

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No  
511-65 Copy # *1-18*  
Ser: 056-65

HEADQUARTERS  
3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
APO, San Francisco 96601

DECLASSIFIED

1:HGB:swlm  
5750  
9 Nov 1965

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From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
Via: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology; month of October 1965

Ref: (a) DivO 5750.1

Encl: (1) 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines Command Chronology with Attachments

1. In accordance with reference (a), the command chronology for the month of October 1965, is submitted with attachments.

*C.H. Bodley*  
C. H. BODLEY

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DOD DIR 5200.10

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY FOR  
3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINES

A. ORGANIZATION DATA

1. Designation and Location of Reporting Unit: 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF, Chu Lai, Republic of Viet Nam

2. Period covered: 1-31 October 1965

3. Commanding Officer	LtCol C. H. BODLEY
Executive Officer	Maj. H. G. BALOGH
S-1 Adjutant	1stLt T. V. DRAUDE
	2ndLt G. L. GILLESPIE
S-2 Officer	1stLt A. J. FORLANO
S-3 Officer	Maj E. C. COOK
S-4 Officer	Capt E. F. VON GARP
Communication Officer	Capt E. T. FITZGERALD
Supply Officer	1stLt F. J. LAMURA
Motor Transport Officer	1stLt D. J. MCKIBBAN
Bn Surgeon	Lt D. A. INKELES
Bn Chaplain	Lt R. C. BETTERS
H&S Company Commander	Capt H. R. GANNAN Jr. (1-14 Oct)
	1stLt G. M. SCHLITZ (15-31 Oct)
"I" Company Commander	1stLt W. G. VANZANTEN Jr. (1-8 Oct)
	1stLt R. H. JAMES (9-9 Oct)
	1stLt T. V. DRAUDE (9-14 Oct)
	Capt H. R. GANNAN Jr. (14-15 Oct)
	Capt J. E. CLEMENTS (15-31 Oct)
"K" Company Commander	Capt D. E. THOMAS
"L" Company Commander	Capt R. A. CLARE
"M" Company Commander	Capt R. H. SCHWARTZ (1-15 Oct)
	Capt T. G. McFARLAND (15-31 Oct)

4. Average Strength	USMC:	39 Officers	1035 Enlisted
	USN:	3 Officers	54 Enlisted

B. SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF  
SIGNIFICANT EVENTS:

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1-31 Oct: Continued to occupy critical terrain and conducted aggressive patrols within the assigned TAOR.

1 Oct: At 0030 4 to 6 VC probed the 2nd Platoon "M" Company. Enemy was pursued but lost contact in the dense underbrush.

2 Oct: At 1000 the Civil Affairs Team treated 150 people in this Binh (1). At 1715 "K" Company was helo lifted into LZ Crow. One platoon

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swept North East to the road and returned to Battalion C. P. by truck convey. Remainder of Company "K" moved to harboring site. Under cover of darkness "K" Company moved to blocking positions for Operation Quickdraw. One marine was injured by friendly H&I fires, evacuated by helo. At 2300 1st Platoon "M" Company received 3 rounds of small arms fire.

3. Oct: At 0600 "L" Company was helo lifted into landing zones to conduct a search and clear operation "Quickdraw" with "K" Company in position as a blocking force. At 2050 VC tripped a flare and fired one small arms round toward 1st Platoon "M" Company, pursued by fire with negative results.
4. Oct: Commencing at 0700 a helo retraction was executed of "L" and "K" Companies (See after action report). At 1900 "I" Company received one WIA from booby trapped road gate on Highway 1. Booby trap was established by popular forces. At 2000 a "M" Company outpost reported 5 to 7 VC with one civilian in front of "M" Company's position. Outpost unable to take offensive action.
5. Oct: At 1530 Reaction Platoon of Regimental Reserve triggered to exploit sightings of 67 VC in the RAOR. The Reserve Company was helo lifted into 3 LZ's in an attempt to encircle the VC. (See Report of Company "K").
6. Oct: "K" Company conducted a one day search and clear operation in the RAOR. At 1630 "K" Company evacuated by helo 56 civilians to Binh Son. "K" Company commenced their retraction at 1630. One emergency landing was executed at 1715 no injuries were sustained.
- 7 Oct: At 1050 "L" Company patrol received one sniper round VC broke contact.
- 8 Oct: Nothing Significant.
- 9 Oct: 3 Elephants sighted by "L" Company patrol. Same patrol received 30 rounds of small arms fire at 1310. At 1400 one squad of "K" Company Reaction Platoon helo lifted to act as blocking force for "L" Company patrol.
- 10 Oct: Companies shifted positions as shown in Overlay #2.
- 11 Oct: "I" Company platoon size patrol received sniper fire from 3 VC aggressive action was taken resulting in 1 VC KIA, 1 WIA captured; 2 carbines and 1 frag grenade.
- 12 Oct: "K" Company patrol found one M-26 frag grenade booby trapped, blown in place. **DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS**

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Page 2 of 4 Pages

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- 13 Oct: Battalion Civil Affairs Team treated 130 people in Tri Binh (1)
- 14 Oct: Nothing Significant.
- 15 Oct: At 0900 Company "M" patrol received sniper fire and an aggressive sweep ensued. 1 civilian male that was shot by the VC was evacuated. Civil Affairs Team treated 30 people in An Thien hamlet. Companies moved to new locations (See Overlay #5).
- 16 Oct: At 1000 "I" Company (squad size) patrol received six rounds small arms fire. Within 20 minutes the squad received 66 rounds of small arms. The squad returned fire by saturating the area. One Viet Cong WIA was seen being evacuated. The squad was reinforced by another platoon and the area swept. Patrol Rhino ("M" Company) inserted (see Frag Order 3-65).
- 17 Oct: Patrol Rhino assisting villagers in Tri Binh Valley by protecting their rice harvest.
- 18 Oct: At 1002 Patrol Rhino received sniper fire from near Than Tra (2). The enemy was aggressively fired upon and pushed resulting in three Viet Cong KIA and capture of two automatic rifles and various documents.
- 19 Oct: Patrol Rhino conducted systematical sweep of BS 5295, 5396, 5296, 5395, 5498, 5398, 5298, 5198, 5297.
- 20 Oct: Patrol Rhino swept BS 5296, 5396 and Nam Binh (6) area.
- 21 Oct: Patrol Rhino received small arms and automatic weapons returned fire and aggressively swept area. Sustained three friendly WIA's.
- 22 Oct: Patrol Rhino swept Nam Binh (5) no contact.
- 23 Oct: Patrol Rhino swept Tri Binh (4) and BS 5495, 5294 and village at BS 546965.
- 24 Oct: Patrol Camino ("K" Company) inserted deep in TACR to clear Tri Binh. Patrol Rhino was initially deployed in blocking positions for Patrol Camino, then subsequently retracted. At 1650 Patrol Camino sustained two WIA's due to a booby trap.
- 25 Oct: Patrol Camino received sniper fire and pushed without results. Later at 0852 sustained two WIA's due to a booby trap.

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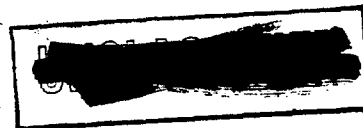
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- 26 Oct: Companies H&S, "I", "K", and "L" conducted a helo lift into the My Loc area adjacent to the Song Tra Bong to conduct a search and clear operation "Hercules" (See After Action Report).
- 27 Oct: Operation "Hercules".
- 28 Oct: At 2255 Company "I" received one incoming hand grenade in defensive position. No casualties.
- 29 Oct: At 0230 Patrol Camino returned by vehicle. Company "L" operational control to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines at 0745. Company "K" operational control to 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines at 1500.
- 30 Oct: At 1700 Company "K" operational control 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. At 1830 Company "L" operational control 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. Battalion positions reinforced.
- 31 Oct: Company "L" deployed as Patrol Wolf and Roadrunner for reconnaissance and prior to 7th Marines Operation "Black Ferret".

## C. DOCUMENTATION

1. Operation Order 4-65  
Operation Order 5-65  
Operation Order 8-65  
Operation Order 9-65
2. Frag Order 3-65  
Frag Order 4-65
3. After Action Report "Quickdraw"  
After Action Report "Hercules"
4. "K" Company report on exploitation in Duc Cn Area
5. Overlays of Battalion Positions #1  
#2  
#3



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3d Battalion, 7th Marines, 3d Marine Division

- Encl (1) Operation Plan 4-65
- 2 Operation Order 5-65 (CA 1 added. NOT posted. SAC# 286 245
- 3 Operation Order 8-65
- 4 Operation Order 9-65
- 5 Frag Order 3-65 w/5 Operation overlays
- 6 Frag Order 4-65 w/2 Operation overlays
- 7 After Action Report of 09 Oct 65 w/6 enclosures, QUICK DRAW
- 8 After Action Report of 08 Nov 65 w/1 enclosure, HERCULES
- 9 After Action Report, Company K w/2 overlays

Refer to paragraph 3.b.

(4) Provide one platoon for a reserve element/CP security.

- (a) This platoon will screen an area from coordinates BS 575970 southwest on the road to THANH TRA (1) to coordinates BS 567963.
- (b) Establish a perimeter defense in the vicinity of coordinates BS 567963.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
011900N November 1965

Operation Plan 4-65

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

- Ref: (a) Div OperO 321A-65  
(b) 7th Mar Oplan 332-65  
(c) 3rd Bn, 7th Mar OperO 8-65 MF  
(d) MAPS: AMS L701, VIETNAM Sheets 6756 I and 6756 II

500-65 Copy # 51452

Lu: 0053-65

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy forces. Annex B (Intelligence).

b. Friendly forces.

(1) Ground. See reference (c).

(2) Air. Annex G (Air Support).

(3) Artillery. Annex F (Artillery) of reference (c).

(4) RVN Forces.

(a) Elements of 2nd Infantry Division ARVN, establish blocking positions along north and south bank of the SONG TRA BONG River and to the west of the objective area.

(b) PF and RF units in target area will withdraw to Route #1 at L-hour. On request both elements will be available to assist in search and clear operations.

(c) Attachments and detachments. Annex A to reference (c).

(5) Cc C (-), 1st Recon Bn.

(a) H-hour on D-day will insert one platoon via helicopter in Landing Zone ALBATROSS to screen to the west of objective area.

(b) H-hour on D-day will insert one platoon via helicopter in Landing Zone CONDOR to screen to the north of the objective area.

(6) 1st Bn, 7th Mar. At H-hour on D-day 1st Battalion, 7th Marines will move to an assembly area on Route #1 and conduct a search and clear operation to the southwest in conjunction with 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines.

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2. MISSION. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines (-)(Rein), in conjunction with 1st Battalion, 7th Marines (-)(Rein) and forces of the 2nd Infantry Division, will conduct a search and clear operation in the central portion of the BINH SON District.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of operation. Commencing H-hour on D-day the Battalion (-)(Rein) will be transported by AMTracs and 6X6 trucks to three assembly areas on Route #1, vicinity coordinates BS 583953, BS 585950, and BS588945. On order, the Battalion with three companies abreast and one in reserve will commence a search and clear operation to the southwest in the assigned zone of action (See Annex C (Concept of Operation Overlay)).

b. Co I (-)(Rein).

- (1) Commencing at H-hour on D-day conduct a simultaneous and coordinated sweep of the Battalion zone of action. On order cross LOD and search and clear villages CHAU TU (3), PHUOC AN (2), PHUOC AN (1) and PHU LE (2). See Annex C (Concept of Operation Overlay).
- (2) Provide right flank security for the Battalion until reaching Phase Line LEMON.
- (3) Be prepared to revert to Battalion reserve upon reaching Phase Line LEMON.

c. Co K (-)(Rein).

- (1) Commencing at H-hour on D-day conduct a simultaneous and coordinated sweep of the Battalion zone of action. On order cross the LOD and search and clear villages of CHAU TU (4), northern section of PHU LE (1). See Annex C (Concept of Operation Overlay).
- (2) Assume right flank security upon crossing Phase Line LEMON.

d. Co M (-)(Rein).

- (1) Commencing at H-hour on D-day conduct a simultaneous and coordinated sweep of the Battalion zone of action. On order cross the LOD and search and clear village of CHAU TU (6) and the southern portion of PHU LE (1). See Annex C (Concept of Operation Overlay).
- (2) Establish contact with the right flank company of 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

e. Co L (-)(Rein). Regimental reserve. Reference (b) applies.

f. 81mm Mort Plat.

- (1) Provide general support to the rifle companies.

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 011300H November 1965

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Plan 4-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

3rd Bn, 7th Mar (-)(Rein)

LtCol BODLEY

Co I (-)(Rein)

Capt CLEMENTS

Arty FO Tm, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 S1mm FO Tm, H&S Co  
 Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Co K (-)(Rein)

Capt THOMAS

Arty FO Tm, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 S1mm FO Tm, H&S Co  
 FAC Tm  
 Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Co M (-)(Rein)

Capt MCFARLAND

Arty FO Tm, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 S1mm FO Tm, H&S Co  
 FAC Tm  
 Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

H&S Co (-)(Rein)

Lt SANDERS

Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
 CA Tm GVN  
 PsyWar Tm GVN

S1mm Mort Plat (-)

Lt HARPER

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

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(2) Establish initial firing positions vicinity coordinates to be announced.

(3) Displace by echelon.

g. 3rd Plat. Co C. 1st Engr Bn.

(1) Attach one squad to each of the assault companies.

(2) Platoon headquarters remains in general support of the Battalion.

h. H&S Co. (-)(Rein).

(1) Establish, coordinate, defend and supervise internal management of the Battalion CP.

(2) Location of CP - TBA.

(3) Conduct CA and PsyWar activities.

i. Civil Affairs/PsyWar Detachment.

(1) Conduct activities to influence and win the Vietnamese people to the cause of the legally constituted government of Vietnam.

(2) To assist military personnel in the accomplishment of their tactical goals.

j. Coordinating instructions.

(1) D-day - TBA

(2) H-hour - TBA

(3) Cross LOD - 0900

(4) The unclassified code name for this operation is "BLACK FERRET".

(5) Rules of engagement - See reference (a).

(6) Contact will be from left to right.

(7) Sweep will commence on order.

(8) Restricted targets.

(a) There will be no indiscriminate firing into populated areas.

(b) There will be no firing into villages or populated areas without the express consent of the cognizant commander and only then when receiving fire from organized resistance in the village or area.

... buildings and huts will not be conducted without the express consent of the Battalion Commander.

(9) Reports. Immediate replies will be made on all requests of information from this Headquarters and timely reports will be made on the below indicated occasions.

(a) When in position to cross Line Of Departure

(b) Arrival at each phase line.

(c) Company location on request.

(d) All sightings of enemy.

(e) All enemy contacts!

1. Use SALUTE format.

(f) Cave discoveries.

1. Use CAVES format.

(10) Coordination of units' movement will be effected by use of phase lines and objectives.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

##### a. Supply.

##### (1) General.

##### (a) Supply sources.

1. Prior to D-day - Normal.

2. In the objective area - LSA at coordinates BS 572965.

##### (b) Prescribed loads.

1. Class I. Three meals MCI with fuel per individual, two canteens of water.

2. Class II. Combat essential equipment as prescribed by commanders to include three days of halazone/iodine tablets and one days supply of dry cell batteries.

3. Class III and IV. None.

4. Class V. Basic allowance.

a. Enger Plat. One satchel explosive per MOS 1371.

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1. Medical supplies.

- 1' One Unit #1 per corpsman.
- 2' Three days supply of salt tablets.
- 3' Stretchers. As required by unit commanders.
- 4' BAS. Carry initial allowance plus three days supply of high usage items

(2) Supplies and equipment available.

- (a) Prescribed loads.
- (b) Logistics support area supplies. See Annex B to reference (b).
- (c) Resupply from Battalion (Rear). Organize stocks at Battalion CP (Rear), coordinates BS 538023.

(3) Control and distribution.

- (a) Units will requisition additional or resupply materials from the Battalion Supply Officer located within the Battalion CP group.
- (b) The Battalion Supply Officer will maintain a minimum of five day's resupply of Classes I and IV and two day's supply of dry cell batteries in the Battalion CP (Rear).
- (c) Unit distribution by helicopter will be utilized.

(4) Resupply.

- (a) The first resupply of Classes I, II, and IV materials will be furnished upon request on the evening of D-day.
- (b) Subsequent resupply will be upon request on a daily basis, emergency resupply anytime.
- (c) Requests for resupply should be submitted at least five hours prior to delivery and should include what, how much, when, and where the supplies are desired. Landing zone instructions and markings are required. If the requesting unit intends to return other materials on the delivering aircraft, this information should be included in the request.
- (d) Water cans must be returned to the Battalion Supply Officer as soon as practical after they are emptied.

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b. Evacuation and hospitalization.(1) Evacuation.

(a) The LSA (BS 575965) will be evacuated via helicopter to Company B, 3rd Medical Battalion. Requests will follow the "MEDEVAC" format.

(b) Minor casualties will be evacuated to the BAS in the Battalion CP (Rear) via air. Request evacuation from the Battalion Command group (Fwd).

(c) A BAS (Fwd) will be located with the Command group.

(d) Seriously wounded Vietnamese may be evacuated to "B" Med.

(2) Hospitalization. Personnel requiring hospitalization will be evacuated to Company B, 3rd Medical Battalion.

(3) Preventive medicine. Commanders will insure that all local water to be consumed is purified, that personnel take adequate salt tablets, and that personal hygiene is stressed throughout the operation. All trash will be buried.

c. Transportation.

(1) To objective area - Via 16 trucks (6X6) and 8 AMTracs.

(2) The LSA (BS 575965) is accessible from the Battalion CP (Rear) via Route #1 (Vehicles) should the requirement arise.

d. Services.(1) Maintenance.

(a) Second echelon communication-electronics maintenance will be available upon request to the Battalion Communications Officer.

(b) Second and third echelon ordnance maintenance will be requested via the Battalion Supply Officer.

(2) Water points.

(a) A water point is established in the Battalion CP (Rear).

(b) A water point will be operated by Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion (-)(Rein) in the LSA (BS 575965).

(3) Salvage, excess, and captured material.

(a) Salvage, excess, and captured material will be handled in accordance with Division Order 4000.1C.

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- (b) Material should be safeguarded to prevent both unnecessary damage and its falling into enemy control.
- (c) All material of the above categories will be reported to the Battalion CP (Fwd) for information and assistance in evacuation.
- (4) Personnel. Annex D (Personnel) to reference (c).
- (5) Miscellaneous.
  - (a) Rear echelon.
    - 1. CP at coordinates BS 538023.
    - 2. Officer in charge. Lieutenant G. M. SCHLITZ (False 34).
  - (b) Excess equipment will be left in the Battalion CP (Rear) under guard.
  - (c) Commanders will exercise strict control over the use and conservation of water cans.
  - (d) Personal effects and government property will be handled in accordance with current regulations. The Battalion Supply Officer will make arrangements to recover and evacuate the above items with the casualty.
  - (e) Routine administration will be carried out by those members of the command not employed in this operation.
  - (f) Uniform and equipment. The uniform will be utilities, normal arms, marching pack, helmet (green side out), and body armor, upper torso.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.

- a. See Annex H to reference (c).
- b. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines CP to be announced.

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ANNEXES

- A - Task Organization
- B - Intelligence
- C - Concept of Operation Overlay
- D - Personnel (See reference (c))

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- E - Fire Support Coordination (See reference (c))
- F - Artillery (See reference (c))
- G - Air Support
- H - Communication-Electronics (See reference (c))
- X - Distribution

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Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 010800 November 1965

Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation <sup>Plan 4</sup> ~~Order 10-65~~

Ref: (a) Maps: AMS I/01: Edition 2: Scale 1:50,000; sheets  
 6756 I and IV, and 6757 II and III.  
 (b) 3rd Marine Division F8800.1E

Time zone: H

1. SUMMARY OF ENEMY SITUATION.

- a. See Appendix (1) (Enemy Situation Overlay) and Appendix (2) (Intelligence Estimate) to Annex B (Intelligence)
- b. Current Intelligence reports and ISUMS as issued.

2. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

- a. What enemy units are located in the objective area? Particular attention to size, type, and unit identification.
- b. What are the locations of supply caches in the objective area? Particular attention to type supplies and quantity.
- c. What anti-air capability does the enemy possess? Particular attention to type weapons and locations.
- d. What enemy units are located immediately outside the objective area? Particular attention to area West of the SUOI SAU river.
- e. What is the attitude of the civil population in the objective area? If hostile, will this attitude be passive or active.
- f. Will the enemy attempt to defend in the objective area? If so, where and in what strength?
- g. Will the enemy counterattack our forces in the objective area? If so, where and in what strength?

3. RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION MISSIONS

- a. Orders to subordinate units.

(1) RIFLE COMPANIES

- (a) Search out all supply caches, defensive positions, command and communications installations in assigned zone of responsibility reporting location, type and quantity of supplies, equipment and documents located therein to this headquarters (attn: S-2)

- (b) Be prepared to conduct reconnaissance and ~~observatin~~ missions on order.

(2) 3RD PLATOON, "C" COMPANY, 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

- (a) Provide detailed technical information on all VC mines, booby traps, fortifications, caves, and tunnels encountered.

- (b) Conduct engineer reconnaissance as directed.

(3) ALL UNITS 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINES (REIN)

- (a) Report to this headquarters (attn: S-2) attitudes and degree of any passive hostility shown towards friendly forces.

- (b) Thoroughly search out assigned areas of responsibility for hidden food, arms, and other types of supply caches reporting the location, type of cache, and quantity of supplies to this headquarters (attn: S-2)

b. Requests to higher, adjacent, and supporting units

(1) 7th MARINES (-) (REIN)

- (a) Provide current and predicted weather reports to this headquarters daily during the period of operation.

- (b) Provide aerial photo coverage and IRs as requested.

- (c) Provide information on enemy units outside the objective area that are capable of reinforcing units in the area of operation.

- (d) Provide search results of all supply caches and command and communications installations located in ARVN area of operations.

c. Coordinating Instructions. See Appendix 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to this Annex.

4. MEASURES FOR HANDLING PRISONERS, CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, AND MATERIALS.

a. Prisoners.

- (1) Reference (b) applies.

- (2) Battalion S-2 personnel will screen all captives at the Battalion POW compound. Coordinates will be announced upon establishment of the compound.

B-2

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(b) Caches of food stuffs of sufficient quantity to justify evacuation will be evacuated to the Battalion C.P. for redistribution by the Civil Affairs Team or for evacuation to higher headquarters.

(3) Other captured material. All other captured material will be evacuated to the Battalion C.P. by the most expeditious means available unless the size or quantity of the material prohibits evacuation. In this instance samples of the material will be evacuated or sketches will be made of the material, and forwarded to the Battalion C.P. All material sent to the Battalion C.P. will be tagged with a card showing time and location of capture, capturing unit, and circumstances of capture. Enemy radio equipment captured will be handled in the same manner as captured enemy weapons (Spot reports are required).

#### 5. MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

##### a. Maps

- (1) Reference (a) is designated the standard tactical map for this operation.
- (2) Requests for additional maps will be made to this headquarters (attach S-2)

##### b. Photographs

- (1) Photographs will be distributed as available.
- (2) Requests for aerial photographs will be made to this headquarters.

#### 6. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

##### a. Reference (b) applies

##### b. Passwords and Countersigns. To be issued.

#### 7. REPORTS DISTRIBUTION

- a. Spot reports will be submitted as soon after the occurrence of an event of intelligence interest as possible. Spot reports will be followed up with amplifying reports as additional information becomes available.
- b. See Annex 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to this Annex.

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

#### APPENDICES

1. Enemy Situation Overlay
2. Intelligence Estimate
3. Coordinating Instructions
4. Passwords and Countersigns (To be issued).

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- (3) Captives will be evacuated under guard from the place of capture to the Battalion POW compound by the most expeditious transportation available. Under no circumstances will POWs be brought into the Battalion C.P.
- (4) Specific command attention will be exercised to insure compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of POWs.
- (5) POWs will be bound at the wrists and blindfolded prior to evacuation to the Battalion POW compound.
- (6) All prisoners will be tagged with a card showing the capturing unit, location, time, and circumstances of capture.
- (7) Every effort will be made to induce captives to assist friendly units in locating hidden supply caches, command installations, and arms factories.

b. Captured Documents

(1) Captured Weapons

- (a) A spot report will be made to the S-2 immediately upon capture of any enemy weapons. This report will indicate the time, date, time, and location of capture, the capturing unit, and name, type, make, and quantity of weapons captured.
- (b) Each individual weapon captured will be tagged. This tag will show the date, time, and location of capture, the capturing unit, and name, rank, and serial number of the individual responsible for capture.
- (c) All captured weapons will be evacuated to the Battalion C.P. under guard. The guard will carry an inventory of the weapons he is escorting. Upon delivery of weapons the S-2 will provide the guard with a receipt for each weapon and be directed to return to his unit.

(2) Food Stuffs

- (a) Capture of any food stuffs will be reported to this headquarters. Reports will include the following information: Type and quantity of food captured, location and circumstances of capture.

Appendix 1 (Enemy Situation Overlay) to Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order 10-65

56  
+  
95

[unclear]

[unclear]

[Redacted]

90-  
+  
52

[unclear]

*[Signature]*  
C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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5-1-11 [Redacted]



Headquarters, 3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 CHU LAM, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 010800 November 1965

Appendix 2 (Intelligence Estimate) to Annex I (Intelligence) to  
 Operation Order 10-65

Ref: (a) Maps AMS 4701; scale 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 II, III and 6756 I,  
 IV.

Time zone: H

1. MISSION

- a. Basic Mission. To conduct a search and clear operation in assign-  
 ed zone in the general portion of BINH SON district, southwesterly.
- b. Previous Decisions. To execute an overland assault from the vic-  
 inity of Route 14 Southwest.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA OF OPERATIONS

a. Weather

- (1) See weather forecasts as issued.
- (2) During the period of operations the weather is not expected  
 to affect the manyle capabilities. Prolonged heavy rains  
 in the objective area would limit our use of helicopters and  
 close air support and would seriously affect the trafficability  
 of terrain for tracked and wheeled vehicles.
- (3) Astronomical Data for Period of Operations To be issued.

b. Terrain.

- (1) Relief. Relief of the area is predominately characterized  
 by flat rice paddy/dry crops type of terrain interdicted by  
 numerous brushy/ci covered knolls, the latter of which are  
 the primary location for the small but scattered built up  
 areas (hamlets).
- (2) Drainage Drainage of the area is accomplished by the SONG  
 TRA BONG which drains in a northerly direction and several  
 small streams draining into the SONG TRA BONG (See reference  
 (a)).

B-2-1

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- (3) Vegetation Vegetation throughout the area is dry crop vegetation and brushwood (approximately 25 per cent) the latter of which is found on the dispersed knolls and hills of the area. Rain forest type vegetation is lacking. Recent rainfalls have increased the growth and vegetation throughout the area.
- (4) Surface Materials The objective area contains three basic types of surface materials; some sand along the banks of the SONG TRA BONG; marshy area of alluvial soil throughout the objective area, and loose soil over laterite constituting the remainder of the area.
- (5) Critical Terrain Features
- (a) PHUOC AN (1) and (2) BS570944 and 573946
  - (b) PHU LE (2) centered at BS565938
  - (c) Hill 57 BS532924
- (6) Observation and Fields of Fire Long range observation and fields of fire for small arms should be good, being restricted only by possible paddy dikes and localized trees and brush in built-up areas. Short range observation is considered to be excellent throughout the objective area. Hill 57 and the hill mass running southwest to northeast affords excellent observation and fields of fire over the southwestern portion of the objective area.
- (7) Obstacles
- (a) The SONG TRA BONG is an obstacle to north-south movement.
  - (b) The hill mass running southwest-northeast (BS5392) to (BS5796) is an obstacle to north-south movement, especially vehicular.
  - (c) The wet rice paddies are obstacles to tracked and wheeled vehicles.
- (8) Avenues of Approach See reference (a).
- (9) Routes of Communication See reference (a).

c. Politics/Sociology All indications support the conclusion that the objective area is under VC control. The civil population in the area will be of no immediate assistance to a friendly force and will probably give the VC active support.

