

TOP SECRET
Book #1

EYES ONLY

MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

LIMBIS

SPECAT

EXCLUSIVE

FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING

+
ICT 2 Common Support Responsibility

Approved by the Director of
Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CMO for Ser 0003223/232298 of
14 Feb 1979

BOOK #1

[Handwritten Signature]

Signature Date

1/14/82

RETURN TO
STAFF SECRETARY
TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS
ROUTING SHEET (5511)
NAVMC HQ 3350 (REV. 7-83)

MARCH	T8079	IIIMAF FORC REFUC PL 4 APR-12 JUN 69 BK 1&2	MAP3	01	0000
	DOCUMENT CONTROL NUMBER	SUBJECT	FILE NUMBER	ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO.	CY NO

ROUTING - Use numbers to show order of routing

OPERATION CODE

- X - ORIGINATOR OR OFFICE AFFIXING ROUTING SHEET
- A - APPROPRIATE ACTION
- B - GUIDANCE
- C - SIGNATURE
- D - COMMENT
- E - RECOMMENDATION
- F - CONCURRENCE

- G - INFORMATION
- H - RETURN TO
- I - INITIAL
- J - DISPOSITION
- K - DECISION
- L - RETENTION
- O - (OTHER)

HQSR-3

DISPOSITION INSTRUCTIONS

(COMPLETED BY ACTION OR ROUTING OFFICER AS APPROPRIATE)

RETENTION PERIOD ESTABLISHED BY ROUTING OFFICER AS:

- _____ MONTHS
- _____ UNTIL SUPERSEDED
- _____ UNTIL OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS AS DETERMINED ON ANNUAL REVIEW

REQUEST ACTION OFFICER ADVISE RETENTION ABOVE

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER ESTABLISHING DISPOSITION

SECTION

K. J. [Signature]

HQSR-3

RECORD OF DISCLOSURE

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RTG	OPR CODE	ADDRESSEES	DATE		INIT
			IN	OUT	
		COMMANDANT CMC			
		MILITARY SECY TO CMC			
		ASSISTANT COMMANDANT ACMC			
		MILITARY ASST TO CMC			
		CHIEF OF STAFF CS			
		SECY GEN STAFF			
		DIR SPL PROJ SPD			
		DC/S AVN A			
		DC/S I&L L			
		DC/S MPR M			
		DIR PERS MGT DIV MM			
		DIR MPR P&P DIV MP			
		DIR PERS PROC DIV MR			
		DC/S PP&O P			
		DIR PLANS DIV PL			
		DIR OPNS DIV PO			
		MCCC POC			
		GRD CBT REQBR POG			
		DC/S RD&S RD			
		DC/S RESAFF RES			
		DC/S R&P RP			
		DC/S TRNG T			
		FDMC FD			
		IGMC IG			
		MED OFF MED			
		DIR C4 SYS DIV CC			
		C4 SYS P&P BRANCH CCP			
		DIR OF INTEL INT			
		DIR JAD JA			
		DIR PA PA			
		LEGIS ASST OLA			
		COUNSEL FOR CMC CL			
		DIR MCH&M HD			
		DIR HQSPT HQS			
		DENT OFF DEN			
		CHAPLAIN REL			
		JOINT CONTROL JC			
		CLASSIFIED FILES HQSR-3			
		ANMCC AJCC			
		AHERS AHERS			

REMARKS: Entries to be signed and dated. For lengthy comments attach separate page and indicate "Bucktag Comment Attached." Do not assign separate Control Number to Bucktag Comments.

Declassified by the Director of Marine Corps History and Museums in accordance with the provisions of the law for 005080/000000 of 01 Feb 2000

[Signature]

Signature Date 1/14/92

#8079

15 SEP 1988

RETURN TO HQSR-3
UPON COMPLETION OF ROUTING

DO NOT DETACH THIS FORM IS A PERMANENT PART OF THE DOCUMENT TO WHICH IT IS ATTACHED

MATERIAL ATTACHED IS

TOP SECRET

INDEX - FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING

1. COMUSMACV 041237Z APR69 (TS) ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY FOR ADDRESSEE *(gp-4)*
FOR MILDREN, NICKERSON, ZUMWALT, FROM ABRAMS
(THIS MSG A READDRESSAL OF ABRAMS ORIG MSG - 040936Z APR69 - TO MCCAIN)
2. CG III MAF 051415Z APR69 (TS) SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY *(gp-4)*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
(READDRESSAL OF ABRAMS 041237 - TAB 1)
3. CG III MAF 080145Z APR69 (TS) ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY FOR ADDRESSEE *(gp-1)*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
(BASED ON GUIDANCE IN ABRAMS 041237, AM SUBMITTING TENTATIVE TROOP LIST)
4. CG III MAF 140925Z APR69 (TS) SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY/ABSOLUTELY FOR ADDRESSEE BY ONLY
FOR ABRAMS FROM NICKERSON *(gp-4)*
"FOL RUVIEM REF A (tentative troop list) SERV SPT ELEMS ON OKI BEST BUILDING BMS"

5. CG III MAF 140926Z APR69 (TS) SENSITIVE/ABSOLUTELY ADDRESSEE EYES ONLY *(gp-4)*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
RESPONDS TO FM-PAC 102126Z APR 69 (NOT HEID)

6. CG FM-PAC 150132Z APR69 (TS) MCEO *gp-1*
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE
"MCCAIN HANDED ME SOME QUESTIONS - HERE THEY ARE ALONG WITH MY ANSWERS"
7. COMUSMACV 161318Z APR69 (TS) SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY *gp-4*
FOR NICKERSON FROM ABRAMS
THIS MSG RESPONDS TO AND APPROVES III MAF'S 140925Z - REVIEW OF TROOP LIST
8. CG III MAF 171236Z APR69 (TS) SENSITIVE/ADDRESSEE EYES ONLY MCEO *gp-4*
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE
THIS MSG QUOTES ABRAMS' 160911Z APR69 TO MCCAIN
9. CG III MAF 171238Z APR69 (TS) EXCLUSIVE MCEO *gp-4*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
THIS MSG RESPONDS TO BUSE' 150132 "MCCAIN'S QUESTIONS" -- SAME APPROACH WE TAKE

0 041237Z ZYH ZFF74 ZFF71
 FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV
 TO GEN MILDREN DCG USARP
 GEN NICKERSON CG III MAF
 VADM ZUMWALT COMNAVFORV
 O 040936Z ZYH ZFF-4 ZFF-1
 FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV SGM
 TO ADM MCCAIN CINCPAC
 ZFM.

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE MAC 4231 EYES ONLY

ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY FOR ADDRESSEE

SUBJ: FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)

REF: A. CINCPAC 210503Z MAR 69
 B. COMUSMACV 220624Z MAR 69
 C. CINCPAC 280507Z MAR 69

1. (TS) REF A STATED NEED FOR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR STAFFS ON SUBJECT PLANNING. REF B INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR STAFF TO VISIT MACV PLANNING GROUP. REF C PROVIDED ITINERARY AND PURPOSES OF STAFF VISIT OF CINCPAC REPRESENTATIVES.

2. (TS) DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED 1-3 APR 69 WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WERE MOST USEFUL. INFORMATION ON MACV FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING ACTIVITIES WAS PROVIDED TO THEM, AND IS SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. (T-DAY PLANNING WAS ALSO DISCUSSED; HOWEVER, THESE SUBJECTS ARE HANDLED SEPARATELY IN MACV, BY DIFFERENT PLANNING GROUPS, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING).

