

~~TOP SECRET~~
UNCLASSIFIED

~~TOP SECRET~~
BOOK #4

EYES ONLY

~~TOP SECRET~~
SPECAT
EXCLUSIVE

FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING

~~[REDACTED]~~ LIMDIS

Declassified by the Director of
Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CNO ltr Ser 009D323/232095 of
21 Feb 1979

[Signature] Date 13 Jan 92

UNCLASSIFIED

BOOK #4
RETURN TO
STAFF SECRETARY

10. ✓ CG FMFPAC 020137Z MAY69 (TS) SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVE *gp-3*
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE
"CINCPAC BRIEFED JCS" - COMMANDANT BROUGHT UP REQUIREMENT THAT MARINE HELOS
AND FIXED WING ESSENTIAL IN A PACOM RESERVE -- AS WELL
AS FOR TRAINING.
11. ✓ C/S MACV 061112Z MAY69 (S) SENSITIVE EYES ONLY ADDRESSEE *gp-4*
FOR NICKERSON FROM TOWNSEND
SAYS ESSENTIALLY SAME THING AS BUSE! MSG 020137Z -- WANTS REPLY NIT 12MAY69
- X 12. ✓ CG FMFPAC 070201Z MAY69 (TS) SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE *gp-3*
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE
"MCCAIN HANDED ME SOME MORE QUESTIONS -- CONCERNS SHIPPING & ACFT ASSETS --
HERE ARE HIS QUESTIONS ALONG WITH MY ANSWERS"
- X 13. ✓ CG III MAF 100320Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-1*
FOR TOWNSEND FROM NICKERSON
FORCE PLANNING "HERE ARE AIR UNITS CONSIDERED PART OF 3D MARDIV AIR/GND TM"
14. ✓ CG III MAF 100430Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-4*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
FORCE PLANNING
"READDRESSES MCCONNELL'S MSG TO ABRAMS -- TO BUSE
"LAIRD" SAYS PRESIDENT WANTS A BROADER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES -- REQ UPDATE"
15. ✓ CG III MAF 100432Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-1*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
FORCE PLANNING
"HERE ARE THE BROADER ALTERNATIVES YOU REQ IN CJCS 072132Z -- 4 OPTIONS"
16. ✓ CG III MAF 100520Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-1*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
"READDRESSES III MAF MSG TO MACV 100320Z -- AIR UNITS AS PART OF GND/AIR TM"
17. ✓ CG III MAF 100431Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-3*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
"PASSES MCCAIN'S 080155Z TO MCCONNELL - TO BUSE
"ACTING TO PROVIDE BROADER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES AS REQUESTED"
18. ✓ CG III MAF 100433Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-3*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
"PASSES MCCAIN'S 080334Z TO ABRAMS - TO BUSE
"AM SENDING MY PEOPLE TO SAIGON TO BRIEF - RECO THEY BRING WITHDRAWAL
PACKAGE BACK TO ME -- BY HAND" -- SEND CASS AS MR TEAM TO GO TO WASH"
19. ✓ C/S MACV 110358Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-4*
FOR NICKERSON FROM TOWNSEND
"YR COMMENTS IN 100320Z APPRECIATED -- AGREE W/EXPANDING PLANNING TEAM"
20. ✓ CG FMFPAC 101939Z MAY69 (C) MCEO *gp-4*
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE
"ATTABOY FOR AN OUTSTANDING SUMMARY IN 100432Z -- PASSED TO CHAPMAN"
21. ✓ C/S MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD DATED 16 MAY 1969 (u)
"TELECON W/BGEN WILSON THIS A.M. -- "TIMING SET BACK 15 TO 45 DAYS,
JCS APPROVED EXTEND PLANNING -- NEED TO MAINTAIN SLF THROUGHOUT"
- A 22. ✓ CG III 211441Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-1*
FOR ABRAMS FROM NICKERSON
"III MAF MAY NOT RECEIVE 173D ABN CONCURRENT W/REDEPLOYMENT 3D MARDIV
I URGE YOU TO INCLUDE 173D TO I CORPS AS INTEGRAL PART OF ALTERNATIVE ONE"
- X 23. ✓ CG III MAF 230335Z MAY69 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-1*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
"ALTERNATIVES NOW REDUCED TO TWO -- IN PLAN FORM -- 180-69 & 181-69
HERE ARE CHANGES DETECTED BY ABRAMS OF INTEREST TO US"

- 24 ✓ ~~CG III~~ MAF 211446Z MAY69 (TS) *gp-1*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
~~SECRET~~ APPROVED FOR PLANNING 50,000 & 100,000 FORCE LEVEL ALTERNATIVES
- 25 ✓ CG III MAF 211448Z MAY69 (TS) *MCEU gp-1*
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON
DETAILED TROOP LISTS FOR ALTERNATIVES I, II, & IIA
26. COMNAVFORV 270805Z MAY69 (S) EYES ONLY *gp-4*
PERSONAL FOR ABRAMS, HXLAND & NICKERSON FROM ZUMWALT
REDUCTION OF NAVY TROOPS BY FOUR ENS SEABEES -- CONTRACTORS/CIVILIAN

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

TOP SECRET

CCN:045/IN

FILE:DH

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			FROM CG FMFPAC		DATE 02 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 020137Z MAY 69		COPY# 1 OF 3 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG					EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON
	DCG					
	DCG AIR					REMARKS THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P8511.4...
2	C/S	I				
	DC/S					THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
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1	S/S	I	5/2			EXCLUSIVE FOR
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	G-3					
	G-4					
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	CAP					
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	CORDS					
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	SUPPLY					
	LEGAL					
	PMO					
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TOP SECRET (10)

TOP SECRET

EXCLUSIVE FOR

PP RHMAFA
DE RUHFMA 0187 1220137
ZNY TTTT
P 020137Z MAY 69
FM CG FMFPAC
TO RHMAFA/CG III MAF
BT

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON FROM LTGEN BUSE DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS CINCPAC BRIEFING TO JCS

1. THE COMMANDANT HAS ADVISED ME THAT CINCPAC THIS PAST MONDAY BRIEFED THE JCS ON MACV'S PLAN WHICH INCLUDED THE 3D MARDIV AS THE MAJOR ELEMENT. AT THIS TIME, THE COMMANDANT BROUGHT UP THE REQUIREMENT FOR ADEQUATE SHIPPING SHOULD A RAPID RETURN BE NECESSARY AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT MARINE HELOS AND FIXED WING (ALTHOUGH NOT ORGANIC TO THE DIVISION AS IN THE ARMY) WERE ESSENTIAL IN A PACOM RESERVE. ALSO, THAT MARINE AIR WOULD BE NECESSARY FROM A TRAINING STANDPOINT. ADDITIONALLY, THE COMMANDANT STATED THAT THE MACV PLAN WAS APPROVED AS A CONCEPT AND DETAILED PLANNING WILL PROCEED TO INCLUDE CONSIDER-

PAGE 2 RUHFMA 0187 T O P S E C R E T EXCLUSIVE FOR ATION OF THE POINTS HE BROUGHT UP (ENUMERATED ABOVE).

2. THEREFORE, REQUEST YOU INCLUDE IN YOUR TROOP LIST ONE HELO MAG AND ONE VMA AND ONE VMFA SQUADRON (IN ADDITION TO THE VMFA SQUADRON NOW IN MAG-15) TOGETHER WITH A WING DETACHMENT OF ONE MASS AND ONE MATCU. SUGGEST HELO MAG INCLUDE TWO HMM FOR THE SLF'S, ONE HEAVY AND ONE LIGHT HELO SQUADRON, AND ONE VMO DETACHMENT. SUGGEST ALSO THAT THE VMA AND THE VMFA SQUADRONS AND THE WING DETACHMENT BE ASTERISKED* IN YOUR TROOP LIST TO INDICATE THEIR REDEPLOYMENT OUT OF COUNTRY AT A TIME TO BE DESIGNATED, AND SUBJECT TO COMUSMACV'S CONCURRENCE.

3. HAVE ASKED COL CASS, MACV PLANNER, TO LET ME KNOW SHOULD ALL OR PART OF MARINE AIR INCLUSION IN YOUR TROOP LIST JEOPARDIZE MARINE CORPS INTERESTS. IF THIS OCCURS, WE CAN THEN DETERMINE IF A REDUCTION IN THE AIR PACKAGE IS DESIRABLE. WARM REGARDS.

