

Intelligence indexes can herald changes in war long before the meters, 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 MESSAP's or other civic action programs, observation of local nationals, in their movements and the lonely out 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 intrancing 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 roam the area.

In these by gone happier days of Indo-China, the Montagnards 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 pagamas and kaki uniforms of infiltrated North Viet Namese Army units. Lac Thien today, is located 20 mi. from the nearest friendly forces in one link 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 province. In Darlac Province, some 150 miles north of Saigon; Combined Mobile Improvement Team # 9, commanded by Lt. Robert L. Berg, is working with four companies of Montagnard troops around Lac Thien.

The mission of CMI #9 is to be self sustaining, except for quarters and rations, which they get 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 province giving a two week course to each company of Viet Namese and Montagnard Regional Forces. Regional Forces are military companies size units which stay in their own provinces; 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 carbine, 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 flanking score, alert and alive.

17 Jun 68

Unclassified

Combined mobile  
improvement team

Don Mc Elroy

Lt. Wesson

SP/5 Foulke & SP/4 Holanda

SP/4 Bush

Films

BS 591 & BS 590

Ustr 32701

400

2	Wild	Montagnard Sergeant blowing whistle to call a formation of Montagnard troops.
1	Wild	Montagnard troops marching to rifle range.
2	Wild	American NCO Advisor telling Montagnard sergeant to get Montagnard troops ready to go on patrol.
3	Wild	American NCO Advisor giving class to Montagnard troops on field firing. Interpreter was translating.
4	Wild	Montagnard troops on patrol.
3	Wild	Montagnards firing their weapons on the rifle range.
3	Wild	Montagnards firing their weapons fully automatic on the rifle range.

JAN 17 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

6-1-68(AA)

COMBINED MOBILE  
IMPROVEMENT TEAM

LAC THIEN, ABOUT  
120 MILES SOUTH OF PHOUKHU

Lt. WESSON

Sp5 FOULKE  
Sp4 MOLENDRA

Sp4 NASH

BELL & HOWELL FILMO

BS 591 & BS 580

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. | WILD   |     | END SLATE   |

ROLL 2

- |    |    |        |     |   |
|----|----|--------|-----|---|
| 1. | 1. | WILD   | MS. | SSG Wallace P. Edmonds of Emelle, Ala. talking to 1st Lt Mai Huat Huayyen 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	1.	SILENT	CU.	Man passing camera
	10.	1.	"	MS.	SFC Edwards and Regional force sgt getting map out to check location
	11.	1.	"	CU.	Map
	12.	1.	"	CU.	Montagnards GET face
	13.	1.	"	MS.	Men coming out of bamboo jungle
	14.	1.	"	CU.	Patrol passing camera.
	15.	1.	"	CU.	Man passing camera.
ROLL 3	1.	1.	WILD	MS.	SFC George Silvestre of Monterey, Cal. the Combined Noble Improvement Team NCI, talks with interpreters about the rifle range.
	2.	1.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
	3.	1.	WILD	MS.	SFC Edwards speaking with interpreter circ.
	4.	1.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE
	5.	1.	WILD	LS.	Some jets pass overhead.
	6.	1.	WILD	MS.	SFC Silvestre speaking with Montagnard sergeant.
	7.	1.	WILD	LS.	SFC Silvestre giving instruction on weapons to the Montagnards.
	8.	1.	WILD	MS.	SFC Silvestre and the interpreters, with the check board in front of them.
	9.	1.	WILD	CU.	SFC Silvestre speaking to the Montagnards on the use of their weapons
	10.	1.	WILD	MS.	SFC Silvestre telling the troops about rifle sighting.
	11.	1.	WILD	MS.	SAME AS ABOVE.
	12.	1.	WILD	CU.	The Montagnard interpreter
	13.	1.	WILD	LS.	SFC Silvestre places the Montagnard troops in their proper places on the firing line.
	14.	1.	WILD	LS.	The line of troops on the firing line.
	15.	1.	WILD	MS.	A Montagnard troops firing at the target.
	16.	1.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
	17.	1.	WILD	MS.	SAME AS ABOVE.
	18.	1.	WILD	MS.	A Montagnard soldier firing.
	19.	1.	WILD	CU.	SAME AS ABOVE.
	20.	1.	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 feet moving.
	4.	1.	"	LS.	Men walking to camp after patrol
	5.	1.	"	MS.	SSC Edwards and Montagard SGT reporting to Lt. Berg on the patrol
	6.	1.	"	CU.	ID
	7.	1.	"	CU.	Finger on map where patrol went to
	8.	1.	"	CU.	Lt. Berg's face
	9.	1.	"	Pan	From face to finger on the map
	10.	1.	"	MS.	Men cleaning weapons.
	11.	1.	"	CU.	Cleaning weapons.
	12.	1.	"	CU.	Men cleaning M-79
	13.	1.	"	CU.	Montagards Regional Forces cleaning sights on 30 caliber machine gun
	14.	1.	"	MS.	Men cleaning a BAR
	15.	1.	"	CU.	Regional Forces CO checking the Browning Automatic Rifle

ROLL 5	1.	1.	WILD	MS.	Lt Berg pointing out to Regional Forces trainee the automatic with for the carbine
	2.	1.	SILENT	MS.	Men checking targets.
	3.	1.	"	MS.	Trainee Company Commander 1st SGT and SSC Rhonda looking at the target
	4.	1.	"	CU.	Men pointing to holes in target
	5.	1.	"	MS.	Lt. Berg looking over target then checking weapon.
	6.	1.	"	CU.	Making sighting adjustment on rifle
	7.	1.	"	CU.	Lt Berg checking the target
	8.	1.	"	MS.	Lt. Berg patting trainee on shoulder
	9.	1.	"	LS.	HERDS OF ELEPHANTS grazing in the rice paddies near Lac Thien.