

## Co. A Gets Ample Electrical Power

For several months perimeter guards on watch at Co. A, 70th Engr. BN (Cbt) manned their posts with as many hand flares as they could carry. Frequently during the dark nights the roar of 81mm illumination rounds could be heard leaving the tube as guards radioed for overhead "candles".

Now the situation is much changed with the recent acquisition of a new <sup>60</sup> ~~100~~ KW generator. The generator was delivered to the engineer company located near Khanh Duong in June and set off a fury of related base camp construction.

Demolition crews used pneumatic rock drills to drill 6 ft. deep holes which were packed with prima (det) cord. As each blast was detonated neatly cut holes ready to accept utility poles at prearranged locations throughout the compound resulted. More than a score of ~~the~~ poles were positioned and anchored allowing Co. A's wiremen to install both power and telephone lines high above the ground safe from ~~the ground~~ damage by heavy equipment.

An additional 27 shortened poles were implanted ~~around~~ along the perimeter to provide constant perimeter lighting. Lights ranging in power from 300 watts to 1000 watts were installed and wiremen went to work making the necessary connections to the big generator.

By June 20 the ~~engineer's~~ engineers' compound with its poles and power lines in place began to assume the appearance of a modern built-up base camp losing its last vestiges of a "remote outpost" - that of wiring running haphazardly along the ground to the generator.

With the installation of the new electrical system Capt John Rice, Commanding Officer of Co. A, states that for the first time guards will be able to rely on a constantly illuminated perimeter and the inner section of the ~~the~~ company area can count on ample electrical power for the living and working areas.