

Series: AWM95
Australian Army commanders' diaries
[Vietnam]

Signals units

Item number: 6/4/8

Item: 145 Signal Squadron

Narrative

Annexes

[1-30 Sep 1966]

COVERING LETTER

Reference No. 117:3:2(13)

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)

Maj

Appointment

OC 145 Sig Sqn

(OC Unit or senior staff officer)

SECRET

ORIGINAL
DUPLICATE

Strike out where
not applicable

COMMANDERS DIARY

OF

Unit or Formation

145 Sig Sqn

From

1 Sep 66

To

30 Sep 66

INDEX

Narrative (AF C 2118)

ANNEXES

- * A Duty officer's log
- * 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

- to
- to
- to
- 1 to 2
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- 3 to
- to
- to
- to
- to
- to

† NIL
† ~~Despatched to~~
† ~~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, they are to be included in the group of annexes starting at B.

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

MENTS

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

l orders given.

ie day's fighting, including company movements.

mander with regard to equipment, tactics, organization

tential importance.

o officers, men and equipment.

pment 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.

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

(continued on back cover)

COMMA DISPOSAL DIARIES

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.

COMPILATION

6. Both original and duplicate copies are to consist of:

- Cover (AF C 2119) (Adapted).
- Index as printed on cover.
- Narrative (AF C 2118) (Adapted).
- 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, they are to be included.

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

INDEX

as well as map references), establishment, equipment

1. units and

is day's working including company movements.

number also regard to equipment, tactics, organization

essential importance.

3 officers, men and equipment.

ment captured.

employed in the line are reported for. The type of

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

the annexes, but need not give a précis of any of them.

(continued on back cover)

SECRET

Annex "D"
Enclosure. 1.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

VIETNAM

Headquarters
Australian Force Vietnam

R193:1:11

13 Oct 66

D Sigs (2)

COMMS REPORT - SEP 66

Point to Point Circuits

1. Circuit Data Summaries. Annexes A to E.
2. Outline Comms Diagram. Annex F.
3. Rear Link.
 - a. Circuit subject to higher levels of QRM and QRN than normally experienced.
 - b. Antenna construction at the receiver site, particularly a new satellite communications terminal, necessitates a relocation of receive antennae.
 - c. Keying lines still subject to frequent accidental damage.
 - d. Tests using AN/PRC-25 as keying circuit bearer for 1851D eqpt for SSB operation and TH-5T/G for FSK operation successful and installation commenced. (Schematic at Annex G).
4. Alternate Rear Link. Tests commenced with MELBOURNE 27 Sep 66 and will continue in three phases:
 - a. Phase 1 - Unclass RTT and CW from TRC-75 site VUNG TAU and Tx/Rx site MELBOURNE;
 - b. Phase 2 - Unclass RTT from MSC-29 VUNG TAU and SCO WATSONIA;
 - c. Phase 3 - Classified RTT tests .A detailed report, including a description of local eqpt and antenna arrangements, will be provided on completion of the tests.
5. BASUPFLT VUNG TAU - RAAF BUTTERWORTH.
 - a. A HF link operating voice/morse has been installed by RAAF between Base Support Flight, VUNG TAU and RAAF HQ, BUTTERWORTH, MALAYA. The link is used to pass messages on aircraft movement timings and late advice on manifests, etc..
 - b. In theatre RAAF comms remain satisfactory.

/6.

Radio Relay

SECRET

SECRET

- 2 -

6. Radio Relay. NO change.

Area Comms

7. SAIGON.

a. Graph of traffic handled by combined major relay station and sigcen HQ AFV is at Annex H.

b. Extensive relocation of HQ AFV DEER switchboard telephone extensions has been necessary as a result of accommodation changes.

8. VUNG TAU. NO change. Tfc summary at Annex I.

9. NUI DAT. See OC 103 Sig Sqn's DO at Annex J.

Tactical Comms

10. See Annex J.

Eqpt


11. Testing of TT-76 eqpt at 75 baud speed continues.

12. Fault rates remain high on AN/TRC-75, AN/PRC-47, R5223, Bucknell generator and crypto equipment.

13. A recommendation will be submitted through staff channels for the replacement of the AN/TRC-75 by the AN/GRC-106 in 552 Sig Tp (see Annex K).