GP-3
BT
0187

1 MAG (UH)
2 SLF HMM
1 HMM
1 HML
1 VMO (DET)

~~1 MAG (UH)~~

1 VMA *

1 VMFA *

wg
DET { 1 MASS
1 MATCU *

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 MG TOWNSEND C/S MACV		DATE 06 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 061112Z	1,2,3 COPY# OF 4 COPIES RECO		
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT FORCE PLANNING (U) MAC 5760 EO
			IN	OUT		
	CG					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.
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	G-6					
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	CORDS					
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	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	S&C					

TOP SECRET

0 061112Z ZYH ZFF-~~ZFF-1~~
 FFM NS TOWNSEND G/S MACV
 TO LTG WICKERSON CG III MAF
 ZEM

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY OF ADDRESSEE MAC 5760 EYES ONLY
 SUBJECT: FORCE PLANNING (U)

1. ON 28 APRIL THE JCS AND SECDEF WERE BRIEFED ON THE ESSENTIALS OF THE MACV PLAN FOR FORCE REDUCTIONS IN SVN PRIOR TO THE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES.
2. CJCS HAS INFORMED CINCPAC THAT THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS EXPRESSED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, CONCERN OVER TWO POINTS, THE SUBSTANCE OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:
 - A. THE INTENT OF THE FORCE REDUCTION PLAN TO RETAIN IN COUNTRY ALL HELICOPTERS NORMALLY IN SUPPORT OF THE 3D MARDIV WHICH ARE PART OF THE MARINE AIR WING IN SVN. THE CMC POINTED OUT THIS WOULD LEAVE THE DIVISION WITH NO HELICOPTERS WITH WHICH TO TRAIN AND WOULD SERIOUSLY HAMPER THE DIVISION'S EFFECTIVENESS IF IT WERE DEPLOYED TO AN AREA OTHER THAN SVN.
 - B. THE INTENT OF THE FORCE REDUCTION PLAN TO RETAIN IN COUNTRY ALL FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT WHICH NORMALLY SUPPORT THE 3D MARDIV IN SVN. THE CMC POINTED OUT THE SAME TRAINING AND DEPLOYMENT PROBLEMS WILL ARISE AS REGARDS FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT AS IN THE CASE OF MARINE HELICOPTERS.
3. CINCPAC HAS REQUESTED COMUSMACV COMMENT ON POINTS OF CONCERN TO CMC.
4. REQUEST IDENTIFICATION AND REPORT TO MACV THOSE AIR UNITS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED PART OF THE 3D MARDIV AIR/GROUND TEAM THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE REDEPLOYED WITH GROUND ELEMENTS.
5. FURTHER REQUEST IMPACT STATEMENTS WITH RESPECT TO THE EFFECT ON III MAF TACTICAL SITUATION IN I CTZ AND III MAF ABILITY TO MAINTAIN ADEQUATE LEVELS OF SUPPORT TO RVNAF AND FWMAF SHOULD AIR UNITS IDENTIFIED IN RESPONSE TO PARA 4 BE REDEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY.
6. REQUEST REPLY NLT 12 MAY 69.

GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS
 350

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 FMFPAC		DATE 07 MAY 69	
				SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 070201Z MAY 69		COPY# 1 OF 3 COPIES RECD	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	REMARKS
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3	CG	I				MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY	<p>THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P8511.4.</p> <p>THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.</p>
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EXCLUSIVE
FOR

MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

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TOP SECRET

12

TOP SECRET

PP RUEBHOA RHMAFA
 DE RUHFMA 0997 1270201
 P 070221Z MAY 69
 FM CG FMFPAC
 TO RUEBHOA/CMC
 RHMAFA/CG III MAF

BT

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR GEN
 CHAPMAN AND LTGEN NICKERSON FROM LTGEN BUSE.
 MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
 DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS
 FORCE PLANNING (U)

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

A. QUESTION. WHAT IS THE AVAILABILITY OF SHIPPING
 TO RETURN THE 3D MARINE DIVISION TO SOUTH VIETNAM,
 TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE PROVISO THAT TWO SLF'S WILL
 BE MAINTAINED AT SEA?

ANSWER. COMPHIBPAC MAINTAINS SIX PHIBRONS,
 THREE IN WESTPAC AND THREE IN EASTPAC. ADDITIONALLY,

PAGE 2 RUHFMA0997 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEG
 A LIMITED NUMBER OF AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIPS ARE
 MAINTAINED IN EASTPAC/MIDPAC FOR TRAINING, REHAB AND
 SPECIAL MISSIONS. THE THREE PHIBRONS IN WESTPAC ARE
 CAPABLE OF SIMULTANEOUSLY LIFTING A MARINE EXPEDITIONARY
 BRIGADE (MEB), INCLUDING THE TWO SLF'S, WHILE THE THREE
 PHIBRONS IN EASTPAC, WHICH ARE LARGER, CAN LIFT SIMUL-
 TANEOUSLY TWO MEB'S.

SUFFICIENT SHIPPING IS AVAILABLE IN EASTPAC AND
 WESTPAC TO LIFT THE 3D MARINE DIVISION AND ASSOCIATED
 AVIATION UNITS TO RETURN TO SOUTH VIETNAM.

B. QUESTION. WHAT HELICOPTER ASSETS WOULD YOU
 RECOMMEND REDEPLOY WITH THE 3D MARINE DIVISION TO
 PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT TO AN
 AREA OTHER THAN SOUTH VIETNAM?

ANSWER. A MARINE HELICOPTER MAG (VH) INCLUDING:
 TWO HMM SQUADRONS (TO SUPPORT THE SLF'S), ONE HMM
 SQUADRON, ONE HML SQUADRON AND A VMO DETACHEMENT.

C. QUESTION. WHAT FIXED-WING AIRCRAFT ASSETS WOULD
 YOU RECOMMEND REDEPLOY TO PROVIDE FOR TRAINING AND
 POSSIBLE REDEPLOYMENT TO AN AREA OTHER THAN SOUTH

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

TOP SECRET

PAGE 3 RUHHFMA0997 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO
VIETNAM?

ANSWER. ONE MARINE VMA SQUADRON, ONE MARINE
VMFA SQUADRON AND A DETACHMENT OF WING HEADQUARTERS
WITH A MASS AND A MATCU; WHICH, WHEN COMBINED WITH
CURRENT MAG-15 RESOURCES, WOULD PROVIDE A COMPOSITE
MARINE FIXED-WING MAG (VF/VA).

D. QUESTION. ASSUMING THE 3D MARINE DIVISION (-)
IS BASED AT OKINAWA, WITH TWO SLF'S AFLOAT, WHAT IS
YOUR ESTIMATE OF REENTRY TIME FOR THE DIVISION INTO
SOUTH VIETNAM?

ANSWER. ASSUMING THAT ALL NECESSARY COMPHIBPAC
ASSETS ARE LOCATED IN WESTPAC (THE ANSWER TO QUESTION
1.A. ABOVE REFERS), THE COMBAT ELEMENTS OF THE 3D
MARINE DIVISION (-) COULD BE EMBARKED ON OKINAWA IN
TWELVE DAYS PREPARED FOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT (ONE RLI
COULD BE EMBARKED AND PREPARED FOR AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT
IN EIGHT DAYS). FOUR DAYS ARE REQUIRED FOR TRANSIT FOR
A TOTAL OF SIXTEEN DAYS TO CLOSE SOUTH VIETNAM.

IF MSTIS SHIPS ARE UTILIZED FOR THE FOLLOW-ON
ECHELON, IT WILL CLOSE SOUTH VIETNAM IN 21 DAYS. IN

PAGE 4 RUHHFMA0997 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO
THE EVENT MSTIS SHIPS ARE NOT AVAILABLE, TURNAROUND
AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOW-ON
ECHELON AND CLOSURE TIME WOULD BE 30 DAYS.

E. QUESTION. UNDER THE "FORCE PLANNING" CONCEPT,
WILL THE 3D MARINE DIVISION, AFTER ARRIVAL AT OKINAWA,
BE ABLE TO ATTAIN OPERATIONAL READINESS 15 DAYS AFTER
RECEIPT OF UNIT EQUIPMENT ESSENTIAL TO MISSION
ACCOMPLISHMENT?

ANSWER. YES.

F. QUESTION. IS THE INFORMATION PROVIDED IN YOUR
MEMO, 3P/CGG, SUBJ: REDEPLOYMENT/WITHDRAWAL OF
FORCES (U), OF 14 APR 69, VALID FOR "FORCE PLANNING",
AFTER CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF PARAGRAPHS 1.A. THROUGH
1.E. ABOVE?

ANSWER. YES.

NOTE: CONTENTS OF MEMO REFERENCED IN PARAGRAPH
1.F. ABOVE PASSED TO CG III MAF BY CG FMFPAC 150132Z/APR69
(TS) SPECAT.

2. (U) AS FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH
THE SUBJECT OCCUR I WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED. WARM
REGARDS.

GP-3

BT

0997

PAGE 2 OF 2 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 GG III MAF		DATE 10 MAY 69	
				SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 0 100022 ²⁰		COPIES OF 4 COPIES RECO 1, 2, 3	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	
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	CG					SUBJECT TOP SECRET EYES ONLY REMARKS ① THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5811.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT. <i>HAS BEEN SENT</i>	
3	DCG				3		
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TOP SECRET

13

O 120320Z ZYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO COMUSMACV
 ZEM

I O P S E C R E T EYES ONLY
 FOR MGEN TOWNSEND FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
 FORCE PLANNING (U)

A. MACV EYES ONLY MAC 5760 061112Z MAY 69
 B. CONFERENCE AT MACV HQ 9 MAY 1969 SAME SUBJ (U)

1. AIR UNITS CONSIDERED PART OF 3RD MARDIV AIR/GROUND TEAM THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE REDEPLOYED WITH GROUND UNITS ARE:
 A MARINE HELICOPTER MAG (VH), INCLUDING H&MS, MABS, 2 HMM SQDNS (SLFS), 1 HMM SQDN, 1 HML SQDN AND A VMO DETACHMENT. FIXED WING UNITS NORMALLY REDEPLOYED CONSIST OF: DET WING HQ WITH A MASS AND A MATCU, 1 VMA SQDN, AND 1 VMFA SQDN, WHICH, WHEN COMBINED WITH CURRENT MAG-15 RESOURCES WOULD MAKE UP A COMPOSITE MARINE AIR GROUP. (VF/VA).

