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8 NOV 83 *MR*

432-3-1

103 Sig Sqn  
NUI DAT

29 Dec 66

HQ 1 ATF (9)

PROPOSED THEATRE INCREMENT  
TASK FORCE SIGNAL SQUADRON II/16/1(TW)

General

1. The proposal is to supplement the existing task force signal squadron establishment, II/16/1(TW), with a theatre increment VIETNAM.
2. NO establishment is to be cancelled or superceded.

Summary

3. Proposed increases in personnel for the theatre increment are:

<u>a. Corporals</u>	<u>TF HQ Sig Tp</u>	<u>Total</u>
Operator, keyboard	1	1
Operator, switchboard	1	1
<u>b. Signalmen</u>		
Despatch rider	1	1
Operator, keyboard	3	3
Operator, switchboard	2	2

4. NO upgrading or downgradings are proposed.

Reasons for the Increment

5. Despatch Riders. While the task force signal squadron is providing base camp communications, the volume of traffic being handled, the number of SDS runs scheduled and the number of special DR's needed are markedly greater than would be the case for a task force engaged on mobile operations. In addition, this service is required to be provided seven days a week. To provide proper control of the Signals Despatch Service, the SDS office should be manned throughout daytime working hours when the greatest volume of traffic is generated. The second DR is occupied almost full time with the regular scheduled SDS runs and with vehicle maintenance. It is considered that a third DR is necessary to allow for provision of special DR's at times when the regular run is out and to allow the other DR's to operate on a less than 7 day a week basis.

6. Operators, keyboard. The signal centre at HQ 1 ATF is the terminating point for teleprinter circuits operating to AFV, 1 ALSG and 2 Force V, and the control station of the task force telegraph net. Each of these circuits operates 24 hours a day. Message preparation and teleprinter operation for the 2 Force V circuit is handled by det 53 Sig Bn (US), but message registration and clearance for all three circuits and the telegraph net, and message preparation and teleprinter operation for the two Australian circuits are handled by the the task force sig sqn operators. To meet these requirements it is necessary for two operators to be on shift at all times. In order to allow two operators to be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week a minimum of four shifts is required to allow for normal rest periods, illnesses, leave etc. The sergeant operator, keyboard is required to perform supervisory and checking duties in the signal centre and should not be committed to a shift if he is to perform these duties effectively.

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7. Operator, switchboard

a. The establishment of a task force signal squadron is designed to allow it to provide a switchboard at the headquarters of a task force engaged on mobile operations. This switchboard would be required to operate to a restricted scale of local subscribers within task force headquarters and at times to provide a trunk line to some units under command. It is envisaged that in these circumstances there would not be more than thirty subscribers on the switchboard.

b. At present, 103 Sig Sqn is providing the switchboard at HQ 1 ATF in the base camp location. There are sixty subscribers on the switchboard, this being the maximum capacity of the board, and the number of calls being handled is at the limit of the capacity of a single operator during daytime working hours.

c. In order to meet the requirements for telephone communications within 1 ATF base area a new switchboard is currently being installed in the permanent signal centre building at HQ 1 ATF. This switchboard is expected to come into operation on approximately 1 Jan 67, and is at present committed to provide for;

- (1) 36 local subscribers within HQ 1 ATF.
- (2) 34 lines to units of 1 ATF.
- (3) 10 trunk lines outside 1 ATF.

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This commitment has been steadily increasing.

d. It is considered that it will be beyond the ability of one operator to provide the required standard of service on this expanded switchboard during the daytime working hours, and that two operators will have to be rostered during these times.

(P.D. MUDD)  
Maj  
Officer Commanding