3. (TS) I HAVE DIRECTED THE MACV PLANNING GROUP TO PREPARE TENTATIVE PLANS FOR A FORCE REDUCTION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. REDUCE BY ONE US DIVISION EQUIVALENT (20-25,000) DURING THE THIRD QUARTER CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR INDICATES THIS IS A FEASIBLE COURSE OF ACTION.

B. REDUCE BY A SECOND DIVISION EQUIVALENT (20-25,000) TOWARD THE END OF THE FOURTH QUARTER CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS REDUCTION AND CONDITIONS IN THE THIRD AND EARLY FOURTH QUARTERS INDICATE THAT THIS IS FEASIBLE.

4. (TS) CONDITIONS BEARING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REDUCTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GENERAL.

(1) PACIFICATION, WHICH IS THE MEASURE OF WHERE WE STAND WITH RESPECT TO OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF SVN, CONTINUES TO MAKE IDENTIFIABLE PROGRESS.

(2) THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RVNAF CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE PROGRAMMED GOALS AND THE RATE OF IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OF THE RVNAF KEEPS PACE.

B. ENEMY. WITH RESPECT TO THE ENEMY WE WOULD EXPECT THAT:

(1) HIS STRENGTH IN OR NEAR SVN NOT EXCEED PRESENT LEVELS.

(2) NO NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS BE INTRODUCED INTO SVN OR BE CAPABLE OF REACHING SVN.

(3) THERE BE NO FORECAST OF GREATLY INCREASED INFILTRATION FROM NVN.

(4) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF TREMENDOUS LOGISTICAL IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PRESENT CAPABILITIES.

C. US FORCES.

(1) CURRENT LEVEL OF B-52 SORTIES, TACAIR, HELICOPTERS AND NON-DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT IS MAINTAINED.

(2) THE FIRST INCREMENT DEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY IS THE 3F MARINE DIVISION TO OKINAWA WHERE IT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MOST READILY AVAILABLE REACTION FORCE.

D. FREE WORLD FORCES. OTHER FREE WORLD FORCES DO NOT INITIATE REDUCTION CONCURRENT WITH THE US. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO REDUCE, THEIR REDUCTION SHOULD BE PROPORTIONATE TO OUR OWN AND THE TOTAL COMBAT FORCES REDUCED IN EACH INCREMENT, US AND FW, SHOULD NOT EXCEED 20-25,000).

5. (TS) I HAVE APPROVED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES TWO ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS, EACH PROVIDING FOR A REDUCTION IN TWO INCREMENTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

A. ALTERNATIVE I.

(1) IN THE FIRST INCREMENT, THE 10 MARINE DIVISION, WITH SUPPORTING FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND ELEMENTS, WOULD BE DEPLOYED TO OKINAWA. IN COUNTRY THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD BE MOVED FROM II CTZ TO I CTZ. HEADQUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS FOR I CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

(U) THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, LESS THE 3D BRIGADE WITH FOUR MANEUVER BATTALIONS REMAINING IN III CTZ AND DIVISION CAVALRY SQUADRON REMAINING IN I CTZ;

(B) THE 3D BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION;

(C) NAVY TASK FORCE 117; AND

(D) AN ARMY AND, PERHAPS, NAVY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE. TO COMPENSATE IN PART, FOR THE REMOVAL OF US COMBAT FORCES FROM THE DELTA, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE ENTIRE VMMC WOULD BE STATIONED IN IV CTZ TO OPERATE WITH RIVER ASSAULT ASSETS TURNED OVER THE VNN.

B. ALTERNATIVE II.

(1) THE FIRST INCREMENT WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN ALTERNATIVE I (PARA 5A ABOVE). HOWEVER, THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD REMAIN IN II CTZ; INSTEAD, THE 3D BRIGADE, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION WOULD BE MOVED FROM III CTZ TO I CTZ AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, PRESENTLY OPERATING IN II CTZ, WOULD BE RETURNED TO ITS PARENT UNIT. HEADQUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS FOR I CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

(A) THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND;

(B) AN ARMY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HEADQUARTERS I FORCECV COULD BE INACTIVATED, WITH THE REMAINING US COMBAT FORCES IN II CTZ COMING UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF SA II CTZ.

6. (TS) AIR FORCE, MARINE AIR, AND NON-DIVISIONAL AVIATION AND ARTILLERY UNITS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN FORCES TO BE REDUCED UNDER EITHER OF THE ALTERNATIVES.

7. (TS) YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE WORK SHEETS THAT WERE USED IN DEVELOPING THE TWO ALTERNATIVES OUTLINED ABOVE. STRENGTHS SHOWN ARE PLANNING FIGURES ONLY AND REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REFINEMENT BY THE COMPONENTS CONCERNED. (1) #2

8. (TS) AT THIS POINT THE CLOSEST COORDINATION BETWEEN OUR PLANNING GROUPS IS REQUIRED. POSITIONING OF FORCES AFTER REDEPLOYMENT FROM SVN, WHILE NOT WITHIN MY PURVIEW, WAS DISCUSSED WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE STATIONING OF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE 3D MARDIV ON OKINAWA IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE FOR REENTRY, IF THIS SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY. YOUR EARLY VIEWS ON THIS AND ON THE STATIONING OF OTHER FORCES TO BE REDEPLOYED UNDER BOTH ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE HELPFUL IN OUR PRESENT PLANNING. WITH RESPECT TO LOGISTICS PLANNING A GREAT DEAL OF COORDINATION WILL EVENTUALLY BE REQUIRED. IN OUR CONCEPTUAL PLANNING HERE WE CONSIDER THE 3D MARDIV WILL BE COMBAT LOADED IN FLEET SHIPPING FOR MOVEMENT TO THEIR PACOM DESTINATION. SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF AVAILABLE FLEET ASSETS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MSTs. IF, BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS ON OKINAWA, A DECISION IS MADE TO BASE ON RLT IN HAWAII, MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL WILL BE BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-ON SURFACE SHIPPING. WE ENVISION REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMY FORCES WILL BE PRIMARILY BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-ON SHIPPING. EXISTING AERIAL AND SEA PORTS WITHIN RVN WILL BE USED FOR REDEPLOYMENT AND ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT EITHER OF THE ALTERNATIVE PLANS. AVAILABILITY OF AERIAL AND SURFACE SHIPPING IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A RESTRAINT.

9. (TS) BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT, I AM CONTINUING TO LIMIT ACCESS TO A FEW INDIVIDUALS. I HAVE PROVIDED A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE TO GENERALS MILDREN AND NICKERSON AND TO ADM ZUMWALT. ALSO MINIMAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE COMPONENT COMMANDS IS BEING ADDED TO THE PLANNING GROUP. AT THIS STAGE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS WE SHOULD AVOID COMMUNICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT THROUGH SERVICE CHANNELS.

10. (TS) AS YOU ARE AWARE A COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO GEN WHEELER TO PROVIDE YOU BOTH OFFICIALLY AT AN EARLY DATE MY VIEWS ON POSSIBLE TROOP REDUCTIONS DURING CY 69. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES MY PRELIMINARY THINKING. THE CONCEPTS ARE BEING EXPANDED BY THE MACV PLANNING GROUP INTO PLANS COVERING BOTH ALTERNATIVES. THESE PLANS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED FOR PRESENTATION TO YOU AND TO GEN WHEELER O/A 20 APRIL.

