENT)
ADMIN INSTR NO 3
AMDT NO 3 DATED 22 JUN 68

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

WEEKLY STRENGTH RETURN (SPECIAL) REVISED JUN 68 as at 0800hrs WED 28 Apr 71
To reach HQ AFV (Records Det) by 1200hrs Wednesday of each week.

STRENGTH

	ESTB	POSTED STR
Offrs	9	9
WOs	10	9
ORs	233	202
Total	252	220

ARA/NS BREAK UP

	ARA	NS
Offrs	9	
ORs	165	46
Total	174	46

LOCATION OF POSTED STRENGTH

With unit & physically located				Not physically with unit					
	Saigon	1 ATF	1 ALSG	Leave	Hosp	AWOL	Detn	Aust	Total
Offrs	2		7						9
WOs	2		7						9
ORs	38	7	150	4	3				202
Total	42	7	164	4	3				220

AHQ ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Name

Movement details attached.

[Signature] Capt
Administrative Officer
(SIGNATURE AND RANK)
110th Signal Squadron

(APPOINTMENT)

RESTRICTED

MARCHED IN

<u>No</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Name & Initials</u>	<u>SVN P/O No.</u>
423574	Cpl	WILKINSON A.J.	7187/71
1201898	LCpl	BATTIS G.W.	1126/71

/ MARCHED OUT

58858	Cpl	HODGSON G.R.	646/71
218098	LCpl	DWYER R.G.	679/71
55198	Sig	FINNEGAN T.J.	645/71

		POSTED STRENGTH			
	Office	2	2		Office
	WOP	2	2		WOP
	ORA	205	205		ORA
	Total	209	209		Total

LOCATION OR POSTED STRENGTH

Not physically with unit				With unit & physically located			
Total	Aust	Data	AWOL	Leave	Hong	ATA	ATA
2						2	2
2						2	2
205				4	3	190	197
209				4	3	194	197

AND ATTACHMENTS

No	Rank	Time

Movement details attached.

(SIGNATURE AND RANK)

(ATTACHMENTS)

REGISTERED

RESTRICTED

ANNEX A TO
SECTION 2 TO
CHAPTER 2

RATIONED NOT QUARTED UNITS
OUT OF SAIGON AREA

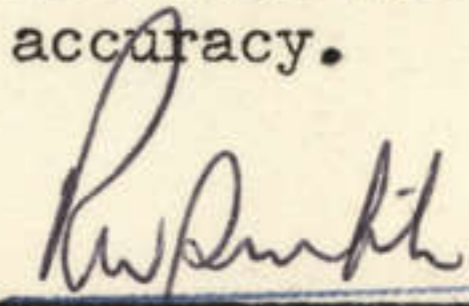
HQ AFV (For Financial Adviser)

UNIT: 110 Sig Sqn

Strength report for the month of: APRIL

1. Unit Average Strength (See Note 1)
Offrs: 6.73 ORs (include WOs): 166.57
2. In country R and C Average Strength: (See note 2)
Offrs: _____ ORs (Include WOs): _____
3. Australian Combat Rations (See note 3)
Total number consumed: _____

I certify that I have checked this return and its accuracy.



(Responsible Officer)
110th Signal Squadron

Notes for compilation of return

- Note 1:
- a. With the exception of the return rendered by HQ 26 Coy RAASC only Aust personnel are to be included.
 - b. HQ 26 Coy RAASC is to show separately members of the concessionaire's staff as well as Aust personnel.
 - c. The method of calculating average strength of the unit is to count the P,D,H,S (and R when the member is in unit lines for the period of rest) marking in Company Roll Books. Daily Parade State figures are not to be used.
 - d. Add: Aust Philanthropic Representative.
Aust overnight Attachment/Transients.
Aust day leave/Duty Saigon.
 - e. Exclude: Anyone who is not Aust(HQ 26 Coy RAASC excepted).

Out of Country R and R.
In Country R and C.
Hospitalization Butterworth or RTA.
AWOL Personnel.
Overnight Detachments.

.....f.