Training

14. 48599 LCpl I.J. FLETCHER of 103 Sig Sqn attended an "AN/GRC-106 Operational Through General Support Maintenance Course" conducted from 9-22 Sep 66 by U.S. Army Headquarters 1st Logistical Command. The member qualified, coming seventh out of a total of twenty students.


(J.H. BIRD)
Maj
SO Sigs HQ AFV

Copy to: 145 Sig Sqn

SECRET

Ans Ad Hdr
193-1-1107
13 Oct 66

RESTRICTED

MONTHLY CIRCUIT DATA SUMMARY

1. Circuit

SAIGON - MELBOURNE

2. Period

1 - 30 Sep 66

3. Schedule

CONTINUOUS

4. Detail of Circuit

Classified; duplex; RTT, HF SSB

5. Percentage Schedule Available to Traffic

SAIGON - MELBOURNE 17.2 hrs = 71.6%

6. Total Messages In and Out
MELBOURNE - SAIGON 18.01 hrs = 75%

8681

7. Traffic Breakout By

a. Precedence :

Flash	4	0.4%
Immediate	1047	12.0%
Priority	3103	35.6%
Routine	4527	52.0%

b. Classification :

Top Secret	
Secret	
Confidential	NOT AVAL
Restricted	
Unclassified	

8. Miscellaneous Comments

RESTRICTED

2. Expenditure

3. *Strophila*

40 The 1911-12 Census

Documents Relating to the Affairs of the United States

Hospital Inpatient Services

1910

Planch		
Thread in m	108	4.6%
Poland by	746	31.7%
Reutim	1496	63.7%

Top Secret
Secret
Confidential
Restricted
Unclassified

RESTRICTED

RESTRICTED

Ans Cdo HQ AFV
193-1-112)
13 Oct 66

MONTHLY CIRCUIT DATA SUMMARY

1. Circuit

2. SAIGON - VUNG TAU (1 ALSO)

3. 1 - 30 Sep 66

4. CONTINUOUS Circuit

5. Duplex; TTY; Classified; US/AUST learner cots.

6. 91.2% (21.9 hrs) OUT

7. 4615 is Breakout By

a. Precedence :

Flash

Immediate

Priority

249 5.4%

Routine

2013 43.6%

b. Classification :

Top Secret

2353 51.0%

Secret

Confidential

Restricted

NOT AVAL

Unclassified

8. Miscellaneous Comments

RESTRICTED

ANNEX 'D' TO
HQ AFV R193:1:11
DATED OCT 66

MONTHLY CIRCUIT DATA SUMMARY

1. Circuit
1 ALSG - RAAF COMCEN VUNG TAU
2. Period
1 - 30 Sep 66
3. Schedule
Continuous
4. Detail of Circuit
Classified; Simplex; TG; Land Line.
5. Percentage Schedule Available to Traffic
92%
6. Total Messages IN and OUT
1215
7. Traffic Breakout By

a.	<u>Precedence</u> :	Flash	
		Immediate	5.3%
		Priority	38.1%
		Routine	56.6%
b.	<u>Classification</u> :	Top Secret	
		Secret	
		Confidential	NOT aval
		Restricted	
		Unclassified	

8. Miscellaneous Comments

RESTRICTED

ANNEX 'E' TO
HQ AFV R193:1:11
DATED OCT 66

MONTHLY CIRCUIT DATA SUMMARY

1. Circuit
1 ALS G - 1 ZTF
2. Period
1 - 30 Sep 66
3. Schedule
Continuous
4. Detail of Circuit
Classified; Simplex, TG; AUST/US bearer ccts.
5. Percentage Schedule Available to Traffic
88%
6. Total Messages IN and OUT
840
7. Traffic Breakout By
 - a. Precedence :