11. (TS) IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESENTING OUR COORDINATED VIEWS TO THE CHAIRMAN AND THE JCS FOLLOWING MY DISPATCH REPORT O/A 20 APRIL, I SUGGEST THAT MY PLANNERS JOIN YOURS TO PRESENT FORCE REDUCTION ALTERNATIVES DURING YOUR BRIEFINGS IN WASHINGTON ON 24 APRIL.
GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WAKING HOURS
900

①+3
TOP SECRET

0 25 14 15Z ZYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO CG FMFPAC
 ZEN

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYES ONLY
 FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON.

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS READDRESSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

NOTE:

0 04 12 37Z ZYH ZFF-4 ZFF-1
 FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV
 TO GEN MILDREN OCG USARV
 GEN NICKERSON CG III MAF
 VADM ZUMHALT COMNAVPORV
 0 04 09 36Z ZYH ZFF-4 ZFF-1
 FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV SGN
 TO ADM MCCAIN CINCPAC
 ZEN

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE MAC 4231 EYES ONLY
 ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY FOR ADDRESSEE

SUBJ: FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)

REF: A. CINCPAC 213533Z MAR 69
 B. COMUSMACV 225624Z MAR 69
 C. CINCPAC 283527Z MAR 69

1. (TS) REF A STATED NEED FOR CLOSE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN OUR STAFFS ON SUBJECT PLANNING. REF B INVITED REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR STAFF TO VISIT MACV PLANNING GROUP. REF C PROVIDED ITINERARY AND PURPOSES OF STAFF VISIT OF CINCPAC REPRESENTATIVES.
2. (TS) DISCUSSIONS CONDUCTED 1-3 APR 69 WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES WERE MOST USEFUL. INFORMATION ON MACV FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING ACTIVITIES WAS PROVIDED TO THEM, AND IS SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS. (T-DAY PLANNING WAS ALSO DISCUSSED; HOWEVER, THESE SUBJECTS ARE HANDLED SEPARATELY IN MACV, BY DIFFERENT PLANNING GROUPS, IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SECURITY OF FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING).
3. (TS) I HAVE DIRECTED THE MACV PLANNING GROUP TO PREPARE TENTATIVE PLANS FOR A FORCE REDUCTION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:
 - A. REDUCE BY ONE US DIVISION EQUIVALENT (20-25,000) DURING THE THIRD QUARTER CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR INDICATES THIS IS A FEASIBLE COURSE OF ACTION.
 - B. REDUCE BY A SECOND DIVISION EQUIVALENT (20-25,000) TOWARD END OF THE FOURTH QUARTER CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS REDUCTION AND CONDITIONS THE THIRD AND EARLY FOURTH QUARTERS INDICATE THAT THIS IS FEASIBLE.
4. (TS) CONDITIONS BEARING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE REDUCTIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. GENERAL.

(1) PACIFICATION, WHICH IS THE MEASURE OF WHERE WE STAND WITH RESPECT TO OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE PEOPLE OF SVN, CONTINUES TO MAKE IDENTIFIABLE PROGRESS.

(2) THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF THE RVNAF CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE PROGRAMMED GOALS AND THE RATE OF IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OF THE RVNAF KEEPS PACE.

B. ENEMY. WITH RESPECT TO THE ENEMY WE WOULD EXPECT THAT:

- (1) HIS STRENGTH IN OR NEAR SVN NOT EXCEED PRESENT LEVELS.
- (2) NO NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS BE INTRODUCED INTO SVN OR BE CAPABLE OF REACHING SVN.
- (3) THERE BE NO FORECAST OF GREATLY INCREASED INFILTRATION FROM NVN.
- (4) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF TREMENDOUS LOGISTICAL IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PRESENT CAPABILITIES.

C. US FORCES.

- (1) CURRENT LEVEL OF B-52 SORTIES, TACAIR, HELICOPTERS AND NON-DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT IS MAINTAINED.
- (2) THE FIRST INCREMENT DEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY IS THE 3D MARINE DIVISION TO OKINAWA WHERE IT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MOST READILY AVAILABLE REACTION FORCE.

D. FREE WORLD FORCES. OTHER FREE WORLD FORCES DO NOT INITIATE REDUCTION CONCURRENT WITH THE US. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO REDUCE, THEIR REDUCTION SHOULD BE PROPORTIONATE TO OUR OWN AND THE TOTAL COMBAT FORCES REDUCED IN EACH INCREMENT, US AND FW, SHOULD NOT EXCEED 20-25,000.

5. (TS) I HAVE APPROVED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES TWO ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS, EACH PROVIDING FOR A REDUCTION IN TWO INCREMENTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

A. ALTERNATIVE I.

(1) IN THE FIRST INCREMENT, THE 3D MARINE DIVISION, WITH SUPPORTING FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND ELEMENTS, WOULD BE DEPLOYED TO OKINAWA. IN COUNTRY THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD BE MOVED FROM II CTZ TO I CTZ. HEADQUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS FOR I CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

- (A) THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, LESS THE 3D BRIGADE WITH FOUR MANEUVER BATTALIONS REMAINING IN III CTZ AND DIVISION CAVALRY SQUADRON REMAINING IN I CTZ;
 - (B) THE 3D BRIGADE, 22ND AIRBORNE DIVISION;
 - (C) NAVY TASK FORCE 117; AND
 - (D) AN ARMY AND, PERHAPS, NAVY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE.
- TO COMPENSATE IN PART, FOR THE REMOVAL OF US COMBAT FORCES FROM THE DELTA, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE ENTIRE VMC WOULD BE STATIONED IN V CTZ TO OPERATE WITH RIVER ASSAULT ASSETS TURNED OVER THE VNA.

B. ALTERNATIVE II.

(1) THE FIRST INCREMENT WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN ALTERNATIVE I (PARA 5A ABOVE). HOWEVER, THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD REMAIN IN II CTZ; INSTEAD, THE 3D BRIGADE, 22ND AIRBORNE DIVISION WOULD BE MOVED FROM III CTZ TO I CTZ AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION, PRESENTLY OPERATING IN II CTZ, WOULD BE RETURNED TO ITS PARENT UNIT. HEADQUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS FOR I CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

- (A) THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND;
- (B) AN ARMY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HEADQUARTERS I FFORCEV COULD BE INACTIVATED, WITH THE REMAINING US COMBAT FORCES IN II CTZ COMING UNDER OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF SA II CTZ.

6. (TS) AIR FORCE, MARINE AIR, AND NON-DIVISIONAL AVIATION AND ARTILLERY UNITS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN FORCES TO BE REDUCED UNDER EITHER OF THESE

7. (TS) YOUR REPRESENTATIVES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED WITH COPIES OF THE WORK SHEETS THAT WERE USED IN DEVELOPING THE TWO ALTERNATIVES OUTLINED ABOVE. STRENGTHS SHOWN ARE PLANNING FIGURES ONLY AND REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE REFINEMENT BY THE COMPONENTS CONCERNED.

