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DIRECTIVE TO
COMMANDING OFFICER, AUSTRALIAN
INFANTRY BATTALION IN SOUTH VIETNAM
(Annexes not attached)

INTRODUCTION

1. at the request of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam, and in consultation with the Government of the United States of America, the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia has agreed to provide military assistance to the Government of the Republic of Vietnam.

COMPOSITION

2. The composition of your battalion shall be in accordance with establishment II/20/1 (TW) or as amended.

COMMAND

3. You are under command of Commander, Australian Army Force, VIETNAM (COMAAAFV) but under the operational control of the Commander, United States Military Assistance Command, VIETNAM (COMUSMACV) for allotment for duty as required. This will normally be under a United States Brigade Headquarters.

4. On matters of domestic administration unique to Australia and national matters you are to report to, and receive orders from, COMAAAFV.

EMPLOYMENT

5. Tasks

These will be assigned to you by the commander of the US force to which allotted and may be :

- a. Security of a base area;
- b. Deeper patrolling and offensive operations as ordered;
- c. Reaction operations as ordered in conjunction with ARVN forces;
- d. Contingency planning.

6. Restrictions

- a. Australian personnel are not to be used in aid of the civil power in civil disturbances without the prior consent of the Australian Government. The responsibility for obtaining such consent rests with COMAAAFV through Army Headquarters Canberra. The decision will be notified to the COMAAAFV, COMUSMACV, and yourself by OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE signal by Army Headquarters Canberra.
- b. Should civil disturbances occur, all Australian personnel are to take appropriate measures to safeguard themselves, their dependants and the governmental property, irrespective of the Government of origin, entrusted to their care.

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- c. Subject to operational commitments, Australian personnel may be used to provide assistance to civil authorities in the event of flood and other national disasters, if requested by the Government of the Republic of Vietnam. You are to advise COMMAFV of all such assistance requested or given. Agreement to provide such assistance does not over-ride the reservation on aid to the civil power in civil disturbances stated in paragraph a. above, including civil disturbances such as looting and rioting which could be concomitant of a natural disaster.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

7. Should you be allotted a task which in your opinion is contrary to the provisions of this directive, would endanger the national interest of Australia or be likely to imperil unduly your command or any part of it, you are to report the situation at once to COMMAFV, having first informed your immediate superior officer of your intention and the reasons for doing so.

CHANNELS OF COMMUNICATION

8. Communication from Vietnam to Australia is via the Australian station. Internal communication from your battalion to Headquarters MAFV will be under arrangements made by COMMAFV.

LOCATION

9. Your battalion is to be stationed in and operate within the borders of the Republic of Vietnam. You are to ensure that personnel under your command do not violate the territory of countries bordering the Republic of Vietnam.

10. Initially your battalion is to be stationed in the vicinity of BIEN HOA airfield under the operational command of 173 US Airborne Brigade. Any subsequent re-deployment and change of command will be as mutually agreed by COMMAFV and COMUSMACV.

DISCIPLINE

11. Your disciplinary powers are stated in Annex 'A' to the directive.

REPORTS

12. You are to forward reports, as required to Commander, MAFV.

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