

1. CG FMFPAC LTR TO CMC OF 15SEP69 (TS) (gp - not shown)  
CONSOLIDATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS AND XXIV CORPS
2. CG III MAF 171315Z OCT69 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp-3)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
CONSOLIDATION OF THE III MAF HQ AND XXIV CORPS
3. CG III MAF 011200Z NOV69 (TS) (gp-4)  
JPC PREPARATION OF IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIF-  
AMALGAMATION
4. CG III MAF 020616Z NOV69 (TS) SPECAT EXCLUSIVE (gp-3)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN
5. CG FMFPAC 040211Z NOV69 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE  
RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN
6. CG III MAF 031100Z NOV69 (TS) SPECAT EXCLUSIVE (gp-4)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN
7. CG III MAF 050918Z NOV69 (TS) SPECAT EXCLUSIVE (gp-4)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN
8. CG III MAF 130803Z NOV69 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp - not shown)  
FOR TOWNSEND FROM NICKERSON  
PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO AMALGAMATION OF III MAF  
HQ AND XXIV CORPS
9. CMC 141249Z NOV69 (TS) PERSONAL MCEO (gp-3)  
FOR BUSE INFO NICKERSON FROM CHAPMAN  
RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN
10. COMUSMACV 151331Z NOV69 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp-4)  
FOR NICKERSON FROM TOWNSEND  
PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO THE AMALGAMATION OF III MAF  
HQ AND XXIV CORPS
11. CG III MAF 191349Z NOV69 SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO (gp-4)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS FOR III MAF HEADQUARTES
12. CG III MAF 201322Z NOV69 SPECAT EXCLUSIVE (gp-4)  
FOR BUSE FROM NICKERSON  
PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS FOR III MAF HEADQUARTERS

13. CG FMFPAC 212003Z NOV69 (TS) SPECAT EXCLUSIVE MCEO (gp-4)  
FOR NICKERSON FROM BUSE  
FORCE PLANNING AND PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS
14. CG FMFPAC 312123Z DEC 69 (TS) Marine Corps Eyes Only (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON FROM LTGEN BUSE  
III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS AMALGAMATION (U)
15. CG III MAF 310616Z DEC 69 (TS) (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS AMALGAMATION
16. CG III MAF 150954Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE/PERSONAL FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
USMC COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE IN ICTZ - PROPOSED MSG TO COMUSMACV  
AMALGAMATION
17. CG FMFPAC 162302Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON FROM LTGEN BUSE  
USMC COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE IN ICTZ - APPROVAL FOR PROPOSAL OF
18. CG III MAF 170918Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
USMC COMMAND CONTROL STRUCTURE IN ICTZ FORWARDING TO COMUSMACV
19. CG III MAF 170930Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp-4)  
FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQs FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ - ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR COMMAND  
IN ICTZ
20. CG III MAF 190255Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp-4)  
FOR LTGEN ZAIS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQs FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ - READDRESSAL OF TWO ALTERNATIVES
21. CG III MAF 211008Z JAN 70 (TS) (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
III MAF HEADQUARTERS - SIMPLER SOLUTION TO PROPOSED  
ALTERNATIVES FUTURE HQS ELEMENT IN I CORPS
22. CG III MAF 241306Z JAN 70 (TS) (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
III MAF HQS COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS
23. CG III MAF 221004Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
III MAF HQS - SUGGESTED EARLY MARCH DATE F/COFC PRIOR TO WIEU
- ~~CG III MAF 200225Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
USMC COMMAND AND CONTROL STRUCTURE IN ICTZ - APPROVAL FOR PROPOSAL OF~~
- 25.25. CG III MAF 260926Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY (gp-4)  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQs FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN ICTZ - ADDRESSAL TO FMFPAC

26. CG XXIV CORPS 270134Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp - Not shown*  
FROM LTGEN ZAIS TO LTGEN NICKERSON  
APPROPRIATE FOR FUNCTIONS OF CG III MAF BE PERFORMED BY  
OTHER THAN CG 1ST MARDIV
27. CG III MAF 270830Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-4*  
EXCLUSIVE FOR GEN ABRAMS INFO LTGEN ZAIS FROM LTGEN  
NICKERSON  
HQ FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN ICTZ (U) - CG 1STMARDIV  
ADDITIONAL DUTY CG III MAF
28. CG FMFPAC 272322Z JAN 70 (TS) MCEO *gp-4*  
EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON FROM LTGEN BUSE  
HQS, US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN I CORPS (U) - WHEELER'S 271944Z  
JAN 70 TO MCCAIN INFO ABRAMS
29. COMUSMACV CITE 1479 DTG 311100Z JAN 70 (TS) EYES ONLY *gp-4*  
FROM GEN ABRAMS TO LTGEN NICKERSON INFO LTGEN ZAIS  
HQ FOR U.S. COMMAND ELEMENTS IN I CTZ (U) - IMPLEMENTING  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF I CORPS AREA RESPONSIBILITIES  
AND INTERIM FUNCTION OF CG, III MAF
30. CG III MAF 010330Z FEB 70 (S) EYES ONLY *gp-4*  
FOR LTGEN MILDREN INFO LTGEN ZAIS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
TRANSFER OF III MAF AUGMENTATION PERSONNEL

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**SECRET**

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

OPERATION CODE X- ORIGINATOR A- ACTION/COGNIZANCE C- COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I- INFORMATION S- SIGNATURE				FROM CG III MAF		DATE 07 FEB 70	
				SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE P 010330Z FEB 70		COPY NO 2 OF 4 COPIES REC'D	
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	
			IN	OUT			
	CG					TRANSFER OF III MAF AUGMENTATION PERSONNEL REMARK	
	DCG						
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**DISPOSITION**

RETAIN FOR \_\_\_ MONTHS

DESTROY AFTER ROUTING

RETURN FOR PERMANENT RETENTION

SECTION	SIGNATURE

HAS BEEN SENT

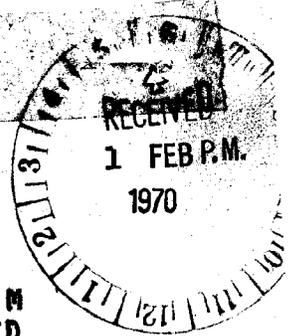
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

**SECRET**

30



FM III MAF  
TO SSO SARR  
INFO XXIV CORPS

E I/EYES ONLY/SENSITIVE FOR LIGEN MILDREN INFO LIGEN  
INFO FROM LIGEN NICKERSON //NO1300//

TRANSFER OF III MAF AUGMENTATION PERSONNEL  
A. TDA P5WOBRAAD3 FOR HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM  
1. CG XXIV CORPS REQUESTS THAT ALL ARMY OFFICERS AND ENLISTED  
PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ASSIGNED TO THIS HEADQUARTERS IN ACCORDANCE  
WITH REFERENCE A, BE TRANSFERRED TO XXIV CORPS EFFECTIVE 9 MARCH  
1970. THESE PERSONNEL OCCUPY MANY KEY POSITIONS ON III MAF STAFF  
AND WILL BE IMPORTANT IN AN ORDERLY TRANSFER OF RESPONSIBILITIES.  
WARM REGARDS.  
GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS  
127

NNNN

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**SECRET**

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**  
**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			FROM GEN ABRAMS COMUSMACV		DATE 31 JAN 70					
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 311100Z JAN 70		COPY NO. 2 OF 4 COPIES REC'D					
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOPSECRET MAG 1479 E0				
	CG	I	IN	OUT		HQ FOR U.S. COMMAND ELEMENTS IN				
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	C/S	I				REMARKS:				
	DC/S					<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">           DISPOSITION:   <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.  <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.         </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Section</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Signature</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 5px;">           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.         </div>	Section	Signature		
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**TOP SECRET**  
**TOP SECRET** (29)

1/31/74 Sgt. J. D. Hester

MACV

031100

24

HQ U.S. ELEMENTS IN ICTZ

0211100Z ZYM ZFF-6 ZFF-3  
FM GEN BRANS COMUSMACV SAIGON  
TO LTG BICKELSON CG III MAF DAMEN  
INFO LTG ZAIS CG XXIV CORPS PHU DAI  
ZEM

TOP SECRET MAC 1479 EYES ONLY  
SUBJECT: HQ FOR U.S. COMMAND ELEMENTS IN I CTZ (U)  
REFS: A. MACV 1165/260225Z JAN 70 (TS).  
B. III MAF 270830Z JAN 70 (TS).

1. (TS) REFERENCES ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:
  - A. REF A CONTAINS IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF I CORPS AREA RESPONSIBILITIES FROM III MAF TO XXIV CORPS.
  - B. REF B PROPOSES THAT THE INTERIM FUNCTION OF CG, III MAF BE PERFORMED BY A MARINE DEPUTY COMMANDER, XXIV CORPS, THAT THE VIETNAMESE BE INFORMED EARLY OF THE PLAN, AND THAT AN APPROPRIATE PRESS RELEASE BE MADE NOW.
2. (TS) INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM JCS THAT CMC WILL NOMINATE THREE STAR OFFICER JUNIOR TO GENERAL ZAIS AS CG, III MAF.
3. (TS) ANNOUNCEMENT ON COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS IN I CTZ IS TO BE MADE COMMAND-WIDE SHORTLY BY GENERAL SERVICE MESSAGE. MESSAGE WILL AUTHORIZE CG, III MAF, TO INFORM CG, I CTZ OF THE PLAN ON A SPECIFIED DATE. JCS WILL BE INFORMED BY MACV ON SAME DATE.
4. (TS) ANTICIPATE ISSUING A MACV PRESS RELEASE TIMED WITH CMC NOMINATION OF CG (DESIGNATE) III MAF.

