

Intelligence indexes can herald changes in war long before the notars, weapons and blood become a battle field in South Viet Nam. Indexes of intelligence can be "FAC" forward air controllers, flying light observation craft, friendly villagers of South Viet Nam, who come forth with information during MEDCAP's or other civic action programs, observation of local nationals, in their movements and the lonelyout posts.

Out posts can be sophisticated long standing camps or temporary sand bagged holes in the ground. Either way the job is the same: listen, look, observe, report, defend as long as possible. Some out posts are in the watery delta region, none to picturesque areas; while outposts like Lac Thien is located in an intruicneing fertile valley with the largest lake in country close by.

The highest mountain peaks in South Viet Nam, rivers and gun fire were antecedent to the war. In and about Lac Thien was one of the few areas used by the French as a big game hunting resort; here Tigers, Elephants and crocodiles roamed the area.

In these by gone happier days of Indo-China, the Montagards guides and French hunters traveled over land, rice paddies and mountains in search of big game trophies to take home to France.

Today the scene is different, the French hunters are gone, though the elephants, tigers and crocodiles are still around. There are also today armed men running around the hills in black pajamas and kaki uniforms of infiltrated North Viet Namee Army units. Lac Thien today, is located 20 mi. from the nearest friendly forces in one limb of the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Since 1965, when the north started sending troops down through the area around Lac Thien, the camp is almost cut off from civilization, except for helicopters and radio contact. Even so Lac Thien could easily be over run, if the enemy every decided to rub it out, by sheer numbers of fighting men.

To help provide protection to out posts of both U.S. and government of Viet Nam; CMI was set up in Sept of 1967. "CMI" COMBINED MOBILE IMPROVEMENT TEAMS are distributed in the second fighting corp, (the central highlands) on basis of one team per provience. In Darlac Provience, some 150 miles north of Saigon; Combined Mobile Improvement Team # 9, commanded by Lt. Robert L. Berg, is working with four companies of Montagard troops around Lac Thien.

The mission of CMI #9 is to be self sustaining, except for quarters and rations, which the go from the out post or advisory team they are staying with at the time. Another part of their mission is to move from hamlet to hamlet in the provience giving a two week course to each company of Viet Namee and Montagard Regional Forces. Regional Forces are military companies size units which stay in their own provience; as compared with the ARVN general army which can be stationed any where in South Viet Nam.

In the first four days of classes the team trains the regional forces on small unit weapons. These include the cartine, BAR, .30 caliber machine gun, M-1 rifle and the M-79 grenade launcher. The remainder of the two weeks the forces learn company and squad tactics along with map reading, using a compass, radio procedures, ambush and counter ambush tactics.

The final instruction is a combat operation using the skills learned in the two week of training. This will be the passing or flunking score, alert and alive.

17 Jun 68

Unclassified

Combined mobile
Improvement Team

Item No 220.4

Lt. Wessan

SP/5 Poulin & SP/4 Molenda

SP/4 Bush

Films

10 571 & 10 500

Other 3270

400

- | | | |
|---|------|--|
| 2 | Mild | Montagnard sergeant blowing whistle to call a formation of Montagnard troops. |
| 1 | Mild | Montagnard troops marching to rifle range. |
| 2 | Mild | American HHC advisor telling Montagnard sergeant to get Montagnard troops ready to go/ on patrol. |
| 3 | Mild | American HHC Advisor giving class to Montagnard troops on field firing. Interpreter was translating. |
| 4 | Mild | Montagnard troops on patrol. |
| 5 | Mild | Montagnards firing their weapons on the rifle range. |
| 6 | Mild | Montagnards firing their weapons fully automatic on the rifle range. |

JAN 17 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

8-1-68(MA)