8. (TS) AT THIS POINT THE CLOSEST COORDINATION BETWEEN OUR PLANNING GROUPS IS REQUIRED. POSITIONING OF FORCES AFTER REDEPLOYMENT FROM SVE, WHILE NOT WITHIN MY PURVIEW, WAS DISCUSSED WITH YOUR REPRESENTATIVES. I FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE STATIONING OF MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THE 3D MARDIV ON OKINAWA IS ESSENTIAL TO PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL FORCE FOR REENTRY, IF THIS SHOULD PROVE NECESSARY. YOUR EARLY VIEWS ON THIS AND ON THE STATIONING OF OTHER FORCES TO BE REDEPLOYED UNDER BOTH ALTERNATIVES WOULD BE HELPFUL IN OUR PRESENT PLANNING. WITH RESPECT TO LOGISTICS PLANNING A GREAT DEAL OF COORDINATION WILL EVENTUALLY BE REQUIRED. IN OUR CONCEPTUAL PLANNING HERE WE CONSIDER THE 3D MARDIV WILL BE COMBAT LOADED SIX FLEET SHIPPING FOR MOVEMENT TO THEIR PACOM DESTINATION. SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF AVAILABLE FLEET ASSETS WILL BE PROVIDED BY MSTs. IF, BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS ON OKINAWA, A DECISION IS MADE TO BASE OR RT IN HAWAII, MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL WILL BE BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-ON SURFACE SHIPPING. WE ENVISION REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMY FORCES WILL BE PRIMARILY BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-ON SHIPPING. EXISTING AERIAL AND SEA PORTS WITHIN SVE WILL BE USED FOR REDEPLOYMENT AND ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT EITHER OF THE ALTERNATIVE PLANS. AVAILABILITY OF AERIAL AND SURFACE SHIPPING IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A RESTRAINT.

9. (TS) BECAUSE OF THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY OF THIS SUBJECT, I AM CONTINUING TO LIMIT ACCESS TO A FEW INDIVIDUALS. I HAVE PROVIDED A COPY OF THIS MESSAGE TO GENERALS MILDREN AND WICKERSON AND TO ADM ZUMWALT. ALSO MINIMAL REPRESENTATION FROM THE COMPONENT COMMANDS IS BEING ADDED TO THE PLANNING GROUP. AT THIS STAGE IN THE PLANNING PROCESS WE SHOULD AVOID COMMUNICATIONS ON THE SUBJECT THROUGH SERVICE CHANNELS.

10. (TS) AS YOU ARE AWARE A COMMITMENT HAS BEEN MADE TO GEN WHEELER TO PROVIDE YOU BOTH OFFICIALLY AT AN EARLY DATE MY VIEWS ON POSSIBLE TROOP REDUCTIONS DURING CY 69. THIS MESSAGE OUTLINES MY PRELIMINARY THINKING. THE CONCEPTS ARE BEING EXPANDED BY THE MACV PLANNING GROUP INTO PLANS COVERING BOTH ALTERNATIVES. THESE PLANS ARE EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED FOR PRESENTATION TO YOU AND TO GEN WHEELER O/A 29 APRIL. 11. (TS) IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESENTING OUR COORDINATED VIEWS TO THE CHAIRMAN AND THE JCS FOLLOWING MY DISPATCH REPORT O/A 20 APRIL, I SUGGEST THAT MY PLANNERS JOIN YOURS TO PRESENT FORCE REDUCTION ALTERNATIVES DURING YOUR BRIEFINGS IN WASHINGTON ON 2 APRIL.

UNQUOTE: WARM REGARDS
P-4

SSO NOTE: PRECEDENCE FOR TRANSMISSION ONLY DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS
900

2-73

TOP SECRET

0 000145Z EYN
FM CG III MAF
TO CG FMFPAC
EEN

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY FOR LTGEN BUSE
FROM LTGEN NICKERSON.

FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING

A. PHONECON BGEN WILSON/BGEN DOOLEY 070530Z

B. COMUSMACV 041237Z READDRESSSED BY MY 051415Z

1. (IS) PURSUANT TO REF A AND BASED ON GUIDANCE RECEIVED IN REF B, I AM SUBMITTING THE TENTATIVE TROOP LIST GIVEN TO COMUSMACV 6 APR 69, WHICH WILL COMPRISE FORCES IN A 5 PHASE MOVEMENT OF 3RD MARDIV (REIN) DURING 3RD QTR CY 69.
2. THE EXACT SEQUENCE OF REDEPLOYMENT WILL DEPEND ON THE TACTICAL SITUATION AT THE TIME. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, ONE RLT, ALONG WITH CADRED AMTRAC AND AT UNITS WOULD COMMENCE PREPARATIONS FOR MOVEMENT ON 1 JUNE, AND COMMENCE REDEPLOYMENT 1 JULY; A SECOND RLT PREPARES DURING JULY FOR MOVEMENT ABOUT 1 AUGUST; AND THE 3RD RLT GETS READY DURING AUGUST FOR MOVEMENT BEGINNING 1 SEP. I RECOMMEND 3RD SERVICE BATTALION BE RECONSTITUTED OUT OF FLSG B AND REDEPLOYED AS FOLLOWS: 150 MEN WITH RLT DEPLOYING FIRST, AND REMAINDER DURING PHASE 4, MID-SEPTEMBER. THE REMAINDER OF 3RD MARDIV WILL COMPRISE PHASE 5, COMPLETING THE MOVE BY 30 SEPT.
3. THE FORCE ARTY UNITS WITH 3D MARDIV WILL NOT REDEPLOY TO OKINAWA.
4. COMUSMACV HAS AGREED TO EARMARK THE NECESSARY AIR ASSETS FROM 1ST MAW TO SUPPORT 3D MARDIV IN EVENT IT IS COMMITTED.
5. FOLLOWING TENTATIVE TASK ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRST RLT TO GO WAS COMPOSED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. ALTHOUGH ALL THREE RLT'S WOULD HAVE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME COMPOSITION, THE ACTUAL NUMBERS OF SPACES MAY CHANGE FOR EACH RLT. CADRED UNITS ARE SHOWN WITH THE FIRST RLT TO REDEPLOY, AND WILL NOT BE INCLUDED IN SUBSEQUENT RLT TASK ORGANIZATIONS.

TASK ORGANIZATION - RLT

RLT	TOTAL SPACES
MAR REGT	
HQCO MAR	289
INF BN	1211
INF BN	1258
INF BN	1226
DET 12TH MAR REGT	
DET HQRTY 12TH MAR	21
B/S ARTY BN	643

SEPARATE BN	
DET 3D ENGR BN	238
ENGR CO 3D ENGR BN	
DET ENGR SPT CO 3D ENGR BN	
DET H&S CO 3D ENGR BN	
DET 3D RECON BN (-)	244
RECON CO 3D RECON BN(-)	
DET H&S CO 3D RECON BN (-)	
DET 3D MED BN	133
C&C CO 3D MED BN	
DET C&C CO 3D MED BN	
DET H&S CO 3D MED BN	
DET 3D MT BN	111
TRUCK CO 3D MT BN	
DET H&S CO 3D MT BN	
DET 3D SP BN	151
SP CO 3D SP BN	
DET H&S CO 3D SP BN	
DET HQ BN	245
DET HQ CO HQ BN	
DET COMM CO HQ BN	
DET SER CO HQ BN	
3D AT CO (CADRED)	22 ()
DET MP CO HQ BN	45
DET 3D SER BN	150 ()
FORCE TROOPS	
MED TANK CO 3D TANK BN	207
(INCL PERS&SQUIP CADRED TANK CO)	
DET H&S CO 3D TANK BN	
DET 3D DENT CO	20
CO 1ST AMTRAC BN (CADRED)	137
DET 1ST SEARCHLIGHT BTRY	32
DET 11TH ENGR BN	314
BRIDGE PLT 3D BRIDGE CO	52
DET 3D FOR RECON CO	140
DET 9TH MT BN	125
3D IT	6 (())
11TH ITT	12
11TH CIT	14 (())
TOTAL FIRST RL	7132

3-2

NOTES:

1) UNIT FOUND ONLY IN FIRST RLT

2) UNIT FOUND ONLY IN FIRST AND LAST RLT

3. ESTIMATED STRENGTHS OF UNITS TO BE REDEPLOYED

ARE AS FOLLOWS: RLT - 7132; RLT - 6803; RLT - 6823;

3D SER BN (-) 916; 3D MARDIV (-) 574. TOTAL 22,248.

