

TELEPHONE

From: Major P.D. MUDD

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AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES

1 DIV INT
8 NOV 83
MR

Quote in Reply

DO/12/66

ADDRESS

103 Sig Sqn
AFPO 4
GPO SYDNEY

30 Nov 66

Lt Col K.J. TAYLOR
1 Signal Regiment
Milpo
INGLEBURN NSW

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Dear Colonel Taylor

Operations

Early this month Main HQ 1 ATF deployed away from the base area for the first time on Operation HAYMAN. This was a search and destroy operation on LONG SON Island (2756) just off the coast to our WEST. Movement was by CHINOOK helicopter and we were deployed for five days. I will give more details later in the letter.

The other operation this month was Op INGHAM. This is a 6 RAR search and destroy operation out on the EASTERN edge of our TAOR. It is still continuing. The main interest from our point of view is that the operating range for the TF Comd Net is about 15,000 yards, and the battalion is operating in quite thick country. We get them comfortably whenever they are static and put up any kind of a reasonable antenna, but when they are on the move with a 3 ft whip aerial, communications become intermittent. For this reason we have an aerial re-broadcast aircraft set up on standby in case of any urgent requirement for the bn HQ to keep moving and still maintain communications.

Deployment

The voice and telegraph circuits we planned to operate from the main and rear HQ on Op HAYMAN are shown in annexes A and B. In addition to these, we had stations on the task force command and telegraph nets at both HQ. In the deployment, the task force command net station and its operators travelled as part of HQ 1 ATF, the remainder were organised by the squadron. An aircraft loading list is attached as annex C for the loading of personnel and stores on the CHINOOKS.

Sigcen and cipher. The sigcen group was housed in two 16' x 16' tents, erected in prolegation of each other as one tent. This contained the sigcen clerk, SDS clerk, Tg terminal, switchboard and Sgt OK by day/Sigs duty officer by night. One $\frac{3}{4}$ ton GS veh and tlr were taken to carry sigcen, cipher, swbd and line stores on the deployment and to act as a general purpose vehicle while in position. Equipment for the telegraph terminal was carried loose in the vehicle and set up on an F.S. table for operation. The cipher office was set up in an 11' x 11' tent immediately behind the sigcen.

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Switchboard and line. Two SB-22A/PT were used for the switchboard at the Main HQ. I believe that, as the equipment will be available, for the next move I will take an SB-86 (30 lines only) for convenience and ease of operation. Line was laid to subscribers within Main HQ and to HQ of the company providing protection. On this particular occasion as HQ 5 RAR was adjacent to Main HQ & ATF, line was also laid to them.

SDS NO SDS operated in the fwd area during the operation, but the aerial SDS called at the Main HQ as well as the Rear HQ.

Radio The Command Net and Tg Net stations were placed together in one 11' x 11' tent for convenience and to keep manpower requirements down to a minimum. The Command Net was operated remotely from the TOC.

Radio relay Links were operated to the rear by 145 Sig Sqn and by 53rd (US) Sig Bn, providing circuits for Australian requirements and to II Force V respectively.

HQ, Q and kitchen The main part of the orderly room was left in base camp. A clerk and a typewriter was about all that was taken forward. A limited supply of basic replacement items and spares was taken forward by the Q. The kitchen operated with Australian 10 man ration packs, one cook and an M-37 cooker.

Tech Maint We took one of each type of technician forward and left the rest in base camp. Anything which could not be simply fixed on the spot by the technicians taken forward was backloaded for repair.

Officers Three officers went forward and one remained in base. On this occasion the Tp Offr TF HQ Tp remained behind but in future I intend that the 2IC should remain in base and the others go forward.

Manpower In all, a total of 39 of our people, 4 from 145 Sig Sqn and 10 from 53 (US) Sig Bn were deployed with the Main HQ. We found this was adequate to provide the facilities required, although some ad-hoc arrangements had to be made with tradesmen, for the short period of this operation. I think we would have greater trouble if the operation lasted a longer time.

Equipment Squadron holdings of telegraph machines and cipher equipment are inadequate for a deployment of this type and it was necessary to borrow from 145 Sig Sqn and 53rd (US) Sig Bn.

Miscellaneous

Our signal building is about half finished. At the present rate of progress we should be able to begin our installation some time next week.

I trust you will find something of interest in these deployment procedures as they bear so little relation to theory.

