

1978

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 197TH ORDNANCE BATTALION
APO NEW YORK 09144

AEUSA-K

25 January 1979

SUBJECT: Annual Historical Review: 1 January - 31 December 1978

Headquarters, Department of the Army
ATTN: DAMH-HD
Washington DC 20314

1. References:

- a. AR 870-5, Military History, 22 January 1977.
- b. USAREUR Supplement 1 to AR 870-5, 17 August 1977.

2. Unit Composition:

- a. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 197th Ordnance Battalion, Muenchweiler, FRG.
- b. 64th Ordnance Company, Fischbach, FRG.
- c. 165th Military Police Company, Fischbach, FRG.
- d. 525th Ordnance Company, Siegelsbach, FRG.
- e. 556th Military Police Company, Siegelsbach, FRG.

3. Personnel Information:

a. Key Personnel Gains:

- (1) MAJ John P. Stokes - Battalion Materiel Officer.
- (2) CPT Carter L. Kerns - Battalion Chaplain.
- (3) CPT Dennis R. Kuecherer - Commander, 556th Military Police Company.
- (4) 2LT Craig D. Barta - Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company.
- (5) CW3 Derrel M. Dennis - Battalion Materiel Office.

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- (6) CW2 Rudolph C. Wills - Battalion Maintenance Officer.
- (7) MSG William A.C. King - S-3 NCOIC.
- (8) SFC Robert P. Martin - Battalion Career Counselor.
- (9) SFC Anthony J. Almeida - Battalion Materiel Supply Advisor.
- (10) SFC Billy R. Blackwell - Battalion Materiel NCOIC.

b. Personnel Strength:

- (1) Officers - 32.
- (2) Warrant Officers - 19.
- (3) Enlisted - 956.

c. Personnel Ethnic Backgrounds:

- (1) White - 775.
- (2) Black - 171.
- (3) Spanish American - 40.
- (4) Other - 21.

4. Judicial and Administrative Actions/Discharges:

- a. Article 15 - 180.
- b. Courts Martial - 13.
- c. Chapter 5 - 14.
- d. Chapter 9 - 6.
- e. Chapter 10 - 1.
- f. Chapter 13 - 7.
- g. Chapter 14 - 1.

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5. Incentives and Awards:

- a. Army Commendation Medals - 8.
- b. Certificates of Achievement - 43.

6. Major Inspections:

a. January - March:

- (1) 59th Ordnance Brigade Annual General Inspection - January.
- (2) 66th Military Intelligence Group Counterintelligence Inspection - January.
- (3) USAREUR Limited Nuclear Surety Inspection at Fischbach Depot - January.
- (4) 59th Ordnance Brigade Ammunition Surveillance Inspection - February.
- (5) USAREUR Physical Security Inspection at Siegelsbach Depot - March.
- (6) United States Army Security Detachment Europe Annual Cryptofacility Inspection - March.

b. April - June:

- (1) 59th Ordnance Brigade unannounced Surety Evaluation at Fischbach Depot - May.
- (2) USAREUR Physical Security Inspection at Fischbach Depot - May.
- (3) Annual NATO Materiel Inspection - May.
- (4) 59th Ordnance Brigade Surety Evaluation at Siegelsbach Depot - June.
- (5) 59th Ordnance Brigade Command Maintenance and Supply Inspection - June.
- (6) USAREUR OPSEC Inspection - June.

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c. July - September:

- (1) 59th Ordnance Brigade Counterintelligence Inspection - July.
- (2) 59th Ordnance Brigade Surety Evaluation at Fischbach Depot - August.
- (3) USAREUR Nuclear Surety Inspection (Siegelsbach Depot; 525th Ordnance Company and 556th Military Police Company) - August.
- (4) Department of Army Nuclear Surety Inspection (Fischbach Depot; 64th Ordnance Company and 165th Military Police Company) - September.

d. October - December:

- (1) 59th Ordnance Brigade Annual Command Cryptofacility Inspection - November.
- (2) USAREUR Annual General Inspection - November.

7. Operations:

- a. Number of air moves - 12.
- b. Crested Eagle, 2-8 March.
- c. ARTEP Training, 1-30 April.
- d. Able Archer, 6-10 November.