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS  
250

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# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

I - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM <b>CG FMFPAC</b>		DATE <b>27 JAN 70</b>
			SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE <b>272322Z JAN 70</b>		COPY NO: <b>1</b> OF <b>3</b> COPIES REC'D		
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	
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	CG	I		<b>28 Jan 70</b>		<b>SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR (MCEO)</b>	
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REMARKS:

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**EXCLUSIVE  
FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY**

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**TOP SECRET**

CCN: 260/IN

FILE: EGG

CG FMFPAC

272322Z JAN 70

13

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR (MCEO)

S/SEC COPIES 1-2-3 OF 3 COPIES

TAPE AND MAT

28  
TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

OO BINHMAFA  
DE RUHHFMA 3223 087232Z  
ZNY TTTT  
O 272622Z JAN 70  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO BINHMAFA/CG III MAF  
BT

25236

T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN RICKERSON FROM  
LTGEN BUSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY //N00000//

1. (TS) FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF WHEELER'S 271944Z JAN70  
TO MCCAIN INFO ABRAMS. PLEASE PROTECT OUR SOURCE.

QUOTE:

SUBJ: HEADQUARTERS, US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN I CORPS (U)  
REF: MAC 1163/260203Z JAN 70 (EO).

1. (TS) THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS HAS DIS-  
CUSSED THE REFERENCED MESSAGE WITH ME. HE HAS NO  
PROBLEMS WITH THE CHANGES YOU PROPOSE EXCEPT THE ASSIGN-  
MENT OF III MAF FUNCTIONS AS AN ADDITIONAL DUTY OF CG,  
1ST MAR DIV.

2. (TS) CMC WOULD PREFER TO MAINTAIN A SEPARATE III  
MAF HEADQUARTERS IN BEING, ALTHOUGH SCALED DOWN, AS LONG  
AS THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND 3D MARINE AIR WING ARE  
PRESENT IN SOUTH VIETNAM. THE CMC INTENDS TO MAKE APPRO-

?

PAGE TWO RUHHFMA3223 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR  
NCEO

PRIVATE NOMINATION FOR BILLET OF CG III MAF. WARM  
REGARDS.

UNQUOTE:

2. WARM REGARDS

GP-4

BT

3223.

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

28

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HEADQUARTERS  
III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG III MAF		DATE 27 JAN 76						
					SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 270830Z JAN 76		COPY NO. 2 OF 5 COPIES REC'D						
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT TOP SECRET HQ FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN ICTZ							
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	CG	I		2 Jan	N	REMARKS: DISPOSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.  <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Section</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> 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.				Section	Signature		
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III MAF

0270830

2-5-70

27 Jan 70 Bernard J. Young HQ for Command Elements

27 Jan 70 Walter Tuttle

27 Jan 70 Dennis D. Kelley

27

TOP SECRET

270240Z JAN 70  
FM CG III MAF  
TO COMUSMACV  
INFO US COMNAV  
INFO US 7TH CORPS

**T O P S E C R E T** LIMDIS/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE /EYES ONLY FOR GEN ABRAMS  
INFO LTGEN ZAIS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQ FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN ICTZ (U)

A. COMUSMACV 260225Z JAN 70

1. REF A CONTAINS IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRANSFER OF I CORPS AREA RESPONSIBILITIES FROM III MAF TO XXIV CORPS.

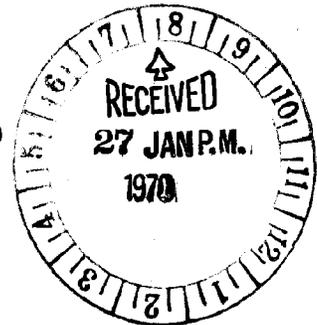
2. PARA 3.D OF REF A VISUALIZES THAT THE FUNCTION OF CG III MAF CAN BE PERFORMED IN THE INTERIM AS AN ADDITIONAL DUTY OF CG 1ST MARDIV. AS I INFORMED CARTER TOWNSEND YESTERDAY, THIS POSES SEVERAL PROBLEMS. FIRST, INCUMBENT CG 1ST MARDIV IS THE JUNIOR MARINE MGEN IN III MAF. SECOND, IN VIEW OF MANY PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FORTHCOMING REDEPLOYMENT OF DIVISION AND WING, CONCURRENT WITH THEIR MAINTAINING AN OPERATIONAL POSTURE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE IT PRUDENT NOT TO DOUBLE-HAT EITHER OF THESE COMMANDERS. FROM A PRACTICAL STANDPOINT IT WOULD BE FAR BETTER IF THE COMMANDER OF III MAF WERE DISTINCT AND ALSO SERVE AS DEPUTY COMMANDER XXIV CORPS.

3. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT CMC INTENDS TO NOMINATE AN OFFICER JUNIOR TO MEL ZAIS AND OTHER THAN MGEN BOWMAN FOR DUTY AS THREE-STAR COMMANDER OF III MAF. I AM TOLD THIS POSITION WILL BE MADE KNOWN TO CINCPAC, IF IT HAS NOT ALREADY BEEN DONE.

4. RECEIVED MEL ZAIS' COMMENTS TODAY. IN REGARD TO PARA 3.D, HE STATES IT COULD WORK BUT BELIEVES IT MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE FUNCTIONS OF CG III MAF TO BE PERFORMED BY OTHER THAN CG 1ST MARDIV CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE DIVISION, ADMIN, LOGISTIC AND REDEPLOYMENT DUTIES, AND THE TACTICAL SITUATION.

5. PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR THE TRANSFER OF AREA RESPONSIBILITIES TO XXIV CORPS. PLANNING GROUPS FROM THE RESPECTIVE STAFFS HAVE BEEN FORMED. MY GUIDANCE TO THE III MAF STAFF IS THAT PRIMARY CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE MAINTENANCE OF OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY THROUGHOUT THE CHANGEVER.

6. I NOTE THAT THE IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS ARE CLASSIFIED TOP SECRET. IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY ERRONEOUS CONCLUSIONS ON THE PART OF THE PRESS WHO MIGHT BE TEMPTED TO TIE THE SHIFT IN WITH FURTHER REDEPLOYMENTS, IT MIGHT BE PRUDENT TO HAVE MACCOI PREPARE AN APPROPRIATE PRESS RELEASE NOW TO PREVENT RUMORS. FURTHER, I BELIEVE I SHOULD INFORM GENERAL LAM OF OUR PLANS EARLY. WARM



27

DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)

HAS BEEN

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# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

OPERATION CODE X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			FROM LTG ZAIS      XXIV CORPS		DATE 27 JAN 70					
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 270134Z JAN 70		COPY NO. 2 OF 5 COPIES REC'D					
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
	CG	I	IN	OUT		REF: MAC 1165, DTG 260225Z				
	DCG	I		1/31	15	REMARKS: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     DISPOSITION:  <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.  <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.                 </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Section</td> <td style="width: 50%;">Signature</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> <p>REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.4.</p> <p>The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this Document.</p>	Section	Signature		
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**TOP SECRET**

26

LTG ZAIS CG XXIV CORPS  
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270134 2 5

PHB 214

27 Jan 70 Dennis D. Kelley

27 Jan 70 Walter Tuttle

27 Jan 70 Bernard J. Young

01701  
O 270134Z ZYH ZFFI ZFF4  
FM LTG ZAIS CG XXIV CORPS  
TO LTG NICKERSON CG III MAF  
ZEM

TOP SECRET PHB 210 EYES ONLY

REF: MAC 1165, DTG 260225Z JAN 70 (IS)

1. ACTION IS ALREADY UNDER WAY IAW WITH PARA 3 OF REF MESSAGE.
2. REF PARA 3D. THIS COULD WORK, BUT BELIEVE IT MAY BE MORE APPROPRIATE FOR THE FUNCTIONS OF CG, III MAF, TO BE PERFORMED BY OTHER THAN CG, 1ST MAR DIV. WITH THE ADMINISTRATIVE, LOGISTICAL AND MARINE REEMPLOYMENT PLANNING DUTIES, THIS SEEMS TO BE TOO HEAVY A LOAD FOR THE CG, 1ST MAR DIV CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THE DIVISION AND THE TACTICAL SITUATION IN HIS AREA.

SSO NOTE: PRECEDENCE FOR TRANSMISSION ONLY  
DELIVER DURING DUTY HOURS

150

THIS MSG REQUIRES ACCOUNTABILITY COPY 2 OF 5 COPIES

NNNN

TOP SECRET



# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			FROM CG III MAF		DATE 26 JAN 70	
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 260926Z JAN 70	COPY NO. 1 OF 3 COPIES REC'D		
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG					HQ FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS ICTZ
	DCG	I		1/31	B	
	C/S	I		1/27	T	REMARKS:
	DC/S					
	DCS PLANS	I				DISPOSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.
	DEP CORDS					
	DSA ICTZ					Section _____ Signature _____  REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.A.  The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this Document.
	S/S	T	1/27		CG	
	G-1					<h2 style="margin: 0;">EXCLUSIVE FOR EYES ONLY</h2> <p style="margin: 0; font-size: 1.5em;">HAS BEEN SENT</p>
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(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

~~TOP SECRET~~

CGCN: 066:OUT/

FILE: EGG

CG III MAF

DATE

SIGNATURE

260926Z JAN 70

COPIES 1 3

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HQ FOR US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN IGTZ

S/SEC COPIES 1-2-3 OF 3 COPIES

TAPE AND MATS

~~TOP SECRET~~

NO PERSON WHO HANDLES THIS DOCUMENT

SHALL SIGN THIS MESSAGE

25

TOP SECRET

OTTHMUN RHMMAFARZAB SRGSDRC-YTTT--RHMMAF.

ZNY  
D 2300Z JAN 70  
FM COM III MAF  
TO RHMMAFARZAB NFRAC

1. O P S E C R I T (EXCLUSIVE) (NOFORN) (NOFORN DISSEM)  
FROM LYCEN-NICHOLSON (REMOVED) DURING WORKING VISITS  
FOR HQ US COMMAND ELEMENTS IN YCZ (19)  
IF THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM USMC  
TOWNSEND.