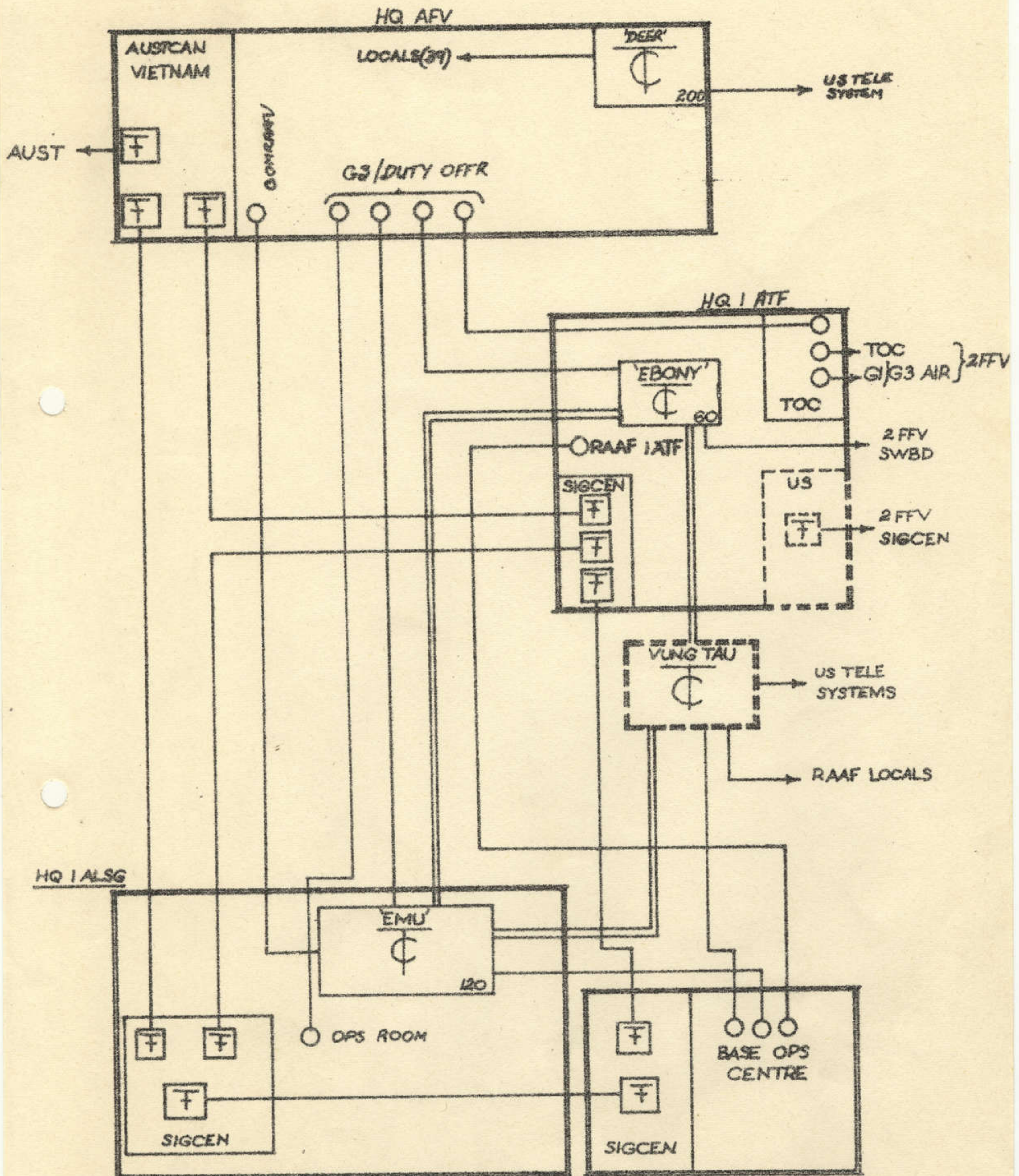
Flash	
Immediate	11.5%
Priority	44.2%
Routine	44.3%
 - b. Classification :

Top Secret	
Secret	
Confidential	NOT aval
Restricted	
Unclassified	
8. Miscellaneous Comments

RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

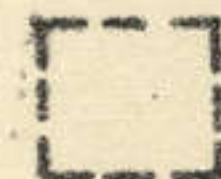
OUTLINE COMMS FACILITIES
CORRECT TO 10 SEPT 66