8. Logistics:

a. Supply - Monetary constraints continued through calendar year 1978 thereby reducing the unit's ability to requisition all Common Table of Allowances/Primary Load List (CTA/PLL) shortages. Items which were in critical supply included:

- (1) 5-ton tires (theater shortage/\$ constraints).
- (2) M880 tires.
- (3) Organizational Clothing and Individual Equipment (OCIE) (\$ constraint).
- (4) Protective mask carriers (theater shortages).

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b. Maintenance - Ordnance Companies continue to suffer from lack of maintenance space in motor pools. Age of vehicles is creating higher demands for repair parts - contra wise allocations for PILL were reduced. Unserviceable M123 trailers were exchanged with Transportation Brigade units to provide serviceable assets for the 64th Ordnance Company.

c. Billeting - Billeting space problems have been greatly reduced, however, not entirely eliminated. The construction of one new barracks at Siegelbach Depot and the modernization of five more barracks at this location solves their immediate housing requirements. However, billet shortages continued at Fischbach for most of CY 78, even with completion of Modernization of U.S. Facilities (MOUSF). An additional barracks is scheduled for construction at Fischbach Depot during FY 82-86; this is dependant upon the priority it receives during construction planning boards at USAREUR level. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company billets at Muenchweiler were MOUSF'd and completed during December 1978.

d. Construction completed during CY 78:

- (1) One new billet - Siegelbach Depot.
- (2) Five billets MOUSF'd - Siegelbach Depot.
- (3) Dining Facility MOUSF'd - Siegelbach Depot.
- (4) One billet (HHC) MOUSF'd - Muenchweiler.
- (5) Long Range Security Program - Siegelbach Depot - Phase I.
- (6) Perimeter Fence - Fischbach Depot.
- (7) One billet MOUSF'd - Fischbach Depot.

e. On-going Construction:

- (1) Long Range Security Program - Fischbach Depot - Phase I/Phase II.
- (2) Long Range Security Program - Siegelbach Depot - Phase II.
- (3) Motor Pool Upgrade - Siegelbach Depot (approved and funded for FY 79).

9. Safety:

- a. Reportable Military Disabling Injury (MDI) accidents - 16.
- b. Reportable Personal Owned Vehicle (POV) accidents - 12.
- c. Reportable Army Motor Vehicle (AMV) accidents - 19.
- d. Personal Owned Vehicle (POV) accident deaths - 1.

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10. Morale and Recreation: Units of the battalion participated in all intra-mural sports offered in the Pirmasens and Hellbronn Communities. Several unit teams have also played German teams in group sports events.

11. Commander's Comments:

a. 1978 has been characterized by an extremely heavy inspection schedule which, due to the fiscal and calendar year not being coincident, resulted in four nuclear surety inspections (two brigade, one USAREUR, one DA) and two annual general inspections in addition to the normal frequency of annual physical security, NATO annual maintenance, etc, inspections.

b. Personnel turbulence, as in the previous year, has continued to have a negative effect on continuity of operations and institutional memory. The military police companies have experienced as much as a 100% turn-over in twelve months. Half the battalion staff, in addition to 2 out of 5 company commanders, have also turned over during the calendar year. Personnel shortages in senior enlisted 55G and lower grade 55B have further impacted on operational capabilities.

c. In spite of the above, overall operations under the direct support/general support concept have gone well. A major realignment of support has generally equalized the work load between the ordnance companies. The end result being faster, more efficient support to the customers.

d. The completion of Phase I of the Site Security Center at Siegelsbach Depot has improved security operations at that depot. Once the electronic package is installed and a few detracting deficiencies in Phase I are corrected, the overall improvement will be significant. Particularly anticipated will be a reduction in the number of security personnel required to man each shift. Fischbach Depot's Site Security Center commenced construction this year. To date, there is one major construction problem of concern.

e. All scheduled upgrading and new construction of troop billets and dining facilities at both depots has been completed for 1978. Additional future troop billets and operations required facilities have been programmed in the respective community planning boards.


f. Field training received increased emphasis during 1978 with the conduct of a Nuclear Ammunition Supply Point (NASP) ARTEP and the publication of the battalion's first Field SOP.

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g. Expanded mission training, materiel readiness and personnel continuity should form a solid basis for future growth and total combat readiness of the 197th Ordnance Battalion.


JOHN L. DASCANTO
LTC, CmlC
Commanding

CF: Commander in Chief, USAREUR
ATTN: AEAGS-MH

Hqs, 59th Ordnance Brigade
ATTN: ABUSA-GP