QUOTE  
HQ FOR U.S. COMMAND ELEMENTS IN YCZ (19)  
A. III MAF (17036Z JAN 70) (NOFORN)  
1. (TS) REFERENCE PROPOSED TWO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR  
THE TRANSITION OF U.S. COMMAND ELEMENTS IN YCZ (19) OF  
WHICH INVOLVED A DEGREE OF MERGER OR AMALGAMATION OF HQ  
III MAF AND HQ XXIV CORPS, WITH THE LATTER BEING REMAINED  
HQ XXIV.  
2. (TS) BOTH ALTERNATIVES HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED; HOWEVER,  
IT APPEARS THAT CONTINUITY OF COMMAND AND CONTROL CAN BE  
OBTAINED AND TURBULENCE MINIMIZED BY TRANSFER OF RESPON-

PAGE TWO RHMMAFARZAB T O P S E C R I T (EXCLUSIVE) (NOFORN) (NOFORN DISSEM) ONLY/  
SINICITIES WITHOUT INTERIM MERGERS, AMALGAMATION, OR NAME  
CHANGE FOR XXIV CORPS.

- 3. (TS) ACCORDINGLY, COMUSMACV HAS APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:
    - A. XXIV CORPS IS TO ASSUME AREA RESPONSIBILITIES FROM  
III MAF ON 9 MARCH 1970, AT WHICH TIME III MAF WILL  
COME UNDER THE OPERATIONAL CONTROL OF XXIV CORPS,  
I.E., THE REVERSE OF CURRENT RELATIONSHIP.
    - B. HQ III MAF (SCALED DOWN) IS TO REMAIN TO HANDLE  
SERVICE MATTERS AND THEN PHASE OUT AS THE 1ST MARINE  
DIVISION/MAV (MINUS) IS REDEPLOYED.
    - C. THERE IS TO BE APPROPRIATE USMC REPRESENTATION WITH  
HQ XXIV CORPS UNTIL THE SUPPORT LEVEL IS REACHED.
    - D. IT IS VISUALIZED THAT THE FUNCTION OF COM III MAF  
CAN BE PERFORMED IN THE INTERIM AS AN ADDITIONAL DUTY  
OF CG, 1ST MARDIV.
  - 4. (U) REQUEST THAT PLANNING AND COORDINATION WITH CGM  
ZAIS BASED UPON THE FOREGOING BE INITIATED WITHOUT DELAY,  
SHIFT IN COMMAND TAKE PLACE ON 9 MARCH 1970, AND THAT  
COMUSMACV BE KEPT INFORMED OF PROGRESS IN THE INTERIM.
- UNQUOTE.

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

25

TOP SECRET

PAGE THREE RHMMAF2843 T O P S E C R E T /EXCLUSIVE FOR EYES ONLY/

2. THE PROPOSAL IN PARAGRAPH 3.D CAME AS A SURPRISE. UPON RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE MESSAGE I PHONED TOWNSEND. HE INFORMED ME THAT PART 3 HAD BEEN TRANSMITTED TO JCS AND CENCPAC AS INSTRUCTIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO XXIV CORPS AND IXTM AF FOR IMPLEMENTATION. HE POINTED OUT THE PROBLEMS WHICH SUBPARA 3 WOULD CREATE. HE STATED THAT HE COMPLETELY MISSED THIS AND THAT WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS I WANT WOULD BE AGREEABLE TO HIM. IN VIEW OF SENIORITY, I SUGGESTED THAT, IF CMC APPROVES, BOWMAN IS THE LOGICAL MAN FOR CG IIX MAF AND DEPUTY CG XXIV CORPS. HE THEN STATED THAT WHATEVER ZAIS AND I WOULD DO WOULD BE SATISFACTORY.

3. I TALKED TO ZAIS WHO HAS INFO ADDRESSED ON THE ABOVE MESSAGE. HE STATED THAT RATHER THAN HAVING CG IIX MAF DIV DOUBLE THAT AS CG IIX MAF HE WOULD RECOMMEND BOWMAN AS CG IIX MAF AND DEPUTY CG XXIV CORPS. HE WILL TRANSMIT HIS RECOMMENDATIONS TO ME FOR FURTHER TRANSMITTAL TO COMUS.

4. IT IS PROPOSED THAT I INFORM COMUS OF THE PROBLEMS OF COMMAND AND SECURITY CREATED BY SUBPARA 3.D (OP WHICH

PAGE FOUR RHMMAF2843 T O P S E C R E T /EXCLUSIVE FOR EYES ONLY/

THEY ARE ALREADY MADE) AND RECOMMEND THAT BOWMAN BE MADE CG IIX MAF WITH ADDITIONAL DUTIES AS DEPUTY CG XXIV CORPS.

WARM REGARDS,

GP-4

BT

2843

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

25

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM <b>CG III MAF</b>		DATE <b>22 JAN 70</b>
					SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE <b>221004Z JAN 70</b>		COPY NO. <b>1</b> OF <b>3</b> COPIES REC'D
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	
			IN	OUT			
	CG	I		<b>23 Jan 70</b>	<b>N</b>	SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR (MCEO)	
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	C/S	I		<b>1/23</b>	<b>S</b>		
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DISPOSITION:

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Section	Signature

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FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY  
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**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET

CCN: 58 / OUT

FILE GR

CG 111 MAF

221004Z JAN 70

1/3

FOR LTGEN BUSE

SECRET

S/SEC COPY 1,2&3 OF 3 COPIES TAPE&MAT

TOP SECRET  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ATTENTION: SECURITY

23

TOP SECRET

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TOP SECRET

... DURING MY VISIT TO THE CORPS TODAY ZANE TOLD ME HE HAD  
SUGGESTED EARLY MARCH AS THE DATE TO CHANGE COMMAND. ALSO,  
THEY WERE NOT SURE MAGV HOURS UNDERSTOOD ALL THE PROBLEMS  
AND NEED TO SET DATES, ETC. I COULD ONLY SUGGEST TO TELL HIS  
STORY TO COMMANDER ZANE AND HIS ZANE WILL BE TOISE GUEST THIS  
WEEKEND IN SAIGON. I GO DOWN SATURDAY AS A FORWIND. WILL  
FURNISH WHAT I CAN BUREAU AFTER SATURDAY MEETING. SUGGEST  
OCC WITH THE BULLOCK BY PREPARING A NOMINATION AS MY RELIEF FOR  
BE EFFECTIVE IN WHICH WARD REERDS.

SP-4  
BT  
2884

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES

23

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE			FROM		DATE					
LIMDIS			CG III MAF DNG RVN		24 JAN 70					
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DRAFTED: G/S  
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FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY  
HAS BEEN SENT  
"LIMDIS"**

(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

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"LIMDIS"

GCN: 064/OUT

FILE: EGG

CG III MAF DNG RVN

DATE:

SECRET

241306Z JAN 70

13

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR (MCEO)

S/SEC COPIES 1-2-3 OF 3 COPIES

TAPE AND MAT

"LIMDIS"

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TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

22

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

011719 0101AF2671 0241306Z JAN 70

ZNY TTTT

0 241306Z JAN 70

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHFMW/CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T/LIMDIS/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE/FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM  
LTGEN WICKERSON (MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY) (DELIVER DURING  
WORKING HOURS)

III MAF HQS COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS

1. DURING A BREAK AT TODAY'S WIEU I TALKED WITH CARTER  
TOWNSEND WHO INDICATED THAT COMUS WANTED TO TALK TO ZAIS  
AND ME IN REGARD TO THE COMMAND ARRANGEMENTS IN ICTZ. I  
LEARNED FROM TOWNSEND AT THAT TIME THAT COMUS WAS AGAINST  
ANOTHER THREE STARS TO REPLACE ME AS CG III MAF.
2. LATER I SAW COMUS WITH TOWNSEND. COMUS AGREED TO  
SEND A MESSAGE CONCERNING THIS SUBJECT. HE STATED HE  
WOULD SEND IT THROUGH HIS REGULAR CHANNEL SINCE, AS HE  
SAID QUOTE EVERYONE WILL WANT TO GET INTO THIS ACT  
UNQUOTE. HE INTENDS TO DESIGNATE 9 MARCH AS THE DATE FOR  
XXIV CORPS AND III MAF STAFFS TO SWITCH POSITIONS. HE  
EXPECTS BOTH STAFFS TO DRAW DOWN ON THEIR CURRENT

PAGE TWO RHMMAFA2671 T O P S E C R E T/LIMDIS/EXCLUSIVE FOR/MCEO/  
STRENGTHS BEGINNING NOW. I BELIEVE HE WILL ALSO STATE  
IN HIS MESSAGE THAT A THREE STAR REPLACEMENT FOR ME IS  
NEITHER REQUIRED NOR DESIRED. FURTHER, I THINK GEORGE  
BOWMAN IS HIS IDEA OF A SUITABLE CANDIDATE NOT ONLY AS CG  
III MAF BUT ALSO AS DEPUTY FOR ZAIS IN HIS NEW POSITION  
AS COMMANDER OF US FORCES IN I CORPS.

3. THIS LATTER DEVELOPMENT, THAT IS HAVING THE NEW CG III  
MAF ALSO DESIGNATED DEPUTY FOR XXIV CORPS, HAS, I BELIEVE,  
CONSIDERABLE MERIT ESPECIALLY FROM THE STANDPOINT OF  
PROTECTING THE STATUS OF MARINE AVIATION.

4. ZAIS AND HIS WIFE ARE HOUSE GUESTS OF ABRAMS THIS WEEKEND  
AND I AM CERTAIN THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED SO I  
DOUBT IF THERE WILL BE ANY CHANGES IN COMUSMACV'S BASIC  
POSITION.