LEGEND



TELEPRINTER



US FACILITY



TELEPHONE SWBD



TELEPHONE

CONFIDENTIAL

RESTRICTED

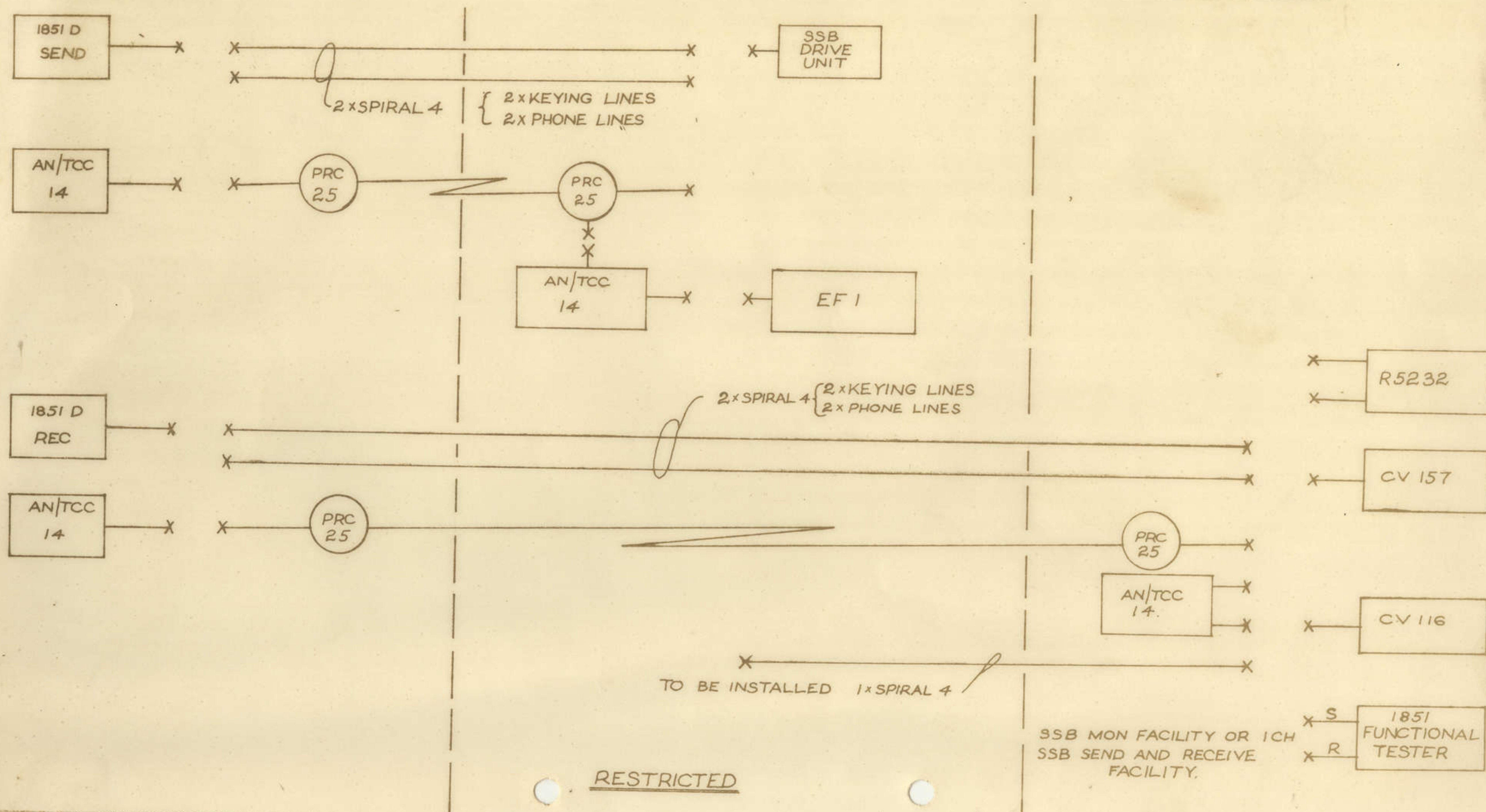
Annex G
to HQ AFV
R193-1-11
of Oct 66

SCHEMATIC OF REMOTE CONTROL FACILITIES - AUSTCAN VIETNAM.