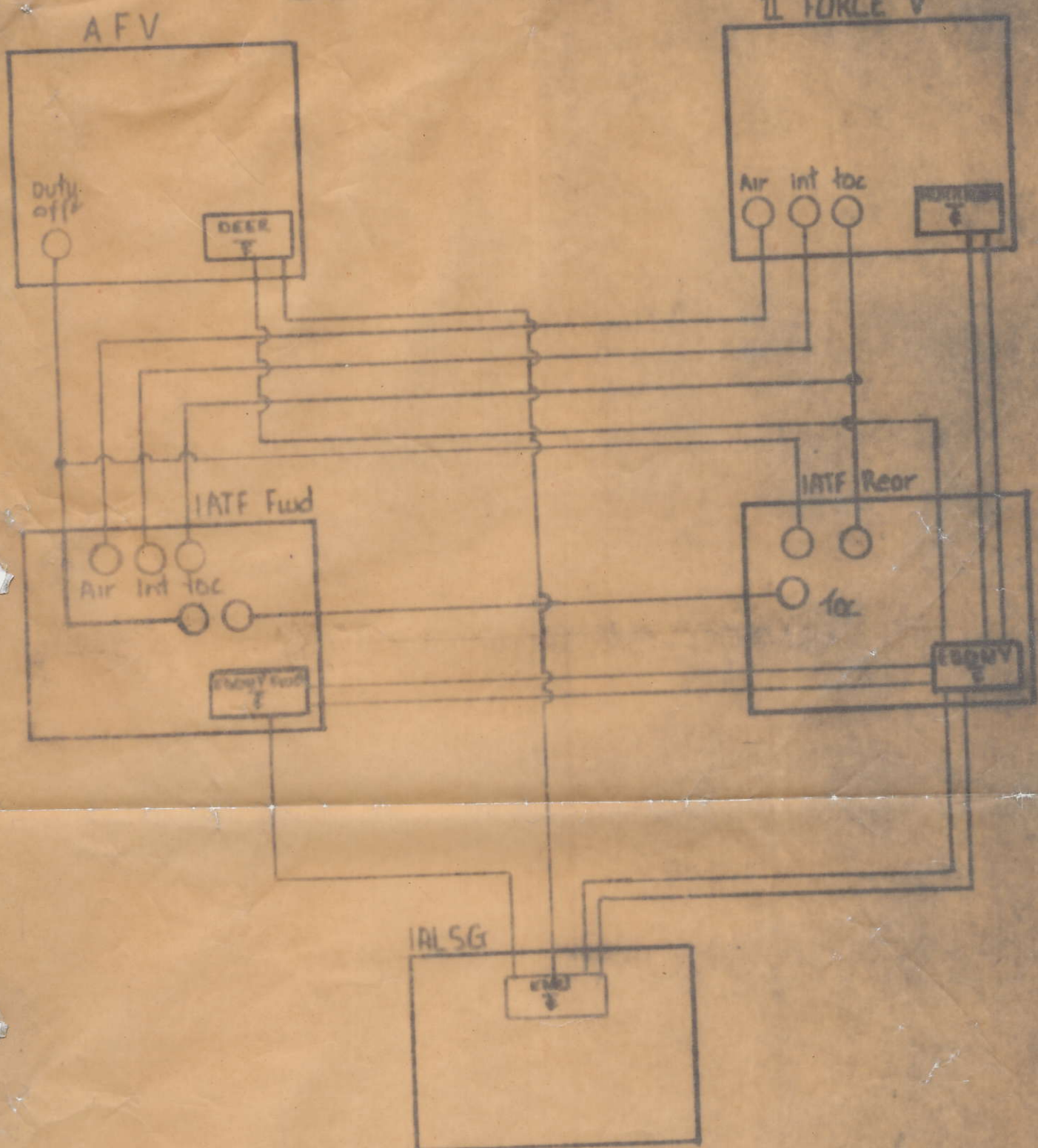
Best wishes,

Peter Mudd

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VOICE CIRCUITS

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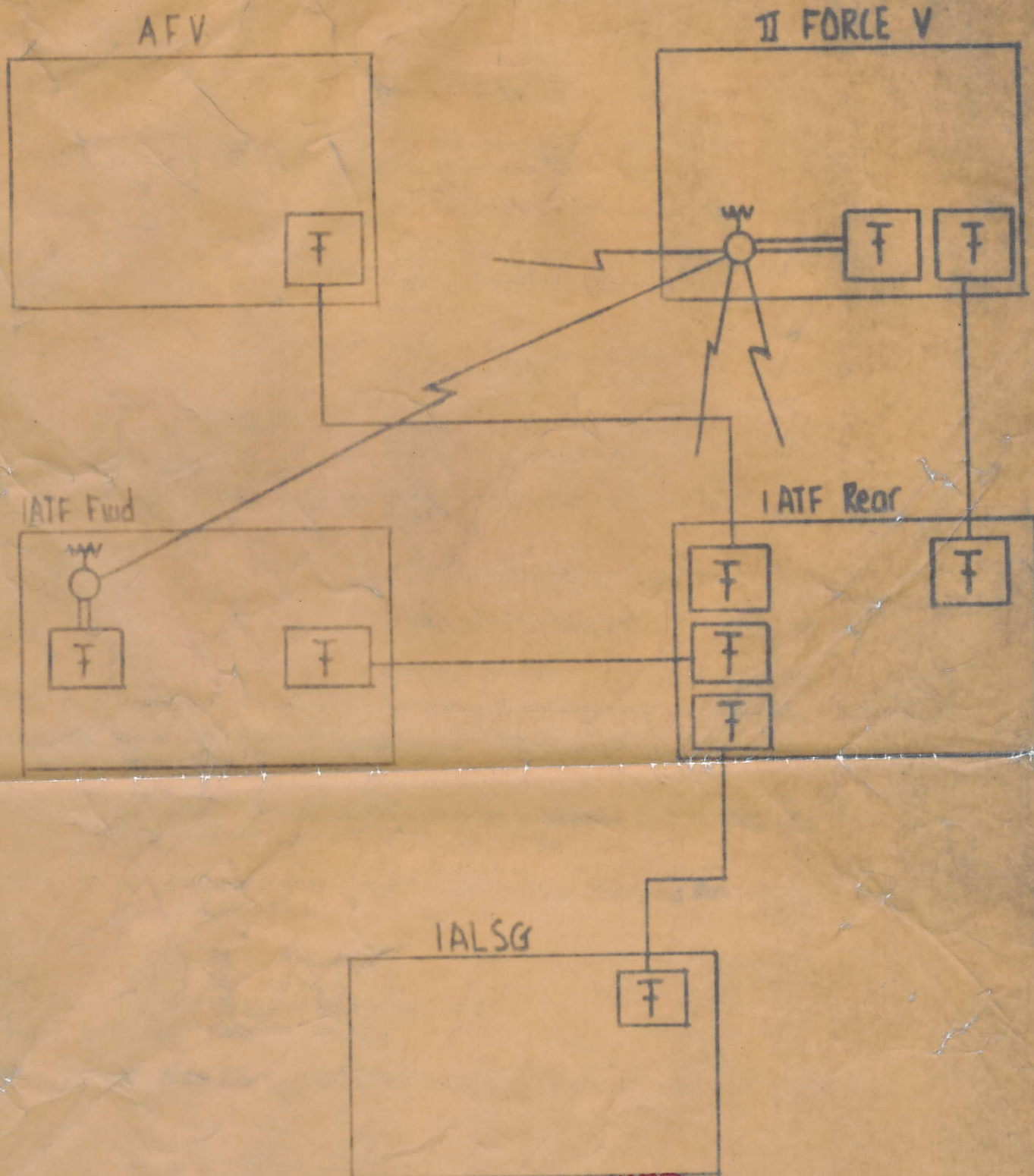
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TELEPRINTER CIRCUIT

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Annex C
to 103 Sig Sqn DO/12/66
Dated Nov 66.

AIRCRAFT LOADING

Serial	Personnel	Stores	Weight
1	10	Sigcen veh and tlr ($\frac{3}{4}$ ton GS)	7,500 lbs
2	7	Radio Relay tlr (53 Sig Bn) Tg net terminal (in sigs panniers)	6,000 lbs
3	4	Radio Relay veh and tlr ($\frac{3}{4}$ ton GS) (145 Sig Sqn)	6,700 lbs
4	8	Stores veh and tlr, incl 2 x 5 KVA generators	7,500 lbs
5	10	Generator trailer (53 Sig Bn) Def wire	7,000 lbs
6	10	HF Radio Shelter (53 Sig Bn)	4,000 lbs
7	4	$\frac{3}{4}$ ton veh (53 Sig Bn)	7,000 lbs
8		General stores	5,500 lbs

NOTE 1: We are fairly well committed to 8 loads, although they are not all fully loaded, because;

a. When the CHINOOK is carrying a vehicle inside they will not take a slung load as well. (4 vehs).

b. There are four loads which require slinging for speed or safety in transportation;

- (1) Radio shelter.
- (2) Def wire.
- (3) US Radio Relay trailer.
- (4) General stores.

NOTE 2: In this theatre CHINOOKS work on a maximum loading of 8,000 lbs.