7. I INVITE YOUR ATTENTION TO THE EXTREME SENSITIVITY

GIVEN THIS SUBJECT BY COMUSMACV IN PARA 9 OF REF B.

ONLY FIVE OFFICERS TOTAL AT MACV HEADQUARTERS, AND A SIMILARLY

SMALL NUMBER AT THIS HEADQUARTERS ARE AWARE OF THIS

PLANNING. SINCE COMUSMACV HAS EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO

AVOID COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS SUBJ THRU SERVICE CHANNELS,

PLEASE COVER ME. WITH DUE REGARD FOR THE STRINGENT

SECURITY REQUIRED, I BELIEVE SOME THOUGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN

SOON TO THE RECONSTITUTION OF MONUTOUT AND MOUNTOUT

AUGMENTATION SUPPLIES FOR THIS FORCE. IF THE PLAN

SHOULD BE APPROVED I WOULD RECOMMEND EARLY AUTHORITY

BE GIVEN TO RECONSTITUTE THESE BLOCKS OF SUPPLIES.

WARM REGARDS.

GP-1

900

NNNN

MACBEENSEN

3-#3
TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			FROM CG III MAF		DATE 14 APR 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 140928	1,2,3 COPY#	OF 4 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG					SUBJECT FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING REMARKS ① THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5511.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
3	DCG					
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	I				
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	I	4/15			
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4					
	G-5					
	G-6					
	CAP					
	ADJ					
	CORDS					
	EMB/TRANS					
	ENGR					
	H&S CO					
	INSP					
	MTO					
	OP ANAL					
	ORD					
	PSY OPS					
	SUPPLY					
	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	S&C					

④
TOP SECRET

O 140925Z ZYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO COMUSMACV
 ZEM

T O P S E C R E T/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE/SENSITIVE/ABSOLUTELY
 EYES ONLY FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
 FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)

A. TENTATIVE TROOP LIST FURNISHED COMUSMACV ON 6 APR 69
 1. (TS) REF A CONTAINED A TENTATIVE TROOP LIST WHICH
 PROVIDED FOR A FULL DIVSERBN OF 1066 OFFICERS AND MEN
 FOR SUPPORT OF THE BASIC PROPOSAL. FOLLOWING A DETAILED
 REVIEW OF REF A, IT IS APPARENT THAT COMBAT SERVICE
 SUPPORT ELEMENTS CURRENTLY ON OKINAWA CAN BEST BE UTILIZED
 AS THE PRIMARY BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE DIVSEREN REQUIRED
 BY THIS PROPOSAL. IT IS THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT PRIORITY
 FOUR OF REF A BE DELETED. THE ONLY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT
 PERSONNEL OTHER THAN INDIVIDUAL UNITS LISTED IN REF A
 THAT THIS HQS PLANS TO REDEPLOY ARE THOSE 150 OUTLINED
 IN PRIORITY ONE.

2. (TS) THE FOLLOWING IS FURNISHED AS THE RATIONALE FOR
 THIS DECISION:

A. IT WOULD REDUCE THE BILLETING PROBLEM/IMPACT
 ON OKINAWA

B. IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR THE MINIMUM DISRUPTIVE EFFECT
 ON THE FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND DURING A CRITICAL TIME PERIOD.

GP-4
 140

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~~TOP SECRET~~

HASBEENSENT

(4)

(4)

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE			FROM		DATE	
X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			CG III MAF		14 APR 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE		1,2,3	
			140926Z		COPY# OF 4 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG		<i>Has seen</i>			SUBJECT FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING REMARKS THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5511.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
3	DCG	I			<i>[initials]</i>	
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	I			<i>[initials]</i>	
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	F	4/15		<i>[initials]</i>	
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4					
	G-5					
	G-6					
	CAP					
	ADJ					
	CORDS					
	EMB/TRANS					
	ENGR					
	H&S CO					
	INSP					
	MTO					
	OP ANAL					
	ORD					
	PSY OPS					
	SUPPLY					
	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	S&C					

TOP SECRET

O 140926Z ZYH

FM CG III MAF

TO CG FMFPAC

ZEM

TOP SECRET/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE/SENSITIVE/ABSOLUTELY EYES ONLY
FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)

A. CG FMFPAC 102126Z APR 69

1. (TS) I APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS ON THE BASIC PLAN WHICH WE HAVE PREPARED AND CONCUR FULLY WITH YOUR PROPOSAL TO USE THE PROVSRBN AS THE PRIMARY BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE DIVSRBN. NOT ONLY WILL IT REDUCE THE BILLETING IMPACT AT OKINAWA BUT WILL ALSO PROVIDE THE MINIMUM DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON FLC AT A CRITICAL TIME. THIS COURSE OF ACTION WAS CONSIDERED IN THE INITIAL PLANNING HERE; HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO DEPLOY A FORCE WELL WITHIN THE STRENGTH PARAMETERS PROVIDED BY COMUSMACV AND TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE CRITICISM FROM THAT SOURCE AS TO THE RATION OF COMBAT TO COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT TO BE WITHDRAWN, IT WAS CONSIDERED PRUDENT TO INITIALLY PLAN FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF A COMPLETE DIVSRBN. I WILL IMPLEMENT YOUR GUIDANCE AND MODIFY MY PLANNING WITH COMUSMACV ACCORDINGLY.

2. (TS) I ALSO CONCUR WITH YOUR DECISION THAT DOES NOT ACCEPT THE CURRENT 30 DAYS COMBAT STOCKS AS MOUNT OUT. I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN UNACCEPTABLE DEFICIENCY IN AMPHIBIOUS ORIENTED MATERIAL IN USING UNITS, THE FLC AND IN THE PIPELINE. I CANNOT EMPHASIZE TOO STRONGLY THE NEED FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONSTITUTE MOUNT OUT NOT LATER THAN THE 1 MAY DATE BY WHICH FLC WILL HAVE COMPLETED THE COMPUTATION PROGRAM. EVEN THEN, UNLESS EXTRAORDINARY SUPPLY ACTIONS ARE INITIATED, I QUESTION THE SYSTEM'S CAPABILITY TO RESPOND IN SUFFICIENT TIME TO INSURE AN OPTIMUM MATERIAL READINESS CONDITION UPON RE-DEPLOYMENT. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

250

TOP SECRET

HASBEENSENT

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(5)

(5)

TOP SECRET

OO RHMMAFA
 DE RUHMMA 2275 1050132
 ZNY TTTT
 O 150132Z APR 69
 FM CG FMFPAC
 TO RHMMAFA/CG III MAF
 BT

T O P S E C R E T. SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON
 FROM LTGEN BUSE. MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
 FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)

1. (TS) I WAS HANDED SEVERAL QUESTIONS BY MCCAIN
 WITH THE REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE ANSWERS ALMOST
 IMMEDIATELY. FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE QUESTIONS AND
 ANSWERS PROVIDED FOLLOW:

A. QUESTION NR 1. WILL USMC OKINAWA FACILITIES
 ACCOMMODATE THE ENTIRE 3D MARINE DIVISION AND 1,500
 LOGISTICS PERSONNEL, LESS FIXED WING AIRCRAFT? TIME
 FRAME JULY-SEPTEMBER 1969.