MAJOR RELAY STATION

TRANSMITTER SITE

RECEIVER SITE

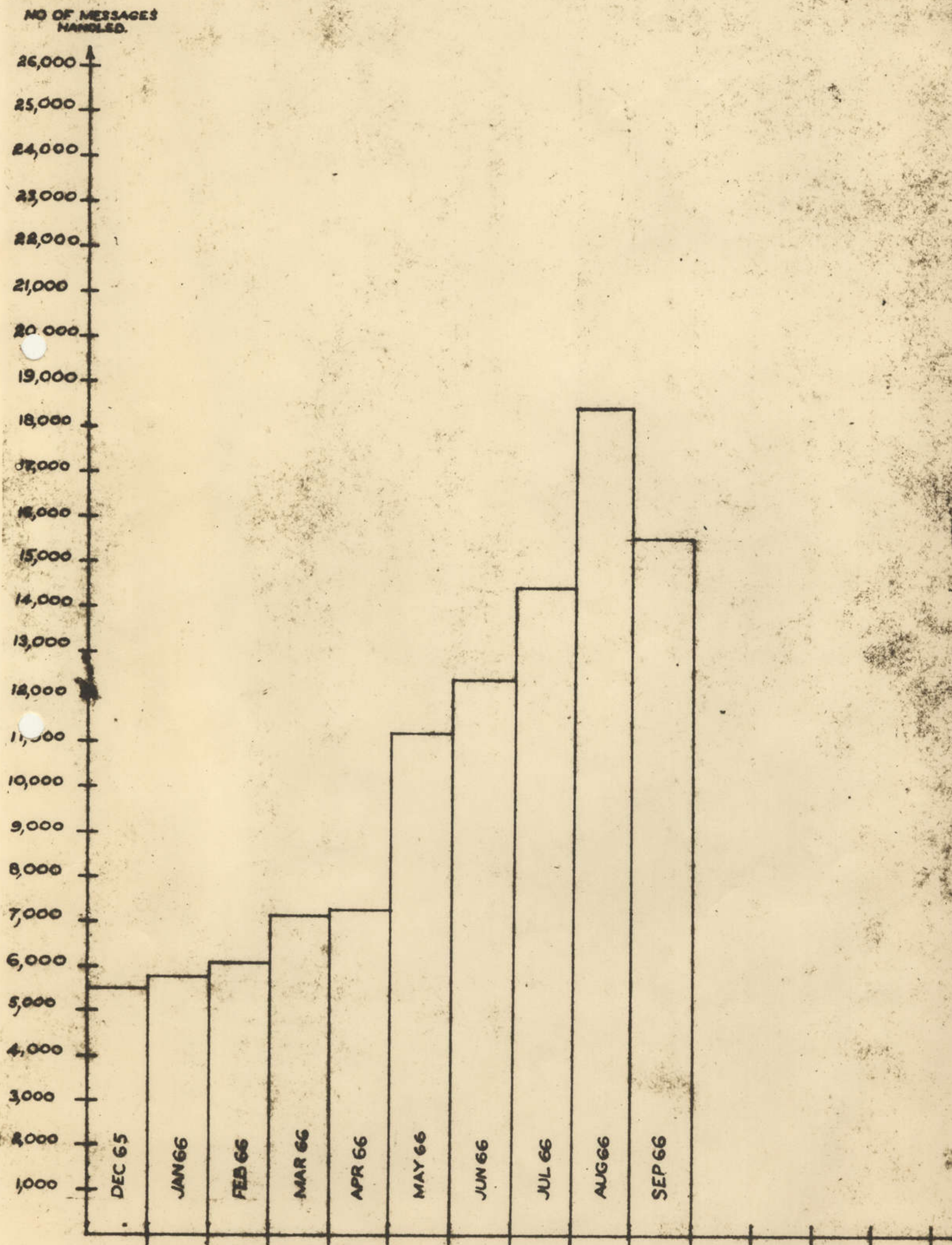


RESTRICTED

CONFIDENTIAL

*Arrived HQ AFV
193-110/13 Oct
66.*

TRAFFIC VOLUME HQ AFV COMCEN



NOTE: Compiled as total of IN and OUT messages by actual message count.