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f. AFV Amenities and Welfare Unit, 1 Aust Fd Hosp, 8 Fd Amb, AFV Provost (in respect of the AFV Detention Barracks) are to show Aust staff only.

Note 2: For use by AFV Amenities and Welfare Unit only; to show monthly strength of members present for rest and convalescence.

Note 3: The total number of Australian Combat Rations consumed; eg. 20 personnel consumed Australian Combat Rations over a period of 3 days. Return should read: - 60.

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FOLIO	
DATE	MA 77
LOC	
85	

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ACT	INFO	INT
X		
AS OFFR		APPENDIX 6 TO Annex J
ADJUTANT OFFR		
CM	ANNEX B TO	
SYS SEC	SECTION 2 TO	
OP TP	CHAPTER 2	
AREA TP		
DEP TP		
SGN DET		

QUARTERED NOT RATIONED UNITS IN SAIGON AREA

HQ AFV (For Financial Adviser)

UNIT: DET 110 SIG SQN SAIGON

Strength Report For the Month of APRIL 1971

1. Unit Average Strength (See Note 1)
 - Officers.....2.26..... WOs.....1.80..... ORs (Less WOs).....36.70
2. Hospitalized (See Note 2)
 - Total Bed Days:
 - Officers..... WOs..... ORs (Less WOs).....16.....
3. Australian Combat Rations (See Note 3)
 - Total Number Consumed.....

I certify that I have checked this return and its accuracy

.....
(Signature)
 (Responsible Officer)

Notes For Compilation of Return

- Note 1.
- a. Only Aust Personnel are to be included.
 - b. The method of calculating average strength of the unit is to count the P, D, H, S (and when the member is in the equivalent of unit lines for the period of rest) markings in Company Roll Books. Daily Parade State figures are NOT to be used.
 - c. Add: Aust Philanthropic Representatives accommodated in a BOQ/BEQ.
 Aust overnight Attachments/Transients accommodated in a BOQ/BEQ
 Day leave=Duty out of SAIGON
 - d. Exclude: Anyone who is not Aust, Out of country R and R, Hospitalized Butterworth or RTA, AWOL personnel, overnight Detachments.
 - e. AATTV: Show strengths by HQ AATTV, AATTV on special duty and other AATTV.

Note 2 Show only bed days per Offr, WO, OR (Less WOs) of members hospitalized in US hospitals.

eg. 2 OR in hospital for 5 days
 1 OR in hospital for 7 days
 1 Offr in hospital for 8 days

Return should read: Offrs 8 bed days - OR 17 bed days

Note 3 The total number of Australian Combat Rations consumed on a daily basis, eg 20 personnel consumed Australian Combat Rations over a period of 3 days - Return should read: 60

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RESTRICTED110 SIG SQN
VUNG TAU

12 Apr 71

R723/1/9

1 ALSG (8)

TRAINING INFORMATION : 110 SIG SQN

- Reference:
- A. AFV R723/1/12 dated 28 Sep 69
 - B. 110 Sig Sqn R723/1/9 dated 4 May 70
 - C. 110 Sig Sqn R723/1/9 dated 16 Dec 70

REPORTS GENERALPrevious Reports

1. References B and C are previous training reports, and outline a number of shortcomings in the training of tradesman prior to their arrival and subsequent employment at 110 Sig Sqn in the Republic of South Vietnam. These shortcomings stand, and this paper supports the references.

Monthly Reports

2. Comprehensive reports outlining all activities for the month including statistics, are submitted to HQ 1 ALSG, HQ AFV, AHQ (D Sigs), School of Signals, 1 Sig Regt, 2 Sig Regt and 6 Sig Regt monthly. These reports contain a wealth of information and are a regimental, social, administrative and technical history of the unit. It would be foolish to study trends in unit activities without studying these.