2. CONSIDERING THE IMPROVED HELO CAPABILITY OF THE 10ST ABN DIV, THE FACT THAT THE 173D ABN BDE WILL DEPLOY TO I CORPS WITH ITS NORMAL HELO SLICE (AS INDICATED BY USARV PLANNERS REF B) AND THE TOTAL REMAINING MARINE HELO ASSETS IN I CORPS, I BELIEVE THAT ADEQUATE LEVELS OF HELO SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED RVNAF AND FWMF SHOULD MARINE AIR UNITS OUTLINED PARA 1 ABOVE BE REDEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY. THE DECREASE IN TOTAL NUMBERS OF HELOS WILL BE OFFSET BY A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN MANEUVER BNS REQUIRING SUPPORT. THE FACT THAT RVN UNIT HELO REQUIREMENTS ARE NORMALLY LESS THAN U.S. UNITS IS ANOTHER OFFSETTING FACTOR. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT OF THE ROKMC BDE CAN BE MAINTAINED. THE SAME EVALUATION APPLIES WITH RESPECT TO FIXED WING SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL SORTIE PRODUCING CAPABILITY WILL DECREASE SLIGHTLY, IN LIGHT OF THE REDUCTION IN MANEUVER BATTALIONS TO BE SUPPORTED, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF TACAIR SUPPORT WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PARTICULARLY IF THE CURRENT LEVEL OF AIR FORCE EFFORT REMAINS UNCHANGED AS INDICATED IN REF B.

3. NEW BUT RELATED SUBJECT. PURSUANT TO REFERENCE B COL CASS REQUESTED CONFIRMATION ON MARINE TOTALS CONTAINED IN OPTIONS 1A AND 3 OF REVISED PLAN. FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPLY:

(1) OPTION 1A: CHANGE TOTALS FOR MARINE AIR UNITS TO READ 3025 VICE 3036.

(2) OPTION 3: PHASE I. SAME CHANGE AS INDICATED ABOVE FOR MARINE AIR UNITS.

13-#1

(3) OPTION 3: PHASE III. EVALUATION OF MARINE SERVICE SUPPORT UNITS TOTALS REVEALS THAT NO MORE THAN 200 SPACES CAN BE ABSORBED BY FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND. ADDITIONAL SPACES REQUIRED MUST COME FROM OTHER SERVICE SPT OR COMBAT SPT UNITS AS YET TO BE IDENTIFIED. FINAL DETERMINATION MUST WAIT UNTIL DETAILED ANALYSIS CAN BE COMPLETED BY EXPANDED PLANNING GROUP. ULTIMATELY, ANTICIPATE TOTAL OF 1500 WILL BE ABSORBED AMONG SEVERAL OTHER UNIT CATEGORIES INCLUDING AIR. THE SAME COMMENTS APPLY AS PERTAINS TO THE TWENTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN III MAF HQTRS. THE FULL IMPACT OF THE CUT MUST AWAIT DETAILED STAFFING. SUCH A REDUCTION WILL PLACE A GREATLY INCREASED BURDEN ON THE STAFF SINCE STAFF FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY REDUCTION IN MANEUVER BNS. ALL OTHER MARINE FIGURES ARE CONFIRMED. 4. WHILE THE PROPOSED NSA AND NMCB REDUCTIONS ARE WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF COMNAVFORV THE DECREASED CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITY WHICH STEMS FROM THE LOSS OF 4 NMCB'S (OPTION 3, PHASE III) WILL IMPACT ON SUCH PROJECTS AS CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL ASPs, ALMOST COMPLETE STOPPAGE OF IMPORTANT ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS, AND MANY OTHERS WHICH RELATE DIRECTLY TO OUR MILITARY AND PACIFICATION EFFORTS.

UNTIL THE 2000 SPACES TO BE REDUCED IN NSA CAN BE IDENTIFIED IT IS TOO EARLY TO MEASURE THE EFFECT OF THEIR LOSS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO REEMPHASIZE THAT ALL OF THE MARINE FIGURES MUST BE CONSIDERED TENTATIVE FOR GROSS PLANNING PURPOSES ONLY AND ALL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ONCE THE DETAILED STAFFING IS PERMITTED. I STRONGLY URGE AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO EXPAND PLANNING TEAM EARLIEST.

GP-1
875

NNNN

TOP SECRET

HAS BEEN SENT

13 #2

0100430Z ZYM
FM CG III MAF
TO CG FMFPAC

ZEM

Noted

TOP SECRET SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:
QUOTE

0072132Z MAY69

FM: GEN JOHN MCCONNELL ACTING CJCS WASH
TO: GEN CREIGHTON ABRAMS COMUSMACV
INFO: ADM JOHN MCCAIN CINCPAC HAWAII
TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY
CITE JCS 05630 MAY 69

SUBJECT: FORCE PLANNING (U)

REFS: A. DJSM 578-69, DATED 19 APR 69, SUBJECT:
"VIETNAMIZING THE WAR (C)"; B. DJS MSG 05334/011845Z
MAY 69, SUBJECT: VIETNAMIZING THE WAR (C)"

1. (TS) SECRETARY LAIRD HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT
POLITICAL REALITIES MAY FORCE A DECISION ON TROOP
WITHDRAWALS SOONER THAN ANTICIPATED. HE BELIEVES
THAT THE PRESIDENT MUST HAVE A BROADER RANGE OF
ALTERNATIVES THAN WAS PRESENTED IN YOUR FORCE PLAN-
NING BRIEFING HERE ON 28 APRIL. SYSTEMS ANALYSIS
APPARENTLY IS TAKING A CUT AT POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES.
IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE MILITARY VIEW, IT IS REQUESTED
THAT YOU UPDATE YOUR FORCE PLANNING BRIEF
ON THE FOLLOWING BASIS:

A. PROVIDE ALTERNATIVES WITH WITHDRAWAL FORCE
SIZE OF ABOUT 50,000 AND 100,000. A PORTION OF
EACH ALTERNATIVE SHOULD BE LOGISTIC FORCES.
ADDRESS TIMING IN GENERAL TO COMPLETE WITHDRAWALS
BY END CY 69.

B. INDICATE RISKS AND IMPLICATIONS WHICH COULD
BE INCURRED WITH DECISION TO EXECUTE EITHER ALTERNATIVE.

C. THE UPDATED PLAN SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR
PRESENTATION TO THE SECDEF AND JCS ON 14 MAY.

2. (S) THE NSSM 36 PLANNING EXERCISE ON VIETNAMIZING THE
WAR REMAINS IN EFFECT AND THE REFERENCES
APPLY AS GUIDANCE. DELIVERY DATE OF 11 MAY FOR THE
INITIAL REPORT STILL STANDS.

3. (TS) IF YOUR INITIAL REPORT ON NSSM 36 CONTAINS
WITHDRAWAL ALTERNATIVES APPROXIMATING THE 50,000/
100,000 LEVELS, THEN THE INITIAL REPORT WOULD BE
SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT IN PARAGRAPH 1
ABOVE. IN THIS CASE, A BRIEFER SHOULD BE AVAILABLE
TO BRIEF THE WITHDRAWAL ALTERNATIVES PORTION OF THE
INITIAL REPORT ON 14 MAY.

4. (TS) THE FOREGOING MUST BE VERY CLOSELY HELD
AS WAS YOUR INITIAL FORCE PLANNING BRIEF.

WARM REGARDS.

CP-4

UNQUOTE.

WARM REGARDS.

NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

559

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 10 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 0 100432Z		1, 2, 3, 4 COPY# OF COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOP SECRET EYES ONLY
			IN	OUT		
	CG					REMARKS ① THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P8511.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
	DCG					
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	b			TY	
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
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	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					

TOP SECRET

15

0 100432Z ZYH
FM CG III MAF
TO CG FMFPAC
ZEM

T O P S E C R E T SECTION ONE OF TWO
SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LIGEN BUSE FROM LIGEN NICKERSON
FORCE PLANNING (U)

- A. CJCS 072132Z MAY69 (PASEP)
- B. CINCPAC 080155Z MAY69 (PASEP)
- C. CINCPAC 080334Z MAY69 (PASEP)
- D. CG FMFPAC 070201Z MAY69

1. AT 091030H MAY BEV CASS BRIEFED GEN ABRAMS ON ADDITIONAL
FORCE REDUCTIONS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A BROADER RANGE OF
ALTERNATIVES IN RESPONSE TO GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN REF A.
HE PRESENTED FOUR FORCE OPTIONS WHICH ARE SUMMARIZED BELOW:

A. OPTION 1: NO CHANGE FROM THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
BRIEFED TO THE JCS ON 28 APR. OPTION 1 IN TWO PHASES:

(1) PHASE I	
(A) 3D MARDIV	21,332
(B) 5TH SFG	200
(C) ARMY SVC SPT	1,026
TOTAL	22,558

(2) PHASE II	
(A) 9TH INF DIV (-)	11,691
(B) 3D BDE, 82D ABN	4,794
(C) TF 117	970
(D) 5TH SFG	200
(E) ARMY SVC SPT	712

TOTAL	18,367
TOTAL OPTION NR1:	40,925

B. OPTION 1A (PHASES I AND II SUPPLEMENTED)

(1) PHASE I	
(A) 3D MARDIV	21,332
(B) 5TH SFG	200
(C) ARMY SVC SPT	1,026
(D) MARINE SVC SPT	916
(E) MARINE AIR	
(FW & HELO)	3,036
(F) 2 NMCB'S	1,496