5. WE ARE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR CERTAIN ACTIONS TO SCALE  
DOWN THE CURRENT SIZE OF THE III MAF STAFF. HOWEVER, ANY  
MAJOR REDUCTIONS MUST WAIT UNTIL XXIV CORPS HAS ASSUMED  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR I CORPS WHICH MEANS MID-MARCH. MEAN-  
WHILE, I SUGGEST IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO TURN OFF THE  
PIPELINE INTO III MAF HQS NOW TO AVOID UNNECESSARY TRANSFERS

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA2671 T O P S E C R E T/LIMDIS/EXCLUSIVE FOR/MCEO/  
LATER. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

2671

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

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TOP SECRET

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG FMPPAG <i>W MAF</i>		DATE 21 JAN 78					
					SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE 211008Z JAN 78		COPY NO: <i>2</i> OF <i>3</i> COPIES REC'D					
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	REMARKS:					
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	CG					SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR	DISPOSITION:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.  <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Section</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> 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.		Section	Signature		
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21

TOP SECRET

CGN1053/OUT

FILE/JMG

CG FMFPAC

211008Z JAN 70 COPY 2 OF 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

DECLASSIFIED

S/S

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DATE 12/15/98 BY 1043/UCBA/STP

(21)

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

0111Z YUM RHMMAFA2263 021100Z TTTT--RUMHFM3.

ZNY TTTT

O 211000Z JAN 70

FM CG III MAF

TO RUMHFM3/CG EMPFAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T SPECAT ENCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN  
DICKERSON (DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)

III MAF HEADQUARTERS

1. GEN JASKILKA HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.  
MY MESSAGE TO COMUSMACV IN REGARD TO THE FUTURE HQS  
ELEMENT IN I CORPS WAS PASSED TO GENERAL ZAIS BY MACV WITH THE  
FOLLOWING ADDENDUM.

QUOTE

IN THE INTEREST OF SEEKING A SIMPLER SOLUTION TO THE  
PROPOSED ALTERNATIVES, WE VISUALIZE XXIV CORPS TAKING  
OVER AREA RESPONSIBILITIES FROM III MAF DIRECTLY AS A  
DATE TO BE MUTUALLY AGREED. WE DO NOT FORESEE AMALGAMA-  
TION OR MERGER OF THE TWO HQS OR A CHANGE IN NAME OF XXIV  
CORPS AT THIS TIME. III MAF WOULD REMAIN, SCALED DOWN TO  
HANDLE SERVICE MATTERS, SUBORDINATE TO XXIV CORPS, AND  
PHASE OUT AS THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION IS REDEPLOYED. THERE

PAGE TWO RHMMAFA2263 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT ENCLUSIVE FOR  
COULD BE APPROPRIATE USMC REPRESENTATION AT XXIV CORPS  
UNTIL THE SUPPORT FORCE LEVEL IS REACHED. REQUEST CG  
XXIV CORPS PERSONAL COMMENTS AND ANY PROPOSALS AS TO  
TIMING.

UNQUOTE

2. I HAD PREVIOUSLY PASSED A COPY OF MY MESSAGE TO COMUS-  
MACV TO ZAIS. I WILL SEE HIM TOMORROW AND UNDOUBTEDLY  
RECEIVE HIS COMMENTS AT THAT TIME. THERE IS A MEET SCHED-  
ULED FOR SATURDAY 24 JAN AND IT IS LIKELY THAT COMUSMACV  
WILL WANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT AT THAT TIME.

3. IT IS APPARENT THAT OUR SECOND ALTERNATIVE IS  
RECEIVING PRIMARY CONSIDERATION, IN WHICH CASE THE NEW  
III MAF COMMANDER WILL HAVE TO BE JUNIOR TO ZAIS. IT IS  
SUGGESTED THAT CMC BE ALERTED TO THE NEED FOR MAKING A  
DECISION EARLY IN REGARD TO BOWMAN AND DAVIS. WARM  
REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

2263

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM		DATE			
					CG III MAF		19 JAN 76			
			SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE		COPY NO. 3 OF 4 COPIES REC'D					
			P 190255Z							
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
			IN	OUT						
	CG					HQS FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ REMARKS: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">                     DISPOSITION:  <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.  <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.                 </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Section</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">                     REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.4.                 </div> <p>The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this Document.</p>	Section	Signature		
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**TOP SECRET**

20

MAF

P190255 304

HQS US COMMAND ICTZ

1/19/70 Sgt. J.D. Hester  
1/19/70 Capt. E.D. Williams

P 190052Z 277-1 277-4

FM CG III MAF

TO COMUSMACV

~~T O P S E C R E T / EYES ONLY FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQS FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ~~

*TOR*  
*190355*  
*Jan 75*  
*OK*

1. THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

QUOTE

O 170930Z

FM CG III MAF

TO COMUSMACV

ZEM

T O P S E C R E T / EYES ONLY FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN NICKERSON  
HQS FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ

A. III MAF MEMO 26D/CRS 3000 SER 000122369 DTD 30 OCT 69

1. REF A PROPOSED THE AMALGAMATION OF THE III MAF AND XXIV CORPS  
HQS AND THE FORMATION OF A JOINT HQS TO COMMAND US FORCES IN ICTZ  
DURING REDEPLOYMENT PHASES THREE THROUGH SIX. THE PROPOSED AMALGA-  
MATION WAS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT MAJOR MARINE FORCES WOULD  
REMAIN IN ICTZ THROUGH PHASE SIX.

2. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION HAS BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE.

3. SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REF A, REDEPLOYMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN  
CONSIDERABLY ALTERED; THE PREPONDERANCE OF MARINE FORCES WILL  
PROBABLY REDEPLOY BY THE END OF PHASE IV.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT IS BELIEVED THE REQUIREMENT FOR A JOINT  
USMC/USA HQS IS NO LONGER VALID DUE TO ITS PROBABLE SHORT LIFE. THE  
FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS ARE PROPOSED.

5. ALTERNATIVE ONE: RETAIN HQS III MAF AS THE US COMMAND ELEMENT  
IN ICTZ UNTIL THE MARINE DIVISION AND WING REDEPLOY (DURING PHASE IV)  
AT WHICH TIME III MAF WOULD BE DISESTABLISHED AND REPLACED BY XFFV.  
DISESTABLISH XXIV CORPS AFTER TET. AFTER DISESTABLISHEDMENT OF XXIV  
CORPS, A NUMBER OF KEY STAFF BILLETS WITHIN III MAF WOULD BE ASSUMED  
BY US ARMY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF THE NEW XFFV HQS  
WHEN THE LATTER IS ESTABLISHED.

6. ALTERNATIVE TWO: ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED, XFFV/XXIV CORPS  
ASSUME COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ. PRIOR TO THAT DATE, A NUMBER  
OF US ARMY PERSONNEL WILL HAVE BEEN PHASED INTO THE III MAF STAFF  
AND A COMPARABLE NUMBER OF MARINE PERSONNEL PHASED OUT. ON THE DATE  
XFFV/XXIV CORPS ASSUMES COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ, III MAF, WITH  
A CONSIDERABLY REDUCED STAFF, WOULD BECOME SUBORDINATE TO XFFV/XXIV  
CORPS. III MAF WOULD: REMAIN A UNISERVICE COMMAND; HAVE ITS HQS  
SATELLITED ON ONE OF THE IN-COUNTRY MARINE COMMANDS; COORDINATE  
REDEPLOYMENT OF MARINE FORCES DURING PHASE IV; AND BE DISESTABLISHED  
UPON THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND FMAV (LATE  
IN PHASE IV).

7. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ALTERNATIVE ONE WOULD RESULT IN THE LEAST  
AMOUNT OF TURBULENCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INSTALLATIONS, PERSONNEL,  
AND COMMAND RELATIONS AND WOULD CAUSE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION  
IN THE VITAL CONTINUITY OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF US FORCES IN IC

8. WE CAN MAKE EITHER ALTERNATIVE WORK.

9. REQUEST DECISION AT AN EARLY DATE IN ORDER THAT PLANNING CAN  
PROCEED.

10. WARM REGARDS

UNQUOTE

2. WARM REGARDS.

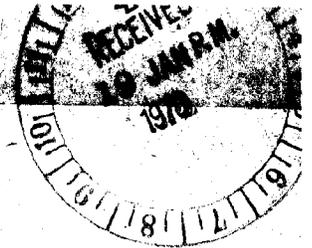
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SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS  
430

~~TOPSECRET, THIS MESSAGE REQUIRES ACCOUNTABILITY~~

COPY 3 OF 4



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**TOP SECRET**

20

**HEADQUARTERS  
MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE**

**TOP SECRET**

OPERATION CODE			FROM <b>CG III MAF</b>		FORM NO. 571.1 (1-54)					
X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			SERIAL NO./CLASS/DATE <b>0 170990Z JAN 70</b>		COPY NO. 2 OF 4 COPIES REC'D					
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
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	CG					<b>TOP SECRET/EYES ONLY</b> <b>HQS FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN</b> <b>ICTZ</b>  REMARKS:  DISPOSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for _____ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.  <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse; font-size: x-small;"> <tr> <th style="width:50%;">Section</th> <th style="width:50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5311.4.  The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons signing this document.	Section	Signature		
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(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

1. Temp. to ...

17-1-1907

2 4

...

Q 178930Z ZYH  
HQ OF III MAF  
COMUSMACV

TOP SECRET/EYES ONLY FOR GEN ABRAMS FROM LTGEN WICKERSON  
HQ5 FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ

A. III MAF MEMO 260/CRS 3009 SER 082122369 DTD 30 OCT 69

1. REF A PROPOSED THE AMALGAMATION OF THE III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS AND THE FORMATION OF A JOINT HQS TO COMMAND US FORCES IN ICTZ DURING REDEPLOYMENT PHASES THREE THROUGH SIX. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION WAS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT MAJOR MARINE FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN ICTZ THROUGH PHASE SIX.

2. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION HAS BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE.

3. SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REF A, REDEPLOYMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY ALTERED; THE PREPONDERANCE OF MARINE FORCES WILL PROBABLY REDEPLOY BY THE END OF PHASE IV.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT IS BELIEVED THE REQUIREMENT FOR A JOINT USMC/USA HQS IS NO LONGER VALID DUE TO ITS PROBABLE SHORT LIFE. THE FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS ARE PROPOSED.