3. ENEMY SITUATION

a. Composition. The Main Force units in the area of operations probably are the 192 (Main Force) Battalion, the T-19 company (Local Force), and another unidentified Main Force company plus local guerrillas.

(1) Strength and Combat Efficiency

(a) 192 Bn	Est 350
(b) U/I Co	Est 100
(c) T-19	Est 100
(d) Guerrillas	Est 200
Total	750

(2) Combat Efficiency

(a) 192	Unknown
(b) U/I Co	Unknown
(c) T-19 Co (LF)	Unknown

b. Disposition. See Appendix 7 (Enemy Situation Overlay) to Annex B (Intelligence) to Operations Order 10-65

c. Arms and armament. Unknown

d. Recent and Present Activities

(1) The enemy activity in the objective area has been to harass USMC and ARVN positions, to collect rice tax and continue to control the population. They also may have a mission to ensure safe travel for a suspected supply route through the area under their control in BINH SON District.

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- c. Time and Space The normal mobility of lightly equipped VC units would enable all forces to move from present locations to more defensive terrain within two hours after receiving warning of VC operations. Distances to such terrain generally north and west vary from one half to five miles from reported unit locations.
- f. PECULIARITIES OF WEAKNESSES The reported units are largely main force and retain the advantage of support of the local population. They could blend with the civilians as a first step in withdrawal. They are susceptible to all forms of supporting fires unless they are in prepared defensive positions. Their only defense against air attack is small arms except for a suspected AA position south of the objective area in vicinity of B85588. Their weakness in combat power is directly proportional to our superiority in mobility and fire power. Surprise operations against them could create confusion because of inflexibility in their plans.

4. ENEMY CAPABILITIESa. Enunciation

- (1) To withdraw present forces in the objective area fighting rear guard actions as necessary in withdrawing west, or south at any time.
- (2) To defend in the objective area where located with one local force company, one main force company and two main force battalions supported by local guerrillas.
- (3) To counterattack friendly forces in the objective area.

b. Analysis and Discussion

- (1) Capability (1). The enemy could choose to affect this capability at any time prior to the completed positioning of friendly forces. If he were to affect this capability it would only partly affect the accomplishment of our mission since we could not completely destroy his force.
- (2) Capability (2). If he chooses to defend the objective area in his present positions, he will enhance our mission by allowing us to destroy his forces in place and concentrate our firepower on his strongest points of defense.
- (3) Capability (3) The enemy does possess the capability to counter-attack our forces, however in doing so, he will expose himself to our air power and may risk defeat without affecting the accomplishment of our mission.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- a. Relative probability of adoption of enemy capabilities. It is felt that the enemy will adopt capability (1). In effecting capability (1) it would allow him to escape from the objective area with his main strength intact. He also has indicated by past actions a reluctance to engage U.S. Forces in a direct confrontation.
- b. Effect of enemy capabilities on the Commander's Mission. In effecting capability (1) the VC would partially hinder the accomplishment of our mission.

*C. H. Bodley*

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ANNEX X

5. CONCLUSIONS

- a. Relative probability of adoption of enemy capabilities. It is felt that the enemy will adopt capability (1). In effecting capability (1) it would allow him to escape from the objective area with his main strength intact. He also has indicated by past actions a reluctance to engage U.S. Forces in a direct confrontation.
- b. Effect of enemy capabilities on the Commander's Mission. In effecting capability (1) the VC would partially hinder the accomplishment of our mission.

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Headquarters, 3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 010300 November 1965

Appendix 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to Annex B (Intelligence) to  
 Operation Order 10-65

Ref: (a) 7th Marines Operation Order 332-65

(b) Div(Fwd)O 3100.1 of 22 May 1965 w/Change 1

Time Zone: H

1. Reports.

a. ISUMS

- (1) Format for ISUMS is contained in 3d MarDivO P3800.1E. Reporting of enemy KIA's, estimated KIA's and WIA's actual and estimated WIA's, VCS, VCC, captured weapons and equipment and weapons will be in this manner:

Total this period \_\_\_\_\_.

Cumulative total to date \_\_\_\_\_.

b. SPOT REPORTS

- (1) See reference (b).  
 (2) Spot reports will answer as completely as possible the following questions.

WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHAT ACTION WAS OR IS BEING TAKEN.

Amplifying reports will be submitted detailing information on spot reports when required.

- (3) Spot reports shall also be used to report the following:

- (a) Captured Personnel  
 (b) Captured Weapons and Communication Equipment  
 (c) Captured Documents

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- (d) Captured Materials
  - (e) Reporting of supply caches, installations and caves.
  - (f) Viet Cong killed or wounded
- c. ITT AND CI REPORTS. ITT and CI personnel shall submit to this headquarters and the capturing unit a copy of all interrogations as soon as possible after each interrogation.
2. CAPTURED VCS AND VCC's
- a. All VCS and VCC's captured during this operation will be sent to the Battalion collection point, (location to be announced) after, repeat: after, first being screened by the capturing unit.
  - b. ITT personnel will rescreen all prisoners at the Regimental collection point in the LSA prior to being evacuated to the CHU LAI compound at BT 547053.
  - c. No, repeat: No, VCS or VCC will be sent to any other place other than specified herein.
  - d. Wounded VCS or VCC will be evacuated through medical channels with a report to this headquarters on location of capture, time and date captured, circumstances of capture and place of evacuation.
  - e. Helicopter unit commanders supporting this operation shall insure that all flight crew personnel are thoroughly briefed on the procedure contained herein and on the location of the CHU LAI POW COMPOUND.
3. AERIAL OBSERVATION REQUESTS
- a. Aerial observation will be available upon request
  - b. All requests for aerial observation missions or photographs will be made to this headquarters. Upon approval of request the requesting unit will be notified.
4. PERTINENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL UNITS
- a. All captured VCS and VCC's shall be tagged, showing the location date and time of capture, circumstances of capture and capturing unit.

B-32

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- b. All captured documents taken from a prisoner shall be tagged and identified with and evacuated with the prisoner.
- c. All other captured documents shall be tagged showing the location, time and date of capture, circumstances of capture and capturing unit or individual.
- d. All captured weapons, and other transportable material shall be tagged showing location of capture, time and date of capture circumstances of capture, capturing unit or individual.
- e. No captured VCS, VCC, weapon or material shall be evacuated to the Battalion collection point without being tagged as described in paragraph 4.a. through 4.d.



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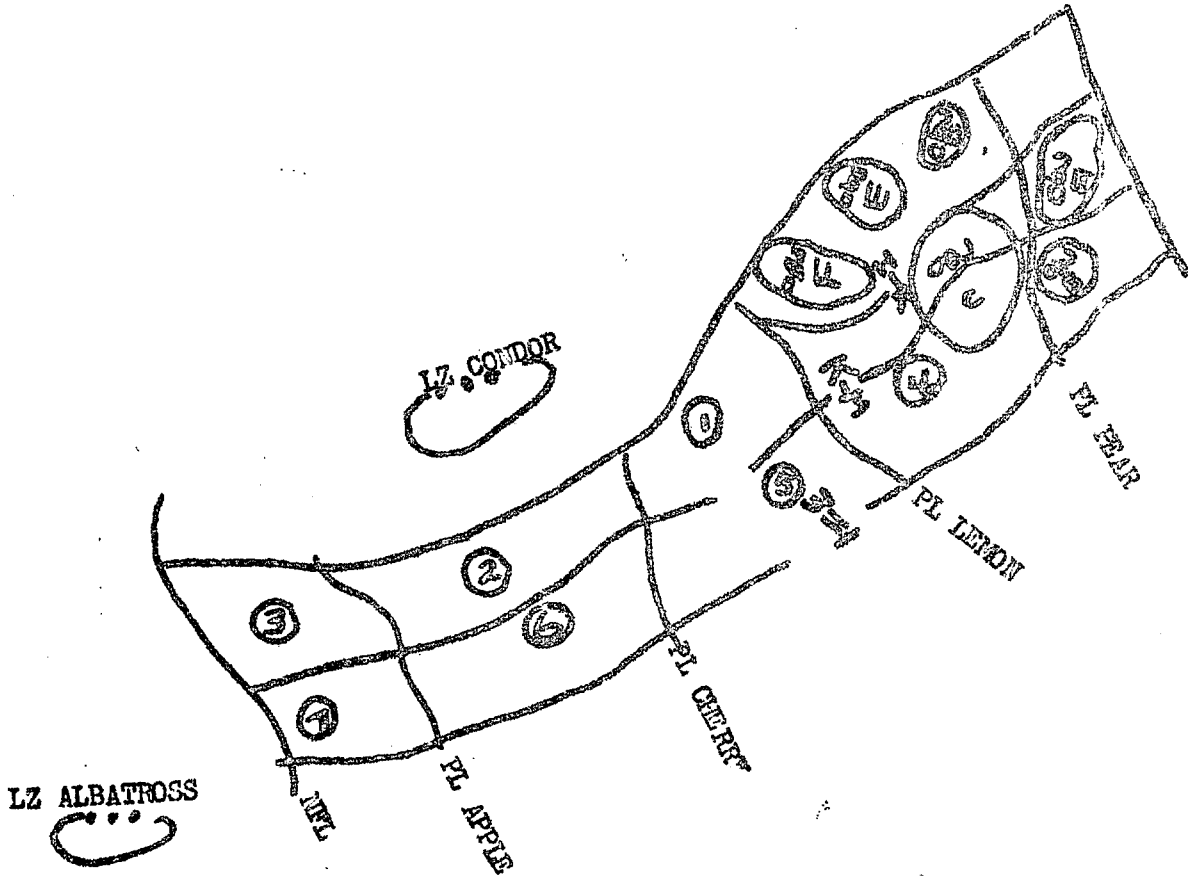


and Forwarded, Via Mail to  
CHU LAM, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
011300H November 1963

Annex C (Concept of Operation Overlay) to Operation Plan 4-63

Ref: (a) MAP: AMS L701, VIETNAM Sheets 6756 I, II

Time Zone: H



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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 011300H November 1965

Annex G (Air Support) to Operation Plan 4-65

Ref: (a) MAPS: AMS L701, VIETNAM 1:50,000, Sheets 6756 I, IV; 6757 II, III  
 (b) FMFM 7-3  
 (c) FMFM 7-1  
 (d) 3rd Bn, 7th Mar OperO 8-65

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.

- a. Enemy forces. See Annex B (Intelligence) to Oplan 4-65.
- b. Friendly forces.
  - (1) See Annex A (Task Organization) to Oplan 4-65.
  - (2) 1st MAW provides tactical air support to include offensive air support and air assault as required.

2. PROCEDURES.

- a. Commanding Officer, 7th Marines (-)(Rein) establishes bomblines and/or no fire lines and publishes changes thereto as they occur.
- b. Air-to-ground strikes within the objective area must be under positive control of TACP, TAC(A), or ASRT.
- c. Coordination of supporting fires in accordance with references (b) and (c). See Annex E (Supporting Arms) of reference (d).
- d. Mark friendly front lines with front line marking panels and/or colored smoke prior to executing air-to-ground strikes.
- e. Use target designator grid (UTM) contained in reference (a) for all air support missions.
- f. Mission request procedures.
  - (1) Pre-planned missions should be submitted to the Battalion Air Officer by 1600 each day. In the event additional pre-planned missions are required, they should be submitted to the ALO prior to five hours before the mission is desired. All other missions will be considered "on call".
    - (a) Fixed wing. Requests for fixed wing air support will be submitted to the ALO to be forwarded to the DASC (Fwd). The tactical air request form will be used.
    - (b) Helicopters. Requests for on-call helicopter support will be submitted to the ALO to be forwarded to the DASC (Fwd). The Helicopter Request Form will be used. Line

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8.g of the Helicopter Request Form will designate the most secure approach route and if landing zone is secure. If the request is for a medical evacuation, the helicopter MEDEVAC Request Form will be utilized.

(c) Aerial Reconnaissance (Visual/Photo). Request for on-call visual and photo reconnaissance missions will be submitted to Division G-2 AC (Representative located in the 7th Marines (-)(Rein) Headquarters) via the most direct means.

(3) <u>Target area weather minimums</u>	<u>Flights of 4 or More</u>	<u>Less</u>
Helicopter (Day)	1500' - 5 miles	500' - 1 mile
Helicopter (Night)	1500' - 5 miles	500' - 2 miles
Day Visual Close Air Support	3000' - 5 miles	
Visual Aerial Delivery	1000' - 3 miles	
Fixed Wing Observation	500' - 2 miles	
ASRT Missions	No Restrictions	

3. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION ELECTRONICS. See Annex H (Communication-Electronics) to reference (c). FSCC and DASC (Fwd) will be in the vicinity of 7th Marines (-)(Rein) Headquarters during the offensive phase.



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APPENDIXES

1 - Conduct of Helicopter Operations (See Appendix 3 to Annex G to reference (d)).

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
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Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Plan 4-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF COPIES</u>
CMC	1
MCLFDC	1
CG, FMFPac	1
CG, FMAW	2
CG, 3rdMarDiv	2
ADC, 3rdMarDiv	2
CO, 7th Mar	3
CO, 4th Mar	1
CO, 2nd Bn, 4th Mar	1
CO, 1st Bn, 4th Mar	1
CO, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar	<del>28</del> 30
CO, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar	2
FLSU #1	1
BINH SON LnO	1
<u>FILES</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	52

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 031500H Oct 1965

CME

**SECRET**  
 Change 1 to Operation Order 5-65

Ref: (a) CO, 7th Marines FragO 13-65

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

537-65 Copy # 14/48

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1. Change paragraph 2 "MISSION" to read:

"2. MISSION

- a. Defend the CHU LAI airfield by manning and continually improving defensive positions on the FEBA and by conducting aggressive patrolling and offensive operations within the TAOR, and on approval, the RAOR.
- b. Provide one reinforced rifle company to operational control of 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines to assist in the CHU LAI airfield defense.
- c. Be prepared to conduct, on order, unilateral or combined operations with RVNAF outside TAOR boundary.
- d. Be prepared to provide one reinforced rifle company for employment anywhere in the III MAF area of responsibility."

2. Make the following pen changes to paragraph 3.

a. Change 4th sentence of paragraph 3.a. to read: "One company will be attached to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines for defense of the CHU LAI airfield."

b. Add to paragraph 3, sub-paragraphs b, c, d, and e: "(5) Be prepared to be attached to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines in support of CHU LAI airfield defense, on order."

c. Add sub-paragraph 3.f.(1) to read as follows: Attach one section to company for CHU LAI airfield defense."

d. Delete paragraph 3.g. and sub-paragraph 3.g.(1)(a), (1)(b), (2), (3), and (4) and replace it with the following:

"g. Coordinating instructions -

(1) Rotation of companies among positions within the TAOR will be accomplished as follows: Each company will spend two weeks at front line positions, one week as the patrol company and four weeks in defense of the airfield. See Battalion S-3 for rotation dates.

(2) Companies must submit all enemy encounters immediately to this Headquarters. Reports will be submitted in accordance with BnO 3100.1.

(3) Rules of engagement

(a) Rounds will not be inserted in the chamber of individual weapons unless encounter with the enemy is obvious and, in the judgment of the senior Marine present, this measure must be taken to preserve the lives of friendly personnel.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
 DOD DIR 5200.10

**SECRET**

Encl (2) - 2

~~SECRET~~ During the hours of darkness, the sequence of engagement will be:

1. Challenge.

2. If there is no response to the challenge or the response is incorrect, or the person challenged makes an overt attempt to avoid apprehension, opens fire, or commits any other hostile act, thereby endangering the life of the challenger or friendly personnel, the challenger may load and fire.

3. The area will be illuminated prior to firing, if practicable and time permits."

3. Make the following pen changes to Annex A (Task Organization):

- a. Lt SCHLITZ vice Capt GANNAN
- b. Capt CLEMENTS vice Lt MARSHALL
- c. Capt MCFARLAND vice Capt SCHWARTZ
- d. Lt HARPER vice Lt SANDERS

4. Detach Annex B (Operation Overlay) and replace with Annex B hereto.

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Commanding

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3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

4325 Copy # 410/48

Su: 043-65

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 031500H October 1965

Operation Order 5-65/CHI NOT posted

- Ref: (a) 3rd MarDiv OperO 321-65 w/ch 1  
 (b) 3rd MarDiv OperO: 327-65 w/ch 1  
 (c) RLT-7 OperO 327-65  
 (d) CO, 7th Mar msg 240233Z Sep 1965  
 (e) Maps: AMS Series L701 VIETNAM, Sheets 6756 I, II, III, IV;  
 6757 II, III, IV

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

I. SITUATION.

a. Enemy forces. See current ISUMs.

b. Friendly forces.

(1) Air.

(a) MAG-36.

(b) MAG-12.

(2) Artillery. 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

(3) Combat support.

(a) Co C (-)(Rein), 1st AT Bn.

(b) Co B (-)(Rein), 1st Tk Bn.

(c) Co C (-)(Rein), 1st Engr Bn.

(d) Co C (-)(Rein), 1st Recon Bn.

(e) Co C (-)(Rein), 3rd AMTrac Bn.

(4) Support.

(a) 7th MT Bn.

(b) FLSU #1.

(c) Shore Party Bn.

(5) Infantry units.

(a) 4th Marines.

(b) 7th Marines.

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(c) 1st Bn, 7th Marines.

(6) Direct support units.

(a) 3rd Plat, Co B, 1st Tk Bn.

(b) 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st AT Bn.

2. MISSION. Defend the CHU LAI airfield and auxiliary facilities by defending the TAOR from enemy attack, and be prepared to execute, on order, offensive operations against the enemy.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of operations. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines defends the CHU LAI airfield and auxiliary facilities by manning defensive positions along MLR within the TAOR, by conducting aggressive patrols and operations outside the TAOR, as assigned. Two companies will occupy defensive positions. One company will provide a patrol base for deep patrolling within the TAOR. The remaining company will constitute a Battalion and Regimental reserve. Companies will be rotated periodically between these assignments (See Annex B (Operation Overlay)).

b. Company I.

- (1) Occupy positions as assigned within TAOR.
- (2) Conduct aggressive reconnaissance and ambush patrols.
- (3) Establish listening posts and observation posts as assigned.
- (4) Be prepared to conduct offensive operations on order.

c. Company K.

- (1) Occupy positions as assigned within TAOR.
- (2) Conduct aggressive reconnaissance and ambush patrols within TAOR.
- (3) Establish listening posts and observation posts as assigned.
- (4) Be prepared to conduct offensive operations on order.

d. Company L.

- (1) Occupy positions as assigned within TAOR.
- (2) Conduct aggressive reconnaissance and ambush patrols within TAOR.
- (3) Establish listening posts and observation posts as assigned.
- (4) Be prepared to conduct offensive operations on order.

e. Company M.

- (1) Occupy positions as assigned within TAOR.
- (2) Conduct aggressive reconnaissance and ambush patrols within TAOR.
- (3) Establish listening posts and observation posts as assigned.
- (4) Be prepared to conduct offensive operations on order.

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f. 81mm Mortar Platoon. Provide fire support.

g. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) Rotation of companies among positions within the TAOR will be accomplished as follows:

(a) The two front line companies will remain in position for a two week period and then rotate to the patrol base and reserve positions respectively. Rotation will be accomplished every other Sunday.

(b) The two companies in the patrol base and reserve position will interchange positions weekly every Sunday.

- (2) The reserve company is designated as RLT reserve and will be committed only upon approval of RLT-7 Headquarters.

- (3) Companies must submit detailed reports of all enemy encounters immediately to this Headquarters. The SALUTE format will be used for this purpose.

- (4) Rules of engagement.

(a) Rounds will not be inserted in the chamber of individual weapons unless encounter with the enemy is obvious, and, in the judgment of the senior Marine present, such action is necessary to preserve the lives of USMC personnel.

(b) During the hours of darkness the sequence of engagement will be:

1. Challenge.

2. If there is no response to the challenge or the response is incorrect, the area will be illuminated.

3. If the person challenged makes an overt attempt to avoid apprehension, or opens fire, or commits any other hostile act, thereby endangering the life of the challenger, the challenger may load and fire.

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- (c) Magazines will not be inserted in weapons at any time other than prescribed in the preceding paragraphs. Magazines will not be inserted in weapons in a camp area during daylight hours.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- a. General. Commanders are responsible to maintain their supplies and equipment at the prescribed levels, i.e. Unit Allowance List, BA of Ammunition, etc. Shortages in supplies and equipment and maintenance requirements will be reported immediately. Commanders are directed to pay particular attention to the individual clothing and equipment in the hands of their troops.
- b. Sources of support. Normal source.
- c. Control and distribution.
- (1) Subordinate commands will maintain on hand one day's ration (MIC with fuel), and their basic allowance of ammunition.
  - (2) The Battalion Supply Officer will maintain a 30 day operating level of class II and class IV material, and special oils and lubricants. The Battalion Supply Officer will maintain a five day operating level of classes I, III, and V material.
  - (3) The Battalion Motor Transport Officer will maintain an administrative deadline sufficient vehicles to equal 50 per cent of the T/E vehicles on hand.
- d. Medical.
- (1) The Medical Officer will train and equip the medical personnel of the Battalion in accordance with current regulations.
  - (2) Helicopter evacuation is available for seriously injured personnel. The evacuations of serious or critical injuries will be made to Company B, 3rd Medical Battalion (Landing Zone - 540070).

#### 5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.

- a. Command post location.
- (1) The Battalion command post is located at coordinates 538023.
  - (2) All companies keep Battalion Headquarters posted as to exact CP locations.
- b. Radio communications.
- (1) Within the TAOR, radio will be the secondary means of communications.

- (2) The Battalion tactical net will be maintained on a 24 hour a day basis in the S-3 tent with a relay station located at Outpost "Perch 1".
- (3) Companies will activate radios on Battalion tactical net under the following conditions:
  - (a) When alerted as the ready reaction force.
  - (b) When wire communication fails.
  - (c) When specifically directed by this Headquarters.
  - (d) Every time the company leaves the TAOR for any reason.
  - (e) When conducting patrols which are controlled directly by Battalion Headquarters.

c. Wire communications.

- (1) Wire will be the primary method of communication within the TAOR.
- (2) All rifle companies will be tied in by wire to the Battalion CP.
- (3) As far as practicable, companies will lay wire to their platoons, to their listening posts and outposts.
- (4) Telephones will not be disconnected without permission from this Headquarters.

d. Message center.

- (1) The Battalion message center will maintain one covered teletype circuit with RLT-7 Headquarters.
- (2) All message traffic will be processed through the Battalion message center.
- (3) Shackle and authentication sheets will be issued by the message center on a continuing basis.

e. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) All batteries for communication-electronics equipment will be issued from the communication supply tent.
- (2) Report all instances of radio jamming immediately to the Battalion Communications Officer.

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- (3) All visual signals will be in accordance with reference (b).
- (4) TACP will be assigned on an "as required" basis to the rifle companies.

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ANNEXES

- A - Task Organization
- B - Operation Overlay
- Z - Distribution

DISTRIBUTION: Annex Z (Distribution)

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 031500H October 1965

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 5-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

(All attachments effective on order)

BLT 3/7

H&S Co (-)(Rein)

Det I Btry, 3rd Bn 11th Mar

LtCol BODLEY

Capt GANNAN

Co I (Rein)

Co I

FO Tn, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

FO Tn, 81mm Mort Plat

Lt MARSHALL

Co K (Rein)

Co K

FO Tn, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

FO Tn, 81mm Mort Plat

Capt THOMAS

Co L (Rein)

Co L

FO Tn, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

FO Tn, 81mm Mort Plat

Capt CLARK

Co M (Rein)

Co M

FO Tn, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

FO Tn, 81mm Mort Plat

Capt SCHWARTZ

81mm Mort Plat (-), 3rd Bn, 7th Mar

Lt SANDERS

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY

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 Commanding

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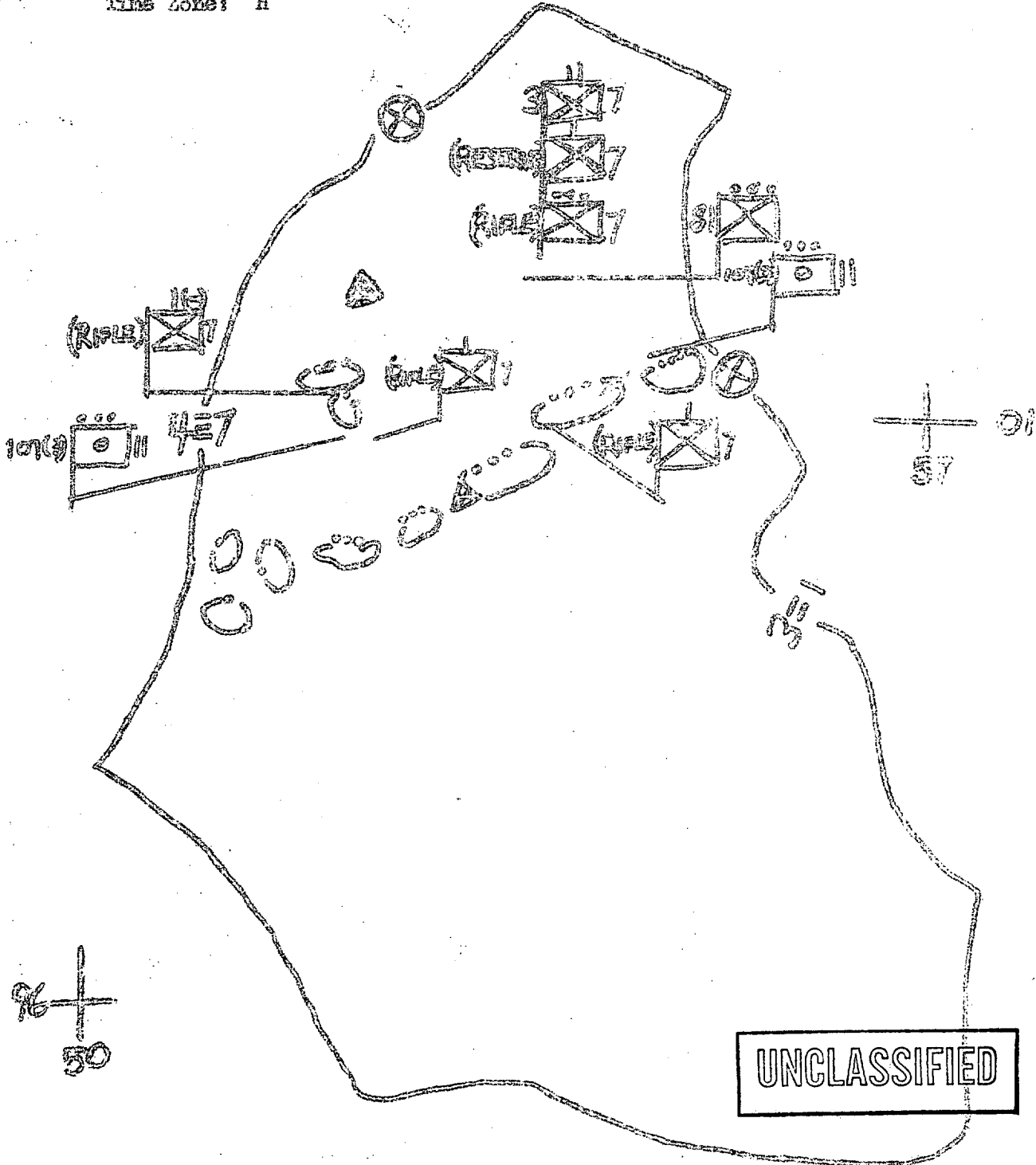
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3rd Battalion, 7th Marine  
and LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
031500H October 1965

Annex B (Operation Overlay) to Operation Order 5-65

Time Zone: H



*C. H. ...*  
C. H. ...