CONFIDENTIAL

TRAFFIC SUMMARY - 581 SIG TP

1 : MINOR RELAY STATION VUNG TAU

CIRCUIT	PRECEDENCE	IN	OUT	TOTAL	%
A. TASK FORCE	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	69	28	97	11.5
	PRIORITY	219	152	371	44.2
	ROUTINE	168	204	372	44.3
	TOTAL	456	384	840	
B. SAIGON	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	123	77	200	4.6
	PRIORITY	837	948	1785	41.2
	ROUTINE	1277	1067	2344	54.2
	TOTAL	2237	2092	4329	
C. RAAF	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	13	52	65	5.3
	PRIORITY	225	237	462	38.1
	ROUTINE	368	320	688	56.6
	TOTAL	606	609	1215	
D. ALSG SIGCEN	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	113	69	182	5.8
	PRIORITY	688	547	1235	38.8
	ROUTINE	984	757	1741	55.4
	TOTAL	1785	1373	3158	
666					
E. TOTAL	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	318	226	544	5.7
	PRIORITY	1969	1884	3853	40.3
	ROUTINE	2597	2348	5145	54.0
	TOTAL	1373	1785	3158	
F. SIGCEN ALSG	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	69	113	182	5.8
	PRIORITY	547	688	1235	38.8
	ROUTINE	757	984	1741	55.4
	TOTAL	1373	1785	3158	
<u>2 : TOTAL 581 SIG TP</u>					
	FLASH	NIL	NIL	NIL	.
	IMMEDIATE	387	339	726	5.7
	PRIORITY	2516	2572	5088	40.1
	ROUTINE	3554	3352	6886	54.2
	TOTAL	6457	6213	12700	

Av msg/day handled by Tp - 423

ANNEX J

NOT ATTACHED

K

REPORT ON RELIABILITY OF
MEDIUM RADIO STATION - AN/TRC-75

Introduction

1. AN/TRC-75 medium radio stations are used by 552 Sig Tp (Medium Radio) to provide voice and telegraph circuits between HQ AFV, 1 ATF and 1 ALSG and for CW communications with LSMs in the theatre. It is also available for communications to HQ and elements of 1 ATF when the distances over which they are deployed requires medium power HF circuits.

2. These stations have proved so unreliable that it is considered essential they be replaced with alternative equipment.

Reliability of Eqpt

3. The station comprises the AN/TRC-75 vehicle installation and the 400 cycles per second BUCKNELL generator which provides its power.

4. AN/TRC-75. A total of 51 faults have occurred in a period of 4 months while working 4 detachments. Approximately two thirds of these faults involve evacuation of the complete equipment or a major sub-assembly to workshops; the remaining faults could be repaired on site by the technician in the detachment. On the average, a set will develop a fault condition every 6 to 7 days. This fault rate has improved with the experience of operators and the development of preventive maintenance techniques. The fault rate is high, but would be acceptable if the generator providing power to the set was reliable.

5. Bucknell Generator. In an attempt to maintain four AN/TRC-75 stations operational 24 hours per day for 4 months, 98 separate faults have been encountered, 85% of which involved RAEME support to make the equipment operational. With 18 generators on hand it has not been possible to maintain 4 operational with deployed detachments. This is partly due to the shortage of spare parts, but the fault rate would be quite unacceptable in any case. In the event of the Task Force HQ being deployed away from NUI DAT on operations, it is most unlikely that movement resources would be available to replace generators at detachments deployed forward at the rate they would fail. Defect and fault reports have been submitted by 101 Fd Wksp.

6. Medium Radio Station. The reliability of the complete station is quite unacceptable. Communications have been maintained only by resort to RTT operation on the standby AN/PRC-47 equipment. This is reasonably satisfactory over the short ranges now worked, but it will almost certainly be inadequate over longer distances. Its low power also restricts the length of time per day that communications can be maintained.

Replacement Equipment

7. The AN/GRC-106 is the preferred replacement equipment. This set will provide a simplex telegraph facility and will match the vehicle and air-transportable capacity of the AN/TRC-75. The loss of power and system capacity in this replacement should be more than compensated for by the improved reliability of the AN/GRC-106. The AN/PRC-47 should be retained as a back-up set to the AN/GRC-106.

8. It is considered desirable that the medium radio troops be eventually equipped with a duplex telegraph capability such as that planned for the AN/GRC-108. The use of the AN/GRC-106 should be a temporary expedient only.