TOTAL	28,006
-------	--------

15-#1

(2) PHASE II
 (A) 9TH INF DIV (-) 11,691
 (B) 3D BDE, 82 ABN 4,794
 (C) IF 117 970
 (D) 5TH SFG 200
 (E) ARMY SVC SPT 3,083
 (F) IF 116 (-) 1,115
 (G) 7TH AF 500

TOTAL 22,353
 TOTAL OPTION 1A: 50,359

C. OPTION 2 (THREE PHASES)

(1) PHASE I
 (A) 3D MARDIV 21,332
 (B) 5TH SFG 200
 (C) ARMY SVC SPT 1,026

TOTAL 22,558

(2) PHASE II
 (A) 9TH INF DIV (-) 11,691
 (B) 3D BDE, 82 ABN 4,794
 (C) IF 117 970
 (D) 5TH SFG 200
 (E) ARMY SVC SPT 712

TOTAL 18,367

(3) PHASE III
 (A) 4TH INF DIV 17,970
 (B) HQ IFFV 500
 (C) ARMY SVC SPT 1,035

TOTAL 19,505
 TOTAL OPTION 2: 60,430

D. OPTION 3. (PHASE I THRU III SUPPLEMENTED)

(1) PHASE I
 (A) 3D MARDIV 21,332
 (B) 5TH SFG 200
 (C) ARMY SVC SPT 1,026
 (D) MARINE SVC SPT 916
 (E) MARINE AIR 3,036
 (F) 2 NMCB'S 1,496

TOTAL 28,006

(2) PHASE II

(A) 9TH INF DIV (-)	11,691
(B) 3D BDE, 82D ABN	4,794
(C) TF 117	970
(D) 5TH SFG	200
(E) ARMY SVC SPT	3,083
(F) TF 116 (-)	1,115
(G) 7TH AF	500
TOTAL	22,353

(3) PHASE III

(A) 4TH INF DIV	17,970
(B) 3D BDE, 9TH DIV	6,882
(C) 2/1 CAV, 4TH DIV	1,050
(D) ARMY SVC SPT	9,477
(E) NAVY SVC SPT (NSA)	2,000
(F) MARINE SVC SPT	1,500
(G) HQS ELEMENTS (INCLUDES 20 PER CENT CUT IN HQ III MAF)	1,841
(H) COMBAT SPT (INCLUDES 2 NMCB'S)	5,556
(I) 7TH AF	3,500
TOTAL	49,776
TOTAL OPTION 3:	100,135

E. OPTION 4 (MARINE OPTION)

(1) PHASE I

(A) 3D MARDIV	21,332
(B) 1ST MAW (-)	8,090
(C) FLC	2,000
TOTAL	31,422

(2) PHASE II

(A) 1ST MARDIV	29,815
(B) 1ST MAW	8,090
(C) FLC	7,805
(D) NSA DANANG	3,000
(E) HQ III MAF	1,083
(F) MARINE CBT SPT	3,771
TOTAL	53,564

15-3

(3) PHASE III	
(A) 9TH INF DIV (-)	11,691
(B) TF 117	970
(C) ARMY SVC SPT	4,540
(D) 5TH SFG	400
TOTAL	17,601
TOTAL OPTION 4	102,587

900

ANNN

TOP SECRET**HAS**

00432Z ZYH
FM CG III MAF
TO CG FMF PAC
ZEM

211

T O P S E C R E T FINAL SECTION OF TWO
SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LIGEN BUSE FROM LIGEN NICKERSON
2. AFTER HIS SESSION WITH GEN ABRAMS COL CASS MET WITH SERVICE
REPS TO PASS ALONG GUIDANCE ISSUED BY COMUSMACV AND TO
DISCUSS PROBLEM AREAS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED
DRAWDOWNS. GEO DOOLEY AND ROSS DWYER WERE PRESENT.
CINCPAC, NAVFORV, USARV AND 7TH AF REPS WERE ALSO PRESENT.
3. HIGHLIGHTS OF CASS DEBRIEF ARE AS FOLLOWS:
A. OPTION FOUR NOT CONSIDERED AND SHOULD NOT BE
ADDRESSED.
B. TWO PRINCIPAL OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION ARE 1A AND 3.
C. IN OPTION 1A AND 3 HELO MAG PLUS FIXED WING AND
CONTROL UNITS SUGGESTED BY YOU ARE INCLUDED,
D. FLSG BRAVO INCREMENT OF 916 SPACES HAS BEEN
INCLUDED IN PHASE I OF BOTH OPTIONS. AN ADDITIONAL 1500
SPACES IS LEVIED AGAINST MARINE SVC SPT IN PHASE III
OPTION 3. IF THESE CANNOT ALL BE ABSORBED BY FLC
(AT BEST WE DO NOT BELIEVE FLC CAN OFFER UP MORE THAN
APPROXIMATELY 200 OVER AND ABOVE THE FLSG BRAVO INCREMENT)
THE BALANCE MAY BE MADE UP BY REDUCTIONS ELSEWHERE.
E. IN BOTH OPTIONS B-DAY IS 1 JULY 69 WHICH
AUTOMATICALLY PUSHES A-DAY BACK TO 15 MAY.
F. TIME PHASING OF OPTION 1A WOULD PERMIT REDEPLOYMENT
IN THREE 30-DAY INCREMENTS. TIME PHASING FOR OPTION 3
WOULD REQUIRE MOVEMENT OF EACH INCREMENT EVERY 20 DAYS.
G. OPTION 3 PROVIDES FOR 20 PER CENT REDUCTION IN HQS III
MAR, USARV, NAVFORV AND MACV. 50 PERCENT REDUCTION IN HQ IFFOR.
H. IN OPTION 3 173D ABN BDE WILL NOT REINFORCE III
3D MARDIV ELEMENTS ARE NOT EVEN PARTIALLY REPLACED.
POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT THIS MAY ALSO APPLY TO OPTION 1A.

I. 2 NMCB'S ARE MOVED OUT IN OPTION 1A AND 4 IN OPTION 3. REDUCTION IN NSA IS APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT IN OPTION 3.

J. NO EXPANSION OF CURRENT PLANNING TEAM UNTIL AUTHORIZED BY JCS. (MACV WILL RECOMMEND INCREASED ACCESS LIST AT FORTHCOMING BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON).

K. USARV PLANNERS RAISED THE QUESTION OF MOVING A BDE TO OKINAWA. NO COMMITMENT WAS MADE BUT THE QUESTION INDICATES CONTINUED ARMY INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT.

L. GEN ABRAMS THINKS HE CAN LIVE WITH OPTION 1A BUT IS VERY MUCH OPPOSED TO OPTION 3.

M. HE FULLY EXPECTS US TO REQUEST THE HELO/FIXED WING PKGE TO BE MOVED OUT WITH THE 3D MARDIV TO KEEP OUR AIR/GROUND CONCEPT. BEV REPORTS HE ANTICIPATES A FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO OUR RECOMMENDATION.

4. WE'VE TAKEN A HARD LOOK AT BOTH OPTIONS AND HAVE NO PROBLEMS WITH PHASE I OF EITHER ONE. AS AREADY INDICATED, WE CANNOT ABSORB THE ENTIRE 1500 SPACES. WE'RE LOOKING FOR OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES, I.E., FORCE ARTY UNITS NOW IN QUANG TRI AND OTHERS TO MAKE UP THE DIFFERENCE. THE FULL IMPACT OF THE NMCB LOSSES AND NSA REDUCTION REALLY WON'T BE KNOWN UNTIL DETAILED PLANNING COMMENCES.

5. IN RESPONSE TO MACV REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION OF THE FIGURES LISTED IN THE TWO PRIMARY OPTIONS, I PLAN TO CONFIRM USMC FIGURES FOR BOTH OPTIONS BUT WILL INDICATE THAT MOST OF THE 1500 MARINE SVC SPT SPACES IN OPTION 3 WILL HAVE TO BE DRAWN FROM OTHER SOURCES WHICH CANNOT BE DETERMINED PRECISELY UNTIL DETAILED STAFFING IS AUTHORIZED. TOTALS FOR ALL UNITS WILL BE CHANGED TO 3025 VICE 3036. IN THE SAME MESSAGE I WILL ALSO RESPOND TO MACV'S REQUEST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THOSE AIR UNITS WHICH ARE CONSIDERED PART OF THE AVIATION COMPONENT NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH 3D MARDIV. I PLAN TO LIST THOSE AVIATION UNITS INDICATED IN PARS 1B AND 1C OF REF D, BUT WILL ALSO INCLUDE A MABS AND H&MS WITH THE HELO MAG.

6. IN SUM I BELIEVE THE COMMANDANT'S INTERESTS ARE THE AIR COMPONENT OF THE AIR/GROUND TEAM WILL BE PROTECTED WITH OUR SUBMIT, AND AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IF ONE READS THE TEA LEAVES CORRECTLY, WE'LL SOON HAVE MUCH TO GET DONE. IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT THE STAFF OF PLANNERS BE EXPANDED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

WARM REGARDS.