5. ALTERNATIVE ONE: RETAIN HQS III MAF AS THE US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ UNTIL THE MARINE DIVISION AND WING REDEPLOY (DURING PHASE IV) AT WHICH TIME III MAF WOULD BE DISESTABLISHED AND REPLACED BY XFFV. DISESTABLISH XXIV CORPS AFTER TET. AFTER DISESTABLISHMENT OF XXIV CORPS, A NUMBER OF KEY STAFF BILLETTS WITHIN III MAF WOULD BE ASSUMED BY US ARMY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF THE NEW XFFV HQS WHEN THE LATTER IS ESTABLISHED.

6. ALTERNATIVE TWO: ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED, XFFV/XXIV CORPS ASSUME COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ. PRIOR TO THAT DATE, A NUMBER OF US ARMY PERSONNEL WILL HAVE BEEN PHASED INTO THE III MAF STAFF AND A COMPARABLE NUMBER OF MARINE PERSONNEL PHASED OUT. ON THE DATE XFFV/XXIV CORPS ASSUMES COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ, III MAF, WITH A CONSIDERABLY REDUCED STAFF, WOULD BECOME SUBORDINATE TO XFFV/XXIV CORPS. III MAF WOULD: REMAIN A UNISERVICE COMMAND; HAVE ITS HQS SATELLITED ON ONE OF THE IN-COUNTRY MARINE COMMANDS; COORDINATE REDEPLOYMENT OF MARINE FORCES DURING PHASE IV; AND BE DISESTABLISHED UPON THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE 1ST MARINE DIVISION AND FMAW (LATE IN PHASE IV).

7. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ALTERNATIVE ONE WOULD RESULT IN THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TURBULENCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INSTALLATIONS, PERSONNEL, AND COMMAND RELATIONS AND WOULD CAUSE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION IN THE VITAL CONTINUITY OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF US FORCES IN ICTZ.

8. WE CAN MAKE EITHER ALTERNATIVE WORK.

9. REQUEST DECISION AT AN EARLY DATE IN ORDER THAT PLANNING CAN PROCEED.

IF WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

SSO NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS  
372

THIS MSG REQUIRES ACCOUNTABILITY COPY 2 OF 4 COPIES

NNNN

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM	DATE				
					CG III MAF	17 JAN 70				
			SERIAL NO./CORRECT DATE		COPY NO. 2 OF 3 COPIES RECD					
			170918Z JAN 70							
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
			IN	OUT						
	CG					SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR  REMARKS: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0;">                     DISPOSITION:  <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.  <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.                 </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin: 5px 0;"> <tr> <th style="font-size: x-small;">Section</th> <th style="font-size: x-small;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td style="height: 20px;"></td> <td></td> </tr> </table> <div style="font-size: x-small; margin: 5px 0;">                     REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.4.                 </div> <div style="font-size: x-small; margin: 5px 0;">                     The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this document.                 </div>	Section	Signature		
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EXCLUSIVE  
FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY  
HAS BEEN SENT

(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

18

CCN:042/OUT

FILE/JMG

CG 111 MAF

170918Z JAN 70

2 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

S/S COPY 1,2,& 3 OF 3 COPIES  
TAPE & MAT

18

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

OITZYUW RIMMFA1899 0170918-TTTF--RUMHMA.

ZNY TTTF

O 170918Z JAN 70

FM CG, III MAF

TO CG, FMFPAC

BT

**T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L E X C L U S I V E F O R L I G E N B U S E F R O M L I G E N  
NICKERSON MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY (DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)**

A. CG, III MAF 150954Z JAN 70

B. CG, FMFPAC 162302Z JAN 70

1. PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN REF A AND MODIFIED TO REFLECT REF B  
HAS BEEN SENT TO COMUSMACV.

2. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

1855

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

COPY 2 OF 3 COPIES

**TOP SECRET**

18

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM <b>CG FMFPAC</b>		DATE <b>17 JAN 78</b>					
			SERIAL NO/CONTROL DATE <b>162302Z JAN 78</b>		COPY NO: <b>3</b> OF <b>3</b> COPIES RECD							
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT <b>SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR</b>						
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	CG					REMARKS: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;">                     DISPOSITION:  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.  <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.                 </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Section</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order F5511.4.  The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this document.			Section	Signature		
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EXCLUSIVE  
FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

COM:138/IN

FILE/JMG

CG FMFPAC

162302Z JAN 70

33

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

S/S COPY 1,2,& 3 OF 3 COPIES

TAPE & MAT

17

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET

OO RHHMAFA  
DE RHHMFA1942 0162502  
O 162502Z JAN 70  
FM CG FMPPAC  
TO RHHMAFA/CG III MAF  
BT

T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NICKERSON FROM  
LTGEN BOSE MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY //NOFORN//

A. CG III MAF 190954Z JAN 70

1. YOUR PROPOSAL CONTAINED REFERENCE A IS APPROVED EXCEPT WORDS QUOTE HAVE COMMAND LESS OPCON OF ASSIGNED MARINE FORCES UNQUOTE IN PAR 6.
2. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH CMC AND BELIEVE THAT DELETION IS BEST AS AN OPENING PLAY.
3. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

1942

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM <b>CG III MAF</b>		DATE <b>15 JAN 70</b>					
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE <b>150954Z JAN 70</b>		COPY NO. <b>2</b> OF <b>3</b> COPIES REC'D							
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	SGT MAJ											

DRAFTER: C/S  
RELEASER: C/S

**EXCLUSIVE  
(PERSONAL FOR)**

MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

HAS BEEN SENT

(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

CCN: 039/OUT

FILE: EGB

CG 111 MAF

150954Z JAN 70

2 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE/PERSONAL FOR/MCEO

S/SEC COPIES 1-2-3 OF 3 COPIES

(16)

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

OTITZYUW RHMAFA1643 0150954-TTTT--RUHFMA.  
ZNY TTTT  
O 150954Z JAN 70  
FM CG, III MAF  
TO RUHFMA/CG, FMFPAC

BT

**T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L EXCLUSIVE / PERSONAL FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON. MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY. DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS ONLY.**

USMC COMMAND AN CONTROL STRUCTURE IN ICTZ  
A. CG FMFPAC 312123Z DEC 69

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REF A AND DISCUSSIONS WITH CMC DURING HIS RECENT VISIT, IT IS PROPOSED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO COMUSMACV.

QUOTE

HQS FOR US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ

A. III MAF MEMO 26D/CRS 3000 SER 000122369 DTD 30 OCT 69

1. REF A PROPOSED THE AMALGAMATION OF THE III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS AND THE FORMATION OF A JOINT HQS TO COMMAND US FORCES IN ICTZ DURING REDEPLOYMENT PHASES THREE THROUGH SIX. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION WAS BASED ON THE PREMISE THAT MAJOR MARINE FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN ICTZ THROUGH PHASE SIX.

2. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION HAS BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE.

PAGE TWO RHMAFA1643 **T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L EXCLUSIVE FOR/MCEO**

3. SINCE THE SUBMISSION OF REF A, REDEPLOYMENT PLANS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLY ALTERED; THE PREPONDERANCE OF MARINE FORCES WILL PROBABLY REDEPLOY BY THE END OF PHASE IV.

4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT IS BELIEVED THE REQUIREMENT FOR A JOINT USMC/USA HQS IS NO LONGER VALID DUE TO ITS PROBABLE SHORT LIFE. THE FOLLOWING TWO ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS ARE PROPOSED.

5. ALTERNATIVE ONE: RETAIN HQS III MAF AS THE US COMMAND ELEMENT IN ICTZ UNTIL THE MARINE DIVISION AND WING REDEPLOY (DURING PHASE IV) AT WHICH TIME III MAF WOULD BE DISESTABLISHED AND REPLACED BY XFFV. DISESTABLISH XXIV CORPS AFTER TET. AFTER DISESTABLISHMENT OF XXIV CORPS, A NUMBER OF KEY STAFF BILLETS WITHIN III MAF WOULD BE ASSUMED BY US ARMY PERSONNEL WHO WOULD BE THE NUCLEUS OF THE NEW XFFV HQS WHEN THE LATTER IS ESTABLISHED.

6. ALTERNATIVE TWO: ON A DATE TO BE DETERMINED, XFFV/XXIV CORPS ASSUME COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ. PRIOR TO THAT DATE, A NUMBER OF US ARMY PERSONNEL WILL HAVE BEEN PHASED INTO THE III MAF STAFF AND A COMPARABLE NUMBER OF MARINE PERSONNEL PHASED OUT. ON THE DATE XFFV/XXIV CORPS ASSUMES COMMAND OF US FORCES IN ICTZ, III MAF, WITH A CONSIDERABLY REDUCED STAFF, WOULD BECOME SUBORDINATE TO XFFV/XXIV CORPS. III MAF WOULD REMAIN A UNISERVICE COMMAND; HAVE COMMAND

PAGE 1 OF 3 PAGES

III MAF 2100/4

COPY 2 OF 3 COPIES

**TOP SECRET**

16

**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA1643 T O P S E C R E T /SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR/MCEO  
LESS OPCON OF ASSIGNED MARINE FORCES; BE SATELLITED ON ONE OF THE  
IN-COUNTRY MARINE COMMANDS; COORDINATE REDEPLOYMENT OF MARINE FORCES  
DURING PHASE IV; AND BE DISESTABLISHED UPON THE REDEPLOYMENT OF THE  
1ST MARINE DIVISION AND FMAW (LATE IN PHASE IV).

7. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ALTERNATIVE ONE WOULD RESULT IN THE LEAST  
AMOUNT OF TURBULENCE FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INSTALLATIONS, PERSONNEL,  
AND COMMAND RELATIONS AND WOULD CAUSE THE LEAST AMOUNT OF DISRUPTION  
IN THE VITAL CONTINUITY OF COMMAND AND CONTROL OF US FORCES IN ICTZ.  
WE CAN MAKE EITHER ALTERNATIVE WORK.