9. There is a need to retain the AN/TRC-75 in theatre for use as the alternative rear link to Australia. With adequate spare equipments and when employed in a static role on this infrequently used circuit, the AN/TRC-75 would be acceptable whereas the lower powered AN/GRC-106 would not.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that:

- a. The medium radio station (AN/TRC-75) be replaced by the FFR configuration of the AN/GRC-106 in 552 Sig Tp.
- b. The three medium radio stations (AN/TRC-75) held by 709 Sig Tp be transferred to the Signal Project Account "COMCEN ALSG" for use on the alternate rear link to Australia.



(J.H. BIRD)

Maj

SO Sigs HQ AFV

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

R198 : 1 : 4

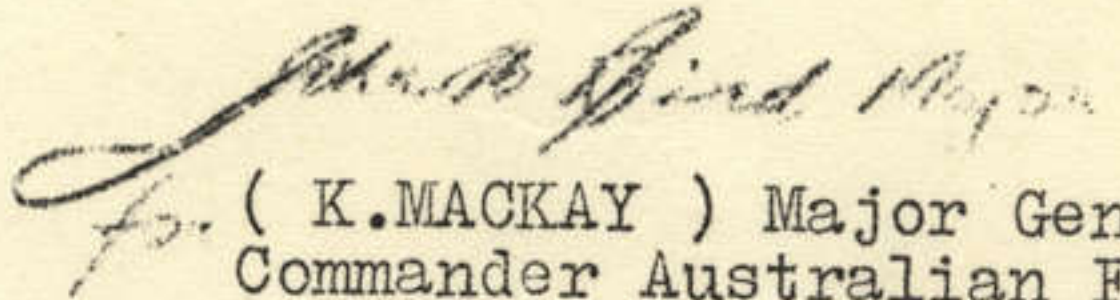
Headquarters
FWMAO Building
12 Tran Quoc Toan
CHOLON

15 Sep 66

SAIGON/CHOLON Telephone Management Agency
69th Signal Battalion
APO 96307

TERMINATION OF AUSTRALIAN VOICE CHANNELS
ON DEER SWITCHBOARD

1. Two voice channels are provided over an Australian AN/TRC-24 from this headquarters to 1 Australian Task Force and 1 Australian Logistic Support Group where they terminate in SB-86/PT switchboards. These channels are intended to provide a common user service, but are not effective because they terminate in telephones at this headquarters.
2. This shortcoming would be overcome if the channels were reterminated on DEER switchboard which provides the internal telephone system for this headquarters. This would permit all staff officers to obtain access to the channels from their normal DEER extensions.
3. It is requested that these two voice channels be reterminated on DEER switchboard.
4. The point of contact for this work is Lt B BROADRIBB, 145 Signal Squadron, DEER 251.


(K.MACKAY) Major General
Commander Australian Force
VIETNAM

Copy to: 145 Sig Sqn

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Annex J
Enclosure 3.

VIETNAM

HQ AFV

AVERAGE STRENGTH FOR MONTH September 1966
UNIT 145 Sig Sqn

1. Unit average strength. (See Note 1)

<u>Offrs</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
4.53	3	70.39

2. In country R & C average strength. (See Note 2)

<u>Offrs</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
--------------	------------	------------

3. Hospitalised US Hospitals. (See Note 3)

Total bed/days :

<u>Offrs</u>	<u>WOs</u>	<u>ORs</u>
--------------	------------	------------

1 Bed/Day

Henry Giff Maj.
CO / OC 145 Sig Sqn

Notes for Compilation of Return.

- Note 1. a. In arriving at Unit Average Strength :
Include Philanthropic Representatives
Overnight attachments
Hospitalised US Hospitals
Day leave/duty SAIGON
Exclude Overnight Detachments
Out of Country R & R
In country R & C
Hospitalised Butterworth or RTA.
- b. AATTV. Include COMAAFV and show strengths by HQ AATTV; AATTV on special duty; other AATTV.
- c. Aust R & C Centre. Show staff only.

Note 2. For use by Aust R & C Centre only; to show average monthly strength of members present for R & C.

Note 3. Personal particulars and dates member hospitalised US Hospitals NOT required. Show only bed/days per Offrs and WOs and ORs.

e.g., 2 OR in hospital 5 days
1 OR in hospital 7 days
1 Offr in hospital 8 days
return would read: Offrs 8 bed/days; ORs 17 bed/days.