PREC \_\_\_\_\_

FROM:

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INFO:

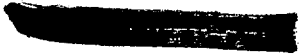
THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE MAY BE FOUND IN/UNDER \_\_\_\_\_

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DTG: \_\_\_\_\_





3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 031500H October 1965

Annex Z (Distribution) to Operation Order 5-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>COPIES</u>
CMC (AO3H)	1
MCLFDC	1
CG, FMFPac	1
CG, III MAF	2
CG, FMAW	2
CG, 3rd MarDiv	2
CO, RLT-7	3
CO, 4th Marines	1
CO, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar	28
CO, 1st Bn, 7th Mar	1
CO, 2nd Bn, 4th Mar	1
CO, Co B, 1st Tk Bn	2
CO, Co C, 1st AT Bn	2
<u>F I L E</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>T O T A L</u>	<u>48</u>

*C. H. Bodley*  
 C. H. BODLEY

Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
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DISTRIBUTION: Annex Z (Distribution) to Operation Order 5-65

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3rd Bn 7th Mar. Log No

448-65 Copy #54955

Ser: 0046-65

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
110800H October 1965

Operation Order 8-65

- Ref: (a) Div OperO 321A-65  
 (b) 7th Mar OperO 330-65  
 (c) 3rd Bn, 7th Mar OperO 4-65  
 (d) Maps: M.S. L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6756 I, IV; 6757 II, III

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)1. SITUATION.a. Enemy forces. Annex B (Intelligence).b. Friendly forces.(1) Ground. 4th Marines (-)(Rein) continues to occupy and defend CHU LAI TAOR including the sector regularly assigned to 7th Marines (-)(Rein).(2) Air. Annex G (Air).(3) Artillery. Annex F (Artillery).(4) RVN Forces.

(a) Elements of the 2nd Infantry Division, ARVN, conducts a search and clear operation from vicinity grid square BS 5488 to the northeast between the south bank of the SONG TRA BONG River and the high ground to the south.

(b) RF and PF units in the target area will withdraw to Route #1 at L-hour by routes yet to be determined and establish blocking positions vicinity of BINH SON Bridge.

(5) Co C (-)(Rein), 1st Recon Bn.

(a) One platoon will be inserted at L-hour on D-day by helicopter into Landing Zone GOOSE, vicinity coordinates BS 539927, and screen to the south and west of the Regiment.

(b) One platoon will be inserted at L-hour on D-day by helicopter into Landing Zone VULTURE, vicinity coordinates BS 640962, and screen to the east and south of the target area.

c. Attachments and detachments. See Annex A (Task Organization).

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2. MISSION. At L-hour on D-day, execute a helicopter-borne landing into Landing Zone DUCK and conduct a search and clear operation to the northeast in assigned zone of action.
3. EXECUTION.
- a. Concept of operations. Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land the Battalion (-)(Rein) in Landing Zone DUCK. Search and clear villages to the east with three companies abreast; progress controlled by Phase Lines CHERRY, GRAPE, ORANGE, APPLE, and PLUM.
- b. Co I (-)(Rein).
- (1) Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land in Landing Zone DUCK.
  - (2) On order, conduct search and clear of villages in zone.
  - (3) Designate one platoon (rein) as Battalion reserve.
- c. Co K (-)(Rein).
- (1) Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land in Landing Zone DUCK.
  - (2) On order, conduct search and clear of villages in zone.
- d. Co L. Regimental reserve (Reference (b) applies).
- e. Co M (Rein).
- (1) Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land in Landing Zone DUCK.
  - (2) On order, conduct search and clear of villages in zone.
- f. 81mm Mortar Platoon.
- (1) Land in Landing Zone DUCK, establish firing positions vicinity grid coordinates BS 564950.
  - (2) Provide general support to rifle companies.
- g. 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn.
- (1) Attach one squad to each of the three assault companies.
  - (2) Platoon headquarters remain in general support of the Battalion.
- h. Det Co C (-)(Rein), 1st SP Bn.
- (1) Provide control personnel at Landing Zone ROBIN, coordinates BS 538023.
  - (2) Establish Landing Zone DUCK, grid coordinates BS 561945, and provide necessary control personnel during initial helicopter landings.

i. Reserve. One reinforced platoon, Company I (Platoon to be announced).

- (1) Land in Landing Zone DUCK. Provide security for Battalion CP group.
- (2) Be prepared to reinforce any element of the Battalion on order.

j. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) D-day - TBA.
- (2) L-hour - TBA. H-hour - TBA.
- (3) Land in accordance with Appendix 4 (Landing Plan ALPHA) to Annex D (Landing Plan) to Operation Plan 201-65.
- (4) On D-day, each company will immediately report when entire unit has landed and arrived in position.
- (5) Contact will be from right to left until otherwise directed.
- (6) Restricted targets.
  - (a) There will be no indiscriminate firing into populated areas.
  - (b) There will be no firing into villages or populated areas without the express consent of the cognizant commander, and only then when receiving fire from organized resistance in the village or area.
- (7) Report:
  - (b) Arrival in landing zone.
  - (c) Arrival at each phase line.
  - (d) Company location.
  - (e) Enemy contact using SALUTE format.
  - (f) Caves discovered using CAVES format.
- (8) Sequence of landing. To be announced.
- (9) Sequence of retraction. To be announced.

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4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.a. Supply.(1) General.(a) Supply sources.

1. Prior to D-day - Normal.
2. In the objective area - LSA at coordinates BS 572965.

(b) Prescribed loads.

1. Class I. Three meals MCI with fuel per individual, two canteens of water.
2. Class II. Combat essential equipment as prescribed by commanders to include three days of halazone/iodine tablets and one day's supply of dry cell batteries.
3. Class III and IV. None.
4. Class V. Basic Allowance
  - a. Engr Plat. One satchel explosive per MOS 1371.
  - b. Medical supplies
    - 1' One Unit #1 per corpsman.
    - 2' Three days supply of salt tablets.
    - 3' Stretchers. As required by unit commanders.
    - 4' BAS. Carry initial allowance plus three days supply of high usage items.

(2) Supplies and equipment available.

- (a) Prescribed loads.
- (b) Logistics support area supplies. See Annex B to reference (b).
- (c) Resupply from Battalion. Organize stocks at Battalion CP (Rear), coordinates BS 538023.

(3) Control and distribution.

- (a) Units will requisition additional or resupply materials from the Battalion Supply Officer located within the Battalion CP group.

(b) The Battalion Supply Officer will maintain a minimum of five days' resupply of Classes I and IV and two days' supply of dry cell batteries in the Battalion CP Rear.

(c) Unit distribution by helicopter will be utilized.

(4) Resupply.

(a) The first resupply for Classes I, II, and IV materials will be furnished upon request on the evening of D-day.

(b) Subsequent resupply will be upon request on a daily basis, emergency resupply anytime.

(c) Requests for resupply should be submitted at least five hours prior to delivery and should include what, how much, when, and where the supplies are desired. Landing zone instructions and markings are required. If the requesting unit intends to return other materials on the delivering aircraft, this information should be included in the request.

(d) Water cans must be returned to the Battalion Supply Officer as soon as practical after they are emptied.

b. Evacuation and hospitalization.

(1) Evacuation.

(a) Serious casualties and KIAs will be evacuated via helicopter to Company B, 3rd Medical Battalion. Requests will follow the "MEDEVAC" format.

(b) Unit distribution by helicopter will be utilized.

(2) Hospitalization. Personnel requiring hospitalization will be evacuated to Company B, 3rd Medical Battalion.

(c) The first resupply for Classes I, II, and IV materials

(c) A BAS (Forward) will be located with the Command Group.

(3) Preventive medicine. Commanders will insure that all local water to be consumed is purified, that personnel take adequate salt tablets, and that personal hygiene is stressed throughout the operation.

c. Transportation.

(1) To the objective area - By helicopter.

(2) Limited helicopter movement within the objective area.

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- (3) The LSA (BS 575965) is accessible from the Battalion CP (Rear) via Route #1 (Vehicles) should the requirement arise.

(1) Maintenance.

- (a) Second echelon communication-electronics maintenance will be available upon request to the Battalion Communications Officer.
- (b) Second and third echelon ordnance maintenance will be requested via the Battalion Supply Officer.

(2) Water Points.

- (a) A water point is established in the Battalion CP (Rear).
- (b) A water point will be operated by Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion (-)(Rein) in the LSA (BS 575965).

(3) Helicopter transportation.

- (a) MAG-36 has been assigned by 7th Marines Administrative Plan 330-65 to provide two helicopters to the Battalion for administrative/logistical functions. These aircraft will be controlled by the Battalion ALO.
- (b) "MEDEVAC" helicopters will be available on an "on call" basis.

(4) Salvage, excess, and captured material.

- (a) Salvage, excess, and captured material will be handled in accordance with Division Order 4000.1C.
- (b) Material should be safeguarded to prevent both unnecessary damage and its falling into enemy control.
- (c) All material of the above categories will be reported to the Battalion CP (Forward) for information and assistance in evacuation.

(5) Personnel. Annex D (Personnel).

(6) Miscellaneous.

(a) Rear echelon.

1. CP at coordinates 538023.

2. Officer in charge. Lieutenant G. M. SCHLITZ

- (b) Excess equipment will be left in the Battalion CP under guard.

- [REDACTED]
- (c) Commanders will exercise strict control over the use and conservation of water cans.
  - (d) Personal effects and government property will be handled in accordance with current regulations. The Battalion Supply Officer will make arrangements to recover and evacuate the above items with the casualty.
  - (e) Routine administration will be carried out by those members of the command not employed in this operation.
  - (f) Uniform and equipment. The uniform will be utilities, normal arms, marching pack, and helmet.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS. See Annex H (Communication-Electronics).

*C. H. Bodley*

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ANNEXES

- A - Task Organization
- B - Intelligence
- C - Concept of Operation Overlay
- D - Personnel
- E - Fire Support Coordination
- F - Artillery
- G - Air
- H - Communication-Electronics
- X - Distribution

DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution)

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
110800H October 1965

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

3rd Bn, 7th Mar (-)(Rein)

LtCol BODLEY

Company I (-)(Rein)

Capt CLEMENTS

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Company K (-)(Rein)

Capt THOMAS

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
FAC Tm  
Det, 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Company M (-)(Rein)

Capt MCFARLAND

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
FAC Tm  
Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Headquarters & Service Company (-)(Rein)

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
110800H October 1965  
Lt SCHLITZ

Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
Det Co C (-)(Rein), 1st SP Bn  
Annex A Det FLSU #1  
Det HST

Ref: Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

81mm Mort Plat (-)

Lt SANDERS

3rd Bn, 7th Mar (-)(Rein)

C/H/B  
C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

Company A (-)(Rein)

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Order 8-65

Company B (-)(Rein)

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
FAC Tm  
Det, 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Company C (-)(Rein)

Arty FO's, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
81mm FO's, H&S Co  
FAC Tm  
Det, 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Headquarters & Service Company (-)(Rein)

Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
Det Co C (-)(Rein), 1st SP Bn

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A-1

Headquarters, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 110800 October 1965

Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order S-65

Ref: (a) Maps: AMS L701: Edition 2: Scale 1:50,000; sheets  
 6756 I and IV, and 6757 II and III.  
 (b) 3rd MarDiv P3800.1E

Time zone: H

1. SUMMARY OF ENEMY SITUATION.

- a. See Appendix (1) (Enemy Situation Overlay) and Appendix (2) (Intelligence Estimate) to Annex B (Intelligence)
- b. Current Intelligence reports and ISUMS as issued.

2. ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION

- a. How and when are the VC infiltrating into the objective area?
- b. Will the enemy defend HLZs SWAN, DUCK, GOOSE, and VULTURE? If so, in what strength and by what means?
- c. Will the enemy attack friendly forces while landing in the HLZs? If so, in what strength, in which LZs, and at what time during the landing?
- d. Will the enemy attempt to reinforce their units in the area of operation? If so, with what units? In what strength and from where?
- e. What enemy combat units, headquarters units, communications and supply units are located in the area? Where are they located? What is their size and strength? What is their unit identification?
- f. Where are supply caches located? What type supplies do they contain? What is the quantity of these supplies?
- g. Will the enemy attempt to withdraw from the area of operations during our landing? If so, by what route and by what means?
- h. What is the location, strength, and identity of enemy forces immediately outside the area of operation?

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Will the civil population in the area of operations be hostile to friendly forces? If so, in what manner will this hostility manifest itself?

- j. Will the enemy attempt to counterattack our forces at any time during the period of operations? If so, in what manner, where, and at what time?
- k. Is there a major military supply installation in the objective area? If so, where is it located and what does it contain?
- l. Is there a coordinated AA defense system in the objective area? If so, where are the weapons located? How is this defense system coordinated? What is the strength of AA units?

### 3. RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION MISSIONS

#### a. Orders to subordinate units

##### (1) RIFLE COMPANIES

- (a) Search out all supply caches, defensive positions, command and communications installations in assigned zone of responsibility reporting location, type and quantity of supplies, equipment and documents located therein to this headquarters (attn: S-2).
- (b) Be prepared to conduct reconnaissance and observation missions on order.

##### (2) 3RD PLATOON, "C" COMPANY, 1ST ENGINEER BATTALION

- (a) Provide detailed technical information on all VC mines, booby traps, fortifications, caves, and tunnels encountered.

##### (3) ALL UNITS 3RD BATTALION, 7TH MARINES (REIN)

- (a) Report to this headquarters (attn: S-2) attitudes and degree of any passive hostility shown towards friendly forces.
- (b) Thoroughly search out assigned areas of responsibility for hidden food, arms, and other types of supply caches reporting the location, type of cache, and quantity of supplies to this headquarters (attn: S-2)

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b. Requests to higher, adjacent, and supporting units

## (1) 7th MARINES (-) (REIN)

- (a) Provide current and predicted weather reports to this headquarters daily during the period of operation.
- (b) Provide aerial photo coverage and IRs as requested.
- (c) Provide information on enemy units outside the objective area that are capable of reinforcing units in the area of operation.
- (d) Provide search results of all supply caches and command and communications installations located in ARVN area of operations.

c. Coordinating Instructions. See Appendix 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to this Annex.4. MEASURES FOR HANDLING PRISONERS, CAPTURED DOCUMENTS, AND MATERIALS.a. Prisoners

- (1) Reference (b) applies.
- (2) Battalion S-2 personnel will screen all captives at the Battalion POW compound. Coordinated will be announced upon establishment of the compound.
- (3) Captives will be evacuated under guard from the place of capture to the Battalion POW compound by the most expeditious transportation available. Under no circumstances will POWs be brought into the Battalion C.P.
- (4) Specific command attention will be exercised to insure compliance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention relating to the treatment of POWs.
- (5) POWs will be bound at the wrists and blindfolded prior to evacuation to the Battalion POW compound.
- (6) All prisoners will be tagged with a card showing the capturing unit, location, time, and circumstances of capture.
- (7) Every effort will be made to induce captives to assist friendly units in locating hidden supply caches, command installations, and arms factories.

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b. Seized documents

- (1) Documents found on prisoners will be tagged and evacuated with the prisoners who had them in their possession. Tags will indicate the identity of the POW from whom they were taken.
- (2) Other documents will be tagged with a card indicating date, location, and circumstances of capture. These abandoned documents will be evacuated to the Battalion S-2.

c. Captured Material(1) Captured Weapons

- (a) A spot report will be made to the S-2 immediately upon capture of any enemy weapons. This report will indicate the time, date and location of capture, the capturing unit, and the type, make, and quantity of weapons captured.
- (b) Each individual weapon captured will be tagged. This tag will show the date, time, and location of capture, the capturing unit, and name, rank, and serial number of the individual responsible for capture.
- (c) All captured weapons will be evacuated to the Battalion C P under guard. The guard will carry an inventory of the weapons he is escorting. Upon delivery of weapons the S-2 will provide the guard with a receipt for each weapon and be directed to return to his unit.

(2) Food Stuffs

- (a) Capture of any food stuffs will be reported to this headquarters. Reports will include the following information: Type and quantity of food captured, location and circumstances of capture.
- (b) Caches of food stuffs of sufficient quantity to justify evacuation will be evacuated to the Battalion C.P. for redistribution by the Civil Affairs Team or for evacuation to higher headquarters.

- (3) Other captured material. All other captured material will be evacuated to the Battalion C.P. by the most expeditious means available unless the size or quantity of the material prohibits evacuation. In this instance samples of the material will be evacuated or sketches will be made of the material, and forwarded to the Battalion C P. All material sent to the Battalion C P will be tagged with a card showing time and location of capture, capturing unit, and circumstances of capture. Enemy radio equipment captured will be handled in the same manner as captured enemy weapons (Spot reports are required).

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5. MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHSa. Maps

- (1) Reference (a) is designated the standard tactical map for this operation.
- (2) Requests for additional maps will be made to this headquarters (attn: S-2)

b. Photographs

- (1) Photographs will be distributed as available.
- (2) Requests for aerial photographs will be made to this headquarters.

6. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE

- a. Reference (b) applies.
- b. Passwords and Countersigns. To be issued.

7. REPORTS DISTRIBUTION

- a. Spot reports will be submitted as soon after the occurrence of an event of intelligence interest as possible. Spot reports will be followed up with amplifying reports as additional information becomes available.
- b. See Annex 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to this Annex.



C. H. BODLEY

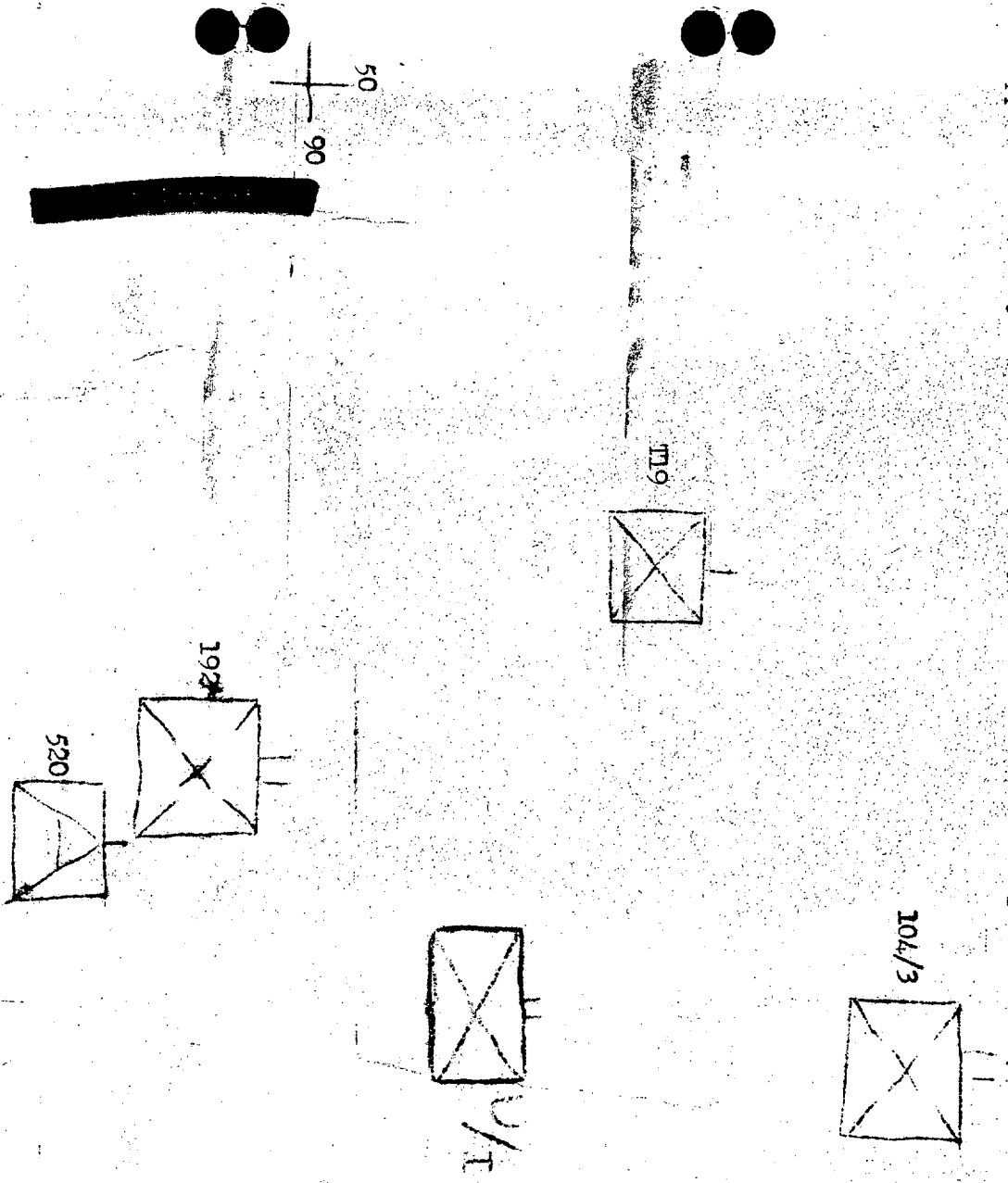
Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

APPENDICES

1. Enemy Situation Overlay
2. Intelligence Estimate
3. Coordinating Instructions
4. Passwords and Countersigns (To be issued).

DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Order 8-65.

Appendix 1 (Enemy Situation Overlay) to Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order 8-65



DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Order 8-65

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C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

*CHB*

B-1-1

Headquarters, 3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI SOUTH VIETNAM  
 110800 October 1965

Appendix 2 (Intelligence Estimate) to Annex B (Intelligence) to  
 Operation Order 8-65.

Ref: (a) Maps. AMS L701; scale 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 II, III and  
 6758 I, IV.

Time Zone: H

1. MISSION

- a. Basic Mission. To conduct a search and clear operation in the assigned zone of action in the central portion of the BINH SON District northeasterly to the juncture of the SONG TRA BONG and SONG CAP DA rivers.
- b. Previous Decisions To execute a combined helicopterborne and overland assault to the objective area.

2. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE AREA OF OPERATIONS

a. Weather

- (1) See weather forecasts as issued.
- (2) During the period of operations the weather is not expected to affect the enemy's capabilities. Prolonged heavy rains in the objective area would limit our use of helicopters and close air support and would seriously affect the trafficability of terrain for tracked and wheeled vehicles.
- (3) Astronomical Data for Period of Operations To be issued.

b. Terrain.

- (1) Relief. Relief of the area is predominately characterized by flat rice paddy/dry crops type of terrain interdicted by numerous brushwood covered knolls, the latter of which are the primary locations for the small but scattered built up areas (hamlets).

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- (2) Drainage Drainage of the area is accomplished by the SONG TRA BONG which drains in a northerly direction and several small streams draining into the SONG TRA BONG (See reference (a)).
- (3) Vegetation Vegetation throughout the area is dry crop vegetation and brushwood (approximately 25 per cent) the latter of which is found on the dispersed knolls and hills of the area. Rain forest type vegetation is lacking. Recent rainfalls have increased the growth and vegetation throughout the area.
- (4) Surface Materials The objective area contains three basic types of surface materials; some sand along the banks of the SONG TRA BONG; marshy area of alluvial soil throughout the objective area; and loose soil over laterite constituting the remainder of the area.
- (5) Critical Terrain Features
  - (a) Hill 57 (BS568979)
  - (b) Hill mass running southwest to northwest from BS5392 to BS5796.
  - (c) Route #1.
  - (d) Bridge (BS568979)
  - (e) Bridge (BS567985)
  - (f) Bridge (BS579961)
  - (g) Railroad paralleling Route #1.
- (6) Observation and Fields of Fire Long range observation and fields of fire for small arms should be good, being restricted only by possible paddy dikes and localized trees and brush in built-up areas. Short range observation is considered to be excellent throughout the objective area. Hill 57 and the hill mass running southwest to northeast affords excellent observation and fields of fire over the objective area.
- (7) Obstacles
  - (a) The SONG TRA BONG is an obstacle to north-south movement.
  - (b) The hill mass running southwest-northeast (BS5392) to (BS5796) is an obstacle to north-south movement, especially vehicular.

B-2-2

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(c) The wet rice paddies are obstacles to tracked and wheeled vehicles.

(d) The railway bed in the objective area is an obstacle to west-east movement.

(8) Avenues of Approach. See reference (a).

(9) Routes of Communication. See reference (a).

c. Politics/Sociology. All indications support the conclusion that the objective area is under VC control. The civil population in the area will be of no immediate assistance to a friendly force and will probably give the VC active support.

3. ENEMY SITUATION

a. Composition. The Viet Cong forces in the area of operations probably are the 104/3 battalion (Main Force), the 192 (Main Force) battalion, the T-19 company (Local Force), and another unidentified Main Force company plus local guerrillas.

b. Strength and Combat Efficiency

(a)	104/3	Est. 350
(b)	192 Bn	Est 350
(c)	U/I Co	Est 100
(d)	T-19	Est 100
(e)	Guerrillas	<u>Est 100</u>

TOTAL 1,000

(2) Combat Efficiency

(a)	104/3	Unknown
(b)	192	Unknown
(c)	U/I Co	Unknown
(d)	T-19 Co (LF)	Unknown

c. Dispositions. See Appendix 1 (Enemy Situation Overlay) to Annex B (Intelligence) to Operations Order 330-65.

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d. Arms and armament Unknown

e. Recent and Present Activities

(1) The enemy activity in the objective area has been to harass USMC and ARVN positions, to collect rice tax and continue to control the population. They also may have a mission to insure safe travel for a suspected supply route through the area under their control in BINH SON District.

f. Time and Space The normal mobility of lightly equipped VC units would enable all forces to move from present locations to more defensive terrain within two hours after receiving warning of U.S. Operations. Distances to such terrain generally north and west vary from one half to five miles from reported unit locations.

g. PECULARITIES AND WEAKNESSES. The reported units are largely main force and retain the advantage of support of the local population. They could blend with the civilians as a first step in withdrawal. They are susceptible to all forms of supporting fires unless they are in prepared defensive positions. Their only defense against air attack is small arms except for a suspected AA position south of the objective area in vicinity of BS5588. Their weakness in combat power is directly proportional to our superiority in mobility and fire power. Surprise operations against them could create confusion because of inflexibility in their plans.

#### 4. ENEMY CAPABILITIES

a. Enumeration

- (1) To withdraw present forces in the objective area fighting rear guard actions as necessary in withdrawing west, north or south at any time.
- (2) To defend in the objective area where located with one local force company, one main force company and two main force battalions supported by local guerrillas.
- (3) To counterattack friendly forces in the landing zone.

b. Analysis and Discussion

- (1) Capability (1). The enemy could choose to affect this capability at any time prior to the completed landing of friendly forces. However, after friendly blocking forces are in position he would have little success in accomplishing the withdrawal. If he were to affect this capability it would only partly affect the accomplishment of our mission since we could not completely destroy his force.

- [REDACTED]
- (2) Capability (2). If he chooses to defend the objective area in his present positions, he will enhance our mission by allowing us to destroy his forces in place and concentrate our firepower on his strongest points of defense.
- (3) Capability (3) The enemy does possess the capability to counter-attack our forces while landing, however in doing so, he will expose himself to our air power and may risk defeat without affecting the accomplishment of our mission.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- a. Relative probability of adoption of enemy capabilities. It is felt that the enemy will adopt capability (1). In effecting capability (1) it would allow him to escape from the objective area with his main strength intact. He also has indicated by past actions a reluctance to engage U.S. Forces in a direct confrontation.
- b. Effect of enemy capabilities on the Commander's Mission In effecting capability (3) the VC would seriously hinder the accomplishment of our mission.

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Headquarters, 3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, SOUTH VIETNAM  
 110800 October 1965

Appendix 3 (Coordinating Instructions) to Annex B (Intelligence) to  
 Operation Order 8-65.