8. REQUEST DECISION AT AN EARLY DATE IN ORDER THAT PLANNING CAN  
PROCEED.

UNQUOTE

2. THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ARE MADE CONCERNING THE ABOVE ALTERNATIVES.  
3. IF ALTERNATIVE ONE IS ADOPTED, THE QUESTION OF THE III MAF COMMANDER  
COMES TO THE FORE. ZAIS STATES HE WANTS TO GO "HOME" IN THE SUMMER.  
UNLESS HE DOES GO, FOR III MAF TO REMAIN AS NOW, MY RELIEF SHOULD BE  
SENIOR TO HIM. IT IS DOUBTFUL COMUSMACV WOULD ACCEPT THIS IN VIEW  
OF THE TIME FRAME AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS. IF A MARINE LTGEN VICE  
ZAIS IS ACCEPTABLE TO COMUSMACV, CMC SHOULD BE SO INFORMED BY  
COMUSMACV.

PAGE FOUR RHMMAFA1643 T O P S E C R E T /SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR/MCEO

4. NOTE THAT IN ALTERNATIVE TWO, WE ARE RECOMMENDING THE RETENTION  
OF THE TITLE III MAF. IF THIS ALTERNATIVE IS ADOPTED, A MARINE LTGEN  
JUNIOR TO ZAIS COULD BE ASSIGNED AND LOCAL PROBLEMS OF SENIORITY  
AVOIDED. THERE MIGHT, HOWEVER, BE A PROBLEM IN THE MARINE CORPS  
STRUCTURE DUE TO THE RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME THIS NEW LTGEN  
WOULD BE IN VIETNAM. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS TO ME THAT ONE OF THE LTGEN  
BILLETS, WHICH WILL BECOME VACANT THIS SUMMER, COULD BE HELD FOR HIM.

5. IN REGARD TO A CANDIDATE FOR THE JOB OF CG III MAF, MAJGEN BOWMAN  
IS A SENIOR MAJOR GENERAL AND RATES FULL CONSIDERATION FOR THIS  
ASSIGNMENT RATHER THAN WORKING FOR A JUNIOR ADVANCED OVER HIM.

6. TAKING ALL THE ABOVE INTO CONSIDERATION, I BELIEVE ALTERNATIVE  
TWO IS IN THE MARINE CORPS BEST INTERESTS. ANOTHER POINT TO BE CON-  
SIDERED IS THAT DURING PHASE IV MANY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS  
WILL ARISE. IN THE MAIN, THESE WILL BE ARMY PROBLEMS. USARV IS HAVING  
DIFFICULTY COMING UP WITH THE PEOPLE AND EQUIPMENT TO TAKE OVER COM-  
MON SUPPORT. FINDING THE PEOPLE TO TAKE OVER MANY FUNCTIONS WHICH  
WE ARE NOW PERFORMING, E.G., SECURITY OF THE AIRFIELDS, IS NOT GOING  
TO BE EASY. I BELIEVE THE III MAF COMMANDER SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON  
MARINE CORPS REDEPLOYMENT PROBLEMS WHICH IN THEMSELVES WILL BE MAJOR.

7. GENERAL ROSSON VISITED ME TODAY. HE STATED THAT HE HAD DEBRIEFED

PAGE 2 OF 3 PAGES

**TOP SECRET**

PAGE FIVE RHMAFA1643 T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L E X C L U S I V E F O R / M C E O  
MGEN TOWNSEND CONCERNING CMC'S DISCUSSION WITH HIM BUT THAT HE HAD  
NOT PERSONALLY TALKED TO COMUSMACV. HE WILL TALK TO ABE TONIGHT.  
HE ASKED FOR MY VIEWS WHICH I GAVE HIM AS FOLLOWS: (A) COMUSMACV  
SHOULD DECIDE ON THE FUTURE OF III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS SOONEST;  
(B) I HAVE REQUESTED RETIREMENT AT THE END OF MY YEAR'S TOUR; (C) PER-  
SONAL PROBLEMS WHICH BOTH YOU AND CHAPPIE KNOW WERE MENTIONED BUT  
NOT MADE AN ISSUE;

(D) COMUSMACV DECISION ON THE ABOVE SHOULD CLARIFY THE NEED FOR  
A USMC LTGEN TO RELIEVE ME.

8. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD COME UP WITH THE MARINE CORPS POSITION  
EARLY. IT WOULD BE BETTER TO MAKE A CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO COMUSMACV  
BEFORE HIS STAFF DEVELOPS A POSITION WHICH MIGHT NOT BE IN OUR BEST  
INTERESTS.

9. WARM REGARDS

GP-4

BT

1643

PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

**LIMDIS**  
**TOP SECRET**

**HEADQUARTERS**  
**III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE**

III MAF FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE			FROM		DATE	
X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			CG III MAF		31 DEC 69	
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE		COPY NO. 2 OF 3 COPIES REC'D	
			310616Z DEC 69			
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	DCS PLANS					DISPOSITION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.
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**EXCLUSIVE FOR**

**HAS BEEN SENT**

**LIMDIS**

**TOP SECRET**

CCN:081/OUT

FILE/JMG

CG 111 MAF

310616Z DEC 69

2 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

S/S COPY 1,2, & 3 OF 3 COPIES

TAPE & MAT

15

**TOP SECRET**

OTITZYUW RHMMAFA3123 3650616-TTTT--RUHNFMA.

ZNY TTTT

O 310616Z DEC 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHNFMA/CG FMFPAC

BT

**T O P S E C R E T/LIMDIS/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE  
FROM LTGEN NICKERSON (DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)  
III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS AMALGAMATION**

**1. I PROPOSE TO SEND THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO COMUSMACV.  
QUOTE**

**A. III MAF MEMO 26D/CRS 3000SER 000122369 DTD 30OCT69**

**B. MACV MISSION COORDINATED PLAN: VIETNAMIZING THE  
WAR, 20JUL69**

**1. REF A PROPOSED THE AMALGAMATION OF THE III MAF AND  
XXIV CORPS HQS AND THE FORMATION OF A JOINT HQS TO COM-  
MAND USMC AND ARMY FORCES IN ICTZ DURING PHASES THREE  
THROUGH SIX REDEPLOYMENTS AS ESTABLISHED BY REF 2. THE  
PROPOSED AMALGAMATION ENVISIONED THAT MAJOR MARINE FORCES  
WOULD REMAIN IN ICTZ THROUGH PHASE SIX.**

**2. THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION HAS BEEN HELD IN ABEYANCE.**

**3. CURRENT PLANNING INDICATED THAT EXCEPT FOR A TRANS-**

**PAGE TWO RHMMAFA3123 T O P S E C R E T/LIMDIS/EXCLUSIVE FOR/  
ITIONAL FORCE BUILT AROUND AN RLT, THE PREPONDERANCE OF  
MARINE FORCES WILL REDEPLOY DURING PHASE FOUR.**

**4. IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, IT APPEARS THAT THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF A JOINT ARMY/MARINE HQS IS NO LONGER REQUIRED.  
IN ITS STEAD THE FOLLOWING CONCEPT IS PROPOSED:**

**A. AT A DATE TO BE ESTABLISHED, HQS III MAF WILL BE  
RELIEVED BY HQS XXIV CORPS. A SMALL USMC LIAISON GROUP  
CONSISTING OF NO MORE THAN FIVE PERSONNEL WOULD BE ASSIGNED  
TO THE XXIV CORPS HQS.**

**B. ESTABLISH A REDUCED STRENGTH NEF HQS SUBORDINATE  
TO XXIV CORPS TO CONTROL THE COMBINED MARINE AIR GROUND  
ELEMENTS REMAINING UNTIL THE MAJORITY OF THE MARINE  
FORCES REDEPLOY.**

**5. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE ABOVE CONCEPT BE APPROVED FOR  
PLANNING PURPOSES AND THAT AUTHORITY BE GRANTED TO BEGIN  
PLANNING WITH XXIV CORPS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN  
FOR THE ORDERLY AND EFFICIENT TRANSFER OF COMMAND. UNQUOTE**

**2. YOUR COMMENTS AND OR CONCURRENCE ARE REQUESTED.**

**3. WARM REGARDS**

**GP-4**

**BT**

**3128**

**PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES**



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FILE/JMG

CG FMFPAC

312123Z DEC 69

2 3

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(14)

TOP SECRET

PP RHMNAPA  
DE RHMNAPA3547 3652123  
ZNY TTWT  
P 312128Z DEC 69  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO RHMNAPA/CG III MAF

BT  
T O P S E C R E T/LINDIS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN NECHERS ON  
FROM LTGEN BUSE. MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY. DELIVER  
DURING WORKING HOURS ONLY. //NOZZZZ//

III MAF AND XXIV CORPS HQS ANALGAMATION (U)

A. CG III MAF 310610Z/DEC69

1. CONCUR IN CONCEPT PROPOSED IN REF A. AND HAVE RE-  
LAYED SUBSTANCE OF YOUR CONCEPT TO CHAPPY WHO ALSO  
CONCURS.

2. THE TIMING OF THE MESSAGE SUBMISSION TO ABE IS AN  
IMPORTANT FACTOR. THEREFORE, REQUEST YOU WITHHOLD  
SUBMISSION UNTIL AFTER CMC VISIT TO III MAF AT WHICH TIME  
AN ACCEPTABLE SUBMISSION DATE CAN BE DECIDED.  
WILL DISCUSS FURTHER ON MY VISIT. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

3547

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE			FROM		DATE
X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			CG FMFPAC		21 NOV 1969
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE		COPY NO. 2 OF 3 COPIES REC'D
			212003Z NOV 69		

ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
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	CG					SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO
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EXCLUSIVE  
FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