GP-1

SSO NOTE: DELIVER IMMEDIATELY
900

TOP SECRET

HASBEE

0 1523Z ZYM
FM CG III MAF
TO CG FMEPAC
ZEM

100520Z May 69

T O P S E C R E T

SENSITIVE EYES ONLY FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
FORECE PLANNING (U)

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS READDRESSSED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

0 1332Z
FM CG III MAF
TO COMUSMACV
ZEM

T O P S E C R E T EYES ONLY
FOR WGEN TOWNSEND FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
FORCE PLANNING (U)

- A. YACV EYES ONLY MAC 5750 081112Z MAY 69
B. CONFERENCE AT YACV HQ 9 MAY 1969 SAME SUBJ (U)
1. AIR UNITS CONSIDERED PART OF 3RD MARDIV AIR/GROUND TEAM THAT WOULD NORMALLY BE REDEPLOYED WITH GROUND UNITS ARE:
A MARINE HELICOPTER MAG (VH), INCLUDING H&MS, MABS, 2 HMM SQDN (SLFS), 1 HMM SQDN, 1 HML SQDN AND A VMO DETACHMENT. FIXED WING UNITS NORMALLY REDEPLOYED CONSIST OF: DET WING HQ WITH A MAG AND A MATCU, 1 VMA SQDN, AND 1 VMFA SQDN, WHICH, WHEN COMBINED WITH CURRENT MAG-15 RESOURCES WOULD MAKE UP A COMPOSITE MARINE AIR GROUP. (VF/VA).
 2. CONSIDERING THE IMPROVED HELO CAPABILITY OF THE 198ST ABN BDE, THE FACT THAT THE 173D ABN BDE WILL DEPLOY TO I CORPS WITH ITS NORMAL HELO SLICE (AS INDICATED BY USARV PLANNERS REF B) AND THE TOTAL REMAINING MARINE HELO ASSETS IN I CORPS, I BELIEVE THAT ADEQUATE LEVELS OF HELO SUPPORT CAN BE PROVIDED RVNAF AND RVNAF SHOULD MARINE AIR UNITS OUTLINED PARA 1 ABOVE BE REDEPLOYED OUT OF COUNTRY. THE DECREASE IN TOTAL NUMBERS OF HELOS WILL BE OFFSET BY A CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN MANEUVER BATTALIONS REQUIRING SUPPORT. THE FACT THAT RVN UNIT HELO REQUIREMENTS ARE NORMALLY LESS THAN U.F. UNITS IS ANOTHER OFFSETTING FACTOR. THE PRESENT LEVEL OF SUPPORT OF THE ROKMC BDE CAN BE MAINTAINED. THE SAME EVALUATION APPLIES WITH RESPECT TO FIXED WING SUPPORT. ALTHOUGH THE TOTAL SORTIE PRODUCING CAPABILITY WILL DECREASE SLIGHTLY, IN LIGHT OF THE REDUCTION IN MANEUVER BATTALIONS TO BE SUPPORTED, THE OVERALL LEVEL OF TACAIR SUPPORT WILL NOT BE SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED PARTICULARLY IF THE CURRENT LEVEL OF AIR FORCE EFFORT REMAINS UNCHANGED AS INDICATED IN REF C.
 3. NEW BUT RELATED SUBJECT. PURSUANT TO REFERENCE B COL CASS REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF MARINE TOTALS CONTAINED IN ORITONS 1A AND 3 OF REVISED PLAN. FOLLOWING COMMENTS APPLY:

16 #1

(1) OPTION 1A: CHANGE TOTALS FOR MARINE AIR UNITS TO BEAR
7225 WIGT 2076.

(2) OPTION 3: PHASE I. SAME CHANGE AS INDICATED ABOVE FOR
MARINE AIR UNITS.

(3) OPTION 3: PHASE III. EVALUATION OF MARINE SERVICE SUPPORT
UNITS TOTALS REVEALS THAT NO MORE THAN 200 SPACES CAN BE
ABSORBED BY FORCE LOGISTIC COMMAND. ADDITIONAL SPACES REQUIRED
MUST COME FROM OTHER SERVICE-SPT OR-COMBAT SPT UNITS-AS YET
TO BE IDENTIFIED. FINAL DETERMINATION MUST WAIT UNTIL
DETAILED ANALYSIS CAN BE COMPLETED BY EXPANDED PLANNING GROUP.
ULTIMATELY, ANTICIPATE TOTAL OF 1500 WILL BE ABSORBED AMONG
SEVERAL OTHER UNIT CATEGORIES INCLUDING AIR. THE SAME COMMENTS
APPLY AS PERTAINS TO THE TWENTY PERCENT REDUCTION IN III MAF HQTRS.
THE FULL IMPACT OF THE CUT MUST AWAIT DETAILED STAFFING. SUCH A
REDUCTION WILL PLACE A GREATLY INCREASED BURDEN ON THE STAFF
SINCE STAFF FUNCTIONAL REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED BY RE-
DUCTION IN MANEUVER EMS. ALL OTHER MARINE FIGURES ARE CONFIRMED.
4. WHILE THE PROPOSED NSA AND NMCB REDUCTIONS ARE WITHIN
THE PURVIEW OF COMNAVFORV THE DECREASED CONSTRUCTION CAPABILITY
WHICH STEMS FROM THE LOSS OF 4 NMCB'S (OPTION 3, PHASE III)
WILL IMPACT ON SUCH PROJECTS AS CONSTRUCTING ADDITIONAL ASPS,
ALMOST COMPLETE STOPPAGE OF IMPORTANT ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS,
AND MANY OTHERS WHICH RELATE DIRECTLY TO OUR MILITARY AND
PACIFICATION EFFORTS.

UNTIL THE 2000 SPACES TO BE REDUCED IN NSA CAN BE IDENTIFIED
IT IS TOO EARLY TO MEASURE THE EFFECT OF THEIR LOSS.

5. IN CONCLUSION, I WISH TO REEMPHASIZE THAT ALL OF THE
MARINE FIGURES MUST BE CONSIDERED TENTATIVE FOR GROSS PLANNING
PURPOSES ONLY AND ALL ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE ONCE THE DETAILED
STAFFING IS PERMITTED. I STRONGLY URGE AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO
EXPAND PLANNING TEAM EARLIEST.

GP-1

UNQUOTE

WARM REGARDS

SSO NOTE: DELIVER IMMEDIATELY

900

NNNN

TOP SECRET

HAS BEEN SENT

16-#2

0100431Z KYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO CG FNF PAC
 ZEM

2"

T O P S E C R E T
 SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN
 NICKERSON

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

0080155Z MAY 1969
 FM: ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC, HAWAII
 TO: GEN MCCONNELL ACTING CJCS WASH, D.C.
 INFO GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV
 TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY
 FORCE PLANNING

A. CJCS 072132Z MAY69

1. ACTION IS BEING INITIATED AT ONCE TO PROVIDE YOU THE
 BROADER RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES REQUESTED BY REF A. OUR
 FORCE PLANNING ALREADY IN HAND WOULD TAKE CARE OF THE
 50,000 REQUIREMENT. THE SAME TEAM OF CINCPAC PLANNERS
 WILL BE AVAILABLE ON 14 MAY FOR THE PRESENTATION TO THE
 SECDEF AND THE JCS. COMUSMACV INPUT AND PARTICIPATION
 IS BEING REQUESTED.

2 YOUR INVITATION TO PRESENT SUCH A REPORT IS WARMLY
 APPRECIATED. POSSIBLE WITHDRAWALS OF SUCH MAGNITUDE OBVIOUSLY
 WOULD HAVE IMPACTS THAT ARE MORE FAR REACHING THAN JUST SOUTH
 VIETNAM.

3 VERY RESPECTFULLY AND WARM REGARDS

GP-3

IN QUOTE

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

30

NN

TOP SECRET

HAS BEEN SENT

(17)

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 III MAF		DATE 10 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 0 10/438Z	1,2,3, 4 COPY# OF	COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOP SECRET EYES ONLY
			IN	OUT		
	CG					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.
	DCG					
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	I				
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	I	5/10			
	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					

TOP SECRET

182433Z
 CG III AF
 CG III AF

SENSITIVE SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN DUCE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE -

O 032334Z MAY 69

FM: ADM MCCAIN, CINCPAC, HAWAII

TO: GENERAL ABRAMS, COMUSMACV

INFO GEN MCCONNELL, ACTING CHAIRMAN JCS

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE/EYES ONLY

FORCE PLANNING

A. CJCS 072132Z MAY 69

1. THE MAGNITUDE OF THE IMPACT ON FORCE POSTURE THAT SUCH WITHDRAWALS WOULD HAVE PACOM WIDE COUPLED WITH THE LIMITED NUMBER OF PLANNERS THUS FAR INVOLVED ON BOTH OUR STAFFS, I AM SENDING MY THREE PLANNERS TO SAIGON TO ASSIST IN RESPONSE TO REF A.
2. RECOMMEND IF FEASIBLE WE USE HSSV 36 PLANNING WHICH HAS NOW BEEN ACCOMPLISHED TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT. THIS WILL RESULT IN THE LEAST PROLIFERATION OF PLANNING EFFORT AND PROVIDE A MORE DELIBERATE COMPLETE PLAN IN THE SHORT TIME LIMIT ALLOWED.
3. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT EMPHASIS BE PLACED ON MAINTAINING A RAPID REENTRY CAPABILITY AND RECONSTITUTING THE PACOM RESERVE IMMEDIATELY.
4. IN VIEW OF THE SHORT SUSPENSE I PROPOSE THAT MY PEOPLE HANDCARRY THE WITHDRAWAL PLAN TO CINCPAC DEPARTING YOUR HEADQUARTERS 11 MAY. THIS WILL PROVIDE TIME HERE FOR FINALIZING THE PRESENTATION AND THE BRIEFERS TO DEPART FOR WASHINGTON ON 12 MAY.
5. I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR SENDING COLONEL CASS AS A MEMBER OF THE BRIEFING TEAM.
6. WARM REGARDS.