Ref: (a) 7th Marines Operation Order 330-65

Time Zone: H

1. Reports.

a. ISUMS

- (1) Format for ISUMS is contained in 3d MarDivO P3800.1E. Reporting of enemy KIA's, estimated KIA's and WIA's actual and estimated WIA's, VCS, VCC, captured weapons and equipment and weapons will be in this manner:

Total this period\_\_\_\_\_.

Cumulative total to date\_\_\_\_\_.

b. SPOT REPORTS

- (1) Spot reports will answer as completely as possible the following questions.

WHO

WHAT

WHERE

WHEN

WHAT ACTION WAS OR IS BEING TAKEN.

Amplifying reports will be submitted detailing information on spot reports when required.

- (2) Spot reports shall also be used to report the following:

(a) Captured Personnel

(b) Captured Weapons and Communication Equipment

(c) Captured Documents

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(d) Captured Materials

(e) Reporting of supply caches, installations and caves.

(f) Viet Cong killed or wounded

c. ITT AND CI REPORTS. ITT and CI personnel shall submit to this headquarters and the capturing unit a copy of all interrogations as soon as possible after each interrogation.

2. CAPTURED VCS AND VCC's

a. All VCS and VCC's captured during this operation will be sent to the Battalion collection point, (location to be announced) after, repeat after, first being screened by the capturing unit.

b. ITT personnel will rescreen all prisoners at the Regimental collection point in the LSA prior to being evacuated to the CHU LAI compound. BT 547053.

c. No, repeat, no VCS or VCC will be sent to any other place other than specified herein.

d. Wounded VCS or VCC will be evacuated through medical channels with a report to this headquarters on location of capture, time and date captured, circumstances of capture and place of evacuation.

e. Helicopter unit commanders supporting this operation shall insure that all flight crew personnel are thoroughly briefed on the procedure contained herein and on the location of the CHU LAI POW COMPOUND.

3. AERIAL OBSERVATION REQUESTS

a. Aerial observation will be available upon request.

b. All requests for aerial observation missions or photographs will be made to this headquarters. Upon approval of request the requesting unit will be notified.

4. PERTINENT INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL UNITS

a. All captured VCS and VCC's shall be tagged, showing the location, date and time of capture, circumstances of capture and capturing unit.

B-3-2

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- [REDACTED]
- b. All captured documents taken from a prisoner shall be tagged and identified with and evacuated with the prisoner.
  - c. All other captured documents shall be tagged showing the location, time and date of capture, circumstances of capture and capturing unit or individual.
  - d. All captured weapons, and other transportable material shall be tagged showing location of capture, time and date of capture, circumstances of capture, capturing unit or individual.
  - e. No captured VCS, VCC, weapon or material shall be evacuated to the Battalion collection point without being tagged as described in paragraph 4.a. through 4.d.



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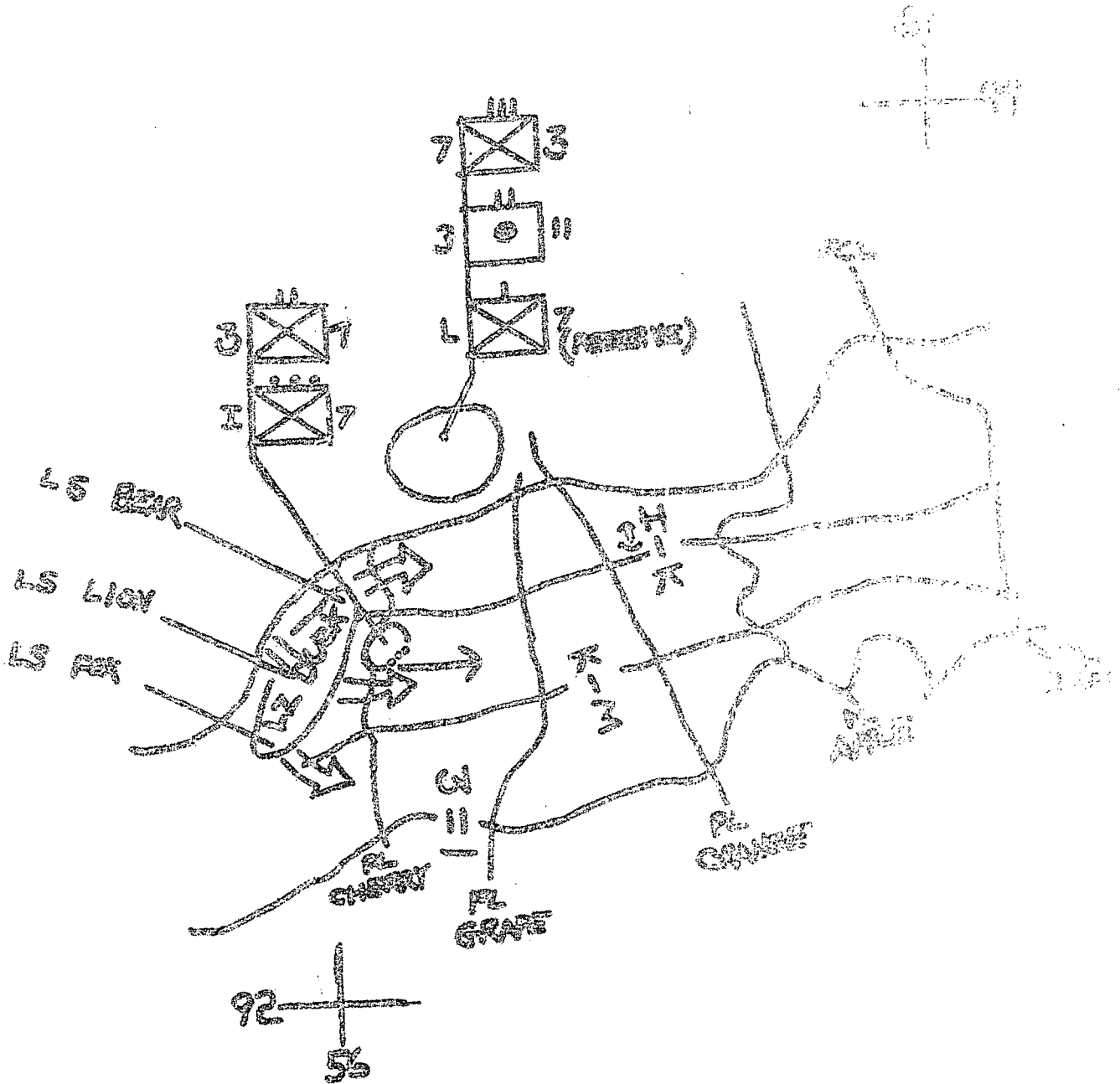
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Annex C (Concept of Operations Overlay) to Operation [unclear]



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 Lieutenant Colonel [unclear]  
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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 110800H October 1965

Annex D (Personnel) to Operation Order 8-65

- Ref: (a) Marine Corps Personnel Manual  
 (b) FM 27-1 (Geneva Convention)  
 (c) DivO 3800.1 (SCP Intelligence)  
 (d) Div(Fwd)O 1650.1  
 (e) DivO 5800.9 (SOP Legal)  
 (f) DivO 5000.3 (SOP Administration)  
 (g) RegtO 3000.1 (SOP for Organization of CP NOTAL)

Time Zone: H

1. General. Personnel procedures will be in accordance with references (a) through (g).
2. Strengths.
  - a. All units will deploy at strengths required to carry out the concept of operations.
  - b. All units will provide to the Battalion S-1 six copies of updated rosters of personnel participating in the operation by 1600 on D-1.
  - c. Commencing D+1, and continuing each day of the operation, a PDS will be submitted by 0600 as of 0001 to the Battalion S-1.
3. Replacements. No replacements are anticipated.
4. Discipline, law, and order. In accordance with reference (f).
5. Prisoners of war.
  - a. All POWs will be evacuated to the Battalion POW compound for holding and evacuation to the Regimental POW compound (Coordinates for both to be announced).
  - b. POWs will be blindfolded, arms bound securely and escorted by armed guards during all phases of processing and evacuation.
  - c. Units capturing POWs will insure that an immediate search is made.
  - d. Seriously wounded POWs will be evacuated to QUANG NGAI.
6. Graves registration. All KIAs will be evacuated to B Medical Company, FLSU #1.
7. Morale and personnel services.
  - a. There will be no leave for participating personnel.
  - b. Religious services will be announced.

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(3)

- [REDACTED]
- c. Div. ISO personnel may accompany each unit to participate in the timely and accurate reporting of operational action to higher headquarters. All reports will be submitted through Regimental Headquarters.
  - d. Correspondent's participation will be limited to those areas where their presence will not interfere with the success of the operation.
  - e. Any incident restricting correspondents' activities will be reported to the Regimental S-1.
8. Civil affairs. The civil affairs team, consisting of one officer and 13 enlisted men which includes a corpsman and a radio operator, will land with the Battalion CP group. The civil affairs team will proceed, on order, to designated hamlets to conduct civil affairs operations. Civil affairs operations will basically provide for civilian medical attention, the collection and control of the local populace to preclude their obstruction of military operations, and the gathering of intelligence concerning VC and booby traps in the area of operations.
9. Personnel procedures. Transfer and rotation of personnel will be at the discretion of the Company Commanders.
10. Interior management. In accordance with reference (f). Location of the Battalion CP will be announced.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
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Annex E (Fire Support Coordination) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: (a) Maps: VIETNAM 1:50,000 AMS Series L701, Sheets 6757 II, III,  
 6756 I, IV  
 (b) 3rd MarDiv OperO 321A-65  
 (c) FMFM 7-1

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization)

1. Situation.

- a. Enemy forces. Annex B (Intelligence) and ISUMs as issued.
- b. Friendly forces.
  - (1) Annex G (Air).
  - (2) Annex F (Artillery).

2. Mission. The 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines FSCC will exercise overall responsibility for coordinating and planning conventional fires supporting the elements of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in this operation thereby insuring maximum effective fire support and troop safety to all units operating in the zone of action.

3. Execution. In accordance with references (b) and (c).

4. Target information.

- a. Restricted targets. Villages and populated areas will not be fired upon except on order of the cognizant commander and only then when encountered organized resistance. Scattered sniper fire does not constitute organized resistance.

5. Aircraft safety.

a. Air sentries and lookouts.

- (1) Air sentries will be positioned at artillery units and will check fire when friendly aircraft are observed approaching danger areas.
- (2) Artillery forward observers will check fire when it appears that the trajectories of artillery will endanger friendly aircraft.
- (3) Unless special coordination measures are prescribed, fires on helicopter routes in use are restricted to observed fires where the observer is capable of insuring the safety of helicopters.

E-1

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- b. Flak suppression fires. When required and when time permits, flak suppression fires will be planned in detail to most effectively protect support aircraft from enemy ground fire and to provide a reasonable degree of safety from the suppressing fire.
6. Illumination. The primary means of illumination will be by flare plane as coordinated by the Regimental Air Liaison Officer. Secondary means of illumination will be by artillery and organic weapons on an "on call" basis.
7. Safety of ground forces.
- a. No fires will be placed across company boundaries without the approval of this Headquarters. This approval must be voiced - silence does not mean consent. The boundaries between adjacent units are fire coordination lines. The nature of this operation is such that extreme care must be taken to avoid the accidental attack of friendly forces.
- b. It is imperative that this Headquarters be kept informed of the front line positions of all units at all times. Front line position reports will be submitted by forward observers to the 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines' FSCC as soon as practicable after each unit displacement.
8. Command and Communication-Electronics.
- a. See Annex I (Communication-Electronics).
- b. Command posts. To be announced.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
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Annex F (Artillery) to Operation Order 8-65

- Ref: (a) Maps: VIETNAM, 1:50,000 AMS Series L701, Sheets 6756 I, IV, 6757 II, III  
 (b) 3rd MarDiv OperO 321A-65  
 (c) FMFM 7-4  
 (d) 3rd Bn, 12th Mar Arty Gru OperO 301-65

Time Zone: H

1. Situation.

- a. Enemy forces. Annex B (Intelligence and ISUMs as issued.)  
 b. Friendly forces.  
 (1) Annex E (Fire Support Coordination).  
 (2) Annex G (Air Support).  
 c. Attachments and detachments. None.

2. Mission: 107mm Mortar Battery (Towed), 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines at L-hour plus 30 minutes on D-day will proceed overland from CHU LAI position to high ground vicinity BS 570965 to establish a firing position and provide artillery support for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines operations.

3. Execution.

a. Concept of artillery employment.

- (1) 107mm Mortar Battery will occupy position to be designated in vicinity BS 570965 and provide direct artillery support of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines operations. Azimuth of fire will be 34004.  
 (2) Reinforcing fires will be available as required from medium and heavy caliber weapons of the 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines Artillery Group.

b. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) D-day and L-hour to be announced.  
 (2) Firing chart-grid sheet. 1:25,000.  
 (3) Registration. No restrictions.  
 (4) Survey. Firing positions will be surveyed in on D-day.

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- (5) Concentration numbers. In accordance with references (c) and (d).
- (6) Restrictions on fires. Annex E (Fire Support Coordination).
- (7) No fire lines. No artillery fires will be placed across Battalion boundaries without approval of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines FSCC.
- (8) Meteorological data. To be provided by 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines Artillery Group.
- (9) Ammunition restrictions. No more than 80 per cent of available supply rate will be expended without approval of 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines.

4. Administration and Logistics.

- a. See paragraph 4.
- b. Ammunition. 107mm Mortar Battery will carry basic allowance plus 80 rounds of illumination.

5. Command and Communication-Electronics.

- a. Annex H (Communications-Electronics).
- b. Command Posts. Report location when established.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 110800H October 1965

Annex G (Air) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref:-- (a) Map: AMS L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6756 I, IV; 6757 II, III  
 (b) FMFM-3, Air Support  
 (c) FMFM 7-1, Fire Support Coordination

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.

- a. Enemy forces. See Annex B (Intelligence).
- b. Friendly forces.
  - (1) See Annex A (Task Organization).
  - (2) 1st MAW provides tactical air support to include offensive air support, air assault and an airborne command/control capability as required.

2. PROCEDURES.

- a. Commanding Officer, 7th Marines establishes bomblines and/or no fire lines and publishes changes thereto as they occur.
- b. Air-to-ground strikes within the objective area must be under positive control of TACP, TAG(A), or ASRT.
- c. Coordination of supporting fires in accordance with references (b) and (c). See Annex E (Supporting Arms) to Operation Order 8-65
- d. Mark friendly front lines with front line marking panels and/or colored smoke prior to executing air to ground strikes.
- e. Use target designator grid (UTM) contained in reference (a) for all air support missions.
- f. Mission request procedures. See Appendix 1 (Mission Request Procedures).
- g. Control and orbit points for air support flights are contained in Appendix 2 (Air Operations Overlay).
- h. Alert status of on-call support aircraft as follows:
 

Condition I	- Two minutes
Condition II	- Five minutes
Condition III	- Fifteen minutes
Condition IV	- Thirty minutes
Condition V	- As ordered

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i. Target area weather minimums:

	<u>FLTS OF 4 OR MORE LESS</u>	
Helicopter (Day)	1500 Ft - 5 MI	500 Ft-1MI
Helicopter (Night)	1500 Ft - 5 MI	500 Ft-2MI
Day visual Close Air Support - 3000 Ft - 5 MI		
Visual Aerial Delivery - 1000 Ft - 3 MI		
Fixed Wing Observation - 500 Ft - 2 MI		
ASRT Missions - No restrictions		

3. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.

- a. See Annex H (Communications-Electronics).
- b. FSCC will be in the vicinity of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines CP during the offensive phase.

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APPENDIXES

- 1 - Mission Request Procedures
- 2 - Air Operations Overlay (To be issued)
- 3 - Conduct of Helicopter Operations

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 110300H October 1965

Appendix 1 (Mission Request Procedures) to Annex G (Air) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

1. Concept. Control of tactical air operations will be exercised by the Tactical Air Commander. DASC (airborne) will control aircraft until the 7th Marines is ready to assume responsibility for the coordination of supporting arms and control of both fixed wing and helicopter operations within the objective area. At this time DASC (Fwd), located with 7th Marines Headquarters, will assume control of aircraft in the objective area.
2. PREPLANNED. Requests for both fixed wing and helicopter aircraft in support of preplanned operations should be submitted to the Battalion Air Officer or his representative by 1600 daily. In the event additional preplanned air support is required after submission of daily requirements such request should be submitted to the Battalion Air Officer or his representative prior to four hours before the support is required. In the event the four hour lead-time cannot be met, the air support must be considered ON-CALL.
3. ON-CALL.
  - a. Fixed Wing. Requests for fixed wing air support will be submitted over the TAR net (HF or UHF as directed), to the DASC (Airborne) until coordination of supporting arms is established by 7th Marines at which time requests will then go to Battalion ALO to be forwarded to the DASC (Fwd). The tactical air request form will be used.
  - b. Helicopters. Requests for on-call helicopter support will be submitted over the TAR net (HF or UHF as directed) to the DASC (Airborne) until control of helicopter operations is assumed by the DASC (Fwd) ashore. Thereafter, helicopter requests will go to Battalion ALO to be forwarded to the DASC (Fwd). The Helicopter Request Form will be used. Line 8.g. of the Helicopter Request Form will designate most secure approach route and if landing zone is secure. If the request is for a medical evacuation the helicopter MedEvac Request Form will be utilized.
  - c. Aerial Reconnaissance (Visual/Photo). Requests for on-call visual and photo reconnaissance missions will be submitted to Division G-2 AO Representative located in the 7th Marines Headquarters via the most direct means.

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- 4. All requests for aircraft will be directed through the Battalion ALO. No aircraft will be diverted from its original mission.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 110502Z October 1965

Appendix 3 (Conduct of Helicopter Operations) to Annex G (Air) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

1. All landing sites will be marked as directed in Annex H (Communication-Electronics). They will be at minimum, 60 paces on each side.
2. Mission priority for Med-Evacs will be as follows:
  - a. Emergency (Critical).
  - b. Priority (Serious).
  - c. Routine (Evac not required immediately).
3. FAC's will advise all Med-Evac flights of the best approach and retirement routes to and from the pick-up point to reduce the hazards of hostile ground fire. Every effort will be made to provide Med-Evac flights with friendly suppressive fires, ground or air, during the pick-up phase.
4. Companies operating without FAC teams will forward Med-Evac requests to the Battalion ALO via the Battalion Tactical Net. Prior to the Battalion CP's establishment, Med-Evac requests may be relayed through a company with a FAC Team attached.
5. Six helicopters will be at Landing Zone FALCON in support of the 7th Marines. Except when the Regimental Commander has a requirement to mass the helicopters, two of these helicopters will support 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines. It is the responsibility of this unit to have all missions organized and prepared to use the helicopters properly.

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3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 Chu Lai, RVN  
 110800 October 1965

Annex H (Communication-Electronics) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: (a) Annex G (Communication-Electronics) to 3rd MarDiv  
 OpOrder 321A-65 w/change 3  
 (b) Third MarDiv COMMSOP  
 (c) Annex I (Communication-Electronics) to OpOrder 330-65

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy Forces

- (1) See Annex B (Intelligence) to Operation Order 8-65.
- (2) Reference (a) and current INSTUMS.

b. Friendly Forces

- (1) See Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 8-65.
- (2) The Battalion C.P. will initially be located at coordinates 557948.
- (3) All other units report location of S.P.'s to this Headquarters when established.

2. MISSION. Install, operate and maintain communications within the Battalion to support search and clear operations.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Radio Section

- (1) Activate a listening watch on all circuits at L-1.
- (2) Land on order in landing zone Duck.
- (3) Activate the Battalion Admin Net in accordance with the Radio Plan (Appendix 1).
- (4) Attach TACP together with associated equipment to the Air Liaison Officer.
- (5) Activate an H.F. circuit to the Battalion C.P. rear as required.

b. Wire Section

- (1) Limited wire will be installed within the Battalion C.P.

H-1

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- (2) Provided the companies are within one quarter mile of the Battalion C P. at night wire lines will be laid to them.

c. Message Center Section

- (1) Local shackle and authentication systems will be employed within the Battalion. These will be issued prior to the operation.
- (2) KAA-60 and KAC-138 will be employed on all traffic external to the Battalion.

d. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) Dragonfly is the unclassified code name for this operation and may be used in the clear on radio and telephone circuits when referring to this operation.
- (2) Visual Signals will be in accordance with reference (a) except as modified in Appendix 2 (Visual Signals).
- (3) All radio operators will carry two message books.
- (4) A tracked vehicle common net will be established for coordination as required using D-270 (54.0).

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- (a) See paragraph 4 (Administration and Logistics).
- (b) There will be limited repair facilities within the Battalion C.P
- (c) Battery re-charging and 2nd echelon repair facilities will be available within the Logistics Support Area.
- (d) Bring three batteries per radio initially. Resupply will be through this Headquarters.

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APPENDIXES:

1. Radio Plan  
2. Visual and Pyrotechnics

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3rd Bn 7th Marines  
Chu Lai, RVN  
110800 October 1965

Appendix 1 (Radio Plan) to Annex H (Communication-Electronics)  
to Operation Order 8-65

Time Zone: H

1. Activate a listening watch on all nets at L-1.
2. Radio Silence will be broken by this Headquarters.

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TABS: A Radio Chart  
B Call Signs

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3rd Bn 7th Marines  
 Chu Lai, RVN  
 110800 October 1965

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TAB A (Frequency Chart) to Appendix 1 (Radio Plan) to Annex H  
 (Communication-Electronics) to Operation Order 8-65

MISSION	CIRCUIT SIG	FREQUENCY	CIRCUIT TITLE	I CO	K CO	L CO	M CO	BN Rear	81 MM	Engr	TACP	FSCC
	D-6/D-52	(P)2452 (S)6770										
	D-197	40.7	DIV RECON									
	W-451/W452	(P)7995 (S)2196	D/O									
	W-453/W-454	(P)4631 (S)5270	TAR #1									
	W-485	247.0	TAR #2									
	W-460	283.4	TAO #1 (SCARLET)									
	W-455	312.0	TAO #2 (ORANGE)									
	W-456	325.0	TAD #1 (RED)									
	W-486	28518	TAD #2 (GREEN)									
	W-555	318.5	TAD #3 (PURPLE)									
	W-556	269.6	TAD #4 (VIOLET)									
	W-459	273.8	TAD #5 (YELLOW)									
	W-482	326.6	HD #1 (BLACK)									
	W-481	43.5	HD #2 (CRIMSON)									
	W-557	396.5	HD #3 (PINK)									
	D-37	5069	HD #4									
	D-1/D-69	(P)2116 (S)8720	H&F LOG									
	D-184/D219	(P)39.3 (S)44.4	3rd MAR CMD	X								
	D-249	49.8	7th MAR TAC	X								
	D-259	51.8	LZ CONTROL									
	D-225	45.2	SP CONTROL									
	D-222	44.8	BN TAC	X								
	D-233	46.2	BN ADMIN	X								
	D-76	9942	81 MM Coff	X								
	D-219/D-185	(P)44.4 (S)39.4	BN CMD									
	D-247	49.4	TACP LOCAL									
	D-269	53.8	I CO TAC									
	D-256	51.2	K CO TAC									
	D-243	48.6	L CO TAC									
	D-178	47.5	M CO TAC									
	D-163/D-147	(P)35.9 (S)29.5	3/11 BN CMD									
			I BTRY Coff									

LEGEND X - GUARD  
 O - AS REQUIRED  
 C - NET CONTROL

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TAB B (Call Signs) to Appendix 1 (Radio Plan) to Annex H  
 (Communication-Electronics) to Operation Order 8-65

UNIT	VOICE RADIO CALL SIGN
7th Marines	STARBOARD
1/7	PROMINENCE
3/7	SKEPTIC
3/11	TANNIC ACID
C Co 1st Recon Bn	SEABROOK CHARLIE
C Co 1st Engr Bn	TROLLING CHARLIE
MAG 11	CONDOLE
MAG 12	OXWOOD
MAG 16	ROSEANN
MAG 36	NAIL FILE
HMM 362	CLIP KLOP
HMM 364	WHITE GOLD
ARVN LNO (7th Mar)	STARBOARD 55
LOG SUP UNIT	RIDGEBEAM
B Co 1st Tank Bn	PLATTSBURG BRAVO
C Co 1st AT Bn	Spahard CHARLIE
A Co 3rd Amtrac Bn	PLUMTREE ALFA

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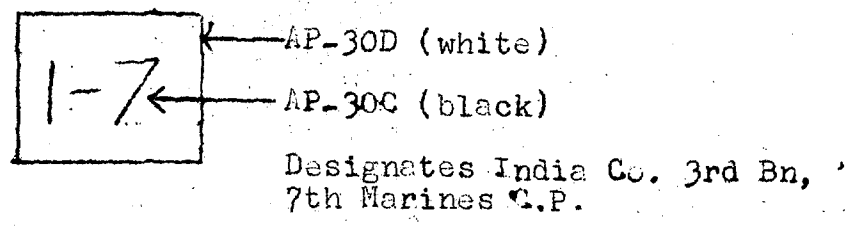
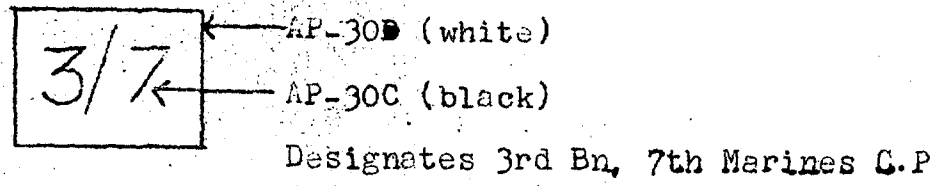
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Chu Lai, RVN  
110800 October 9165

Appendix 2 (Visual and Pyrotechnic Signals) to Annex H  
(Communication-Electronics) to Operation Order 8-65

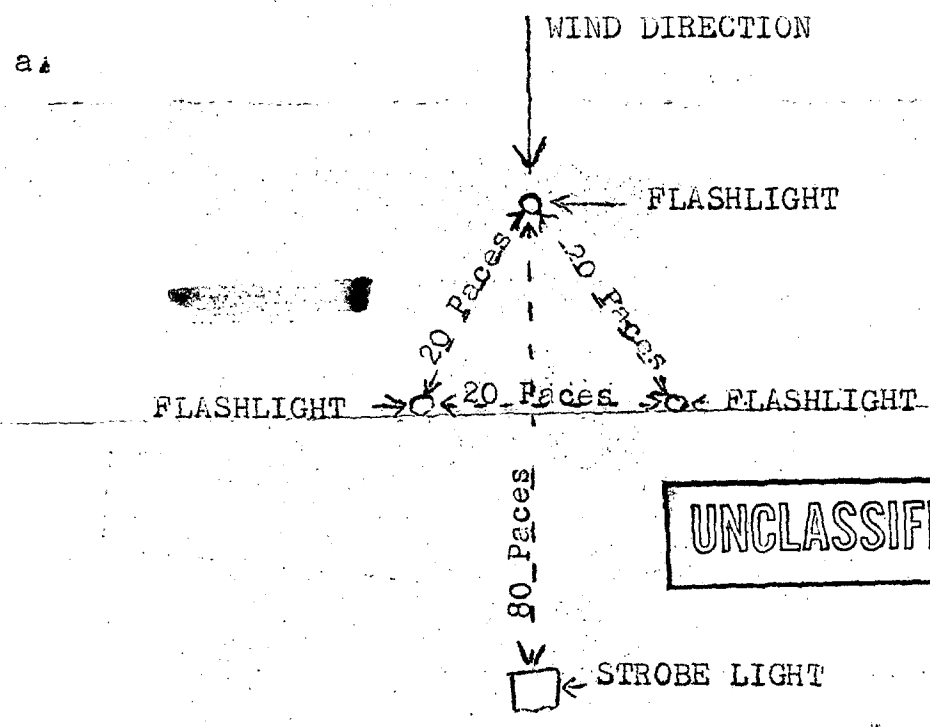
Time Zone: H

1. Red Smoke always denotes enemy. Do not use red smoke for any other purpose.
2. All other pyrotechnic signals must be confirmed over radio.
3. Helo landing sites will be marked in the following manner for daylight operations:
  - a. AP-30C and AP-30D panels will be made up and issued to the companies for their use. The panels will be designed as follows;



- b. These panels will be issued to the companies for their retention. Do not leave these panels behind when moving your C.P. location. Be sure to anchor these panels to the ground in such a way as to prevent its being blown away or torn by the blast of the helo propellers.