ANSWER. USMC FACILITIES ON OKINAWA WILL
 CURRENTLY ACCOMMODATE, ON A MOST AUSTERE BASIS, A
 BASE LOADING OF APPROXIMATELY 26,000 MARINES. WITH
 COMPLETION OF CURRENT CONSTRUCTION AT MCAS, FUTEMA,
 ESTIMATED EARLY 1ST QUARTER, CY70, THIS CAPABILITY WILL

PAGE TWO RUHMMA 2275 TOP SECRET SPECAT MCEO EXCLUSIVE FOR
 BE INCREASED TO APPROXIMATELY 28,000. REDEPLOYMENT TO
 OKINAWA OF THE 3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN), INCLUDING
 REQUIRED ORGANIC SLF HELICOPTER RESOURCES CURRENTLY
 CHARGED AGAINST RVN CEILING, AND RETENTION ON ISLAND
 OF REQUIRED UNITS WILL RESULT IN AN ESTIMATED BERTHING
 REQUIREMENT OF APPROXIMATELY 30,000. BY USE OF THE SLF
 CAMP IN SUBIC BAY AND BASING ONE (1) SLF AFLOAT IN ARG
 SHIPPING THE CURRENT PROJECTED BERTHING SHORTFALL
 WOULD BE PRACTICALLY ELIMINATED. BY BASING TWO (2)
 SLF'S AFLOAT IN ARG SHIPPING THE CURRENT SHORTFALL
 WOULD BE OBIVIATED.

B. QUESTION NR 2. WOULD PACFLT/CG FMFPAC CONCUR
 IN A PROPOSAL TO MOVE TO OKINAWA THE UNITS LISTED IN 1.
 ABOVE?

ANSWER. WHILE RELOCATION OF A TYPICAL MARINE
 AIR-GROUND TEAM, INCLUDING FIXED WING AIRCRAFT,
 WOULD BE PREFERABLE, FMFPAC CONCURS IN THE PROPOSAL.

BASING THE 3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN) ON OKINAWA WOULD
 PROVIDE PACOM WITH A SIGNIFICANT STRATEGIC RESERVE IN
 A FORWARD DEPLOYMENT RESPONSIVE TO CONTINGENCY

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

TOP SECRET

PAGE THREE RUMHFMA 2275 TOP SECRET SPECAT MCEO EXCLUSIVE FOR REQUIREMENTS IN RVN OR ELSEWHERE IN THE PACOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. FURTHER, SUCH A MOVE WOULD REDUCE THE MAGNITUDE OF FMFPAC T-DAY REDEPLOYMENTS AND WOULD FACILITATE ATTAINMENT OF WIPROVED FMFPAC POST-HOSTILITIES POSTURE IN PACOM.

C. QUESTION NR 3. IF 3D MARINE DIVISION MOVES TO OKINAWA, WHAT IS YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON PROVISION OF SLF FROM IN-COUNTRY OR 3D MARINE DIVISION ASSETS? WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO 9TH MAB?

ANSWER. IF 3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN) MOVES TO OKINAWA, IT WOULD PROVIDE THE TWO WESTPAC SLF'S OUT OF ITS ASSETS. THIS WOULD ALLOW TRAINED FORCES TO BE MAINTAINED IN A READY POSTURE RESPONSIVE TO CONTINGENCY REQUIREMENTS, NOT ONLY IN RVN, BUT THROUGHOUT THE PACOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY. UPON MOVEMENT OF THE 3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN) TO OKINAWA, THE 9TH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE WOULD BE DEACTIVATED AND ITS RESOURCES USED TO FILL OUT DEFICIENCIES IN THE REDEPLOYING MARINE DIVISION (REIN).

D. QUESTION NR 4. WHAT IS MINIMUM WARNING TIME

PIFUEFACE FOUR RUMHFMA 2275 DP SECRET SPECAT MCEO EXCLUSIVE FOR REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT 1. ABOVE?

ANSWER. THE DESIRED MINIMUM WARNING TIME TO PREPARE THE 3D MARINE DIVISION (REIN) FOR MOVEMENT TO OKINAWA, INCREMENTALLY BY RLT, IS FORTY-FIVE DAYS. THIS IS NECESSARY TO ALLOW FOR REALIGNMENT OF FORCES IN I OZ, RECONSTITUTION OF MO/MOA STOCKS AND STAGING FOR EMBARKATION.

E. QUESTION NR 5. WILL TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION ON OKINAWA BE REQUIRED FOR 1. AND 2. ABOVE?

ANSWER. YES, LIMITED TEMPORARY/PORTABLE CONSTRUCTION WILL BE REQUIRED, AT THE EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE, TO OFFSET CURRENT FACILITY DEFICIENCIES IN: BERTHING SPACES, MESSING FACILITIES, MAINTENANCE FACILITIES, STORAGE FACILITIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES. THE MOST CRITICAL OF THESE FACILITY DEFICIENCIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS PRIORITY MILCON REQUIREMENTS. FURTHER, THE REQUIRED TEMPORARY/PORTABLE CONSTRUCTION WILL REDUCE POST-HOSTILITIES CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS ON OKINAWA, SINCE THESE SAME SHORTFALLS WILL EXIST UNDER APPROVED

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

TOP SECRET

POST-HOSTILITIES FORCE LEVELS AND STRENGTHS.
2. (S) I WILL BE IN WASHINGTON ON 16 APRIL AND WILL
BRING CMC UP TO DATE ON EVENTS REGARDING THE SUBJECT.
WARM REGARDS.

GP-1
BT
2275

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			FROM GEN ABRAMS		DATE 16 APR 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 161318Z	1,2,3	COPY# OF 4 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING
			IN	OUT		
	CG					REMARKS (7) THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5511.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
	DCG					
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	E				
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	D	4/17		HA D/S	
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4					
	G-5					
	G-6					
	CAP					
	ADJ					
	CORDS					
	EMB/TRANS					
	ENGR					
	H&S CO					
	INSP					
	MTO					
	OP ANAL					
	ORD					
	PSY OPS					
	SUPPLY					
	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	SBC					

(7)

TOP SECRET

O 161318Z ZYH ZFF-4 ZFF-1
FM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV SAIGON
TO LTG NICKERSON CG III MAF DANANG
ZEM

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE MAC 4821 EYES ONLY
SUBJECT: FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING (S)
REF: CG III MAF 140925Z APR 69 (IS)

YOUR REQUEST CONTAINED IN THE REFERENCE TO DELETE PRIORITY 4
FROM III MAF TENTATIVE TROOP LIST IN THE FRP IS APPROVED.
GPM4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

~~090~~

NNNN

TOP SECRET

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

CCN:057/OUT FILE:DH

TMAF FORM 8213 (REV 3-61)

OPERATION CODE X-ORIGINATOR A-ACTION/COGNIZANCE C-COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I-INFORMATION S-SIGNATURE			FROM CG III MAF		DATE 17 APR 69	
			SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE 171236Z APR 69		COPY 1 OF 3 COMES RECD	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT EXCLUSIVE FOR
			IN	OUT		
	CG					REMARKS ORIG: S/S REL: CG EXCLUSIVE FOR MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY HAS BEEN SENT
3	DCS	I				
	DCS AIR					
2	C/S	I				
	D C/S					
	D C/S DM					
1	S/S	I	4/18			
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4					
	G-5					
	G-6					
	ADJ					
	SAC					

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

OTTIZYUW RHMMFA2406 1071236-TTTT--RUHMFA.