COMBINED MOBILE
IMPROVEMENT TEAM

LAC THIEN, ABOUT
120 MILES SOUTH OF PLEIKU

Lt. WESSON

Sp5 FOULKE
Sp4 MOLINDA

Sp4 NASH

BELL & HOWELL FILMO

BS 591 & BS 590

UHER 23704

400 Ft.

AIR FREIGHT

ECO 7255

ROLL 1	1.	1.	SILENT LS. An aerial view of area around Lac Thien
	2.	1.	SILENT LS. An aerial view of a Montagnard village
	3.	1.	SILENT LS. An aerial view of the Army compound at Lac Thien.
	4.	1.	SILENT CU. An Elephant owned by one of the villagers
	5.	1.	SILENT CU. SAME AS ABOVE.
	6.	1.	SILENT CU. The Elephant and his handler.
	7.	1.	SILENT CU. SAME AS ABOVE.
	8.	1.	SILENT CU. An Elephant
	9.	1.	SILENT MS. Elephant and his handler.
	10.	1.	SILENT LS. An Elephant and his handler riding on him.
	11.	1.	SILENT LS. Three Elephants, two large and one small.
	12.	1.	WILD LS. The Montagnard Regional Forces in a Formation, preparing to go out to the rifle range for training.
	13.	1.	WILD MS. SAME AS ABOVE.
	14.	1.	WILD CU. A Montagnard Platoon Sergeant talking to his men.
	15.	1.	WILD MS. The Montagnard troops marching out to the rifle range.
	16.	1.	WILD CU. SAME AS ABOVE.
	17.	1.	END SLATE
ROLL 2	1.	1.	WILD MS. SSG Wallace P. Edmonds of Esmelle, Ala. talking to Lt Lt Mai Nhut Hugyen the translator.
	2.	1.	" MS. SSG Wallace with the translator
	3.	1.	" MS. SSG Edmonds getting the patrol ready to move out
	4.	1.	SILENT CU. SSG Edmonds face
	5.	1.	SILENT MS. Troops lining up to move out.
	6.	1.	" MS. SSG Edmond with translator
	7.	1.	" MS. SSG Edmonds getting the patrol at attention
	8.	1.	LS. Patrol leaving camp area.

ROLL	2 CONT	9.	L.	SILENT	CU.	Man passing camera.
		10.	L.	"	HS.	Sgt Edwards and Regional force sgt getting map out to check location.
		11.	L.	"	CU.	Map.
		12.	L.	"	CU.	Montagnards SGT face.
		13.	L.	"	HS.	Man coming out of bamboo jungle.
		14.	L.	"	CU.	Patrol passing camera.
		15.	L.	"	CU.	Man passing camera.
ROLL 3		1.	L.	WILD	HS.	SFC George Silventes of Monterey, Cal. the Combined Mobile Improvement Team HCO, talks with interpreters about the rifle range.
		2.	L.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		3.	L.	WILD	HS.	Sgt Edwards speaking with interpret ers.
		4.	L.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		5.	L.	WILD	LS.	Some jets pass overhead.
		6.	L.	WILD	HS.	SFC Silventes speaking with Montagnard sergeant.
		7.	L.	WILD	LS.	SFC Silventes giving instruction on weapons to the Montagnards.
		8.	L.	WILD	HS.	SFC Silventes and the interpreters, with the check board in front of them.
		9.	L.	WILD	CU.	SFC Silventes speaking to the Montagnards on the use of their weapons.
		10.	L.	WILD	HS.	SFC Silventes telling the troops about rifle sighting.
		11.	L.	WILD	HS.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		12.	L.	WILD	CU.	The montagnard interpreter.
		13.	L.	WILD	LS.	SFC Silventes places the Montagnard troops in their proper places on the firing line.
		14.	L.	WILD	LS.	The line of troops on the firing line.
		15.	L.	WILD	HS.	A Montagnard tops firing at the target.
		16.	L.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		17.	L.	WILD	HS.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		18.	L.	WILD	HS.	A Montagnard soldier firing.
		19.	L.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
		20.	L.	WILD	LS.	The Montagnard soldiers advance toward their targets in an assault position, with their rifles on auto.

ROLL 4	1.	1.	SILENT	HS.	Men coming out of the jungles
	2.	1.	"	CU.	Faces of men coming out of the jungle
	3.	1.	"	CU.	men walking fast moving.
	4.	1.	"	LS.	Men walking to camp after patrol
	5.	1.	"	HS.	SSG Rhonda and Montagard SGT reporting to Lt. Berg on the patrol.
	6.	1.	"	HS.	
	7.	1.	"	CU.	Finger on map where patrol went to
	8.	1.	"	CU.	Lt. Berg's face
	9.	1.	"	PA.	Pan from face to finger on the map
	10.	1.	"	HS.	Men cleaning weapons.
	11.	1.	"	CU.	Cleaning weapons.
	12.	1.	"	CU.	Men cleaning M-19
	13.	1.	"	CU.	Montagard Regional Forces cleaning sights on 30 caliber machine gun
	14.	1.	"	HS.	Men cleaning a BAR
	15.	1.	"	CU.	Regional Forces CO checking the Browning Automatic Rifle
ROLL 5	1.	1.	WILD	HS.	Lt Berg pointing out to Regional Forces trainee the automatic switch for the carbine
	2.	1.	SILENT	HS.	Men checking targets.
	3.	1.	"	HS.	Trainee Company Commander Lt SGT and SSG Rhonda looking at the target
	4.	1.	"	CU.	Men pointing to holes in target
	5.	1.	"	HS.	Lt. Berg looking over target then checking weapon.
	6.	1.	"	CU.	Halting sighting adjustment on rifle
	7.	1.	"	CU.	Lt Berg checking the target
	8.	1.	"	HS.	Lt. Berg patting trainee on shoulder
	9.	1.	"	LS.	ANIMALS OF ELEPHANTS grazing in the rice paddies near Lao Thien.