4. Night landing sites will be marked as follows:



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b. Color code of flashlights will be submitted with the  
helo request.

*C.H.B.*

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[Redacted]

H-2-2

[Redacted]

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 110800H October 1965

Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Order 8-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

ORGANIZATION

CMC  
 MCLFDC  
 CG, FMFPac  
 CG, III MAF  
 CG, FMAN  
 CG, 3rd MarDiv  
 ADC, 3rd MarDiv  
 CO, 7th Mar  
 CO, 4th Mar  
 CO, 2nd Bn, 4th Mar  
 CO, 1st Bn, 7th Mar  
 CO, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar  
 CO, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
 CO, 1st SP Bn  
 FLSU #1  
 BINH SON LnO  
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 1 - 16  
 2 - 17 + 18  
 28 - 48 - 19  
 2 - 78 + 47  
 2 - 49 + 50  
 1 - 51  
 1 - 52  
 3 - 53 + 55  
 58

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 221600H October 1965

Operation Order 9-65

Ref: (a) MAPS, AMS Series L701 VIETNAM, 1:50,000 Sheet 6756 IV  
 (b) 3rdMarDiv OperO 321A-65  
 (c) DivO P3800.1E  
 (d) DivO 4000.1C

Time Zone: H

3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

461-65 Copy # 45/50

Su: 050-65

I. SITUATION.

a. Enemy forces.

- (1) 107th VC Battalion located in vicinity BS 476906.
- (2) Elements of 52nd VC Battalion located vicinity BS 530900.
- (3) Elements of the 400th VC unit operating in groups of three to four men in area north of the SONG TRA BONG River.
- (4) See current ISUM's.

b. Friendly forces.

- (1) 7th Marines.
  - (a) 1st Bn, 7th Marines.
- (2) 4th Marines.
  - (a) 1st Bn, 4th Marines.
  - (b) 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.
  - (c) 3rd Bn, 4th Marines.
- (3) Three 155mm Self-propelled howitzer, Btry M, 4th Bn, 11th Marines.

(4) Air Support.

- (a) MAG-12 provides close air support.
  1. Armed HUEI's provide cover for heliborne landing.
  2. Armed HUEI's provide interdiction of the SONG TRA BONG River.
- (b) MAG-36 provides UH-34's for helilift.

c. Attachments.

- (1) 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn.
- (2) Det Co B, 1st SP Bn.

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(3) Det ARVN, PsyWar Team.

(4) Det EOD

2. MISSION. Conduct a battalion (-) heliborne landing into Landing Zones PRESCOT, PHOENIX, and TUCSON to execute search and clear operations north of the SONG TRA BONG River in LONG THINH, MY LOC (2), MY LOC (3), MY LOC (1), and MY LOC (4) and surrounding areas.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of operations. Conduct a three company heliborne landing at L-hour on D-day to search and clear the area north of the SONG TRA BONG River located in grid squares BS 4890, 4889, 4990, 4989, 5090, 5089, 5190, and 5189. Company L to be helilifted into Landing Zone PHOENIX, BS 489898 and Company K to be helilifted into Landing Zone PRESCOT, BS 495907 simultaneously. On order, conduct a coordinated sweep to the south and then to the east parallel to the SONG TRA BONG River.

Company K to maintain two squads airborne as ready reaction force until relieved on station by two squads from Company I. Airborne ready reaction force to remain on station until L+3. Company I to be helilifted into initial blocking position, BS 514902 followed by the CP group and H&S Company (-)(Rein). Two platoons, Company I to be designated as a ready reaction force to establish further blocking positions as necessary. Establish a Battalion (-)(Rein) night defensive position in the vicinity of BS 503896 to BS 506898 and be prepared to retract at 0800H on D+1 or further exploit initial success or targets of opportunity.

b. Company K (-)(Rein).

(1) Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land in Landing Zone PRESCOT, vicinity of BS 495907, and, on order, conduct a coordinated sweep to the south and then east in assigned zone.

(2) Search and clear the village complex of MY LOC (2) and MY LOC (1).

(3) Establish night defensive positions on order.

(4) Be prepared to retract on D+1 or continue operations to exploit initial success.

c. Company L (-)(Rein).

(1) Commencing at L-hour on D-day, land in Landing Zone PHOENIX, vicinity of coordinates BS 489898, and, on order, conduct a coordinated sweep to the south and then east along the SONG TRA BONG River in zone of action.

2 (2) Commencing at L-hour provide two squads as a heliborne ready reaction force until relieved on station by Company I.

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- (3) Search and clear the village complex of MY LOC (3) and the northern bank of the SONG TRA BONG River.
- (4) Establish night defensive positions on order.
- (5) Be prepared to retract on D+1 or continue operations to exploit initial success.

d. Company I (-)(Rein).

- (1) Be prepared, as Battalion reserve, to execute missions in support of the tactical plan.
- (2) At L+1 hour & 30 minutes, land in blocking position at Landing Zone TACHON, vicinity of BS 505897.
- (3) At L+1 hour & 30 minutes, two squads to form a heliborne reaction force on station until L+3 hours.
- (4) Provide one platoon as Battalion CP security in vicinity of BS 505897.
- (5) Remainder of company, be prepared to establish further blocking positions on order.
- (6) Establish night defensive positions on order.
- (7) Be prepared to retract on D+1 or continue operations to exploit initial success.

e. Company M. Continue to occupy assigned sector of TACH.

f. H&S Company (-)(Rein).

- (1) Establish the Battalion CP in the vicinity of BS 505897.
- (2) Organize and establish security for the Battalion CP.
- (3) Be responsible for the interior management of the Battalion CP.

g. 81mm Mortar Platoon.

- (1) Establish gun positions in the vicinity of BS 505897.
- (2) Be prepared to provide general support of the companies.
- (3) Azimuth of fire will be 225°.

h. 3rd Plat. Co C, 1st Engr Bn.

- (1) Attach six men to each company with section leader located with H&S Company.
- (2) Be prepared to locate and destroy booby traps and mines.

[REDACTED]  
(3) Supplies and equipment available.

- (a) Prescribed loads.
- (b) Normal support accessible via helicopters.

(4) Control and distribution.

- (a) Logistical requests will be through the Battalion S-4.
- (b) Unit distribution for all classes of supply.
- (c) No supply dumps will be established in the field.
- (d) Use rapid request format for logistical support.

(5) Plan for landing supplies.

- (a) Supplies and equipment will be carried and landed aboard assault helicopters.
- (b) Normal helicopter movement procedures will be followed.
- (c) The Battalion Air Officer will coordinate the troop lift.

(6) Resupply.

- (a) No resupply anticipated.
- (b) Emergency resupply via helicopters.

(7) Salvage and captured material.

- (a) Report to Battalion Command Group.
- (b) To be handled in accordance with references (c) and (d).

b. Evacuation and hospitalization.

(1) Medical evacuation.

- (a) To Company B, 3rd Med Bn.
- (b) Via helicopter upon request.
- (c) POW's and civilians to QUANG NGAI Hospital.

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(2) Hospitalization.

- (a) To be determined by Company B, 3rd Med Bn.
- (b) Normal reporting procedures to be followed.

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c. Transportation.

- (1) To and within the objective area via helicopter.
- (2) Request to Battalion S-4.

d. Miscellaneous.

- (1) Uniform and equipment.
  - (a) Utility uniform.
  - (b) Normal arms and equipment.
  - (c) Modified light marching packs.
  - (d) Body armor, upper torso.
- (2) Excess company and personal property will be left secured in the Battalion (Rear) CP.
- (3) Treat all local water with iodine tablets prior to consumption.

e. Personnel.

- (1) Strengths.
  - (a) Units will deploy at maximum strength. Necessary administrative personnel will remain behind.
  - (b) At or before 2000H on D-1, three rosters of all personnel participating in the operation including attachments, will be submitted to the Battalion S-1.
- (2) Replacements. None are expected.
- (3) Prisoners of war.
  - (a) All captured personnel, material, and documents will be tagged, and evacuated through intelligence channels as provided for in reference (c).
  - (b) All captives will be tagged to provide interrogators with the full information.
  - (c) All VCC/VCS will be forwarded immediately to the nearest collection point for interrogation and further disposition.
  - (d) Capturing units will maintain an accurate running total of captives by category.



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- (e) Women, children, and old men will not be evacuated.
- (f) Submit report of all VCC and civilian dead or injured.

(4) Reports.

- (a) Commencing D+1, submit personnel daily summary as of 2400 D-day by 0600 the following day.
- (b) All friendly KIA's and WIA's will be reported immediately. Give complete details of casualty. The Battalion S-1 will inform companies of the evacuated casualties' progress, when such information is available.

(5) Civil affairs.

- (a) Organization. The civil affairs team consisting of one officer, one corpsman, 11 enlisted USMC, and two Vietnamese PsyWar personnel will be subdivided into two similar elements for attachment to Companies K and M.
- (b) Mission. The primary mission of civil affairs operations will be to insure that civilians do not interfere with the accomplishment of the tactical mission, render emergency medical aid and other simple civic actions, and gather intelligence from the civil populace.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.a. Communications.(1) Radio section.

- (a) Radio will be the primary means of communications.
- (b) Activate all circuits at L-1.
- (c) The following nets will be established:
  1. Battalion Tactical Net (45.2 D225).
  2. Battalion Command Net (9942 D76) to include Battalion CP (Fwd), Battalion CP (Rear), and 7th Marines CP.
  3. Each squad that will be left aboard helicopters as ready reaction will be equipped with an AN/PRC-10. If committed, they will activate on the Battalion Tactical Net. When they rejoin their parent unit, these radios will be used on the Company Tactical Net.
  4. TACP local (44.4 D219).
  5. Air observers and orbiting helicopters will also activate stations on the Battalion Tactical Net.

6. Battalion CP (Fwd) will add the word "forward" to their call sign on the Battalion Command Net.
7. Bring three batteries per radio. BB-451's will be recharged at the Battalion CP (Rear).

(2) Wire section.

- (a) Limited wire will be installed within the Battalion CP (Fwd).
- (b) During the hours of darkness, if terrain and distance permits, wire will be laid to the rifle companies.

- (3) Message center section. Local shackle and authentication will be used within the Battalion. 7th Marines will be furnished a copy.

b. Command Posts.

- |                                |                 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| (1) 3rd Bn, 7th Mar            | BS 505987       |
| (2) Company I, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar | Report location |
| (3) Company K, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar | Report location |
| (4) Company L, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar | Report location |

*C. H. Bodley*

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Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

ANNEXES

- A - Task Organization  
B - Operation Overlay  
C - Fire Support Coordination  
D - Artillery  
E - Air Operations (To be issued)  
X - Distribution

DISTRIBUTION: Annex X (Distribution)

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 221600H October 1965

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 9-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

3rd Bn, 7th Marines

LtCol BODLEY

Co L (Rein)

Capt CLARK

- FO, 81mm Mort Plat
- FO, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
- Det Med Plat, H&S Co
- Interpreter, H&S Co
- FAC Tm, H&S Co
- Det CA/PsyWar Tm, H&S Co
- Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Co K (Rein)

Capt THOMAS

- FO, 81mm Mort Plat
- FO, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
- Det Med Plat, H&S Co
- Interpreter, H&S Co
- FAC Tm, H&S Co
- Det CA/PsyWar Tm, H&S Co
- Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

Co I (Rein)

Capt CLEMENTS

- FO, 81mm Mort Plat
- FO, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
- Det Med Plat, H&S Co
- Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn

H&S Co (-) (Rein)

Lt SCHLITZ

- Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar
- Det Co C, 1st SP Bn
- Interpreter, H&S Co
- Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn
- Det EOD

81mm Mort Plat (-)

Lt SANDERS

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 C. H. BODLEY

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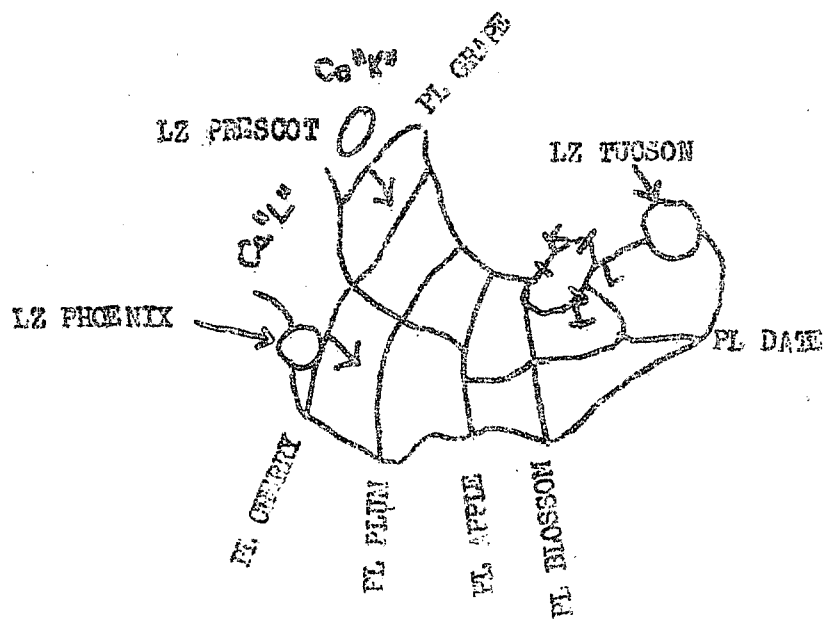
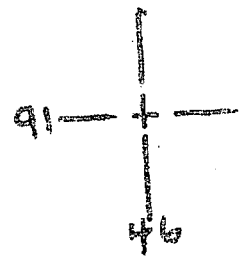
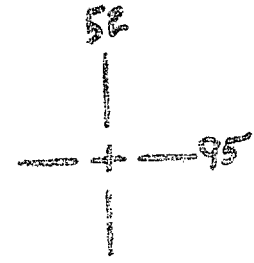
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GRU GAF, 221200H October 1965

Annex B (Operation Overlay) to Operation Order 9-65

Ref: (a) MAT, AMS Series 1701 VINH NAM, 1:50,000, Sheet 6756 IV

Time Zone: H



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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.  
 221600H October 1965

Annex C (Fire Support Coordination) to Operation Order 9-65

Ref: (a) MAPS, VIETNAM, 1:50,000 AMS Series L701, Sheet 6756 IV  
 (b) FMEFM 7-1

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex A (Task Organization).

1. SITUATION.

- a. Enemy forces. See paragraph 1a of Operation Order 9-65.
- b. Friendly forces. See Annex D (Artillery).

2. MISSION. The 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines FSOC will exercise overall responsibility for coordinating and planning conventional fires supporting the elements of the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in this operation, thereby insuring maximum effective fire support and troop safety to all units operating in the zone of action.

3. EXECUTION. In accordance with reference (b).

4. TARGET INFORMATION.

- a. Restricted targets. Villages and populated areas will not be fired upon except on order of the cognizant commander and only then when encountering organized resistance. Scattered sniper fire does not constitute "organized resistance".

5. AIRCRAFT SAFETY.

- a. Air sentries and lookouts.

- (1) Air sentries will be positioned at artillery units and will check fire when friendly aircraft are observed approaching danger areas.
- (2) Artillery forward observers will check fire when it appears that the trajectories of artillery will endanger friendly aircraft.
- (3) Unless special coordination measures are prescribed, fires on helicopter routes in use are restricted to observed fires where the observer is capable of insuring the safety of helicopters.

6. ILLUMINATION. The primary means of illumination will be by artillery and organic weapons on an "on call" basis.

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7. SAFETY OF GROUND FORCES.

- a. No fires will be placed across company boundaries without the approval of this Headquarters. This approval must be voiced - silence does not mean consent. The boundaries between adjacent units are fire coordination lines.
- b. The nature of this operation is such that the following "No Fire Line" has been established: From BS 4692 to BS 5492 to BS 5488 to BS 4688 to BS 4692. No rounds will be fired outside of this area without approval from higher Headquarters.
- c. It is imperative that this Headquarters be kept informed of the the front line positions of all units at all times. Front line position reports will be submitted by FO's to the 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines FSCC as soon as practicable after each unit displacement.

8. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.

- a. Primary means of communication will be by radio.
  - (1) Primary conduct of fire frequency will be D-147.
  - (2) Alternate conduct of fire frequency will be D-163.
- b. Command posts. To be announced.

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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 221200H October 1965

Annex D (Artillery) to Operation Order 9-65

Ref: (a) MAPS; VIETNAM, 1:50,000, AMS Series L701, Sheet 6756 IV  
 (b) FMEFM 7-4  
 (c) 3rd Bn, 12th Mar Arty Gru OperO 301-65

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy forces.

(1) See paragraph 1a of Operation Order 9-65.

b. Friendly forces. See Annex C (Fire Support Coordination).

c. Attachments and detachments. None.

2. MISSION. Battery M, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines on D-1 will displace three 155mm self-propelled howitzers from CHU LAI position to OP 30, vicinity BS 56039966 to establish a firing position and provide artillery support for 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines operations.

3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of artillery employment.

(1) Three 155mm self-propelled howitzers from M Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines will occupy a position to be designated in the vicinity of BS 56039966 and provide direct artillery support of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines operations. Azimuth of fire will be 3750M.

b. Coordinating instructions.

(1) D-day - To be announced.

(2) L-hour - 0645.

(3) Fire direction will be decentralized.

(4) Firing Chart - Grid Sheet, Scale 1:25,000.

(5) Survey - Firing positions will be surveyed in prior to D-1.

(6) Registration will be accomplished on D-1.

(7) Concentration numbers will be in accordance with references (b) and (c).

(8) Restrictions on fires will be in accordance with Annex E (Fire Support Coordination).

D-1

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- (9) Meteorological data to be furnished by 3rd Battalion, 12th Marines Artillery Group.
- (10) Ammunition restrictions - No more than 80 percent of available supply rate will be expended without approval of this Headquarters.
- (11) No friendly fire will be planned closer than 300 meters to friendly troops.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- a. See paragraph 4 (Administration and Logistics) of Operation Order 9-65.
- b. Ammunition. A minimum of 80 rounds of illumination will be on hand. Quantities of HE and WP ammunition in position will be determined by the Battery Commander.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION-ELECTRONICS.

- a. Communications will be by radio.
- (1) Primary conduct of fire frequency will be D-147.
- (2) Alternate conduct of fire frequency will be D-163.
- (3) Battery M, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines will insure that a MRC-83 is in the firing position and will initially monitor the infantry Battalion Command Net (Frequency - D76). In the event that AN/PRC-9 communication is inadequate, instructions will be passed over the infantry Battalion Command Net to activate a back-up conduct of fire frequency (D-90).
- b. Command Posts. Report location when established.

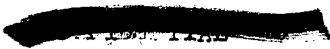
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Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
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3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
 CHU LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
 221200H October 1965

Annex X (Distribution) to Operation Order 9-65

Ref: None

Time Zone: H

<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>Number of Copies</u>
CMC	2
MCLEDC	2
CG, FMFPac	2
CG, III MAF	1
CG, FTMW	1
CG, 3rdMarDiv	5
ADC, 3rdMarDiv	1
CO, 7th Mar	3
CO, 4th Mar	1
CO, 3rd Bn, 7th Mar	26
CO, 1st Engr Bn	1
CO, 1st SF Bn	1
FLSU #1	1
BINH SON LnO	2
<u>F I L E S</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>T O T A L</u>	<u>50</u>

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3rd Bn. 7th Mar. Log No

459-65 Copy # 10/1

Su: 048-65

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines  
CHI LAI, REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
151200H October 1965

Frag Order 3-65 (Company M - Patrol "Rhino")

Ref: (a) AMS L701, VIETNAM, 1:50,000, Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV  
(b) Bn OperO 3-65

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.a. Enemy forces. See current ISUM's.b. Friendly forces.

- (1) 1st Bn, 7th Marines.
- (2) 2nd Bn, 4th Marines.
- (3) 107mm Howitzer Btry, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines.
- (4) M Btry, 4th Bn, 11th Marines.

c. Attachments.

- (1) Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 3rd Engr Bn
- (2) Section, Slim Mort Plat
- (3) Det Bn CA Tm
- (4) FO Tm, Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Marines
- (5) FO Tm, Slim Mort Plat

2. MISSION. Conduct helicopterborne landing within Battalion TAOR. Conduct a company combat patrol to include fan and platoon patrols, ambushes, OP's, and thorough searches of terrain within company's area of operations.3. EXECUTION.

a. Concept of operations. At L-hour on D-day, Company M ( ) (Rein) will land in western portion of Battalion TAOR to conduct a thorough three-day search and clear of villages NAM BINH (6), NAM BINH (7), and unnamed village approximately 700 meters southeast of NAM BINH (8) and all terrain within area of operations. In addition, one platoon will provide security for villagers of TRI BINH (1) while harvesting rice in the TRI BINH Valley. The platoon providing this security will land on D+1, conduct a sweep to established blocking positions, and then take up positions to receive villagers on D+2 to provide them with security. Information derived

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from initial contacts and observation to be utilized to establish ambushes, smaller patrol routes, and other operations at the discretion of the Company Commander. The patrol will tentatively operate in three phases as follows:

- (1) First Day. At 180645H, Company M (-)(Rein) will land 2nd Platoon in Landing Zone YELLOW, coordinates BS 524953, and establish blocking positions at coordinates BS 523997, BS 529955, and BS 528958. 3rd Platoon lands in Landing Zone PINK at 160645H, vicinity coordinates BS 527968, and sweeps south through NAM BINH (6). Upon completion of sweep, 3rd Platoon will move to blocking positions, vicinity coordinates BS 536997, BS 537955, and BS 539952. 2nd Platoon will then conduct a sweep to the east. During the night of 16-17 October, ambush positions will be established at coordinates BS 531997 and BS 537967 (See Company Patrol Overlay #1 and #2).
- (2) Second Day. At 170600H, 2nd Platoon, Company M establishes blocking positions vicinity of BS 539955, 530957 and 537967. 3rd Platoon in blocking position vicinity of BS 536956. At 170645H, 1st Platoon lands in Landing Zone BLUE vicinity BS 543975 and conducts search and clear to the southeast through NAM BINH (7). Upon completion of search and clear, the 1st Platoon will move to harboring site vicinity BS 543952 and remain in this position for the night. 2nd Platoon will establish defensive positions vicinity BS 536956, and provide CP security. The 3rd Platoon will establish ambush positions, vicinity BS 540963, 528999, and 527953 on the second night (see operation overlay #3 and #4).
- (3) Third Day. 1st Platoon will provide security for villagers of TRI BINH (1) harvesting rice in the TRI BINH Valley. Upon completion they will move to Landing Zone BLUE, vicinity coordinates BS 543975 to be helilifted back to Battalion CP area at 190700H (The morning of the 4th day). The 2nd and 3rd Platoons will conduct a thorough and detailed sweep and search of grid squares 5296, 5396, and portions of 5295 and 5395 which lie within the Battalion TAOR. They will accomplish this by sweeping from south to north and upon completion, join the 1st Platoon in Landing Zone BLUE for helilift back to Battalion CP area at 190700H (The morning of the 4th day).

b. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) L-hour - 0645H
- (2) D-day - 16 October 1965
- (3) Rules of engagement will be in accordance with reference (b).

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**(4) Reports required.**

- (a) SPOTREP - Upon contact.
- (b) SALVREP - As required.
- (c) CAVEREP - As required.
- (d) LINEREP - On movement of any element.

**4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.**

- a. Normal.
- b. Resupply will be accomplished upon request.

**5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATION ELECTRONICS.**

- a. Enter Battalion Tactical Net one hour prior to departure.
- b. Utilize local shackle and authentication as required.
- c. Visual signals must be confirmed by radio.
- d. Red smoke always designates enemy and need not be confirmed.
- e. Take three batteries per radio. Resupply of one battery per radio on requested resupply.
- f. Contact with Battalion CP will be through Battalion relay station.

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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DOD DEN 5200.10

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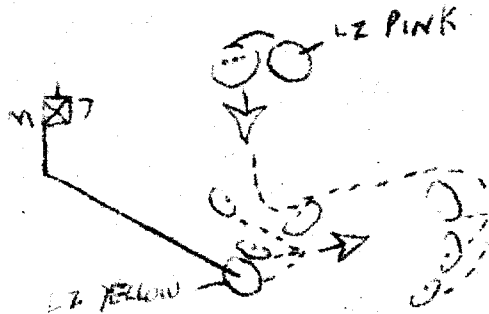
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Operation Overlay #1 to Frag Order 3-65

Ref: (a) MAPS, AMS Series 1701 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 I, II and 6756 IV

OPERATION OVERLAY #1



47  
55

44  
51

1ST DAY (16 OCT 65)  
M' CO.

C. H. BOBRY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 520030

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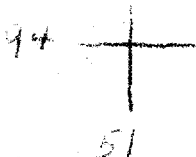
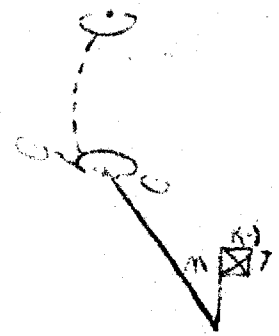
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Operation Overlay #2 to Frag Order 3-65

Ref: (a) MAPS AME Series L701 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV

OPERATION OVERLAY #2

55



1<sup>ST</sup> NIGHT (16 OCT 65)  
"M" Co.