ZNY TTTT

O 171236Z APR 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHMFA/CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / ABSOLUTELY FOR ADDRESSEE EYES ONLY /
 SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON / MARINE CORPS
 EYES ONLY

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

160911Z APR 69

FM GEN ABRAMS, COMUSMACV, SAIGON

TO ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC, HAWAII

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE ABSOLUTELY FOR ADDRESSEES EYES ONLY

SUBJ: FORCE PLANNING (U)

REF: A. CJCS 3596 DTG 241755Z MAR 69 (NOTAL)

B. COMUSMACV 3878 DTG 270424Z MAR 69 (NOTAL)

C. COMUSMACV 4231 DTG 040936Z APR 69 (NOTAL)

D. CINCPAC 122225Z APR 69 (NOTAL)

1. (TS) REF A REQUESTED MY VIEWS ON PROGRAMS AND CONDITIONS CONSTITUTING
 A SOUND APPROACH TO US FORCE REDUCTIONS. REF B STATED PLANS EXPECTED TO

PAGE TWO RHMMFA2406 T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / MCEG

BE FORWARDED O/A 20 APRIL 1969. REF C PROVIDED CINCPAC WITH CONCEPT OF
 MACV PLANNING. REF D APPROVED FOR PLANNING PURPOSES THE CONCEPT IN REF
 C. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO REF D.

2. (TS) THE MACV PLANNING GROUP HAS DEVELOPED DRAFT PLANS FOR A FORCE
 REDUCTION ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

A. REDUCE BY ONE US DIVISION EQUIVALENT DURING THE THIRD QUARTER
 CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS IN THE SECOND QUARTER OF THE YEAR
 INDICATE THIS IS A FEASIBLE COURSE OF ACTION.

B. REDUCE BY A SECOND DIVISION EQUIVALENT TOWARD THE END OF THE
 FOURTH QUARTER CY 69, IF AN ASSESSMENT OF THE PREVIOUS DEPLOYMENT AND
 CONDITIONS IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS INDICATE THAT THIS IS
 FEASIBLE.

3. (TS) CONDITIONS BEARING ON THE FEASIBILITY OF THE DEPLOYMENTS ARE AS
 FOLLOWS:

A. GENERAL:

(1) PACIFICATION, WHICH IS THE MEASURE OF WHERE WE STAND WITH
 RESPECT TO OUR NATIONAL OBJECTIVE OF SELF-DETERMINATION OR THE
 PEOPLE OF SVN, CONTINUES TO MAKE IDENTIFIABLE PROGRESS.

(2) THE ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND MODERNIZATION OF
 THE RVNAF CONTINUES TO ACHIEVE PROGRAMMED GOALS AND THE RATE OF
 IMPROVEMENT IN PERFORMANCE OF THE RVNAF KEEPS PACE.

PAGE 1 OF 4 PAGES

TOP SECRET

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA2406 T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE/MCEO
 B. ENEMY. WITH RESPECT TO THE ENEMY WE WOULD EXPECT THAT:
 (1) HIS STRENGTH IN OR NEAR SVN NOT EXCEED PRESENT LEVELS.

(2) NO NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS BE INTRODUCED INTO SVN OR BE CAPABLE OF REACHING SVN.

(3) THERE BE NO FORECAST OF GREATLY INCREASED INFILTRATION FROM NVN.

(4) THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF TREMENDOUS LOGISTICAL IMPROVEMENT OVER HIS PRESENT CAPABILITIES.

C. US FORCES:

(1) CURRENT LEVEL OF B-52 SORTIES, TACAIR, HELICOPTERS, AND NON-DIVISIONAL ARTILLERY SUPPORT IS MAINTAINED.

(2) THE FIRST INCREMENT DEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY IS THE 3D MARINE DIVISION TO OKINAWA WHERE IT WOULD CONSTITUTE THE MOST READILY AVAILABLE REACTION FORCE.

D. FREE WORLD FORCES. OTHER FREE WORLD FORCES DO NOT INITIATE

REDUCTION CONCURRENT WITH THE US. HOWEVER, IF THEY DO REDUCE, THEIR REDUCTION SHOULD BE PROPORTIONATE TO OUR OWN AND THE TOTAL COMBAT FORCES REDUCED IN EACH INCREMENT, US AND FW, SHOULD NOT EXCEED 20-25,000.

4. (TS) TWO ALTERNATIVE DRAFT PLANS HAVE BEEN PREPARED, EACH PROVIDING FOR A REDUCTION IN TWO INCREMENTS AS OUTLINED ABOVE.

PAGE FOUR RHMMAFA2406 T O P S E C R E T / SENSITIVE / MCEO

A. ALTERNATIVE I.

(1) IN THE FIRST INCREMENT, THE 3D MARINE DIVISION, WITH SUPPORTING FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND ELEMENTS, WOULD BE DEPLOYED TO OKINAWA. IN-COUNTRY THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD BE MOVED FROM II CTZ TO I CTZ. HEAD-QUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS

FOR I CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

(A) THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION, LESS THE 3D BRIGADE WITH FOUR MANEUVER BATTALIONS REMAINING IN III CTZ AND THE DIVISION CAVALRY SQUADRON REMAINING IN I CTZ;

(B) THE 3D BRIGADE, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION;

(C) NAVY TASK FORCE 117; AND

(D) AN ARMY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE.

(3) TO COMPENSATE, IN PART, FOR THE REMOVAL OF US COMBAT FORCES FROM THE DELTA, WE WOULD EXPECT THAT THE ENTIRE VNMIC WOULD BE STATIONED IN IV CTZ TO OPERATE WITH RIVER ASSAULT ASSETS TURNED OVER TO THE VNN.

B. ALTERNATIVE II:

(1) THE FIRST INCREMENT WOULD BE THE SAME AS IN ALTERNATIVE I (PARA 4A ABOVE). HOWEVER, THE 173D AIRBORNE BRIGADE WOULD REMAIN IN II CTZ; INSTEAD, THE 3D BRIGADE, 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION WOULD BE MOVED FROM III CTZ TO I CTZ AND ONE BATTALION OF THE 121ST AIRBORNE DIVISION.

PAGE 2 OF 4 PAGES

TOP SECRET

PAGE FOUR RHMAFA 2406 T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE/MCEO
PRESENTLY OPERATING IN II CTZ, WOULD BE RETURNED TO ITS PARENT UNIT.
HEADQUARTERS III MAF WOULD REMAIN AS THE CONTROL HEADQUARTERS FOR I
CTZ.

(2) THE SECOND INCREMENT WOULD INCLUDE:

(A) THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION AND;

(B) AN ARMY COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT SLICE. SUBSEQUENTLY, HEADQUARTERS
I FFORCEV COULD BE REDUCED IN STRENGTH.

5. (TS) AIR FORCE, MARINE AIR, AND NON-DIVISIONAL AVIATION AND
ARTILLERY UNITS ARE NOT INCLUDED IN FORCES TO BE REDUCED UNDER EITHER
OF THE ALTERNATIVES. IN BOTH PLANS, A REDUCTION OF THE 5TH SPECIAL
FORCES GROUP BY 200 IN THE FIRST INCREMENT, AND ANOTHER 200 IN THE
SECOND INCREMENT, IS INCLUDED.

6. (TS) COMPOSITION OF EACH INCREMENT OF THE FORCE REDUCTION IN
TERMS OF MAJOR UNITS AND STRENGTHS, IS SHOWN BELOW FOR BOTH PLANS.