Liaison Visits

3. The following officers have made visits to the unit in the last six months period, and all training problems have been discussed exhaustively:

- a. Rep DMT (Maj Tedder) 1 Dec 70
- b. CI School of Sigs (Lt Col Hook) 28-29 Mar 71
- c. CSO AFV (Lt Col Mapson) every 2 - 3 weeks

SHORTCOMINGS IN TRADE TRAININGGeneral

4. In view of paras 1 - 3 (above), trade training will be discussed in note form under these headings:

- a. Operating Trades
- b. Technical Trades.
- c. Other Trades

Operating Trades

5. Operator Keyboard
- a. Generally of poor calibre - at least in comparison with technicians.

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- b. The standard of keyboard operating is poor.
- c. They have little inclination to:
 - (1) Be neat
 - (2) Write legibly
 - (3) Be accurate
 - (4) Be fast
- d. Operators should see the 6 Sig Regt automatic relay station (STRAD) as part of OK training at the School of Signals to get the impression that it is a highly complex installation and highly sensitive to procedural errors.

6. Operator Keyboard and Radio

- a. This trade is an enigma. Most operators have either morse or keyboard ability, but seldom are they skilled with both.
- b. Morse and voice procedures are poor.
- c. Morse sending is poor.
- d. Operators have little knowledge of field antennae.
- e. Remarks for OK also apply.

7. Operator Keyboard and Cipher

- a. Remarks for OK apply.
- b. The unit is always short of OKCs, sometimes to the point of embarrassment.
- c. More stress should be placed on physical security, and cipher accounting during training at the School of Sigs.

8. Operator Switchboard There are no problem with this trade except that operators should be indoctrinated with the philosophy that the subscriber is always right, and that the operator's efficiency will be taken as representative of the efficiency of the unit.

Technical Trades

9. Technican Electronic

- a. Generally of good calibre.
- b. Generally well trained, but lacking experience "on the job".
- c. Could have more experience on AN/GRC - 106 sets. The unit has to sponsor a percentage of technicians through AN/GRC - 106 maintenance courses at 1 (VS) Sig Bde Training Centre at Long Binh.
- d. Could receive further training in wiring of frames, and system controlling, although it is conceded that a basic course can teach just so much.

10. Technician Cipher Should have more training in "off line" equipments.

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11. Technician Telegraph . No formal instruction is given on telegraph console equipments. The squadron has had to give absorption training on console equipments to all junior technicians joining the unit.

12. Lineman Permanent Line . Lineman arrive in theatre knowing very little of cable - splicing. This is overcome by on - the - job training, and attendance at a Cable-splicing Course at 1 (US) Sig Bde Training Centre at Long Binh.

Other Trades

13. Dispatch Rider . Normally drivers, and not dispatch riders are posted to DR vacancies on the unit establishment, and have to receive absorption training. It is important that a number of drivers be trained and employed as DRs since most will encounter this type of posting at some time in RA Sigs. Again it is important they be indoctrinated to be aware of:

- a. The need for speed, security, courtesy, endurance, common sense, observation etc.
- b. The fact that people will judge the unit and RA Sigs on their performance of duties as they drive, and deliver dispatches around military areas.
- c. The need for method, neatness and accuracy in registering and accounting for dispatches.

14. Drivers . Drivers must be fully trained in recovery and winching duties.

15. Storeman . Could be more exhaustively trained in:

- a. Sub-accounting
- b. CES accounting

Regimental Training

16. It is a sad fact that most NCOs in RA Sigs are weak regimentally, that is in:

- a. Drill
- b. Weapon Training
- c. Manmanagement
- d. Leadership
- e. Personnel Administration
- f. Q Administration

17. Only a certain amount of regimental training can be tackled in this theatre. It behoves all unit commanders on the Australian Mainland to raise the standard gradually, and make NCOs both senior and junior, accept more responsibility.

Overall Comment on Calibre of Tradesman

18. It appears that most high quality students are streamed to become Technicians Electronic. It would be to RA Sigs' advantage to allocate some high potential students to other trades to produce the high grade Chief Clerks, Sergeant Majors, Spvrs Comcen and Spvrs Tech Tels of the future.