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

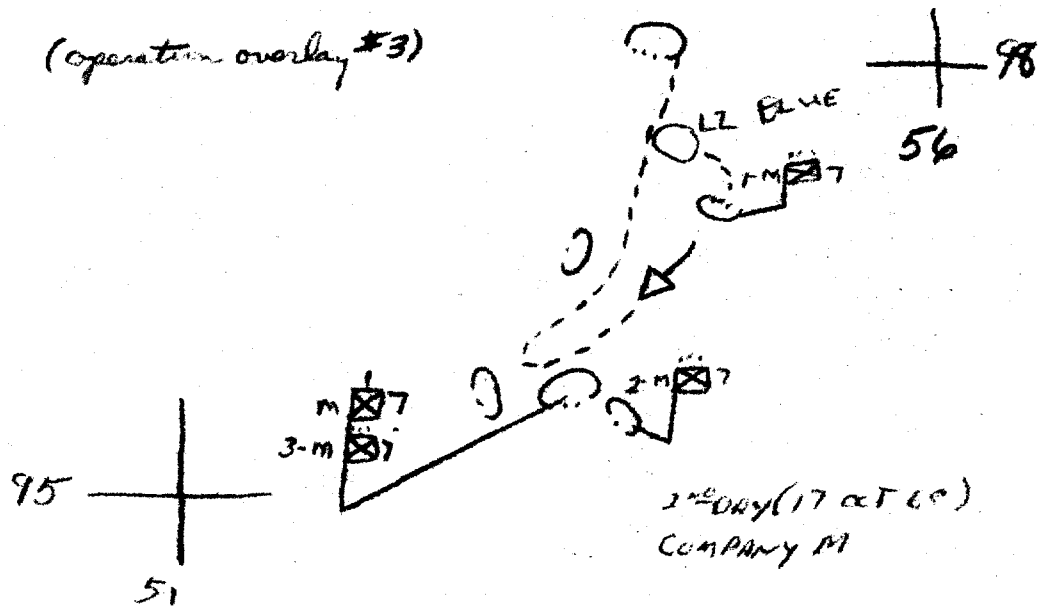
UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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Operation Overlay #3 to Frag Order 3-65

Ref: (a) MAPS AMS Series L701 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV



C. H. BOBBY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVAL  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

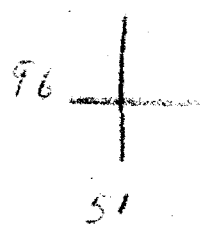
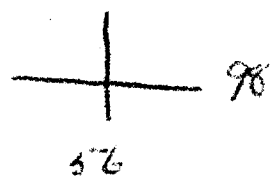
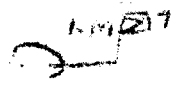
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Operation Overlay #4 to Frag Order 3-65

Ref: (a) MAPS AMS Series L701 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV

*(Operation overlay #4)*



*2ND NIGHTS  
POSITIONS  
Company M*

C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

UNCLASSIFIED

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS  
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10

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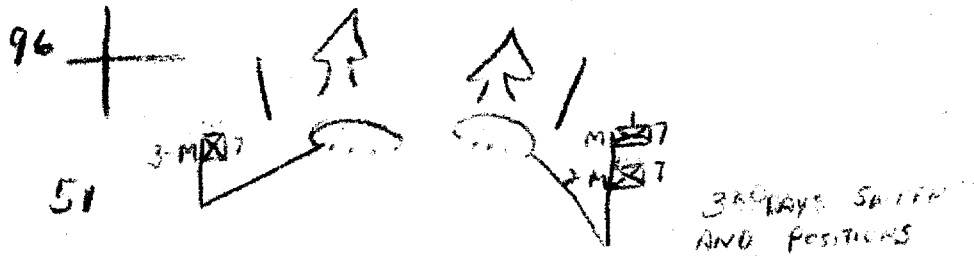
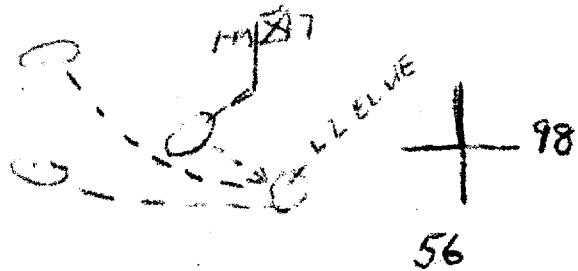
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Operation Overlay #5 to Frag Order 3-65

Ref: (a) MAPS AMS Series L701 1:50,000 Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV

*(operation overlay #5)*



C. H. BODLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, US Marine Corps  
Commanding

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
DOD DIR 5200.10



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- (2) On D-day at 0615, two reinforced platoons of Company K will debark from vehicles at coordinates BS 572974 and sweep the village of THU BINH (5) to the southwest.
- (3) At first light on D-day, the remaining element of Company E will be helilifted into Landing Zone PARROT (BS 562962). This element will relieve Company K as the blocking force and Company K will be helilifted back to the Battalion CP on the returning helicopter.

b. Phase One. See paragraph 3a (Concept of operations).

c. Phase Two. Company K will establish a company patrol base in grid square BS 5995 and conduct activities within the Company's assigned TAOR to include search and clear operations, sweeps, ambushes, outposts, listening posts, reconnaissance patrols, and other operations at the discretion of the Company Commander (See Operation Overlay #2).

d. Coordinating instructions.

- (1) L-hour - 0645.
- (2) D-day - 24 October 1965.
- (3) Rules of engagement will be in accordance with reference (b).
- (4) Reports required.
  - (a) SPOTREP - Upon contact.
  - (b) SALUTREP - As required.
  - (c) CAVEREP - As required.
  - (d) LINEREP - On movement of any element.

#### 4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- a. Normal.
- b. Resupply will be accomplished upon request.

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#### 5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

- a. Enter Battalion Tactical Net one hour prior to departure.
- b. Utilize local checks and authentication as required.
- c. Visual signals must be confirmed by radio.

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- d. Red smoke always designates enemy and need not be confirmed.
- e. Take three batteries per radio. Resupply of one battery per radio on requested resupply.
- f. Contact with Battalion CP will be through Battalion relay station.

G. H. BODLEY  
 Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
 Commanding

DISTRIBUTION: Special

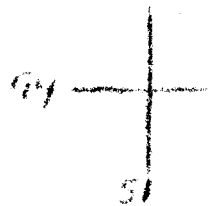
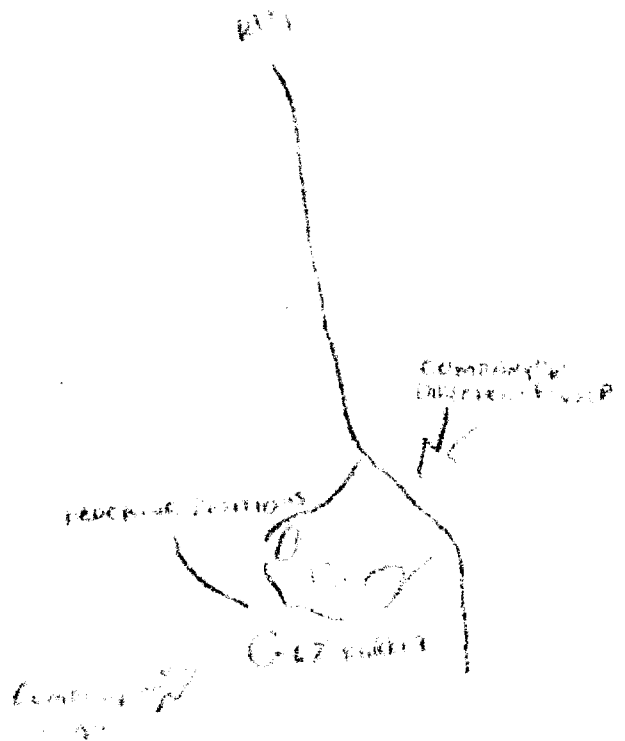
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Operation Overlay #1 to Frag Order 4-65 (Phase #1)

Ref: (a) MAP, AMS Series L701, 1:50,000, Sheets 6757 III and 6756 IV



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Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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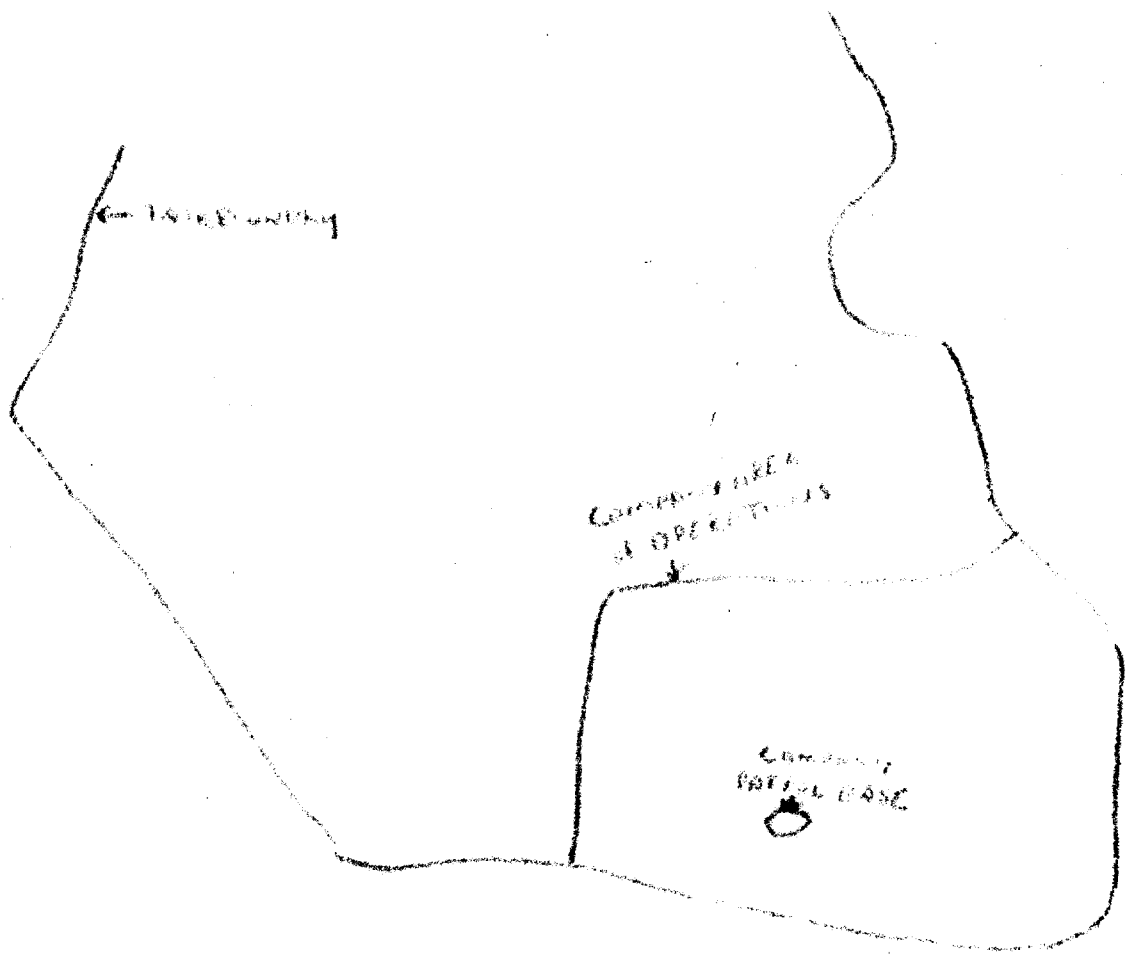
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Operation Overlay #2 to Frag Order 4-65 (Phase #2)

Ref: (a) MAP, AMS Series L701, 1:50,000, Sheets 6797 III and 6756 IV

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+  
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**UNCLASSIFIED**

G. H. BOLEY  
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding

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## HEADQUARTERS

3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Marine #15  
 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO, San Francisco 96601

3:WMC:hws

3000

9 Oct 1965

SUBJECT: Combat Operations After Action Report

THRU: (1) Commanding Officer, 7th Marines  
 (2) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein), FMF  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

TO: Commander  
 U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam  
 Attn: J321  
 APO, U.S. Forces 96243

1. Operation "QUICKDRAW".
2. 021700H to 040945H October 1965.
3. Map: VIETNAM AMS Series L701, 1:50,000 Sheets 67
4. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines (-)(Rein).
5. Lieutenant Colonel C. H. BODLEY.
6. Task Organization  
 3rd Bn, 7th Mar  
   Co K  
   Co L  
   81mm Mort Plat (-)  
   Det H&S Co  
   Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
   Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
   Det Co C, 1st SP Bn  
   Det ARVN GA Tm/Interpreters

7. Supporting Forces

a. Air (Chronological Utilization)

021630H - 15 UH-34D aircraft began the helilift of Company K from landing zone vicinity coordinates 538023.

021715H - 1st wave of helicopters carrying Company K landed in Landing Zone CROW (BS 563957). No resistance was encountered. The zone was prepared by artillery fire and both artillery and air were controlled by a TAC(A)/AO in a HU1E aircraft. Two HU1Es used as escort. Two A4Es flew CAP.

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021730H - 2nd wave of helicopters landed remainder of Company K in Landing Zone CROW.

022355H - One man from Company K wounded by a friendly artillery round, was evacuated by MEDEVAC helicopters. Casualty at "B" Med at 030003H.

030605H - 16 UH-34D aircraft arrived at Landing Zone ROBIN to begin pickup of remaining elements of Company K, Company L, and elements of H&S Company.

030630H - Scheduled L-hour. Two armed HU1Es flying escort for the transport helicopters and two F4s flying CAP. Considerable difficulty was encountered in the control and coordination of preparatory fire for Landing Zones STORK, CARDINAL, BLUEJAY, and LARK. As a result, troops were not landed on schedule, but rather were returned to Landing Zone ROBIN so that the fuel loads, depleted by orbiting, could be replenished.

030730H - Transport helicopters returned to Landing Zone ROBIN and re-embarked troops.

030745H - Final wave of troops (elements of Company K and Company L) landed. Landing zones were not adhered to and several units of both companies were improperly positioned. Attack aircraft prepared Landing Zones BLUE JAY and LARK at 030810H. 2nd wave of troops landed. Wrong landing zones were used once again resulting in further mis-positioning of units.

030840H - All elements of the battalion (-) landed in target area.

031218H - Three personnel of Company L evacuated by helicopter.

031345H - One wounded Marine evacuated by UH-34D from Company L.

031515H - Two UH-34Ds used for evacuation of three VCS.

031815H - Two UH-34Ds used for evacuation of three VCS.

031800H - Two UH-34Ds used to effect resupply of water, and re-positioning of the 81mm mortar platoon (-). Concluded at 031845H.

040800H - Commencement of retraction by 16 UH-34Ds. Two HU1E armed aircraft utilized as escort; two attack aircraft flying CAP. Lift proceeded without incident and was completed by 040955H.

b. Artillery

(1) Participating Units (All in general support of RL7-7)

Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

Btry G, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

Btry M, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar

3rd 155 Gun Btry, for trps

(2) Events

(a) 021705H, Btry M, 4/11 fired 21 rounds in preparation of Landing Zone CROW. Fire was controlled by an AO(A). Effect on target was excellent. HE was used, mixing fuze quick (in an effort to detonate possible mines) with VT (to kill any VC forces in the area). The AO went on to register the 105 fires necessary for the preparation of Landing Zones CARDINAL and STORK for D-day landings.

(b) On the morning of D-day, Batteries I and G, 3/11 fired preparations of Landing Zones CARDINAL and STORK. Preparation was late, due to confusion as to who was the controlling agency. The confusion was due to mechanical radio failure in the HU1E aircraft carrying the TAC(A) and AO.

(c) No other artillery fire missions were fired, though 3rd 155 Gun Battery was prepared to fire illumination on the nights of D-1 and D-day.

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8. Intelligence **DECLASSIFIED**

a. Prior to Operation QUICKDRAW, it was suspected that elements of VC local force guerrilla units were operating in the hamlets bordering our TAOR. The belief was based on VC sightings and VC contacts reported by Company C, 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and on information obtained from a Vietnamese intelligence agent who approached a friendly patrol in TRI BINH (1) while he was enroute to BINH SON. It was estimated that if the area of operation could be encircled as planned without having the encircling units discovered by the VC we would encounter anywhere from 20 to 60 VC guerrillas.

b. Based on knowledge that local force and guerrilla units have strict orders not to engage Marine units, it was anticipated that the VC would attempt to exfiltrate the area of operation at all costs, making a determined stand only as a last ditch effort to avoid capture.

c. Items of significant intelligence value

(1) Interrogation of VCS and interviews with villagers conducted by the National Policeman, Village Chief, and interpreter assigned to this unit revealed that the VC do operate in the hamlets bordering our TAOR and various hamlets south to the TRA BONG River. It was further determined that VC guerrillas in the THANH TRA hamlets exfiltrated the area of our operation the night of D-1 when they saw the helicopters landing our blocking force 2500 meters east of THANH TRA (2). The VC fled to the mountains to the west of THANH TRA generally in the vicinity of THO AN, BS 4795. It was further revealed that a VC unit showed a propaganda film in THANH TRA (2) on 25 September 1965 and that main force units are located in and around the PHU LE hamlets and hamlets along the TRA BONG River. No specific locations or dates where these main force units were in these areas could be established.

(2) Two types of booby traps were encountered by the Battalion on Operation QUICKDRAW. The first was encountered at 030430H October by elements of Company K in the vicinity of BS 534938. The booby trap consisted of a white explosive mixture packed in a bamboo tube approximately 1½ to 2 inches in diameter and eight to ten inches long. A pull type friction fuze was used to initiate detonation. The booby trap was placed in the forked portions of bushes along the trail. A monofilament plastic trip wire similar to fishing leader line was attached to the fuze and stretched across the trail.

(3) The other type booby trap encountered consisted of explosive and metal particles and pieces of clay pottery wrapped in sheets of plastic. Activation of this type trap was accomplished by tension excited on a monofilament trip wire. Company K located one of this type booby trap in the vicinity of coordinates BS 534938. It was destroyed in place. Company L encountered two of this type booby trap on the hill in the vicinity of coordinates BS 530964 at 031200H October. The two traps encountered were detonated by Marines. Two friendly WIA resulted, one from each detonation. Villagers from THANH TRA (2) informed the civil affairs team that this hill had been booby trapped the night of 2-3 October by VC using impressed labor. Engineers searched this hill after the two traps were detonated. They could find no other booby traps, but found a large number of freshly cut punji stakes stuck at random all over the hill. Apparently when the VC first saw the helicopters landing our blocking force on the night of 2-October, they anticipated our using this hill as a landing zone or as a possible position we would occupy.

(4) While enroute to blocking positions on the night of 2 October, Company K heard percussion type signals on several occasions. This noise was made by a drum or bamboo percussion instrument. 1st Platoon, Company K swept east on the night of 2 October from Landing Zone CROW to Route #1. In passing through NAM BINH (5) they were greeted by a man who escorted them through the village while banging on a tin can with a piece of bamboo. This man is known as "the peace keeper". By beating on this instrument he warns the people to get off the streets and also warns the VC that Marines are in the area. Apparently the VC have convinced the villagers that by giving this warning, they will avoid combat in and around the village.

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9. Mission. To search and destroy VC equipment, personnel, and facilities in the THANH TRA (1), (2), and (3) village complex.

10. Concept of Operations. The Battalion planned to accomplish its mission utilizing two rifle companies plus elements of H&S Company and attachments in a hammer and anvil maneuver. The operation was planned in four phases as follows:

a. Phase One. One rifle company to be inserted as a blocking force on D-1 on the southwest of the target area, initially by helicopter, followed by a foot movement to the selected blocking positions. One platoon of this company will conduct a diversionary sweep to the east to draw attention away from the activity in the target area. This platoon will be re-inserted as a blocking force by helicopter at L-hour on D-day.

b. Phase Two. One rifle company to be positioned as a sweeping force by helicopter commencing at L-hour on D-day. The company will land in three zones to the north of the target area.

c. Phase Three. The rifle company conducting the sweep proceeds in its zone controlled by phase lines one through four. Then, on order, execute a movement to link up with 3rd Platoon, Company K, in blocking position vicinity BS 535940 and conduct a coordinated search and clear operation to the west through THANH TRA (1).

d. Phase Four. The entire force withdraws to a defensive perimeter south of the target area on the night of D-day and is withdrawn by helicopter from an adjacent zone on the morning of D+1.

11. Execution (See enclosures (1) through (4), Operations Overlays)

a. D-1, 2 October 1965.

(1) At 1745, Company K landed by helicopter in Landing Zone CROW (BS 563957). Their landing was immediately preceded by a 21 round, 155mm Gun artillery preparation of the zone. Company K proceeded rapidly to their harboring site on the high ground to the west (BS 555951).

(2) The 1st Platoon, Company K conducted a diversionary sweep to the east and northeast. The sweep proceeded without significant incident and the 1st platoon made contact with an Onto-led truck convoy sent to pick them up at BS 556984. The platoon was picked up at [redacted] and returned to the CP area at [redacted].

(3) The remainder of Company K departed from their harboring site for their blocking positions to the south of the target area. Their move began at 022200H.

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b. D-day, 3 October 1965

(1) At about 030430H, three personnel of Company K were wounded when they detonated a VC booby trap while moving into their blocking positions. Their evacuation by helicopter was effected at approximately 030630H. The movement of UH-34s into the target area to evacuate them caused postponement of landing zone preparation fires and therefore, landing of troop-carrying aircraft. The first wave of troops, a platoon of Company K and one of Company L, had loaded on schedule at 030615H and were airborne awaiting the lifting of artillery preparation fires of Landing Zones STORK and CARDINAL.

(2) The situation became further confused when radio communication between the two HULEs carrying the TAC(A) and AO respectively and the artillery and troop-carrying aircraft broke down. This caused a further delay in calling the artillery preparation fires and the lifting of the same. By 0710H, it became necessary for the first wave to return to Landing Zone ROBIN, off-load the previously embarked troops, and return to the MAG-36 strip to replenish the fuel loads depleted by orbiting with heavily laden troops.

(3) The helicopters returned to Landing Zone ROBIN and re-embarked the first wave at 0750H. They landed in the target area at 0800H. However, the accurate placement of troops in selected zones was hampered by not having the troop-carrying aircraft in a position to view the last artillery rounds fired (yellow smoke) which were to mark exact zone location. Consequently, the platoon of Company K intended to land in Landing Zone STORK landed near Landing Zone CARDINAL and the platoon of Company L intended for Landing Zone CARDINAL landed approximately 800 meters to the northeast. On turnaround, the 16 UH-34Ds, picked up the remaining three platoons of Company L which were scheduled for Landing Zones LARK and BLUEJAY. Once again, coordination difficulties prevented the proper placement of these units in their respective zones.

(4) Landing Zones LARK and BLUEJAY were scheduled for preparation by attack aircraft under the control of the TAC(A). Initially, communications could not be established between the flight leader and the TAC(A), resulting in a late air preparation of the zones. Once preparation fires were conducted, the signal for the troop-carrying aircraft to land was white phosphorous rockets fired by the TAC(A) aircraft. On run-in to accomplish this, the rockets malfunctioned and would not fire. Several efforts to fire produced no results, and radio became the only means by which the UH-34Ds could be advised that the zone preparation had been completed and that landing was to be effected. There was a delay in accomplishing this, but finally the troop-carrying aircraft were advised and the troop landing was effected. However, since they did not receive their anticipated white phosphorous marking of zones, wrong zones were used and further mispositioning of units resulted. One platoon of Company L, scheduled for Landing Zone LARK, was landed near CARDINAL and the other platoon, scheduled for BLUEJAY, landed approximately 600 meters to the west.

(5) Despite this almost incredible chain of circumstances that produced such poor placements of units, the response of platoon leaders and company commanders was prompt and correct. Very shortly after landing, all unit leaders orientated themselves and moved toward their design-

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nated positions to begin the sweep of the target area. The orientation of the 1st Platoon, Company L was facilitated by a visit by the Battalion Commander by HUIE helicopter to that organization. The landing of the remaining elements of the force, a small command group, two sections of 81mm mortars, and the Battalion civil affairs team, was effected without significant incident into an area near the designated landing zone, BLUE-JAY.

(6) By 0945H, all units were in position, and the commencement of the sweeping operation began. Company L began with their 3rd platoon sweeping southeast from THANH TRA (3). The 1st and 2nd Platoons of Company L conducted a joint sweep of THANH TRA (2). In the course of this search, they found the village to be essentially deserted; except for women, children, and old men but there was evidence of recent VC occupancy in the form of many propaganda type signs, diagrams of helicopters, punji stakes, etc. While moving to Phase Line 4, three men of the 3rd platoon were wounded. Two were wounded by booby traps and one by a punji stake.

(7) Shortly after their landing in Landing Zone CARDINAL, the 1st Platoon of Company K began a rapid movement to the south to assume the blocking positions originally planned for them near Landing Zone STORK. At BS 518938 they encountered four VC who fired several rounds of carbine fire at them. The fire was returned and one VC was killed. This VC was armed with a U.S. M-1 carbine with ammunition, and a M-26 grenade. Two other bodies were found, in the vicinity of BS 523948, but it cannot be conclusively established that they were confirmed VC. Both males were killed by multiple shrapnel wounds. Two dead cows were also found in the same area.

(8) At 1230H, Company L was ordered to make a lateral shift to the west along Phase Line 4. This maneuver was effected without incident, the 3rd Platoon shifting to blocking positions at BS 517942, the 2nd Platoon holding at BS 523946, and the 1st Platoon making a detailed search of the upper reaches of THANH TRA (2).

(9) Simultaneously with the movement of Company L, the 3rd Platoon of Company K, which had been occupying blocking positions in the vicinity of BS 535940 pivoted on their left flank to the west and the south to commence a sweep of the central and lower portions of THANH TIA (1). This sweep was supported by a re-positioning of the 1st Platoon of Company K, which moved to new blocking positions in the vicinity of BS 524928. As the 3rd Platoon passed near the vicinity of Company L's right flank, they picked up the Battalion civil affairs team, which had been working with Company L. The team followed in the trace of Company K's 3rd Platoon for the remainder of the day.

(10) By 1600H, the Battalion command group displaced to new positions on the high ground at BS 536932, accompanied by the 1st Platoon of Company L. The 81mm mortars were displaced to this vicinity at 1810H. The remainder of Companies K and L proceeded on order to the area and established a defensive perimeter for the night.

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c. D+1, 4 October 1965. The night passed with no incident and at 0100 hours, the retraction of all elements of the Battalion (-) was begun. Company K was the first element to be lifted out, followed by the command group, 81mm mortars, and Company L. The lift was completed and all elements returned to the CP area by 1005H.

d. Chronology of Events

(1) First Day, 2 October 1965

021630H - 15 UH-34D aircraft began the helilift of Company K.  
021715H - First wave of helicopters landed in Landing Zone CROW vicinity coordinates BS 563957.

021730H - Second wave of helicopters landed in Landing Zone CROW.

022020H - First platoon of Company K picked up by motorized column at vicinity coordinates BS 566984.

022100H - Company K moving into positions for daylight operations.

022255H - Company K reported one WIA from friendly artillery fire.

(2) Second Day, 3 October 1965

030425H - Third platoon, Company K moving into position.

030430H - Company K reported three men injured from booby trap at coordinates BS 534937.

030505H - Company K requested helicopter pickup of casualties at first light.

030630H - Company K requests emergency helicopter evacuation for booby trap casualties as one requires surgery.

030740H - Aircraft dropped 3rd Platoon, Company L in the wrong landing zone. 3rd Platoon was landed at Landing Zone BLUE JAY instead of Landing Zone CARDINAL.

030745H - Elements of Companies K and L landed in the vicinity of Landing Zone CARDINAL coordinates BS 518949, Landing Zone BLUE JAY coordinates BS 535953, and Landing Zone STORK coordinates BS 516942.

030828H - Elements of 2nd Platoon, Company K setting in blocking positions.

030830H - 1st Platoon, Company K killed one VC and commenced immediate search for three other VC. Captured one M-1 carbine, one M-26 fragmentation grenade and four magazines of .30 caliber ammunition (53 rounds).

030840H - 3rd Platoon, Company K received five rounds of carbine fire from upper THAN TRA (1) coordinates BS 527939.

030900H - 3rd Platoon, Company K detonated booby traps vicinity coordinates BS 534938.

030900H - 2nd Platoon, Company K arrived at assigned blocking positions at coordinates BS 532936.

030905H - 1st Platoon, Company L was landed near Landing Zone CARDINAL coordinates BS 518949 instead of Landing Zone LARK.

030945H - 1st Platoon, Company L in position along Phase Line 2 while 2nd Platoon occupied positions north of THANH TRA (2).

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031020H - Civil affairs team located three booby traps in TRANH TRA (2) at coordinates BS 535947.

031030H - Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines ordered all units to avoid congestion.

031045H - 3rd Platoon, Company K detonated booby traps, vicinity coordinates BS 535938.

031105H - Commanding Officer, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines ordered all units to move with caution because of booby traps.

031235H - 3rd Platoon, Company L reported two men wounded from booby traps at coordinates BS 523946. One additional man wounded in same area from punji stake.

031245H - 3rd Platoon, Company K moving out for sweep of THANH TRA (1) complex coordinates BS 524937.

031330H - Companies K and L have linked up at coordinates BS 524936.

031350H - Company K reported positions as 1st Platoon at coordinates BS 628040, 2nd Platoon at coordinates BS 632044, and 3rd Platoon at coordinates BS 630040.

031515H - 3rd Platoon, Company K completed sweep of TRANH TRA (1). 1st Platoon, Company K moved into blocking positions: one squad at coordinates BS 518534, one squad at BS 524928, and one squad at coordinates BS 524932.

031600H - Company L ordered to move to night defensive positions.