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FILE:WEG

CG FMFPAC

212003Z NOV 69

2 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO

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SECRETARY'S REPORT

13

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

PP RHHMFA  
DE RHHMFA 2834 3252003  
ZNY TTTT  
P 212003Z NOV 69  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO RHHMFA/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. (DELIVER DURING  
WORKING HOURS)

FORCE PLANNING AND PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS

A. CG III MAF 200654Z NOV 69 (TS) (EXCLUSIVE)

B. CG FMFPAC 192200Z NOV 69 (TS) (EXCLUSIVE)

1. APPRECIATE VERY MUCH YOU KEEPING ME INFORMED  
CONCERNING STATUS OF MACV REDEPLOYMENT PLANS (REF A  
APPLIES). IN VIEW OF CMC GUIDANCE IN THIS REGARD  
PROVIDED YOU BY REF B, YOUR BEST JUDGMENT SHOULD  
PREVAIL IN ENSUING NEGOTIATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT.
2. TOM MILLER SHOULD ARRIVE DANANG ON 18 DEC  
1969 AND, AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, YOU MAY USE  
HIM AS YOU SEE FIT. IF YOU PREFER A GROUND OFFICER  
AS III MAF G-3, I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO TOM FILLING  
THE ASST DIV CHDR BILLET. AT THE PRESENT TIME, I

PAGE TWO RHHMFA 2834 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR NCEO  
DON'T CONSIDER IT PRUDENT TO REASSIGN LENNY FRIBOURG  
AS THERE IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT FOR THE 3D MARDIV  
TO REORIENT FROM A COMBAT TO A TRAINING ENVIRONMENT.  
ADDITIONALLY, A LOT OF INGENIOUS LEADERSHIP WILL BE  
NECESSARY TO COMBAT THE ESCALATING RACIAL PROBLEMS  
TAKING PLACE THERE. I FEEL LENNY CAN MAKE A  
SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION IN BOTH AREAS.

3. PLAN ALSO TO SEND COLONEL STEPHENSON TO MACV.  
GEORGE AND LOU ARE WORKING OUT THE TIMING ON THIS.
4. ON THE SUBJECT OF III MAF/XXIV CORPS CONSOLIDATION,  
I KNOW THAT LOU HAS INFORMED GEORGE OF THE NECESSITY  
FOR RETENTION OF THE TERM "III MAF" IN WHATEVER TITLE  
IS FINALLY AGREED UPON CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATED  
HEADQUARTERS AS LONG AS A MARINE IS IN COMMAND (E.G.,  
"I CORPS FIELD FORCE VIETNAM/III MAF"). HOWEVER, THE  
DESIGNATION "JOINT FIELD FORCE VIETNAM/III MAF" I  
BELIEVE WOULD BE REDUNDANT IN CONVEYING THE JOINT NATURE  
OF THE HEADQUARTERS. I CONCUR WITH YOU THAT AS LONG  
AS YOU CONTINUE AS "CG I CORPS FIELD FORCE VIETNAM/  
CG III MAF" THE INTEGRITY OF OUR AIR/GROUND TEAM

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RUMHMA 2834 T O P S E C R E T SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR NCEO  
WILL BE PRESERVED. ALSO, THE STATUS OF III MAF AS  
A UNI-SERVICE COMMAND WILL BE PRESERVED AS  
WILL DIRECT ACCESS TO COMUSMACV. HOWEVER, I AM CON-  
CERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE SHAPE OF THINGS SHOULD YOU BE  
SUCCEEDED BY AN ARMY LTGEN WHILE THE 1ST DIVISION AND  
1ST WING ARE STILL IN-COUNTRY. GEORGE BOWMAN COULD  
ASSUME DUTIES AS CG III MAF BUT WOULD THE NEW ARMY CG  
LOOK WITH FAVOR ON HIS STAFF ALSO SERVING CG III MAF,  
A SUBORDINATE COMMANDER? I WOULD THINK NOT AND THERE-  
FORE IT MIGHT BE ADVISABLE FOR YOU TO PLAN FOR THE  
FORMATION OF A STAFF FOR GEORGE SHOULD HE BECOME CG  
III MAF. AN AUSTERE STAFF COULD BE EARMARKED FROM ASSETS  
OF THE 1ST DIVISION AND 1ST WING AND COULD SATELLITE  
ON THE DIVISION OR WING SHOULD ACTIVATION BE NECESSARY.  
WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS. VARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

2834

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG III MAF		DATE 20 NOV 1969
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 201322Z NOV 69		COPY NO. 1 OF 3 COPIES REC'D		
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT	
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	CG	I		11/25	N	SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR	
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	DCS PLANS						
	DEP CORDS					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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**TOP SECRET**

TOP SECRET

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FILE:WEG

CG III MAF

201322Z NOV 69 / 3

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

S/S COPIES 1-2-3 OF 3 COPIES

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(12)

TOP SECRET

**TOP SECRET**

FITTEYUW RHMMAFA2375 3241322-TTTT--RUHMFMA.

ZNY TTTT

P 201322Z NOV 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHMFMA/CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM  
LTGEN NICKERSON (DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)

PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS FOR III MAF HEADQUARTERS

A. CG III MAF 191349Z NOV 69

1. IN REREADING THE HAS BEEN SENT OF REF A THIS  
MORNING, I'M NOT EXACTLY SURE THAT I HAVE COMMUNI-  
CATED TO YOU MY SENSE OF URGENCY ON THE BRIGADIER  
GENERAL REPLACEMENT FOR G-3. MY CONCERN, OF  
COURSE, IS THAT THE G-3 REPLACEMENT ARRIVE IN TIME  
FOR LEO TO MOVE UP TO THE CHIEF'S JOB SO THAT  
GEORGE CAN RETURN TO THE STATES SOMEWHERE NEAR THE  
NORMAL EXPIRATION OF HIS TOUR.

2. TODAY IS THE 20TH OF NOVEMBER AND GEORGE'S  
NORMAL RTD WOULD BE 7 DECEMBER. I THINK THAT WE  
SHOULD TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ALLOW HIM TO RETURN  
HOME PRIOR TO CHRISTMAS. IF THIS IS DONE, IT

PAGE TWO RHMMAFA2375 T O P S E C R E T/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR

MEANS THAT THE NEW G-3 SHOULD BE ON BOARD FOR AT LEAST  
FIVE DAYS PRIOR TO GEORGE'S DEPARTURE DATE AND PREFER-  
ABLY TEN SO THAT LEO CAN HAVE A FEW DAYS WITH GEORGE.  
THAT WOULD MEAN THAT THE RELIEF SHOULD GET OUT HERE  
ABOUT THE 10TH OF DECEMBER OR THEREABOUTS. INCIDENTALLY  
GEORGE HAS NEVER COMMENTED ON THIS MATTER ONE WAY OR THE  
OTHER AND IS PERFECTLY WILLING TO STAY AS LONG AS NEEDED.  
WHILE I APPRECIATE THIS, I BELIEVE THAT THE MARINE CORPS  
SHOULD EXERT SOME EXTRA EFFORT AND INSURE THAT HIS  
RELIEF ARRIVES SOMEWHERE AROUND THE 10TH OF DECEMBER.  
AND THAT'S NOT FAR OFF.

3. IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF REFERENCE A, I REQUESTED HELP FOR  
A RELIEF FOR DZIALO. I DON'T REALLY HAVE A SUITABLE  
RELIEF OUT HERE FOR DZIALO. I HAD CONSIDERED RAINFORTH  
BUT MACV (AND I) PREFER THAT HE STAY IN HIS PRESENT JOB.  
JOHN CANTON'S NORMAL RTD WOULD BE ABOUT THE 21ST OF  
DECEMBER. HE, TOO, HAS NEVER COMMENTED ON HIS RETURN  
EXCEPT TO SAY THAT HE IS WILLING TO STAY HERE AS LONG  
AS NECESSARY. I APPRECIATE THIS ALSO BUT WOULD LIKE FOR  
HIM TO BE ABLE TO BE DETACHED BY 21 DECEMBER. ACCORDINGLY

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA2375 T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L EXCLUSIVE FOR  
I AM REQUESTING THAT YOU PROVIDE A RELIEF FOR DZIALO THAT  
WOULD MEET MACV'S REQUIREMENTS AND MY TIMING. DZIALO  
SHOULD BE HERE ABOUT 10 DECEMBER WHICH MEANS HIS RE-  
LIEF SHOULD BE ON BOARD AT MACV BY 5 DECEMBER. SO ONLY  
15 DAYS REMAIN.

4. SAM JASKILKA HAS ADVISED THAT MACV J-2 HAS STATED  
THAT COL CHARLES STEPHENSON (3D MARDIV G-2) WOULD BE  
SATISFACTORY AND ACCEPTABLE. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY, TO SUBMIT,  
WOULD BE GRIFF MOODY. HOWEVER I WOULD THINK THAT IT WOULD BE LESS  
TRAUMATIC FOR BILL JONES TO LOSE STEPHENSON THAN MOODY.  
INASMUCH AS MACV HAS COME UP WITH STEPHENSON'S NAME,  
THAT MAY BE THE BEST SOLUTION FOR ALL CONCERNED.

5. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

2375

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE	FROM	DATE
				CG III MAF	19 NOV 1969
				SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE	COPY NO. 1 OF 3 COPIES REC'D
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ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
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	DCG	I		11/20	B					
	C/S	I			D					
	DC/S					REMARKS: <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;">                         DISPOSITION:                            <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for ___ months.                            <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.                     </div> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%;">Section</th> <th style="width: 50%;">Signature</th> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table> <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">                         REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.A.                     </div> <div style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;">                         The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this Document.                     </div> <div style="margin-top: 10px;">                         ORIG: C/S                          REL: C/S                     </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; margin-top: 20px;">                         EXCLUSIVE                           FOR                           MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY                           HAS BEEN SENT                     </div>	Section	Signature		
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**TOP SECRET**

CCN:056/OUT

FILE:WEG

CG III MAF

191349Z NOV 69

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2

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCEO

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(11)

SECRET

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PTTTT / RHMMFA2263 3231349-TTTT--RUHFMA.