FIRST INCREMENT	ALTERNATIVE I	ALTERNATIVE II
3D MAR DIV	21,332	21,332
5TH SFG ELEMENTS	200	200
ARMY SUPPORT UNITS	1026	345
TOTAL	22,558	21,877
SECOND INCREMENT	ALTERNATIVE I	ALTERNATIVE II
9TH INF DIV (-)	11,691	

PAGE SIX RHMAFA 2406 T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE/MCEO

3D BDE, 82D ABN DIV	4,794	
TF 117	970	
5TH SFG ELEMENTS	200	200
ARMY SUPPORT UNITS	712	1,035
4TH INF DIV		17,970
HQ I FFORCEV		500
TOTAL	18,367	19,705
TOTAL BOTH INCREMENTS	40,925	41,582

7. (TS) OUR LOGISTICS PLANNING CALLS FOR THE 3D MAR DIV TO BE COM
LOADED IN FLEET SHIPPING FOR MOVEMENT TO THEIR PACOM DESTINATION.
SHIPPING REQUIREMENTS IN EXCESS OF AVAILABLE FLEET ASSETS WILL BE
PROVIDED BY MSTs. IF, BECAUSE OF SPACE LIMITATIONS ON OKINAWA, A
DECISION IS MADE TO BASE ONE RLT IN HAWAII, MOVEMENT OF PERSONNEL
WILL BE BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-ON
SURFACE SHIPPING. WE EXPECT REDEPLOYMENT OF ARMY FORCES TO BE
PRIMARILY BY AIR WITH HEAVY EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL MOVED BY FOLLOW-
ON SHIPPING. EXISTING AERIAL AND SEA PORTS WITHIN RVN WILL BE USED
FOR REDEPLOYMENT AND ARE CONSIDERED ADEQUATE TO SUPPORT EITHER OF
THE ALTERNATIVE PLANS. AVAILABILITY OF AERIAL AND SURFACE SHIPPING
IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE A RESTRAINT.

PAGE 3 OF 4 PAGES

TOP SECRET

PAGE SEVEN RHMMAFA 2406 T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE/MCEO

8. (C) THE DRAFT PLANS, COPIES OF WHICH WILL BE DELIVERED TO CINCPAC O/A 20 APRIL 1969, INCLUDE THE BASIC PLAN PLUS ANNEXES FOR REDEPLOYMENT OF FORCES, CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS, LOGISTICS, AND DISTRIBUTION. THE REMAINING NECESSARY ANNEXES WILL BE PREPARED WHEN WIDER STAFFING IS POSSIBLE.

9. (C) BECAUSE OF THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE PLANNING GROUP, WHICH PREVENTED NORMAL STAFF CONSULTATION, IT IS LIKELY THAT SOME OF THE DETAILS IN THE PLANS WILL REQUIRE LATER REVISION, HOWEVER, I HAVE APPROVED THEM FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

10. (TS) EVERY ASPECT OF OUR PLANNING FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS WILL BE CAREFULLY SCRUTINIZED AND TESTED AGAINST CONDITIONS WHICH MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO DEVELOP. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT EXECUTION FOLLOW ONLY AFTER A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF THOSE CONDITIONS AND A JUDGMENT MADE THAT THEY DO IN FACT PERMIT THE PLANNED REDUCTIONS. THIS JUDGMENT MUST BE BASED ON SOUND MILITARY REASONS. WE MUST AVOID AT ALL COSTS THE NEED TO RETURN OUR FORCES. THE ACTUAL REDUCTIONS MUST BE EXECUTED IN A DELIBERATE, STEP BY STEP SEQUENCE THAT WILL ENABLE US TO ASSESS THEIR IMPACT. FOR THIS REASON, THE DRAFT PLANS PROVIDE, IN EACH INCREMENT, FOR A PHASED REDEPLOYMENT OVER A THREE-MONTH PERIOD.

PAGE EIGHT RHMMAFA 2406 T O P S E C R E T /SENSITIVE/MCEO

11. (TS) IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE AVOID PREMATURE PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO A REDUCTIONS, AND THAT NONE BE MADE WHILE THE ENEMY REMAINS IN A THREATENING POSTURE. THERE IS NOT ONLY THE MORALE OF OUR OWN TROOPS TO CONSIDER, BUT ALSO THE VERY REAL POSSIBILITY OF MISINTERPRETATION BY THE ENEMY OF US INTENTIONS.

12. (C) COLONEL B. G. CASS, USMC, 025976, WILL ARRIVE HONOLULU O/A 20 APRIL 1969 TO PRESENT THE MACV DRAFT PLANS.

UNQUOTE

GP-4

BT

2406

PAGE 4 OF 4 PAGES

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

CCN: 058/OUT

FILE: DH

IMAF FORM 0210 (REV 8-69)

OPERATION CODE			FROM		DATE	
X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COORDINANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			CG III MAF		17 APR 69	
			SERIAL NO / CONTROL DATE		COPY 1 OF 3 COPIED RECS	
			171238Z APR 69			
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG					REMARKS ORIG: G-3 REL: CG EXCLUSIVE FOR
3	DCG	J				
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	I				
	D C/S					
	D C/S DM					
1	S/S	I	4/18			
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4					
	G-5					
	G-6					
	ADJ					
	SEC					

HAS BEEN SENT
TOP SECRET

9

TOP SECRET

'LIMDIS'

OTTIZYUW RHMMFA2405 1071238-TTIT--RUHMF.

ZNY TTIT

O 171238Z APR 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHMF/CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T / S P E C A T E X C L U S I V E / F O R L T G E N B U S E F R O M L T G E N
 N I C K E R S O N / M A R I N E C O R P S E Y E S O N L Y
 F O R C E R E D U C T I O N P L A N N I N G

- A. CG FMFPAC 150132Z APR 69
 B. CG III MAF 140926Z APR 69
 C. COMUSMACV 160911Z APR 69 PASEP

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION CONTAINED REF A. ANSWERS REFLECT APPROACH WE HAVE TAKEN HERE.

2. CONCERNING ANSWER TO QUESTION NUMBER ONE, WE HAD PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED AT MACV POSSIBLE NEED FOR THE AREA FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY 173D AIRBORNE BDE IF A FULL MARINE DIVISION WERE REDEPLOYED TO OKINAWA. MACV J-4 STATED YESTERDAY THAT MACV DID NOT INTEND TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH MATTER OF SPACE ALLOCATION ON OKINAWA IN VIEW OF THE POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS AND THE FACT THE THIS SUBJECT FELL WITHIN PURVIEW OF CINCPAC. HE DID INDICATE THAT ARMY 2D LOG COMMAND WAS OCCUPYING THE OLD 173D AREA.

PAGE TWO RHMMFA2405 T O P S E C R E T / S P E C A T / E X C L U S I V E F O R / M C E O
 3. GEN ABRAMS WAS BRIEFED YESTERDAY ON PROPOSED MACV PLAN AND BRIEFING TO BE PRESENTED TO CINCPAC, JCS AND SECDEF. ROSS DWYER SAT IN AS OUR REP.

4. GEN ABRAMS APPROVED PLAN AND BRIEFING. HE INDICATED PERSONAL PREFERENCE FOR ALTERNATIVE NUMBER ONE. REF C REFERS. IN ITS PRESENT FORM PLAN REFLECTS OUR PROPOSALS.

5. BEV CASS ARRIVES HONOLULU 1100 20 APR VIA PA FLT NUMBER 842. CINCPAC HAS MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO MEET HIM. CASS REQUESTS THAT FMFPAC REP NOT BE PRESENT AT THAT TIME. WILL CONTACT YOU AFTER ARRIVAL PREPARED TO PRESENT PREVIEW BRIEFING IF YOU SO DESIRE.

6. APPRECIATE ANY FALL OUT FROM CINCPAC BRIEFING.
 WARM REGARDS.

BT

2405

'LIMDIS'