031615H - 1st Platoon, Company K received five rounds of small caliber fire from hill at coordinates BS 507926.

031750H - Company K began movement towards night defensive positions.

031810H - Company L, CP and 81mm Mortar Platoon arrived at night defensive positions.

031915H - Company K arrived at night defensive position.

032000 - Companies K and L set up in perimeter of defense. Assumed positions from Company K from BS 534933 through BS 535934 to BS 537933. Company L from BS 534933 through BS 535931 to BS 537933. Outposts were established at BS 537929, BS 538928, and BS 541929. No contact was made throughout the night.

(3) Third Day, 4 October 1965

040810H - Company K commenced retraction.

040900H - Remainder of Company K, CP group and elements of 81mm Mortar Platoon completed retraction.

041005H - Company L and remaining elements of 81mm Mortar Platoon returned to CP. Retraction completed.

12. Results

a. Friendly

(1) KIA: None.

(2) WIA: Seven.

(3) MIA: None.

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(4) KBA (Killed by air): None.

(5) Equipment and material losses: None.

b. Enemy

(1) KIA: One VC.

(2) WIA: Three.

(3) MIA: Unknown.

(4) KBA: None.

(5) Captured: Eight VCS.

(6) Equipment lost: One M-1 carbine, four magazines, 53 rounds of .30 caliber ammunition and one M-26 fragmentation grenade.

13. Administrative Matters

a. No administrative problems were encountered.

b. Resupply. Helicopter resupply was planned and used effectively.

c. Maintenance. No maintenance problems were encountered due to limited amount of equipment taken.

d. Communications. A significant communication problem encountered was the relaying from the companies in the field through a relay point to Skeptic rear command post and then on to Regiment over land line. It is felt that pre-operation positive radio checks could eliminate the previously noted failure of aircraft to aircraft, aircraft to artillery, and aircraft to ground communication.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. No special equipment or techniques were used.

15. Advisor/Commander Analysis

a. The Battalion civil affairs team was employed to the maximum. The civil affairs team issued gifts and food to the population of THANH TRA (1) and THANH TRA (2). During the movement of Company L and the CP group through THANH TRA (2), the troops of Company L and the CP group helped extinguish fires in four or five haystacks. The result was a very obvious display of appreciation from the villagers.

b. Lessons Learned

(1) That the VC are extremely versatile in the utilization of home-made booby traps (See enclosures (5) and (6)).

(2) That simple, friendly acts toward the Vietnamese people reaps large dividends in the form of cooperation and information for intelligence processing.

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16. Recommendations. In an effort to reduce unfortunate accidents involving innocents and to limit structural damage, it is believed that landing zone preparation in built-up areas or areas adjacent thereto should have a built in flexibility that provides support that is responsive to need rather than possible need. Provide light or no preparation unless there are positive acts of resistance in the landing zone area. Air cover best lends itself to this support.


*C. H. Bodley*  
C. H. BODLEY

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56  
+ 98

 LZ Detraction

Night Defensive  
position

49  
+ 91

D+1 031750 to 040945H October 1965

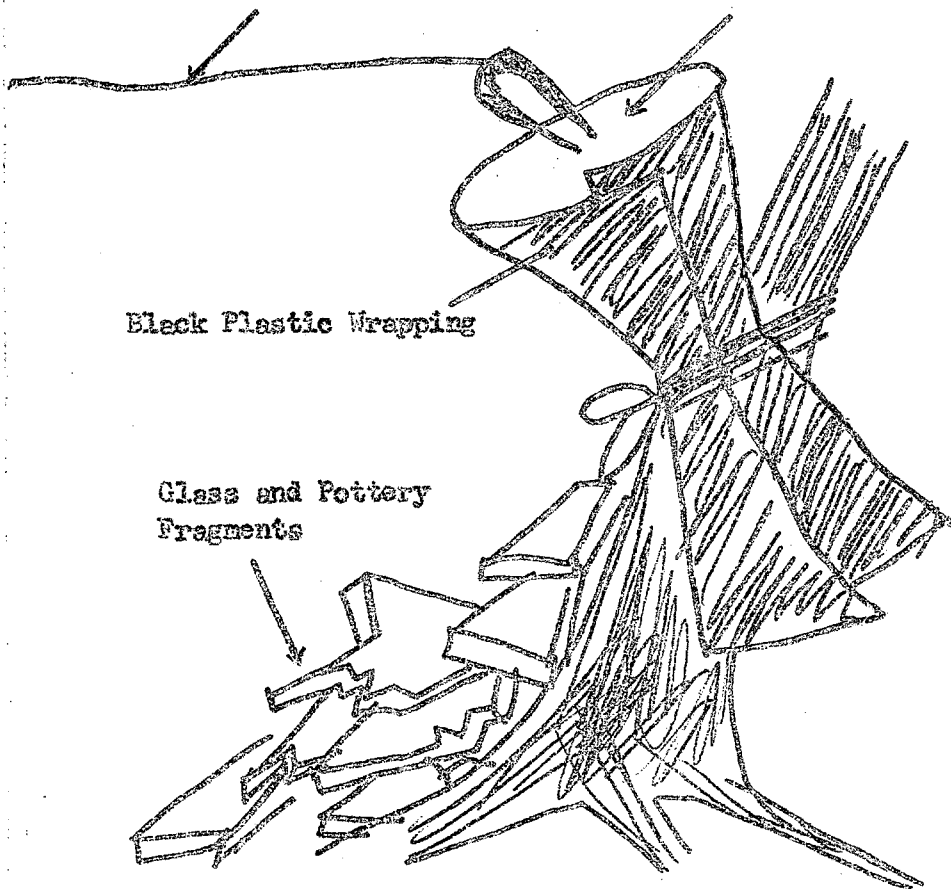
Enclosure (4)

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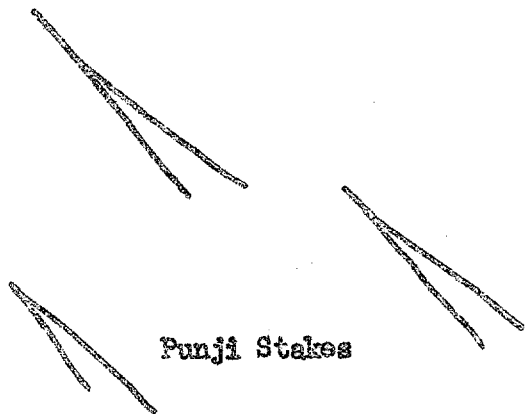
Monofilament Trip Wire

Explosive Filler



Black Plastic Wrapping

Glass and Pottery  
Fragments



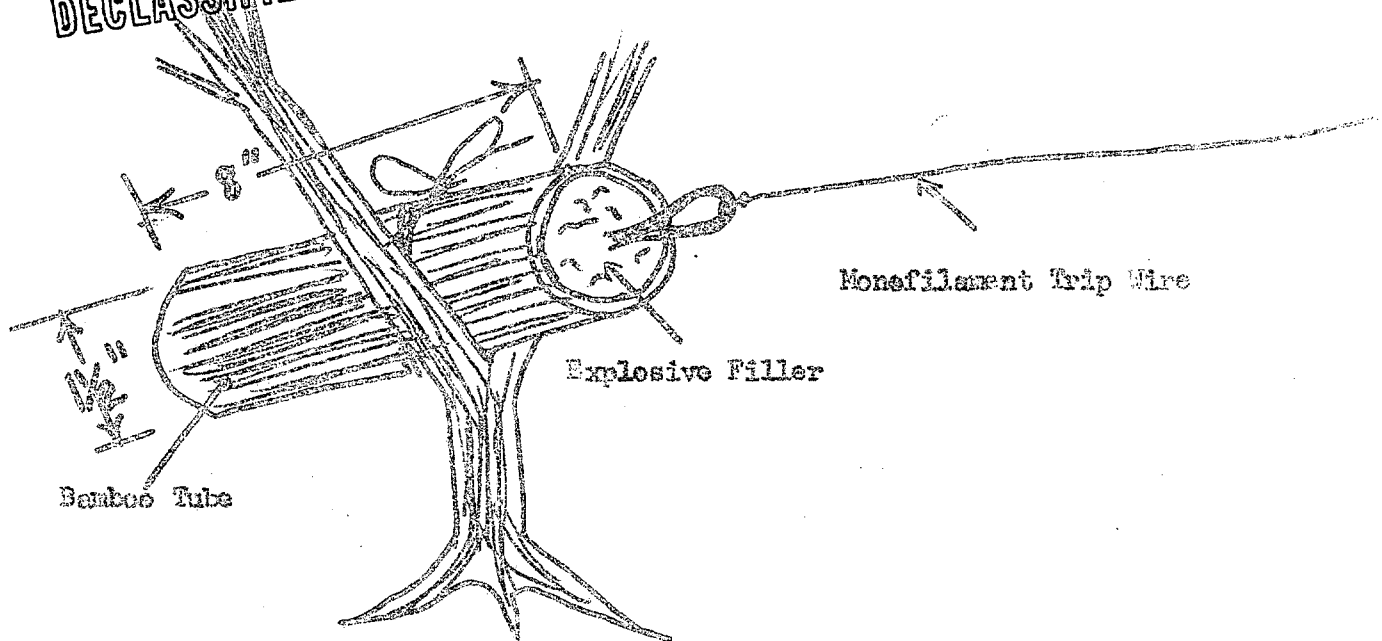
Punji Stakes

Mine discovered vicinity coordinate RS 539938

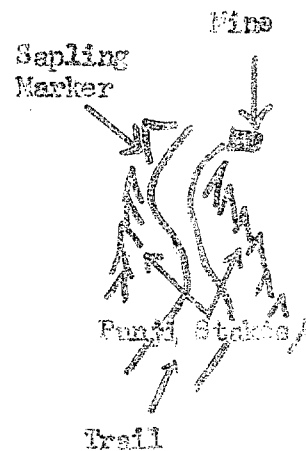
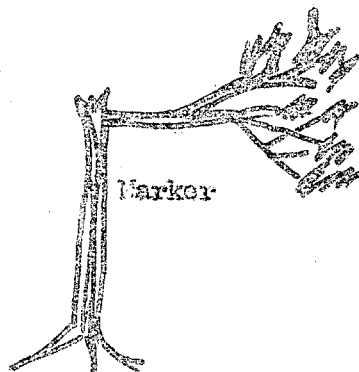
Enclosure (5)

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Mine tied in crotch of bush right off of trail at coordinate BS 524938. Marked with broken sapling approximately 9 feet in front of mine.



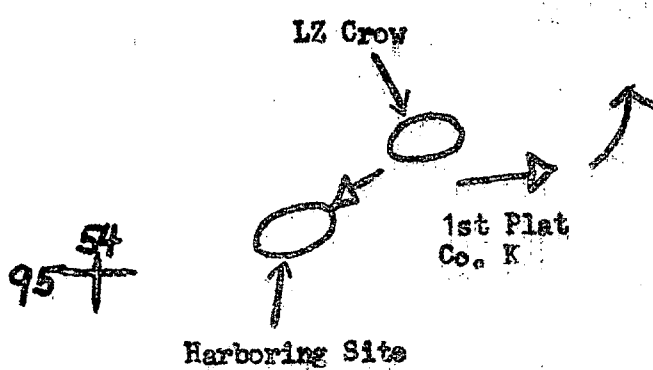
Enclosure (6)

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60  
+ 00

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Route to entrucking point  
for return to Base Camp



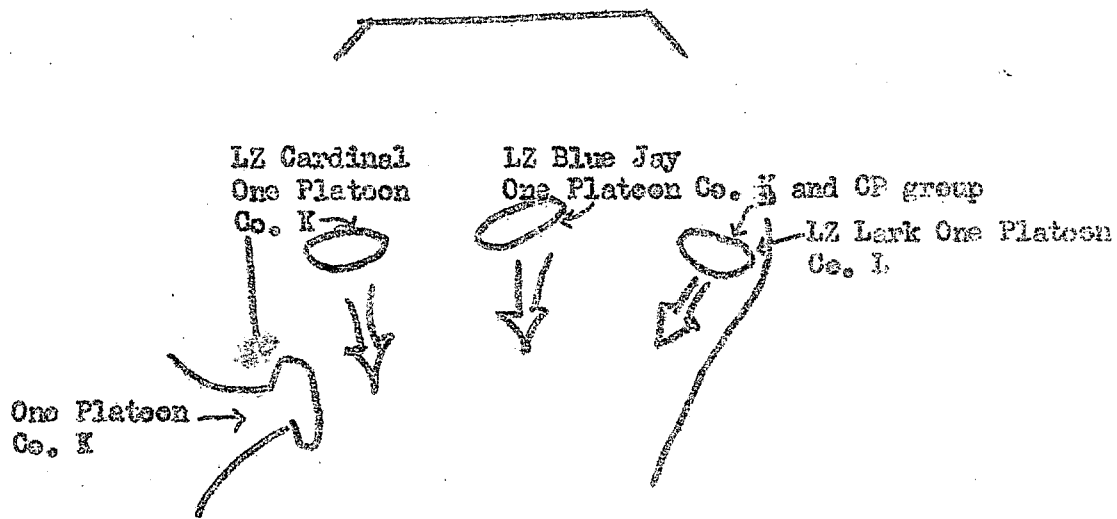
D-1 021715H October 1965

Enclosure (1)

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58  
+ 97



+ 92  
50

D Day 030740 to 030830H October 1965

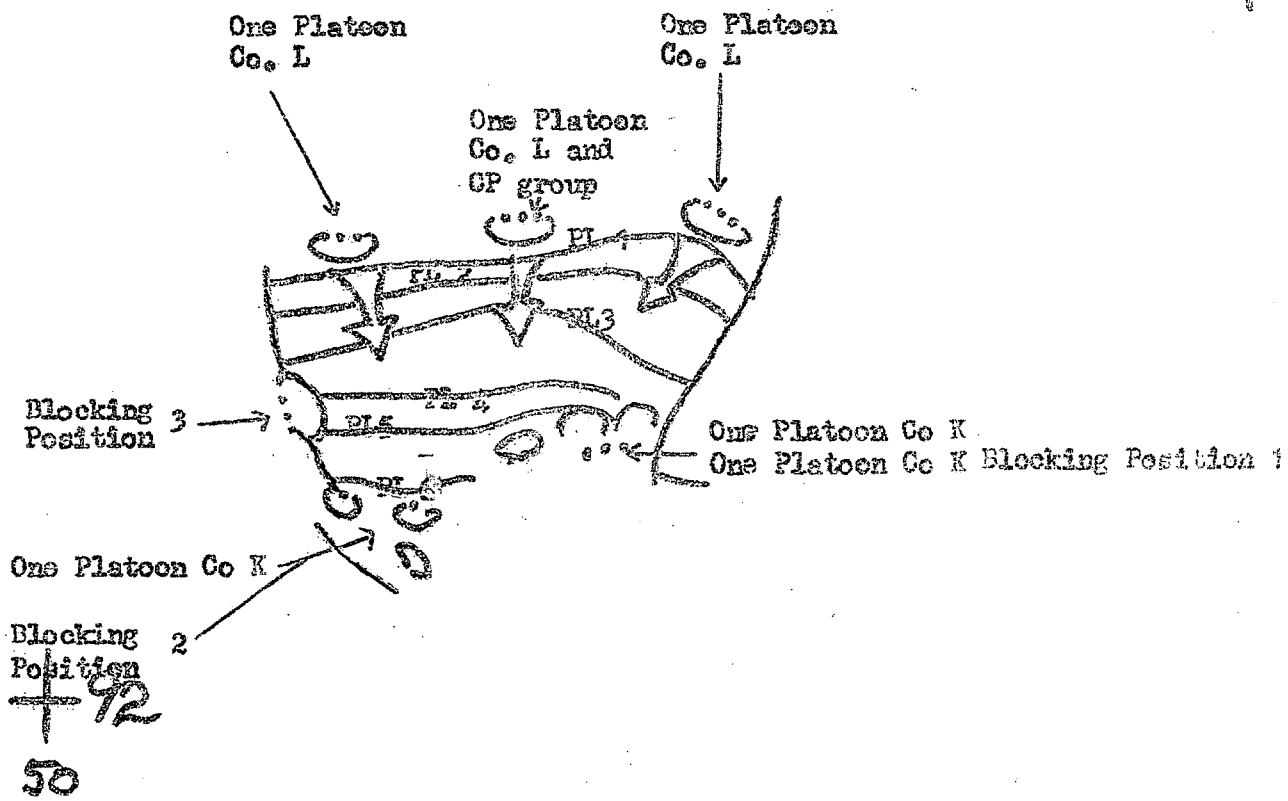
Enclosure (2)

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(7)

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58  
+ 97



D Day 030830 to 031750 H October 1965

Enclosure (3)

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HEADQUARTERS  
 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, Marine #15  
 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 FPO, San Francisco 96601

3:KLL:hws  
 3000  
 8 Nov 1965

From: Commanding Officer  
 To: Commander, U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (Attn: J321),  
 APO, U.S. Forces 96243  
 Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 7th Marines  
 (2) Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF  
 (3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

1. Operation "HERCULES".
2. 260650H through 271700H October 1965.
3. BINH SON Province Maps.
4. 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines, 3rd Marine Division (Rein) FMF.
5. Lieutenant Colonel G. H. BODLEY.

6. Task Organization  
 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines (-)(Rein)  
     Company I  
     Company K  
     Company L  
     H&S Company  
     Det 3rd Plat, Co C, 1st Engr Bn  
     Det Co C, 1st SP Bn  
     Det Btry I, 3rd Bn, 11th Mar  
     Det CA/PsyWar Tm  
     Det EOD

7. Supporting Forces

- a. Air (Chronological Utilization)

260620 - Preplanned TAC(a) arrived at LZ ROBIN to pick up Skeptic 6 and AO.

260630 - Two preplanned fixed wing aircraft conducted 20 minutes preparation of LZ PHOENIX. Preparation was effective.

260650 - 20 preplanned UH34's landed 140 troops in LZ PHOENIX.

260650 - Four preplanned UH34's on station with 24 troops. Remained on station for two hours as reaction forces. Force was not used but would have been very effective if they had been needed.

260700 - Two preplanned fixed wing aircraft conducted effective landing zone preparation of LZ PRESCOT.

260710 - Two preplanned fixed wing aircraft conducted effective landing zone preparation of LZ TUCSON.

260720 - Eight preplanned UH34's landed 64 troops into LZ PRESCOT and eight preplanned UH34's landed 64 troops into LZ TUCSON.

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260750 - Preplanned UH1E's remained on station from 0750 to approximately 1200. At 1115 two UH1E's conducted a strike on VC south of SONG TRA BONG River, coordinates BS 505885, controlled by Skeptic 14 and Skeptic Lima 14. Effectiveness of the strike - Unknown.

261130 - Routine "med-evac" requested by Company K. Armed UH1E's took "med-evac" on return to "home plate".

261205 - Requested routine "med-evac" arrived 1225. "Med-evac" was effective.

261600 - UH1E's conducted strike south of SONG TRA BONG River. UH1E's were not requested by ALO. It is assumed they were on patrol and they offered assistance. Strike was stopped by Skeptic 6 due to close proximity to friendly troops.

261500 - Requested six UH34's to evacuate Vietnamese refugees to BINH SON. Due to limited aircraft availability only four UH34's arrived at approximately 1617. Lift was effectively completed at approximately 1700 with 150 refugees evacuated.

261605 - Requested resupply from LZ ROBIN to LZ TUCSON. Two UH34's arrived at 1700 with one internal and one external load.

261715 - "Med-evac" requested, arrived at 1747.

261830 - Four UH34's evacuated VCS to CHU LAI Compound. Request was submitted very late due to slowness in moving VCS to suitable LZ.

270730 - Preplanned TAC(A) picked up Skeptic 6 from LZ SAN DIEGO.

270745 - 18 preplanned UH34's arrived at LZ SAN DIEGO to lift troops across SONG TRA BONG into three landing zones.

270805 - Preplanned fixed wing conducted landing zone preparation on three landing zones from 0805 to 0825. L-hour was at 0825. Lift was completed at approximately 1007. Helicopters received sniper fire on approach to LZ SANDIEGO. UH1E's and fixed wing conducted strikes on sniper position.

271000 - Armed UH1E's on station most of the day. Several strikes conducted by UH1E's outside of our zone of action. Effectiveness - Unknown.

271330 - Requested eight helicopters to evacuate refugees to BINH SON. Seven UH34's were available. Lift was completed at approximately 1600. 470 refugees were evacuated.

271600 - Commenced retraction of battalion with seven UH34's used for refugee evacuation, plus ten additional UH34's. Armed UH1E's, fixed wing aircraft and a TAC(A) were on station. Two companies were lifted from landing zone on south side of river to LZ ROBIN. One company was lifted from south side of non-fordable river to north side of river. CP group was lifted from LZ on north side of river to LZ ROBIN. Helicopters received sniper fire from same position as in morning lift. Fixed wing aircraft called in on strike. Sniper fire ceased.

#### b. Artillery

(1) Participating Units (In direct support of 3rd Bn, 7th Mar)  
Three 155mm Self-propelled Howitzers from Battery M, 4th Bn, 11th Marines.

#### (2) Events

(a) 260650 - Btry M, 4/11 (-) was prepared to fire a 15 round preparation on LZ PHOENIX. At 260705H, Btry M, 4/11 (-) was prepared to fire a ten round preparation on LZ PRESCOT and TUCSON. Fixed wing aircraft fired the preparation in lieu of artillery. While on station, AO requested Btry M, 4/11 (-).

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(b) 261515H - Nine rounds of 155mm HE were fired at snipers at coordinates BS 513888. Sniper fire ceased immediately. 261540 - Sniper fire resumed in vicinity of coordinates BS 512887; four 155mm HE were fired and sniper fire was again silenced.

(c) 262110H - One round of 155mm illumination was fired at a suspected mortar position in vicinity coordinates BS 51259070. The round was a dud and had no effect on target.

(d) No further artillery fire was delivered in the area for the duration of the operation. However, the three 155mm self-propelled howitzers remained in a forward firing position to provide direct support to one company that remained in the area after the operation secured.

## 8. Intelligence

a. Prior to Operation "HERCULES" it was believed that elements of the 207th VC Battalion were operating in the immediate objective area. This unit was believed to be dispersed throughout the objective area and operating in small groups of three to four men.

b. It was anticipated that the relative probability of adoption of enemy capabilities was to withdraw from the objective area, to defend in the objective area withdrawing when decisive engagements were imminent, to counterattack friendly forces upon the initial landing, and last, to reinforce units in the objective area.

c. In actuality it appears that enemy units in the immediate objective area of the MY LOC hamlets were limited to small groups of VC. Interrogation of civilians in MY LOC (3) revealed the fact that 12 armed VC had been in this hamlet within one or two days of D-day. Further interrogation of civilians and a captured VC tax collector indicated that a VC Battalion Headquarters was located in the vicinity of BS 5088. The subsequent sweep of this area, the THACH AN DONG Hamlet area resulted in several encounters with small groups of VC. Action was limited to sniper fire at extreme ranges. During the sweep of this area on extremely large number of civilians requested evacuation from their village.

d. Enemy contacts included several sniper engagements in NAM TRUNG (BS 512905). Helicopters also received sniper fire from the area around the hill mass centered at BS 519901. Snipers were also engaged in THACH AN DONG as previously mentioned. On the night of D-day the CP group received five rounds of incoming mortar or artillery fire. It is estimated that this was 60mm fire which came from NAM TRUNG.

e. This operation resulted in 9 VC WIA's, 2 VCC WIA, and the apprehension of 50 VCS males and 4 VCS females. In addition, 580 refugees were evacuated to BINH SON. Company L captured a VC pack with several documents and an estimated 500 pounds of rice which was destroyed. The civil affairs team located a VC punji stake factory and destroyed same.

f. From interrogations of civilians, VCC and VCS, it was learned that the VC use the area frequently. One VC squad of 12 men was quartered in MY LOC (3). The area lies astride a main VC location, which connects the coast to the TINH TRUNG Secret Zone and to VC strongholds south and west.

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of the SONG TRA BONG. Rice taken in taxes by the VC is stored throughout the area and is turned over to certain of these units in large quantities for transport to inland destinations.

g. It was further determined from interrogations that a MF VC Battalion is located in and around the area, in particular, in the TAN PHUOC hamlets. The presence of a MF unit in this area is acceptable in light of recent encounters with the VC in our TAOR and encounters in this area.

h. Civil Affairs/PsyWar. 3/7 civil affairs teams were assigned to Companies K and L during Operation "HERCULES". Three PsyWar teams, obtained from BINH SON were assigned to Companies I, K, L and the Battalion CP group. By 261500H 85 civilians were given medical treatment at the hamlets of LONG THINH (BS 495903), MY LOC (1) (BS 501891), and MY LOC (2) (BS 493897). PsyWar pamphlets, vitamins, and candy for the children were distributed. By 261600H the last refugees were evacuated by helicopters to BINH SON. At 270800H refugees started gathering at LZ HAYWARD (BS 500874). A total of 30 people were given medical treatment at the PHUOC TICH complex (BS 505875). PsyWar pamphlets, vitamins, and candy were distributed. Evacuation of refugees from LZ HAYWARD began at 271300H. By 271545 when the last refugees were helilifted to BINH SON, a total of 450 villagers were evacuated. These civilians begged to be evacuated because of the VC in the area.

9. Mission. Conduct a battalion (-) heliborne landing into Landing Zones PRESCOT, PHOENIX, and TUCSON to execute search and clear operations north of the SONG TRA BONG River in LONG THINH, MY LOC (2), MY LOC (3), MY LOC (1), and MY LOC (4) and surrounding areas.

10. Concept of Operations. Conduct a three company heliborne landing at L-hour on D-day to search and clear the area north of the SONG TRA BONG River located in grid squares BS 4890, BS 4889, BS 4990, BS 4989, BS 5090, BS 5089, BS 5190, and BS 5198. Company L to be helilifted in LZ PHOENIX (BS 589898) and Company K to be helilifted into LZ PRESCOT (BS 495907) simultaneously. On order, conduct a coordinated sweep to the south and then to the east parallel to the SONG TRA BONG River. Company K to maintain two squads airborne as a ready reaction force until relieved on station by two squads from Company I. Airborne ready reaction force to remain on station to L+3 hours. Company I will be heliborne into blocking position, LZ TUCSON (BS 514902) followed by the CP group and H&S Company (-)(Rein). Two platoons, Company I to be designated as a ready reaction force to establish further blocking positions as necessary. Establish battalion (-)(rein) night defensive position in the vicinity of BS 503896 to BS 506898 and be prepared to retract at 0800H on D+1 or further exploit initial success on targets of opportunity.

11. Execution (See Operation Overlay #1)

a. D-day, 26 October 1965. At L-hour, 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines (-) (Rein) executed a heliborne landing north of the SONG TRA BONG River, landing in three different landing zones. Company L landed at LZ PHOENIX (BS 489898), Company K landed at LZ PRESCOT (BS 495507) and Company I, 81mm Mortar Platoon (-) and Battalion CP group landed in LZ TUCSON. At 260810H Companies K and L completed an unopposed landing and commenced a coordinated sweep and clear to the south and east along the SONG TRA BONG River. A reaction force of two squads remained airborne until L+3 hours.

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(1) Company I, 81mm Mortar Platoon, and Battalion(-) CP group completed landing at LZ TUCSON by 260930H. During first phase of the company landing sporadic sniper fire was received from vicinity BS 512902. 1st Platoon initially cleared and occupied the high ground vicinity BS 513897. Upon arrival of 81mm Mortar Platoon and Battalion(-) CP group, the 1st Platoon moved out to establish blocking positions vicinity BS 509903 and BS 513897. The 3rd Platoon moved out to establish blocking positions vicinity BS 513894. At 1200H two squads commenced a search of hamlet vicinity BS 519896. While moving through the hamlet several rounds of sniper fire were received from vicinity of BS 523897. Fire was returned and the sniper immediately broke contact. The encounter resulted in one Marine WIA. Upon completion of a search and clear of this hamlet area the company remained in blocking positions for the remainder of the afternoon. At approximately 1730H the company commenced movement back to Battalion(-) CP location and again received sporadic sniper fire from vicinity of BS 518898. Fire was returned with M14 rifles and 3.5" rocket launchers. Sniper ceased fire and fled. At this time two explosions of undetermined origin occurred at BS 515897. They were believed to be 60mm mortar rounds. At 1830H the company established a defensive perimeter position around 81mm Mortar Platoon and Battalion(-) CP group vicinity BS 513898 for the night.