GP-3

UNQUOTE

WARM REGARDS

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

369

NNNN

TOP SECRET

HAS BEEN SENT

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 MG TOWNSEND C/S MACV		DATE 11 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 0 110358Z	1,2,3, 4	COPY# OF COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOP SECRET EYES ONLY MAC 5976
			IN	OUT		
3	CG	I	13 May		N	REMARKS (1) THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5911.4... THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
4	DCG	I			N	
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	S				
	DC / S					
	DC / S PLAN					
1	S/S	I	5/11		N	
	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					

(19)

TOP SECRET

O 110358Z ZYH ZFF-4 ZFF-1

XM MG TOWNSEND C/S MACV SAIGON
TO LTG NICKERSON CG III MAF DANANG
ZEM

T O P S E C R E T MAC 5976 EYES ONLY

SUBJ: FORCE PLANNING (U)

REF: III MAF EYES ONLY 100320Z MAY 1969

1. YOUR COMMENTS IN REFERENCE ARE APPRECIATED AND WILL BE INCLUDED IN MACV RESPONSE TO CINCPAC.
2. CHANGES CONCERNING MARINE TOTALS WILL BE CONSIDERED IN MACV PLANNING.
3. AGREE WITH YOU ON NEED FOR EXPANDING PLANNING TEAM AND EXPECT TO HAVE SOMETHING ON THAT AT AN EARLY DATE.

GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS
120

NNNN

TOP SECRET

19

HEADQUARTERS
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

CONFIDENTIAL

CCN:287/IN

FILE:DH

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION / COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT / RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE			FROM CG FMFPAC		DATE 10 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 101939Z MAY 69		COPY# 1 OF 3 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
3	CG	I		11 May	N	EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON REMARKS THIS DOCUMENT IS UNDER CONTROL AND MUST BE RETURNED TO FORCE SBC WITHIN 7 DAYS. PLEASE INDICATE ACTION/DISPOSITION ON THIS ROUTE SHEET. EXCLUSIVE FOR MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
4	DCG	I			N	
	DCG AIR					
2	C/S	I			N	
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	I	10/11		N	
	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					

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL**EXCLUSIVE
FOR****MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY**

FP RHMMAFA
 DE RUHHPMA 1850 1301939
 ZNY CCCCC
 P 101939Z MAY 69
 FM CG FMFPAC
 TO RHMMAFA/CG III MAF
 BT

CONFIDENTIAL SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON
 FROM LTGEN BUSE. MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY.

1. YOUR TIMELY AND DETAILED COVERAGE OF PLANNING CONTAINED
 IN YOUR OUTSTANDING SUMMARY 100432Z HAS BEEN INVALUABLE
 HERE, AND WAS PASSED TO GEN CHAPMAN FOR INFO. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

180

CONFIDENTIAL

38/jtb
16 May 1969

LIMDIS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: Telephone Call from Brigadier General WILSON at 0915 this date

1. He stated that Colonel CASS had briefed the JCS yesterday and that he, General WILSON, had a short read-out on the briefing.
2. He said that the timing unquestionably will be set back at least 15 days -- maybe 30, maybe 45. He said this is necessary because of the President's remarks of yesterday. He states that it is going to happen and that it is a question of correct timing.
3. He stated that the recommendation was approved at the JCS level that the planning could be extended to other people in planning. He said they of course have meetings at EMFPAC. He acknowledged that all our contributions will go south concerning such things as ~~com-~~ position, support, basing and timing, but asks that we keep him advised so that they can be kept current at their level.
4. He stated that the current float units will be required to be maintained throughout -- that is the SIF. He states that CINCPAC is going to require this. If this is the case, a requirement for additional transportation is generated over and above that for the SIF. (We were anticipating using this transportation in the move.)

G. E. DOOLEY
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Chief of Staff

LIMDIS

(21)

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 21 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL 211441Z	DATE 1,2,3	COPY# OF 4 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
2	CG	I		21 MAY	N	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	I			N	
	DCG AIR					
	C/S					
	DC/S					
	DC/S PLAN					
1	S/S	I	5/22			
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	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					

(22)
TOP SECRET

0 211441Z ZYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO C (MUSMACV)
 ZEM

TOP SECRET EYES ONLY
 FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON

1. MY PLANNER HAS BEEN IN SAIGON FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS WORKING WITH YOUR STAFF ON FORCE LEVEL REDUCTIONS. I HAVE JUST BEEN ADVISED THAT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT UNDER ALTERNATIVE ONE, III MAF MAY NOT RECEIVE THE 173D AIRBORNE CONCURRENT WITH THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE 3D MARDIV. MY MILITARY JUDGEMENT IS SUCH THAT I CANNOT BELIEVE THAT A FULL DIVISION IN THE VICINITY OF THE DMZ AND LAOS CAN BE PULLED OUT WITHOUT ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT. I URGE YOU TO INCLUDE THE REDEPLOYMENT OF 173D AIRBORNE TO I CORPS AS AN INTERGRAL PART OF ALTERNATIVE ONE.

GP-1

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

130

NNN

HAS BEEN SENT

TOP SECRET

22

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 # 23 MAY 69	
				SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 0 230335Z		1,2,3, 4 COPY# OF COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOP SECRET SENSITIVE EYESONLY	
			IN	OUT			
	CG					REMARKS (1) THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5511.4...	
	DCG						
	DCG AIR					THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.	
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23

TOP SECRET

O 230335Z ZYH
 FM CG III MAF
 TO CG FMFPAC
 ZEM

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY
 FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON
 FORCE REDUCTION PLANNING

1. AT 221100H MAY69 COMUSMACV WAS BRIEFED ON THE PROPOSED MSG TO CINCPAC WHICH INCLUDED THE DETAILED SERVICE TROOP LISTS. PRESENT WERE GEN ABRAMS, GEN ROSSON, GEN BROWN, VADM ZUMWALT, MGEN BRYAN (MACV FACILITIES OFFICER) AND USARB G-3. ROSS DWYER WAS OUR REP.
2. BEV CASS PRESENTED A DECISION BRIEFING DESCRIBING IN ESSENCE WHAT WE HAVE ALREADY FORWARDED TO YOU EXCEPT THAT THE ALTERNATIVES HAVE NOW BEEN REDUCED TO TWO -- IN PLAN FORM -- MACV OPLAN 180-69 (50,000 PKGE) AND MACV OPLAN 181-69 (100,000 PKGE) -- ALL OF WHICH WILL BE COVERED IN MACV MSG TO CINCPAC WHICH ALSO INCLUDES YOU AS INFO ADDEE.
3. A NUMBER OF CHANGES WERE DIRECTED AS A RESULT OF GEN ABRAMS DECISIONS/OBSERVATIONS. OF INTEREST TO US:
 - A. HE DESIRES THAT ALL HAWK UNITS MOVE OUT OF COUNTRY. OUR LAAM BN WILL NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE MARINE TOTALS OF THE FIRST INCREMENT IN BOTH PLANS. CAN FORESEE NO PROBLEM HERE ALTHOUGH GUIDANCE RE ULTIMATE DESTINATION OF LAAM BN IS REQUIRED. *UI*
 - B. AN ADDITIONAL 15 MARINES OF MACV STAFF WERE ADDED TO USMC TOTALS IN 3D INCREMENT OF OPLAN 181-69 (THIS IS PART OF 12 PER CENT CUT OF MACV STAFF).
 - C. 173D BDE WILL NO LONGER COME TO I CORPS IN EITHER PLAN. GEN ABRAMS THINKS REPLACEMENT FOR 3D MARDIV SHOULD BE AN ARVN DIVISION -- PROBABLY PART OR ALL OF ARVN AIRBORNE DIVISION. HE DOES NOT WANT TO USE US FORCES TO REINFORCE IN THE NORTH. WE'RE STUDYING THIS TO DETERMINE FULL IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH A MOVE. IF THE AIRBORNE DIVISION IS SELECTED IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW MANY BNS IT WILL HAVE. CERTAINLY THEY CAN'T BE EQUATED ON A ONE FOR ONE BASIS WITH US BNS.