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TRAINING IN 110 SIG SQN

Unit Lectures

19. Unit lectures are conducted every second Monday night 1900 - 2000 hrs. Since Nov 30th 70, lecture topics have been:
- a. Vietnam - its land, Peoples and Cultures.
 - b. Administrative Pot Pouri.
 - c. Morals and the Soldier.
 - d. The Military Policeman and the Soldier.
 - e. Military Hygiene
 - f. Venereal Disease
 - g. Weapon Safety.
 - h. The Use of Air in Vietnam.
 - i. Drugs and their Effect on the Human Body.
 - j. Communications Security
 - k. Communications provided by 110 Sig Sqn.
 - l. First aid, Treatment for Electric Shock and Snake Bite.
 - m. The current Military Situation in South Vietnam and in particular Phuc Tuy Province.

Subject A

20. Forty eight students are put through Subject A Courses for promotion to Cpl and Sgt twice per year. The unit offers vacancies to other units wherever possible.

21. It has been found, that besides assisting soldiers gain their promotion qualifications, Subject A Courses raise the standard of drill, saluting, bearing etc in the unit to a marked degree.

Subject B

22. The unit grants Subject B for Cpl to deserving soldiers and junior NCOs in terms of ARO 39/70.

23. Very few Cpls are granted the qualification for Sgt.

24. The unit does not believe in granting the qualification for Warrant Rank.

Subject C

25. The squadron conducts two Subject C Courses for promotion to Cpl and Sgt twice per year.

26. HQ 1 ALSG offers vacancies on Subject C for Warrant Rank Courses from time to time.

Technical Training

27. There is a constant requirement to train System Control Officers. The squadron employs six SCOs in Saigon, six in Vung Tau and three in Nui Dat. Because of the rapid turnover in personnel, on-the-job SCO training is continuing all the time, supplemented by periodic formal lectures after normal working hours; normally twelve one hour lectures per course.

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Other Training

28. Range Practices . All members fire as many weapons as possible on the 25 metre range once per month.
29. Grenade Practices . All members throw two grenades per quarter.
30. Endurance Runs . All members under the age of 40 years run 1½ miles in boots before reveille each week. This is done on a troop basis to instil discipline and teamwork as well.
31. Practice Defence Alerts . A practice alert is conducted at random intervals, usually once each 4 - 6 weeks.
32. Fire Practices . Practices are conducted approximately once per month.
33. Patrolling . The unit is rostered for an overnight standing patrol each week. In addition the squadron conducts a weekly wire patrol during the day to:
- a. Check the perimeter wire.
 - b. Check the undergrowth around the perimeter for signs of occupation/use.

34. Sport

- a. The unit believes in sport, and fields area teams for:
 - (1) Australian Rules (runners up 1971)
 - (2) Soccer (doing well)
 - (3) Rugby Union (playing weekly social matches in readiness for the season commencing July)
 - (4) Tennis
 - (5) Volleyball
 - (6) Swimming (runners up at the Feb carnival and current holders of the team and individual time trials).
- b. A squadron volleyball competition is in progress continually.
- c. Troop Commanders are encouraged to stand soldiers down when they can, for troop volleyball, swimming, beach football etc.

Morale

35. Morale is extremely important in this environment. Lethargy and the tropics do NOT mix, and the effects of frustration, laziness, drink, VD, AWOL can soon pull the efficiency of a unit down.
36. The answer is to introduce a **vigorous** programme of sport, recreational sport, socials, lectures, courses etc.

LESSONS LEARNT IN 110 SIG SQN

37. No training information would be complete without a resume of lessons learnt in this theatre. A number of these have been set out before and amplified at some length, however they are set out again below in brief.

