

FROM: Maj P.D. MUDD



AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

Quote in Reply
DO/PN/4/67

ADDRESS

103 Sig Sqn
AFPO 4
GPO SYDNEY
NSW

Mar 67

14

Lt Col K.J. TAYLOR
1 Sig Regt
Milpo INGLEBURN
NSW

Operations

This month we have begun operation "PORTSEA", a search and destroy operation covering most of the Eastern area of the TAOR, in conjunction with a squadron of 11th Armad Cav Regt, a brigade of 9th (US) Inf Div and 43rd ARVN Regt. It began about the middle of the month and is still continuing.

Radio

Operation "PORTSEA" has produced a couple of points of interest. Firstly 6 RAR is operating east of the SONG RAI with their headquarters at about 6261. This is the longest range over which we have operated the PRC-25, about 20,000 metres. It is a good path and the headquarters is static, but it does give an indication of what the set will do.

In this operation the other units I have mentioned are operating in support of 1 ATF and NO other controlling HQ has been appointed. Because of this and because it was considered that the command net would be overloaded if these extra stations were just added to it, a separate co-ordination net has been established linking 1 ATF, 11 ACR, bde 9th (US) Div and 43 ARVN Regt. We are providing the 1 ATF station on this net, as well as the operators to man it full time.

VHF frequencies are proving a problem on this operation. We have only a limited allocation and they are rather widely duplicated in other formations. When we have these other formations working with us we have the inevitable clashes, particularly as most of them are operating with VRC-12 range sets, putting out so much more power than we do.

Line

The programme of building all the lines in the area up on to pole routes is continuing slowly. I would say that at this stage we have almost half of the job completed.

/Camp construction

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Camp construction

We have had a ^{spirit} of activity this month. The squadron headquarters building is built and occupied. We have concrete floors for the Sgts' and ORs' dining rooms and canteen. In addition, the 'Q' store and tech maint/tech store buildings are each half completed. Because of space restrictions it was necessary to build half of these buildings, move out of the existing marquee and then remove the marquee before the other half could be built. Tech maint has moved in and construction is just about to begin on the other half. The 'Q' store will take a little longer as we have a lot of shelves to build before moving in.

Report

John W. ...

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