4. BUD ZUMWALT RECLAIMED THE NAVY CUTS AS BEING DISPROPORTIONATE TO THE OVERALL NAVY TOTALS IN COUNTRY. WAS SEEKING RELIEF OF ABOUT 2000 SPACES. COMUSMACV ASKED FOR ALTERNATIVES WHICH WERE PRESENTED -- ALL ARMY UNITS AS TRADE OFFS. GEN BROWN OFFERED TO INCLUDE SOME AIR FORCE UNITS IN THE FIRST INCREMENT TO HELP PHASE THE NAVY REDUCTIONS OVER A LONGER PERIOD. LATER BEV CASS INDICATED THAT HE PLANNED TO USE OUR LAAM BN IN PLACE OF ONE NMCB IN THE FIRST INCREMENT; WHICH MEANS FOUR NMCB BNS WILL BE IN 3D INCREMENT BUT AT LEAST THIS GIVES US THE SERVICES OF AN ADDITIONAL NMCB FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME.

*omit
notice*

5. AFTER THE BRIEFING ROSS DWYER ASKED MGEN TOWNSEND IF WE COULD EXPAND OUR LIST OF PLANNERS. HE GRANTED THIS AUTHORITY WITH THE USUAL CAUTION TO HOLD CLOSE. HE FURTHER ADVISED THAT ALL IN COUNTRY COMMUNICATIONS RE THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE BY COURIER. MESSAGE TRAFFIC AND PHONE CONVERSATIONS IS NOT AUTHORIZED. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT MACV HAS EXPANDED THE NUMBER OF PLANNERS ON THEIR STAFF.

6. THE REVISED MSG TO CINCPAC WAS STILL BEING WORKED WHEN ROSS LEFT SAIGON. FROM HIS CONVERSATION WITH BEV IT WILL INCLUDE A BROAD DESCRIPTION OF THE TWO BASIC PLANS AND A DETAILED TROOP LIST REFLECTING THE ADDITION OF THE LAAM BN AND SOME OTHER SERVICE CHANGES AS POSSIBLE TRADE OFFS TO HELP EASE OR SPREAD OUT THE NAVY PROBLEM. THE MSG WILL ALSO INCLUDE A CAVEAT THAT BROADENED PLANNING STAFFS MAY SUBSEQUENTLY DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE TO THE FORCES LISTED.

7. I PLAN A SMALL INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN THE KNOW TODAY AND WILL INITIATE MORE DETAILED PLANNING IMMEDIATELY.

WARM REGARDS

SSO NOTE: PRECEDENCE FOR TRANSMISSION ONLY
DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

GP-1
661

HAS BEEN SENT

NNNN

TOP SECRET

23-#2

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 21 MAY 1969	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 211446Z MAY 1969		COPY# 1 OF 3 COPIES RECD	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
			IN	OUT		
2	CG			27 MAY		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. ORIG: G-3 REL: CG FOR MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY HAS BEEN SENT EYES ONLY (24) TOP SECRET
3	DCG					
	DCG AIR					
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	DC/S PLAN					
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	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	SBC					

TOP SECRET

OTTTZYUW RHMMFA3209 1411446-TTTT--RUHFMA.
 ZNY TTTT
 O 211446Z MAY 69
 FM CG III MAF
 TO RUHFMA/CG FMEPAC
 BT

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

1. SECDEF HAS APPROVED FOR PLANNING THE 50,000 AND
 100,000 FORCE LEVELS DEVELOPED BY MACV, AND CJCS HAS
 DIRECTED THE DETAILED PREPARATION OF TROOP LISTS, TIME
 SCHEDULES, AND OTHER PERTINENT DATA FOR EACH PACKAGE.
 COMUSMACV IS PROCEEDING UNDER THE ASSUMPTION THAT RE-
 DEPLOYMENT WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN SIX MONTHS FOR
 EACH OF THE ALTERNATIVES HE WILL PRESENT.

1. ALTERNATIVE I WILL APPROXIMATE 50,000 TROOPS, DIVIDED
 IN TWO INCREMENTS, WITH A 60-DAY PAUSE BETWEEN THE FIRST AND
 SECOND INCREMENTS. III MAF FORCES REDEPLOY DURING THE
 FIRST INCREMENT ONLY, SO UNDER ALTERNATIVE I WE WILL BE

OBLIGED TO REDEPLOY ALL THE REQUIRED FORCES WITHIN 60 DAYS.

3. ALTERNATIVES II AND IIA, WHICH ADDRESS THE 100,000
 FORCE PACKAGE, ARE DIVIDED INTO THREE TROOP INCREMENTS

PAGE TWO RHMMFA 3209 T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY FOR
 LTGEN BUSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

EACH. III MAF DEPLOYS THE SAME FORCES IN THE FIRST IN-
 CREMENT OF ALTERNATIVES II AND IIA AS UNDER ALTERNATIVE I.
 ADDITIONAL SERVICE SUPPORT FORCES AND A SLICE OF III MAF
 HEADQUARTERS DEPLOY DURING THE THIRD INCREMENT.

4. EACH INCREMENT WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY A LETTERED DEP-
 LOYMENT DAY; I.E., THE FIRST INCREMENT COMMENCES REDEPLOY-
 MENT ON B-DAY, THE SECOND ON C-DAY, AND THE THIRD ON D-DAY.
 A-DAY IS TO BE THE DAY THE DECISION TO REDEPLOY IS ANNOUNCED,
 WHICH IS ASSUMED TO PRECEED B-DAY BY 45 DAYS.

5. I PLAN TO MEET THE REQUIREMENT BY DEPLOYING THREE
 RLTS, ALONG WITH THE REMAINDER OF 3D MARDIV AND 7TH COMM
 BN TO OKINAWA. ALL FORCE UNITS NOW ATTACHED TO 3D MARDIV
 WILL DEPLOY WITH THE DIVISION EXCEPT FORCE ARTILLERY.

1ST MAW (REAR) WITH DETACHMENTS OF H&HS, MWCS, MWFS, MASS,
 AND TWO HMM'S AN HMM, HML, H&S (VMH), AND MABS (VMH) WILL
 GO TO FUTEMA. LIKEWISE, I PROPOSE TO REDEPLOY DETACHMENTS
 OF MWSG AND WERS ALONG WITH A VMA AND A VMFA TO IWAKUNI.
 DETAILED TROOP LIST PASSED TO YOU SEPARATELY. IN ALL, THE
 FIRST INCREMENT REDEPLOYMENT AMOUNTS TO 22,357 GROUND AND
 3,744 AIR SPACES, FOR A TOTAL OF 26,101. AT MACV DIRECTION,

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA 3209 T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY FOR LTGEN BUSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

COMPUTATIONS ARE TO BE BASED ON DOD-APPROVED PROGRAM SIX FIGURES WHICH, AS YOU KNOW, DATE BACK TO JULY 1968. THE LAST INCREMENTS IN ALTERNATIVES II AND IIA WILL REFLECT AN ADDITIONAL 861 GROUND SPACES FROM III MAF. 731 SPACES WILL COME FROM FLC, WHILE 130 WILL COME FROM III MAF HQ. THUS, UNDER ALTERNATIVES II AND IIA, III MAF LOSES 26,962 IN-COUNTRY SPACES. TRANSLATING INTO CURRENT CMC-APPROVED PROGRAM SIX SPACES, THE REDEPLOYMENT WILL AMOUNT TO A LOSS OF 26,034 IN-COUNTRY.

6. ALTHOUGH THE REQUIREMENT TO MOUNT OUT THE FIRST INCREMENT AS A BALANCED, COMBAT-READY FORCE WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT IN 60 DAYS THAN IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN 90 DAYS, IT APPEARS FEASIBLE PROVIDED ADEQUATE SHIPPING IS MADE AVAILABLE. MOUNTOUT/MOUNTOUT AUGMENTATION BECOMES EVEN MORE CRITICAL WITH THE COMPRESSED TIME-PHASING.

7. THE TOTAL IMPACT OF FORCE REDUCTION ON OUR POSTURE HAS BEEN FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE REVELATION THAT THE 173D AIRBORNE BDE MAY NOT COME TO ICTZ UNDER ANY OF THE ALTERNATIVES. WE THEREFORE MUST DEVELOPE TWO PLANS: ONE BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE 173D COMES TO ICTZ, AND THE OTHER BASED

PAGE FOUR RHMMAFA 3209 T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY FOR LTGEN BUSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT IT WILL NOT. I AM PROTESTING AGAINST THE POSSIBILITY THAT 173D BDE WILL NOT COME TO I CORPS UNDER ALTERNATIVE I. OTHER PROBLEMS WILL NO DOUBT SURFACE WHEN OUR PLANNING GROUP IS EXPANDED. WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED AUTHORITY TO EXPAND OUR PLANNING ON A STRICT NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS WITHIN THE III MAF STAFF, BUT NOT TO SUBORDINATE UNITS. THE LONE EXCEPTION IS JIM FEELEY, WHO HAS BEEN INFORMED. AS EVENTS SNOWBALL, SO WILL THE NEED TO INCLUDE MORE PLANNERS, AND WE INTEND TO SO RECOMMEND.

8. RECENT EVENTS, INCLUDING THE REQUIREMENT TO SUBMIT MORE PRECISE DATA, SUCH AS UIC'S, ETC., AND THE SHORT TIME ALLOWED FOR THESE SUBMISSIONS, PORTRAY A SENSE OF URGENCY. AFTER COMUS' APPROVAL OF THE MACV PLAN TOMORROW (22 MAY) IT GOES TO CINCPAC THE SAME DAY. UNDERSTAND THE CINCPAC PLAN, IN TURN, IS DUE IN WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY (24 MAY). IT THEREFORE APPEARS THAT A DECISION MAY BE FORTHCOMING PRIOR TO 1 JUNE.