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38. Standard of Equipment Used . All equipment must be reasonably new, in good working order, carry adequate spare parts. The old EMU switchboard was manufactured about 1941, and although it did a reasonable job in the opening stages, it caused a great deal of worry and unnecessary work, and caused our Corps image to suffer.
39. AN/GRC 106 Radio Sets . These require plenty of spare modules. The squadron has had an "arrangement" with US Sig Corps for the exchange of faulty modules. The normal resupply simply could not cope with the demand. Additionally, it was necessary to sponsor Tech Elecs through "AN/GRC 106 Maintenance Courses" at Long Binh to maintain our repair capability.
40. Automatic Telephony . The Australian Army should plan for Automatic Telephony in L of C/Base areas in the future. RA Sigs has come in for a great deal of (polite) criticism over its manual switchboards. Presently this unit interfaces with US automatic systems, and suffers by comparison. This is perhaps the one serious criticism levelled at us in this theatre.
41. 75 Band Telegraph Equipment . Telegraph equipment should be capable of working at 75 bauds. The squadron has had to "acquire" suitable equipment to do this, but unfortunately some channels (includes both channels to HQ 1 ATF) are still working 50 bauds. L of C circuits and rear links to the Australian Support Area MUST work at 75 bauds. Indeed faster speeds than this should be planned in the near future. US colleagues could not believe that we still operate at 50 ba ds.
42. Airconditioning . All equipment rooms and workshops must be sealed to create a dust and moisture proof environment, and be airconditioned. Cipher equipment sensitive to high temperatures has malfunctioned during periods when airconditioning plant was under repair, and in the dry season dust (and particularly sand in Vung Tau) invades everywhere. AN/MRC 69 shelters should really be airconditioned. It has been a constant battle to keep temperatures down in shelters.
43. Rear Link Antennae . So far Vertical Log Periodic and Horizontal Log Periodic Antennae have been found to be no substitute for the well constructed Rhombic antennae on the rear link.
44. Rear Link Transmitter Station . The rear link transmitter station can be a decided liability if sited well away from the receivers, and particularly if it incorporates rhombic arrays. It will normally be difficult to defend, and demand more real estate than the local commander will care to allow. It will be most likely be a hazard to aircraft, and a hazard to certain types of fused ammunition. It must be sited most carefully and with the full sanction of the local and theatre commanders. VLPAs and HPLAs save real estate, but may not be as efficient as rhombic antennae.
45. Comsec Monitoring . If RA Sigs is to carry out monitoring duties professionally, the operators must be given appropriate equipment, and be trained for these specialist duties in Australia.
46. Rear Link Facilities . A rear link transmitter operating from a SE Asian theatre to the ASA with an output of 3-5 kw is barely adequate. Future planning should investigate one or a combination of the following:
- a. More radiated power
 - b. A shorter hop to Singapore, Malaysia or Darwin
 - c. Satellite communications
 - d. Rental of submarine cable channels.

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47. Australia Call Home Telephone Telephone calls to Australia were offered to serviceman for the first time ever in this theatre. In future the facility will be expected. Providing the expense could be justified, this facility could be offered to soldiers from most SEATO countries, and could be combined with a common - user trunk to Australia for use by senior staff officers and commanders provided:
- a. We rented the channel exclusively.
 - b. Speech security equipments were available for official calls.
48. Senior Tradesman A composite squadron such as this embracing SDS, ADS, Comcen, MRS, Cipher offices, System Control, Transmitters, Receivers, Workshops, Generators, HF Radio etc, brings out weaknesses in the training and posting system when senior operators who have spent years in Comcens and Cipher Offices have to run shifts in the MRS, and senior technicians who have spent years on transmitters and Receivers have to work with System Control and on Cipher projects.
49. Teamwork It has been proven over and over again that no ONE person should be allowed to do too much work at one time, or on his own. Work and planning and coping with emergencies must be tackled by a team so that no person becomes indispensable. The unit has had its share of prima donnas who insist on doing everything themselves, then leave a vacuum of knowledge when they eventually retire to bed, or leave the unit.
50. Drawings, Records and Diagrams The importance of station drawings and records cannot be overstressed. Documentation MUST be kept up to date so that current and correct information is available to those in need of it.
51. SOs and SOPs Well written, all embracing SOs and SOPs are essential. Instructions cannot be spread by word of mouth. Sooner or later such a system will break down.
52. Project Work Generally it is not a good policy to allow Signal units to tackle too much project work. The unit soon becomes enmeshed with projects to the detriment of hour by hour communications, training and technical maintenance.
53. Preventative Maintenance Preventative maintenance is absolutely necessary. A philosophy did develop that no equipment should be touched until a fault developed. This has been proven wrong. Preventative maintenance will save circuit outage time and should become a principle of signalling.
54. Indoctrination of Communications Personnel All ranks must be given ideals to strive for, and be reminded of the important jobs they are doing. It is very easy to lose touch with reality in Comcens and Relay Stations that handle 400 flash and 20,000 immediate messages per month (March 1971)
55. Message Precedence There is a tendency for originators to use a high precedence on signals. It is difficult to observe the conventions in handling high precedence traffic when so many signals are priority or above. To illustrate this, the traffic precedence breakup in the MRS Vung Tau for Mar 71 was:

a.	Flash	420	
b.	Immediate	20,312	
c.	Priority	36,761	
d.	Routine	47,376	
		<u>104,869</u>	Total