(2) Company K, upon completion of landing, commenced a search and clear within assigned zone of action. At 261000H the company commenced sweep through village MY LOC (2) (BS 493897). One cave was discovered. S-2 scouts recorded details, and it was then destroyed. Four VCS were captured and 13 villagers evacuated. Civil affairs team continued to interrogate civilians in an effort to get other information of intelligence value. As the company continued the sweep, the number of civilians requesting evacuation grew to 75. By 261339H Companies K and L were in physical contact and had reached line 200 meters south of BS 504896 and were continuing their sweep. At 261440 Company K requested to move civilians to a collection site for evacuation. Civilians were slowing progress of the sweep. Civilians were moved to base of hill at BS 505895. At 1645H helicopter evacuation of civilians commenced and was completed at 1750H. A total of 130 civilians were evacuated. At 261730H Company K received sniper fire from BS 514896. The fire was returned. The VC escaped and one Marine was WIA during the encounter. Company K completed their sweep within assigned zone of action by 261740H and commenced movement to harboring site where defensive positions were established for the night at BS 507903.

(3) Company L, upon completion of landing, commenced a search and clear within assigned zone of action. At 260930H Company L found a small hut which appeared to be a VC OP position for two men. At the time the 2nd Platoon commenced search of village MY LOC (3). It was noted that the village was fortified with a bamboo and barbed wire fence. This was supplemented with an extensive trench network. Several small family shelters were noted. At coordinates BS 493887 two VCS were picked up. The village also contained a 750 pound cache of rice, which was subsequently destroyed. At 261000 one VC tax collector was taken prisoner. Interrogation revealed that he lived in MY LOC (3) and had worked for the VC for five months. His name was HONG SON. AA At coordinates BS 499890 a VC security outpost was located and destroyed. Outpost could accommodate about 12 persons and contained approximately 100 pounds of dry food. Upon completing the search and clear of MY LOC (3), the company continued its sweep in assigned zone of action. At 261030H six VCS were captured by the 1st Platoon as they attempted to escape across the SONG TRA BONG River. By 261200H the 1st and 2nd Platoons had reached a small

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village at BS 502887. 35 to 40 expended cartridge cases from M-1 carbines, shotguns and 9mm weapons were found and destroyed. It was noted that a church located in vicinity of coordinates BS 502888 had been used as a military classroom. Drawings of weapons were found on the walls of the building. A large number of punji stakes were found at BS 504888 and destroyed. Four VCS were picked up in this village, one of which had a limited knowledge of English. At 261250H the 2nd Platoon located at BS 514893 received a heavy volume of small arms fire consisting of carbines and at least one BAR from vicinity of BS 513888. Fire was returned. The encounter resulted in one Marine non-serious WIA and two VC WIA's. One Vietnamese girl was wounded and later was instrumental in pointing out the VC. She stated that there were 12 in all. Artillery called in two rounds which landed slightly short and to the right of the target area. At 261500H one VC WIA turned himself in requesting medical aid, and told the interpreter that he was a VC guerrilla. At 261530H 2nd Platoon took over the right flank position and became involved in a fire fight with VC on the other side of the SONG TRA BONG River. This encounter resulted in one Marine WIA. Artillery fire was called in but results could not be observed. As this platoon continued to move along the bank of the SONG TRA BONG occasional sniper fire was received until about 261700H. At coordinates BS 503887 one VC pack containing maps and compass were found. Also, four women who claimed to have been kidnapped by the VC requested evacuation. By 261700H Company L had completed their search in assigned zone of action and established defensive positions in vicinity of BS 511897.

(4) H&S Company (-). Elements of H&S Company which included the CP group and 81mm Mortar Platoon landed in LZ TUCSON. Landing was completed by 260930H. The Battalion (-) CP was established at BS 512897, and the 81mm Mortar Platoon established firing positions at BS 511898. Security was provided for by one reinforced squad from Company I. In addition, a Battalion forward OP site was established at 261100H on hill located at BS 505897. This OP was withdrawn at 261530H. Battalion (-) CP remained at this location during the night of D-day.

b. D-1, 27 October 1965 (See Operation Overlay #2). At 270750H the Battalion commenced a lift from LZ SAN DIEGO to continue operation south of the SONG TRA BONG. Three landing zones were used, all receiving ten minutes of preparation fires from aircraft. Company I landed at LZ STOCKTON (BS 494865), Company K landed at LZ PALM SPRINGS (BS 508876), and Company L landed at LZ HAYWARD (BS 500872). Initially the three company sweep back north to the SONG TRA BONG went slow due to the many civilians who congregated at the landing zone requesting to be evacuated.

(1) Company I completed landing by 271000H. Certain elements of Company I initially landed in the wrong landing zones. As soon as all elements rejoined, a coordinated sweep to the north toward the SONG TRA BONG River commenced. At 271030H a search and clear of village in vicinity of BS 550880 was commenced. Civilians indicated that there had been several VC in the area. The company continued the search and clear in assigned zone of action with no contacts. By 271500H the company completed search and clear of assigned zone and commenced extraction from landing zone vicinity BS 504885.

(2) Company K, upon completion of landing at 270950H, established initial blocking positions vicinity BS 515886 to block possible VC escaping from the area to the east. At 271030H the company commenced search and clear of village located vicinity BS 507879. Information was received from a Vietnamese civilian of a possible VC ambush at BS 514874. At approximately

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271430H the company received sporadic sniper fire from vicinity BS 516885. A company sweep of the area began immediately. By this time three houses had caught fire as a result of air strike and several Marines assisted in putting out the fires. An escape route running north and south through the village was discovered along with Chinese Communist ammunition and medical supplies. No VC were found. By 221600H the company completed the sweep of their assigned zone of action and commenced helilift back across the SONG TRA BONG River at 271630H. Extraction was completed by 271700H. The company moved to vicinity BS 505899 and established defensive positions for the night. The intentions of Company K were to move north out of area on the morning of 28 October on foot and reestablish a company patrol base within the southern portion of the Battalion TAOR.

(3) Company L. At 270715H one squad, a MG section and Company Executive Officer proceeded from night defensive positions to set up a secret blocking position just north of the SONG TRA BONG River from coordinates BS 496886 to BS 506888. By 271000H the remainder of Company L landed in LZ HAYWARD. The landing zone immediately became crowded with civilians requesting evacuation. One VCC WIA, presumably injured in the previous day's activity, was turned over to Company L at LZ HAYWARD for evacuation. At 271130H two VCS were picked up by S-2 scouts who were attached to Company L at BS 501875. Also captured were a medical chest, complete with all types of medicine, M-1 carbine rounds, matchbooks, medical texts and other documents. At 271430H Company L completed sweep in assigned zone of action. No VC contact was made. Defensive positions were established and the company commenced extraction back to the Battalion area at 271630H. Extraction was completed at 271750H.

(4) H&S Company (-). At 270815, the Battalion (-) CP group displaced to hill at BS 505897. Operations for the second day were controlled by the CP group from this location. 81mm Mortar Platoon displaced by echelon to BS 506895. This location provided better firing positions for the second day of the operation. At 271500H Battalion (-) CP group moved to the landing zone vicinity BS 504894 for extraction back to the Battalion area. One section of 81mm Mortar Platoon remained in position and was attached to Company K. The intentions were to move out of area of operations on morning of 28 October to commence patrol activities in lower portion of Battalion's TAOR. H&S Company (-) completed extraction back to Battalion area at 271730H.

c. Chronology of Events

(1) 1st Day, 26 October 1965

- 260650 - Elements of Companies K and L were helilifted from LZ ROBIN (BS 538023).
- 260710 - Elements of Company K landed in LZ PRESCOT.
- 260710 - Two squads of Company I were helilifted from LZ ROBIN to remain on station as Eagle Flight.
- 260710 - Elements of Company L landed in LZ PHOENIX (BS 489898).
- 260800 - Company K lift completed and they are on the move.
- 260800 - Elements of Company I commenced helilift from LZ ROBIN.
- 260810 - Elements of Company I landed in LZ TUCSON (BS 514902). Company I received sporadic rifle fire in LZ TUCSON.
- 260815 - Forward CP group commenced lift to LZ TUCSON.
- 260810 - Company L helilift completed and they are on the move.
- 260930 - Company I, CP group and 81mm Mortar Platoon completed helilift into LZ TUCSON.

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- 260930 - Company L CP located at BS 488891. There is a small hut in Company L CP area which appears to be a VC CP for two men.
- 260931 - Company L located a village on Phase Line PLUM in vicinity of coordinates BS 495892. The 2nd Platoon of Company L began search of MY LOC (3). The village is fortified with barbed wire.
- 260959 - Company L encountered a fire fight from a boat in the SONG TRA BONG River at BS 493885. There appears to be 28 VCS in the boat. Company L continues to move westerly. HULE's are looking for the boat.
- 261000 - Company K moved into MY LOC (2) and found a cave. The S-2 Scouts are recording the details of the cave. Companies K and L are trying to effect physical contact. Company K captured four VCS and evacuated 13 villagers in MY LOC (2).
- 261000 - Company L located large caches of rice (600-700 lbs) at BS 491888. Villagers stated that the rice belonged to the VC. The caches were destroyed on 27 October.
- 261030 - Company K destroyed a cave in their zone of action.
- 261030 - Company K made contact with Company L and are moving to Phase Line APPLE.
- 261035 - Company K crossed Phase Line APPLE. S-3 informed Company K when they swept MY LOC (2) to have CA team interrogate civilians thoroughly to find out location of VC, VC food storage, and other intelligence information. S-3 notified CA team that we will evacuate civilians today.
- 261200 - During Company L's sweep, they captured 12 VCS and one VC tax-collector.
- 261219 - Company K reports their 1st Platoon is on the high ground on the right of the French fort and the 2nd Platoon is in MY LOC (1). The 3rd Platoon is moving across Phase Line BLOSSOM and will sweep to Phase Line DATE. There are approximately 75 civilians requesting evacuation and the number is still growing.
- 261130 - The S-2 Scouts moved to the French fort (BS 504896).
- 261251 - Company L reports VC tax collector has information about VC Battalion Headquarters. He reports the Headquarters is located in THA GHAN DONG (3) (BS 500880). Many VC are located in this area.
- 261300 - Company L located at Phase Line APPLE and the advanced elements are near Phase Line DATE.
- 261329 - Company I received sniper fire from BS 521895. Company I returned the fire and saw traders hit the VC in the back but other VC carried the wounded men away. The VC withdrew to the southeast. Company I found one .30 caliber carbine magazine with ammunition. One friendly WIA was evacuated from the incident. Medical aid was rendered to several civilians in the area.
- 261425 - The Battalion Commander sent a message to the Regimental Commander informing him of reported VC Headquarters and requests a conference with the Regimental Commander at our CP.
- 261430 - Company K has 70 male civilians to be interrogated by CA team. Interpreter believes ten of these civilians are VC.
- 261440 - Companies K and L have passed Phase Line BLOSSOM and are moving toward Phase Line DATE.
- 261440 - Company K has 80 civilians. They request to move the civilians to harbor site because they are slowing down the movement of 2nd Platoon and the CA team.
- 261500 - Companies K and L are crossing Phase Line DATE.
- 261500 - Company L received sniper fire from BS 513883.
- 261625 - Company L has two wounded VC and one wounded woman. They are requesting evacuation.
- 261620 - Battalion reported to Regiment that we have 130 civilians to be evacuated.

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261617 - Battalion Commander sent for Company Commanders to be at the Battalion CP at 261730.

261602 - S-3 told CP (Rear) to send armed guard with resupply helicopters.

261800 - CA team ordered to return to Battalion CP.

261810 - Company L received sniper fire from BS 515886 and BS 513888. Company L returned fire and reported no WIA on either side.

261730 - Company K received sniper from one VC at BS 514896. Company K returned fire and one Marine was wounded.

262030 - Company K moved into a harboring site for the night and reported having communication problems.

262248 - Regiment is sending tax collector to our CP at first light to help with tomorrow's operations.

262145 - Regiment and 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines requested we send our CP locations and positions as they change.

262225 - Received call from Regimental 14 requesting Battalion 14 to come up on TAR net.

262100 - SPOTREP to Regiment that we have completed assigned mission and have set in for the night.

262355 - S-3 informed all companies that helilift would begin at 270715 vice 270615.

262330 - S-3 sent SPOTREP to Regiment of location of all units. At 2250 Company K received four incoming rounds to their rear at BS 501903. The 81mm Mortar Platoon fired one round of illumination. Battalion S-1 reported three non-battle casualties and three battle casualties for the entire day.

(2) 2nd Day, 27 October 1965

270700 - Battalion S-3 sent position report to Regimental S-3 that Companies I and L and Battalion CP are located at BS 511899 and Company K is on the high ground at BS 509901 and are preparing for today's operation.

270750 - Battalion commenced helilift from all positions.

270850 - Company I landed in LZ STOCKTON (BS 492873) and received sporadic rifle fire from the village to their front. The villagers are attempting to surrender.

270930 - Companies K and L have landed in LZ PALM SPRINGS and LZ HAYWARD. All units are attempting to link up.

270940 - Vietnamese reports indicate that a platoon size VC ambush is set up at BS 514874. Company K was notified of same.

271000 - All units are linked up on Phase Line RED and are presently moving toward Phase Line WHITE. Approximately 200 villagers have requested evacuation. Company L has established a blocking position in the vicinity of BS 500886.

271018 - Companies I, K and L are at Phase Line WHITE and are moving to Phase Line BLUE.

271030 - Until 271400 armed HUE's have been on station and at various times have received sporadic rifle fire. The HUE's have been returning fire and bombing possible VC harboring sites.

271400 - Companies I, K, and L are at Phase Line BLUE and are continuing to search and clear villages toward the SONG TRA BONG River. Company I has completed their sweep and are moving to the vicinity of BS 505886 for extraction.

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271305 - Company I reports finding a position used by the VC at BS 498878. The position was pointed out by Vietnamese women. The position was destroyed by Company L.

271430 - Company K reported three burning houses caused by attacking HUE's. There were about 12 villagers in the village. There is an escape route running north and south from the village. Company K found several ChiCom medical supplies and ammunition in the village.

271439 - Company K received incoming sniper fire from the vicinity of BS 516885. Company K returned the fire and swept the area. No casualties were suffered on either side.

271530 - S-3 sent a message to Regimental S-3 informing them of 3/7's future intentions. Plan to move Company K to a harboring site at vicinity of BS 505899 for the night. On 28 October Company K will move to the village in the vicinity BS 494903 where they will operate until 31 October.

271600 - Company I was extracted back to LZ ROBIN.

271700 - Company L and the Battalion CP group have been extracted to LZ ROBIN.

## 12. Results

### a. Friendly

- (1) KIA: None
- (2) WIA: 4
- (3) MIA: None
- (4) KBA: None
- (5) Equipment and material losses: None

### b. Enemy

- (1) KIA: None
- (2) WIA: 9
- (3) MIA: Unknown
- (4) KBA: Unknown
- (5) Captured VCC: 2
- (6) Captured VCS: 50 males, 4 females

#### (7) Equipment Lost:

- (a) One VC field pack containing clothing and survival gear
- (b) One military compass
- (c) Documents which included a handdrawn map, one message, and miscellaneous propaganda documents
- (d) A VC punji stake factory
- (c) One 500 pound cache of rice

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c. Native Population

(1) Evacuated to BINH SON at own request - 580

13. Administrative Matters

a. Administration. No administrative problems were encountered

b. Resupply. Only one regular resupply was required for this operation because of its short duration. Three meals, dry cell batteries, and ammunition required for the planned period of one day were carried by the Battalion as prescribed loads. Local water sources were utilized exclusively. Emergency resupply by helicopter was available but not utilized.

c. Medical. Medical evacuation by helicopter was available and utilized successfully.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. This operation included a built-in Eagle Flight concept to exploit the scattering effect of indigenous personnel due to helicopter operations. One squad of infantry with communication on the Battalion tactical net were loaded in two helicopters. These helicopters were kept airborne and were controlled by the Battalion Commander who was also airborne. The intent was to land this squad in front of any VC exfiltrating from the area of operation. Unfortunately no VC were observed by the aerial observer, thus the concept remains untested.

15. Commander's Analysis

a. The VC tax in this area is 500 piastras for a poor family and 2000 piastras for a rich family. This tax is paid every six months. Rice taxes amount to all of the harvest except 17 helograms for each member of the family. Resistance to taxes leads to indoctrination in Communist political doctrine in the mountain area of TINH TRUNG. The VC oppressed the population to such a degree that 150 requested evacuation to BINH SON the first day and 430 the second day.

b. This operation again reaffirmed that the preparation of landing zones adjacent to built-up areas should be strictly controlled in order to avert unnecessary loss of life to innocent personnel in the area. S map reconnaissance and visual reconnaissance from the air on a preceding day does not negate the need for a close inspection prior to preparation. Alternate landing zones are a must in order to provide the necessary flexibility due to changing circumstances.

16. Recommendations

a. That when conducting operations for which the primary means of transportation, resupply, and medical evacuation is by helicopter, at least two helicopters be assigned to a battalion for this exclusive purpose.

b. That armed HUEB's be used more extensively to give fire support and aerial observance to ground troops. In addition, their presence in a particular area serves quite adequately as a blocking force when the terrain limits the maneuverability of ground troops.

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C. H. BODLEY



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Company "K"

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3RD Battalion, 7TH Marines

3RD Marine Division (Rein)

FPO, San Francisco, Calif.

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## After Action Intelligence Report

05 Oct 1965

Incidents from:

1530

K-2 landed at coordinates 492932

K-1 lifted by helicopter for Br. LZ and landed at coordinates 499935. Moved from LZ to the south reached trail that commences at coordinates 498933 and comes out at coordinates 499926. Trail easily navigable.

1550

K-2 at coordinates 496932 saw various types of booby trap signs & broken branches pointing parallel down trail. Trail was not checked, kept sign was two sticks laying parallel across trail, also noticed was a circle with a stick lying across pointing down trail.

1555

K-2 received small arms fire coming from vicinity coordinates 498925.

1650

K-1 Spotted 20 VC moving at coordinates 502915 approximately 1000 meters from K-1's position.

Encl 191

# 2

1700

K-1 Received small arms and automatic weapons fire coming from coordinates 504918. Manuevered towards direction of fire and found no dead VC or wounded. Some blood spots and shell casings were found (7.62 mm & 30 Cal Carbine)

1730

K-3 Landed at coordinates 495920. Ran into panji stakes and suspected booby traps. One booby trap found description length 6", with small handle 4" long wrapped with white mungiflament line. Panji stakes saturated the hill with panji stakes pointing up hill.

1930

K-3 found on hill at coordinates 495920 six foxholes on left side of hill moving north up hill. Trails were noticed leading away from holes possible get away trails. Direction of fire from foxholes was facing north. During sweep to the top of hill 109 K-3 ran into possible booby trap sign. Two broken branches pointing parallel to side of trail. Darkness prevented search for booby traps.

2000

K-2 Arrived at coordinates 484923 northern

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edge of Tay Phuoc 3. North end of village heavily fortified. Trench line 6' deep with 5'-4' around perimeter of village. Punji stakes in trenches around village. Barbed wire on both sides of trenches. Upon approaching platoon was detected by barking dogs and immediately there after was heard vietnamese voices. Then dropped to a lull. Then heard a moan or low scream of a woman and a baby started crying. Another womens voice talking with a deep voiced man. Both voices seemed to be moving in a direction away from K-2. Movement of K2 around village was to the left.

2015 K-2 heard jungle telegraphy for 5 minutes

2030 K-3 heard 15 rounds carbine fire in three to four round bursts coming from approx 499924 K-1 located at coordinates 496920 heard small arms & automatic weapon fire (25-30 rounds) coming from azimuth 140 degrees MAG approx 600 meters away.

2230 K-3 heard sound which sounded resembled a monkey screaming or possibly a bamboo whistle coming from approx vicinity coordinates 485925. Sound was heard for approx one-half hour.

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5 minute intervals

2400 K-2 Moved to coordinates 498918 at which time jungle telegraphy was again heard.

6 OCT 65

0030 K-2 heard a motor noise possible a generator coming from vicinity Duc An! sound lasted for approx 1 1/2 hours. Periodical operation half hour on, 15 min silence, half hour on, 15 min.

0200 K-2 Again heard jungle telegraphy in vicinity coordinates 498918 same place as last. sound lasted for 5 minutes.

0400 K-3 moved to village Duc An(2) search and sweep operation which found village deserted, burned, with bullet holes in many buildings and tomb stones throughout village.

0315 K-2 heard movement in rice paddy at coordinates 488925

1000 K-3 searched village at 490911. Search found nothing unusual. Village was deserted.

1030 K3 received sniper fire from their right front and rear. K-3 location at time of sniper fire 490902. Sniper approx 500-700 meters away.

1045 K-2 heard small arms fire (6 rounds) coming from the east of their position which ~~was~~

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- located at coordinates 492916.
- 1050 K-1 received sniper fire 6 rounds from coordinates 491907.
- 1055 K-2 moved squad onto hill located at coordinates 496913 and spotted 50C running away from K-1 position located at coordinates 493914. VC were running in the direction Duc An (1)
- 1100 K-2 received message from K-6 to sweep towards my Loc 2 located at coordinates 493896. Also received info to seek and find VC hamlet chief supposedly located in village.
- 1115 K-1 Came upon clear stream located at 496907 stream width 10ft, 1 foot deep with a sand and gravel base. Water was drinkable.
- 1130 K-2 approaching my loc 2 from the north received 15 rounds sniper fire from village. Immediately assaulted village and commenced house to house search of village. Upon entering village it was noticed extensive tunneling. Tunnels 8' in diameter very well camouflaged. Encountered flash type warning booby traps. About one quarter way through village came upon VC Village chief ~~UNCLASSIFIED~~ 197

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interpreter VC chief wife stated that her husband and VC snipers had fled village as K-2 maneuvered against it. Fled in unknown direction. Small arms ammo was found throughout village. Also K-2 came across a hut/tunnel complex which appeared to be a small arms ammunition manufacturing place. Also found in same area were sixty mm rounds castings, lead for making bullets, sulfur, and 1 VCS who stated that he worked at this position. Complex was destroyed by engineers. Also found in village was three meeting areas in the center of the village with large fireplaces in the center of each meeting place. Civil affairs team worked extensively throughout the village. Upon departure from village civilians began surrounding marines requesting evacuation. When questioned they stated they feared the VC's return and just last night the VC killed a man in the village.

1245 K-1 destroyed three underground observation posts located coordinates 504 917. A brief case with papers were found in one of the holes.



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- Brief case was turned over to attached S-2 personnel. Only women and children were found in village.
- 1415 K-3 found large ditch four to five feet wide with punji stakes in the bottom at coordinates 500902.
- 1530 K-1 Moving in a southerly direction on trail located at 499908. Found along trail 4 freshly dug holes. Possible observation post observing rice paddy.
- 1545 K-2 Moved to hill at coordinates 506898. Top of hill had 6 deep foxholes on line appeared to be an observation post. Found two signaling devices (bamboo tubes). Top of hill extensively booby trapped with homemade booby traps tripped by minofilament. Detonated one booby trap by accident. Individual was not hurt. Hill was covered extensively with punji stakes.
- 1610 K2 received sniper fire from vicinity coordinates 510896. Returned fire and maneuvered a fire team into sniper position. No traces found. ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ (9)

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#8

1630

Commenced helicopter retraction of company. Helicopters received sniper fire during retraction.

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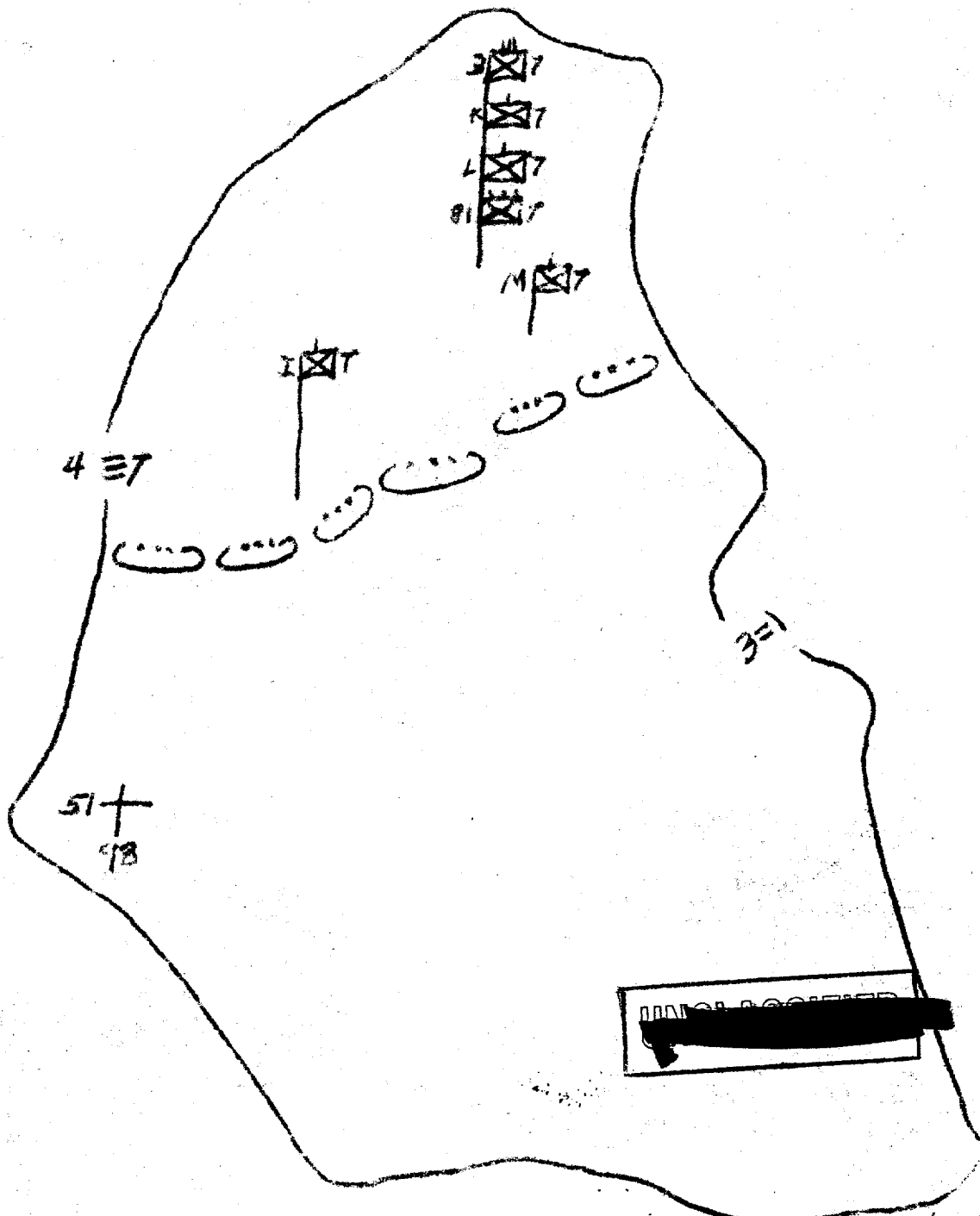
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(9)

OVERLAY OF BATTALION POSITIONS 2+3

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55  
+05



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