9. ONCE AGAIN I WANT TO REITERATE GEN ABRAMS INSTRUCTIONS TO ME ARE THAT THIS SUBJECT IS EXTREMELY SENSITIVE, WILL NOT BE DIVULGED TO UNAUTHORIZED PARTIES AND WILL NOT BE DISCUSSED ON THE TELEPHONE.

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

PAGE FIVE RHMMAFA 3209 T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EYES ONLY FOR
LTGEN BUSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
REQUEST EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO PROTECT THE PRINCIPLE SOURCE OF THIS
INFORMATION AND ME. WARM REGARDS.

GP-1

PRIORITY FOR TRANSMISSION ONLY. DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS.

BT

3209

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 CG III MAF		DATE 21 MAY 69	
			SERIAL# / CONTROL DATE 211448Z MAY 69		COPY# 1 OF 3 COPIES RECO	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
1	CG			21 May		MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY
	DCG					REMARKS THIS DOCUMENT MAY NOT BE RETAINED OVER NIGHT EXCEPT AS NOTED IN FORCE ORDER P5511.4...
	DCG AIR					
	C/S					THE RECORD OF DISCLOSURE MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL PERSONS SIGHTING THIS DOCUMENT.
	DC/S					
1	DC/S PLAN					ORIG - G-3 REL - CG
	S/S	I	5/22			
	G-1					<p>EXCLUSIVE FOR MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY</p> <p>HAS BEEN SENT</p> <p>(25) TOP SECRET</p>
	G-2					
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	SUPPLY					
	LEGAL					
	PMO					
	S&C					

TOP SECRET

QITZYUW RHMAFA3210 1411448-TTTT--RUHFMA.

ZNY TTTT

0211448Z MAY 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHFMA/CG FMFPAC

BT

TOP SECRET/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE/FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN

NICKERSON/MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

SUBJ: FORCE REDUCTION

A. CG III MAF 211446Z MAY 69 (TS)

1. IAW REF A FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES ARE PROVIDED:

A. ALTERNATIVE I

UIC	UNIT	CODE	12MAY69 ACTUAL STRENGTH	DOD PROG 6	CIC PROG 6	MACV REQUIRED STRENGTH
13000	3D MARDIV		22,193	22,357	21,323	21,332
13001	HQ BN	C	1,889	1,203	1,316	
13100	3D MAR REGT	C	3,899	3,797	3,843	
13150	4TH MAR REGT	C	3,820	3,797	3,843	
13200	9TH MAR REGT	C	3,777	3,797	3,843	
13300	12TH MAR REGT	CS	2,748	2,755	2,822	

PAGE TWO RHMAFA 3210 TOP SECRET SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO

13730	3D AT BN	CS	19	381	0	
13700	3D RECON BN	C	671	470	582	
13020	3D MED BN	CSS	144	123	156	
13650	3D MT BN	CSS	286	292	292	
13550	3D SP BN	CSS	453	466	469	
13400	3DENGR BN	CS	683	756	770	
FORCE TROOPS UNITS						
21430	3DTKBN, FMF	CS	562	674	549	
28020	9THMTBN, FMF	CSS	394	404	407	
21880	11THE NGRBN, FMF	CS	1,003	1,094	1,096	
21800	1STAMTRACBN, FMF	CS	496	690	0	
21497	1STARMEDAMPHIBCO	CS	42	216	42	
28352	3DRECONCO, FMF	C	155	154	156	
21335	3DBRIDGECO, FMF	CSS	156	178	183	
20063	3DDENTALCO, FMF	CSS	0	3	4	
11660	DET 1STSERBN	CSS	150	150	150	
21503	1STSCHLTBTRY, FMF	CS	82	116	117	
21635	7THCOMMBN, FMF	CS	683	744	586	
5964	7TH ITT	CS	10	11	11	
5986	15TH ITT	CS	8	11	11	

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES

III MAF 2100/4

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA 3210 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO

95987	17H ITT	CS	12	11	11
95967	3D IT	CS	5	6	6
95993	9TH IT	CS	2	6	6
95994	11TH IT	CS	4	6	6
95952	7TH CIT	CS	16	16	16
95957	15TH CIT	CS	13	16	16
95977	1ST SSCT	CS	11	9	14
00102	1ST MAW ELEMS		4,006	3,744	3,850
00102	1STMAW(REAR) F	CS	154	154	154
01027	DET H&S-1(MWSG) F	CS	107	107	107
00106	DET MWFS-1	F CSS	98	98	98
00107	DET MWCS-1	F CSS	119	119	119
00131	DET MWSG-17	I CS	456	456	456
00132	DET VER 9-17	I CS	133	133	133
00143	DET H&S-18(MACG) F	CS	70	70	70
00982	DET MASS-2 (MACG) F	CS	126	126	126
01223	VMA-223	I C	178	259	0
01542	VMFA(F4B)-542	I C	294	385	385
01175	HMM 164(SLF)	F C	280	280	270
01265	HMM 265(SLF)	F C	280	280	270

PAGE FOUR RHMMAFA 3210 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO

01367	HMM 361	F CS	309	309	263
01031	HML 367	F CS	201	164	253
01024	DET VMO-6	F CS	174	174	174
01026	H&S-36	F CS	472	266	333
01026	MABS-36	F CS	555	364	639

B. ALTERNATIVES II AND IIA

UIC	UNIT	CODE	ACTUAL STRENGTH	DOD PROG 6	CMC PROG 6	MACV REQ'D STRENGTH
SUB-TOTAL ALTERNATIVE I						
	3D MARDIV	C	22,193	22,357	21,323	21,332
	MAG & SVC SUP		4,006	3,774	3,850	4,000
3D INCREMENT:						
11660	DIV SER BN (FLC)	CSS	731	731	731	1,500
20128	DET HQ III MAF	C	130	130	130	130
TOTALS ALT II & IIA:			27,060	26,962	26,034	26,962
PLUS OVER, - SHORT			PLUS 98	0	-928	

GP-1
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3210

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

(25)

HEADQUARTERS
MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

SECRET

IMAF FORM 5216 (REV 3-68)

OPERATION CODE X-ORIGINATOR A-ACTION/COGNIZANCE C-COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I-INFORMATION S-SIGNATURE			FROM COMNAVFORV		DATE 27 MAY 1969	
			SERIAL#/CONTROL DATE 270805Z		COPIES 3 OF 4 COPIES RECD	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG			28 MAY	N	REMARKS (1)
	DCG					
	DCG AIR					RECEIVED BY _____
2	C/S	I				
	D C/S					TOR
	D C/S DM					
1	S/S	Z	5/27		12/8	OK Advice! N Done D
	G-1					
	G-2					
	G-3					
	G-4			28 May		
	G-5					
	G-6					
	ADJ					
	CAP					
	CORDS					
	EMB/TRANS					
	ENGR					
	H&S CO					
	INSP					
	MTO					
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	SUPPLY					
	S&C					

(26)

SECRET

P 270805Z ZFF-1
 FM COMNAVFORV
 TO CG III MAF
 CINCPACFLT
 COMUSMACV
 ZEM

SECRET EYES ONLY

PERSONAL-EYEYS ONLY FOR GENERAL AB^{ams}
 ADMIRAL HYLAND AND LGEN NICKERSON FROM ZUMWALT

1. (S) IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO EFFECT REDUCTION IN NAVY CONSTRUCTION TROOPS OF FOUR BATTALIONS OF SEABEES, IF REQUIRED BY EXECUTION OF CURRENT FORCE REDUCTION PLANS, FOLLOWING ACTIONS WOULD SEEM TO BE REQUIRED IN ORDER TO BE ABLE TO COMPLETE VNN BASES AND VIETNAMIZATION OF NAVAL WAR WHILE STILL SUPPORTING VITAL I CORPS REQUIREMENTS.

A. REPROGRAM FUNDS TO INCREASE MILCON. FIFTEEN MILLION DOLLARS ANNUALLY PER CB BN WITHDRAWN IS OUR PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE FOR ADD ON REQUIRED TO CONTINUE SUCH CONSTRUCTION. IF 4 CB BNS ARE WITHDRAWN THE FULL SIXTY MILLION MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY DEPENDING ON WHETHER TROOP REDUCTION IN FACT RESULTS IN REDUCTION OF I CORPS CONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS. TO REFINE THESE FIGURES WOULD REQUIRE BROADENING OF NUMBERS OF PERSONS EXPOSED TO PLANS.

B. RELAX GOALS OF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONAL PHASE OUT PLANS IN ORDER THAT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR RETAIN NECESSARY SKILLS.

C. CANCEL PHASE OUT PLANS FOR CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION.

D. ASCERTAIN EXTENT TO WHICH CIVILIANIZATION OF CONSTRUCTION CAN BE UTILIZED BY OTHER SERVICES.

2. (S) ALTHOUGH REDUCTION IN CB BNS WILL RESULT IN

SEVERE LOSS OF RESPONSIVENESS IN CONSTRUCTION, IT IS A REDUCTION IN MILITARY FORCES THE IMPACT OF WHICH CAN, WITH CAREFUL PLANNING WORK AND FAVORABLE OSD ACTION ON FUNDING BE RESTORED IN LARGE PART BY CONTRACTOR / CIVILIAN FORCES

@P-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS.

540

SECRET