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56. Shift Rosters There is always a lot of discussion in RA Sigs units about shift timings. These comments may be of interest:
- a. A four shift system should always be planned rather than a three shift system. The latter allows no "fat" in the establishment to cater for project work, relief operators and technicians, day shift increments, checking staff etc.
 - b. Some soldiers will press for long night shifts to give them added time off during the day. No man should work longer than about 9 hours on the one shift.
 - c. A roster has just been evolved in this squadron which allows:
 - (1) Three shifts in any 24 hours
 - (2) Adequate time off duty
 - (3) Time for picquet duties and work parties.
 - (4) Soldiers to predict when they will be at work, off duty, sleeping, on picquet or on work parties.
 - (5) The DSO in the MRS to contact other operators on the same shift times in the Comcen, HF House and the switchboard.
 - (6) The Senior System Controller to contact other technicians on the same shift times in the workshops, generator sheds and Transmitter Station.
57. Shift Accommodation Shift workers require quiet and cool quarters for sleeping during the hot and busy day.
58. CSO's Pool A trunk signal unit should carry a small reserve of signal stores for special tasks. Whether we like it or not, most members of the staff and unit officers expect 110 Sig Sqn to be able to assist with equipment as well as advice. The pool should include:
- a. Field VHF sets
 - b. Field HF sets
 - c. Field telephones, switchboards and cable.
 - d. Quantities of STAA Pam 7 (Radiotelephone procedure)
 - e. Spare batteries for the above equipment.
 - f. Special type field antennae; eg:
 - (1) RC - 292
 - (2) Yagi and Log periodic VHF antennae
 - (3) "Astromart" type masts.
59. Office Intercommunication Sets The Vietnam war has introduced the office intercomm set to the Australian Army in the field. 110 Sig Sqn has installed and maintained many of the "Telecall" type sets. They are here to stay, at least in base areas.
60. Field Automatic Tape Relay Stations Automatic tape relay facilities should be considered for field use, or at least for the theatre major relay station to:
- a. Save manpower.
 - b. Increase efficiency.
 - c. Develop modern techniques.

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61. Permanent Line Duties Linemen are fully employed as Lineman PL in this squadron. It appears that this is one of the few postings in RA Sigs where the trade duties are actually performed. There is a danger that expertise in this field will be lost if and when troops are withdrawn from Vietnam.
62. HPLA Rigging Few riggers except those who are posted to 127 Sig Sqn know how to handle the intricacies of the HPLA.
63. RA Sigs Training General RA Sigs tradesman are also soldiers who have to be trained for war in aspects other than their trade duties. There are too many soldiers who are poor soldiers as well as poor tradesman. This is our fault not their's.
64. US Supply System The US System is NOT infallible. The squadron waited five frustrating months for the delivery of an AN/MTC-1 Switchboard, and is still waiting for maintenance spares.
65. Co-operation with 6 Sig Regt Absolute co-operation with 6 Sig Regt on the Rear Link is imperative. For this reason all operators who are posted to 110 Sig Sqn should have served in, or at least visited 6 Sig Regt, and all senior operators, technicians and officers should be given a short attachment to 6 Sig Regt to meet their counterparts and discuss problem areas.

CONCLUSION

66. It is very easy to criticize. The above is in no way intended to criticize a relatively small technical corps in a relatively small army handicapped with financial restrictions and a problem with short-term and long-term training of many types of tradesman. Rather, it is an attempt to highlight a number of problem areas in the hope that something can be done about some of them, or that other units may profit from the information.



(D.R. OVERSTEAD)
Maj
OC

Copies to:

CSO (2)
Float
Comd's Diary
File