ZNY TTTT

P 191349Z NOV 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUHFMA/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 ( D E L I V E R D U R I N G W O R K I N G H O U R S )

P E R S O N N E L R E Q U I R E M E N T S F O R I I I M A F H E A D Q U A R T E R S

1. ON SUNDAY LAST, THE 16TH OF NOVEMBER, GENERAL ABRAMS WAS BRIEFED BY HIS STAFF ON THE AMALGAMATION PLAN WHICH WE HAD SENT FORWARD. HIS STAFF RECOMMENDED THAT A MARINE LTGEN REMAIN IN COMMAND OF III MAF, AN ARMY BRIGADIER GENERAL BE CHIEF OF STAFF AND THE DEPUTY BE AN ARMY MAJOR GENERAL VICE MARINE AS WE HAD RECOMMENDED. THE STAFF ALSO RECOMMENDED TO GENERAL ABRAMS THAT THE AMALGAMATION BE DEFERRED UNTIL 15 JANUARY 1970. ONE FURTHER RECOMMENDATION CONSIDERED THE NAMING OF THE HEADQUARTERS. HIS STAFF RECOMMENDED THE AMALGAMATED STAFF BE CALLED III FFV. GENERAL ABRAMS ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY COMMENTS AFTER THE BRIEFING AND THERE WERE NONE. AT THIS POINT,

PAGE TWO RHMMFA2263 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 O S E H E S T A T E D H E W A S N O T G O I N G T O M A K E A D E C I S I O N A T T H I S T I M E . H E S A I D T H A T T H E R E W E R E T O O M A N Y U N C E R T A I N T I E S C O N C E R N I N G W I T H D R A W A L S ; T O O M A N Y U N C E R T A I N T I E S C O N C E R N I N G T H E D M Z ; T O O M A N Y U N C E R T A I N T I E S C O N C E R N I N G E N E M Y I N T E N T I O N S D U R I N G T H E N E X T T E T , E T C . A C C O R D I N G L Y , H I S D E C I S I O N W A S T O N O T C H A N G E T H E S T A T U S Q U O A T T H I S T I M E .

H E A L S O S T A T E D T H A T H E W O U L D A B S O R B A N Y C R I T I C I S M T H A T M I G H T O C C U R A S A R E S U L T O F H I S H A V I N G A N E X T R A H E A D Q U A R T E R S .

2. H A D T H E A M A L G A M A T I O N T A K E N P L A C E C O L P A T T O N , N O W G - 2 O F X X I V C O R P S W O U L D H A V E B E C O M E G - 2 O F I I I M A F . H O W E V E R , I N A S M U C H A S T H E A M A L G A M A T I O N I S N O T T O T A K E P L A C E , M E L Z A I S H A S A S K E D T O K E E P P A T T O N A N D W E H A V E A G R E E D T O T H I S . W E A S K E D M A C V T O P R O V I D E U S C O L D Z I A L O F R O M H I S S T A F F T O S E R V E A S T H E I I I M A F G - 2 A N D H E H A S V E R B A L L Y A G R E E D . W E A R E F O L L O W I N G T H I S V E R B A L A G R E E M E N T B Y M E S S A G E . W H E N M A C V O F F I C I A L L Y C O N C U R S , W E W I L L N E E D O R D E R S F O R D Z I A L O A N D W I L L S U B M I T S U C H A R E Q U E S T T O Y O U . W E W I L L A L S O H A V E T O R E P L A C E D Z I A L O . W E W I L L N E E D Y O U R H E L P .

3. Y O U R E C A L L T H A T E D W H E E L E R I S B E I N G T R A N S F E R R E D 15 D E C E M B E R F R O M X X I V C O R P S A N D C H U C K B A I L E Y H A S L E F T X X I V C O R P S A S O F

**PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES**

III MAF 2100/4

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**TOP SECRET** (11)

**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RHMMFA2263 T O P S E C R E T/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR MCFD  
YESTERDAY. MEL ZAIS HAS AGREED TO NOT ASK FOR A MGEN TO  
REPLACE ED WHEELER BUT HE HAS ASKED FOR A COLONEL TO REPLACE  
CHUCK BAILEY AND I HAVE AGREED. I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN  
COME UP WITH FROM MY STAFF FOR THIS BILLET AND WILL KEEP  
YOU ADVISED.

4. INASMUCH AS I WILL NOT BE GETTING AN ARMY BRIGADIER  
GENERAL AS MY CHIEF OF STAFF NOW, I INTEND TO MOVE LEO  
DULACKI UP. I NEED A MARINE BRIGADIER GENERAL TO REPLACE  
HIM AND WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE  
DATE. ANY ASSISTANCE YOU CAN GIVE ME IN THIS REGARD  
WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. I COULD USE LENNY FRIBORG.

5. LEW WALT IS DOWN AT SAIGON TODAY. PRIOR TO LEW'S  
DEPARTURE THIS MORNING, WE GAVE HIM A BRIEFING ON THIS  
PROPOSED AMALGAMATION PLAN AND HE IS UP-TO-DATE ON IT.  
THE PRESIDENT TODAY ASKED TO SEE LEW, SO LEW WILL BE GOING  
BACK DOWN IN THE MORNING FOR A 1000 MEETING.

6. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

2266

**PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES**

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM MG TOWNSEND C/S MACV		DATE 15 NOV 69				
					SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 0 151331Z NOV 69		COPY NO. 2 OF 4 COPIES RECD				
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TOP SECRET EYES ONLY MAC 14800 EYES ONLY

SUBJECT: PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO THE AMALGAMATION OF III MAF HEADQUARTERS AND XXIV CORPS (U)

REF: A. CG, III MAF LETTER 268/ CFS OVER 30000 SER 200122359 DTD 30 OCTOBER 1969 (TS)  
B. CG, III MAF MSG DTG 200534Z NOV 1969 (S)  
C. CG, III MAF MSG DTG 130803Z NOV 1969 (T)



1. (TS) REFERENCES ARE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

A. REFERENCE A IS THE CG, III MAF PLAN FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF HQ III MAF AND HQ XXIV CORPS AS A JOINT HEADQUARTERS.

B. REFERENCE B REQUESTED CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF AN ARMY COLONEL, INTELLIGENCE STAFF OFFICER.

C. REFERENCE C STATES THAT RESOLUTION OF CERTAIN PERSONNEL ACTIONS AT III MAF HQ IS CONTINGENT UPON THE PROMULGATION OF THE DATE FOR IMPLEMENTING THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION CONTAINED IN REFERENCE A.

2. (U) THIS HEADQUARTERS RECOGNIZES THE PERSONNEL PLANNING PROBLEMS STATED IN REFERENCE C.

3. (U) COMUSMACV WILL BE BRIEFED AT 1900 HOURS ON 16 NOVEMBER ON THE PROPOSED AMALGAMATION PLAN.

GP-4.

SSO NOTE: DELIBER DURING DUTY HOURS

253

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TOP SECRET

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-60)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE  FROM CMC		DATE 15 NOV 69	
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE 141249Z NOV 69		COPY NO. 1 OF 3 COPIES REC'D	
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PERSONAL FOR

MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

*S3 force*

*Action*

*taken*

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**TOP SECRET**



**TOP SECRET**

P 141249Z NOV 69

FM CMC

TO CG FMFPAC

INFO CG III MAF

BT

**T O P S E C R E T** PERSONAL FOR LTGEN BUSE, INFO LTGEN NICKERSON,  
FROM GEN CHAPMAN. MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY.

RIF-AMALGAMATION PLAN (C)

A. CG FMFPAC 040211Z NOV 1969

B. JCS MSG 3964 DTG 142250Z FEB 1966

1. (TS) AFTER REVIEW OF SUBJECT PLAN, MY CONCERN OVER THE FUTURE  
INTEGRITY OF OUR AIR-GROUND TEAM, INCLUDING FLC, AND THE LOSS  
OF DIRECT MARINE CORPS ACCESS TO COMUSMACV, AS REPORTED IN  
REF A, REMAINS.

2. (TS) BY REF B, THE JCS APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF III MAF AS  
A UNI-SERVICE FORCE REPORTING DIRECTLY TO COMUSMACV. DEACTIVATION  
OF HQ III MAF AS RECOMMENDED IN THE PLAN, REQUIRES JCS APPROVAL  
AND RUNS COUNTER TO OUR DESIRE TO KEEP A VIABLE AIR-GROUND TEAM  
FUNCTIONING IN RVN UNTIL PHASE SIX REDEPLOYMENTS.

3. (TS) I KNOW FROM REF A THAT AN APPROACH TO SOLVING THIS PROBLEM

PAGE TWO RUEBHOA4617 **T O P S E C R E T**

IS BEING DEVELOPED. DOUBLE-HATTING THE MARINES IN THE NEW  
JOINT HQ TO PROVIDE A CG AND STAFF FOR III MAF MAY BE AN  
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION AS LONG AS A MARINE LTGEN REMAINS IN  
COMMAND. THE CREATION OF A SEPARATE SMALL III MAF HQ OF THE  
SORT YOU DESCRIBED IN YOUR 15SEP LETTER IS AN ACCEPTABLE  
ALTERNATIVE. IN ANY EVENT, IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT A III MAF HQ  
BE RETAINED IN SOME WORKABLE FORM.

4. (TS) PLEASE KEEP ME INFORMED OF THE APPROACH BEING TAKEN AND OF  
ACTIONS ON THIS MATTER AS THEY UNFOLD, IN ORDER THAT WE CAN  
BE CONSISTENT IN OUR DISCUSSIONS AND/OR ACTIONS HERE.

WARM REGARDS.

GP-3

BT

4617

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

OPERATION CODE X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			FROM <b>CG III MAF</b>		DATE <b>13 NOV 69</b>					
			SERIAL NO./CONTROL DATE <b>P 130803Z</b>		COPY NO. <b>2</b> OF <b>4</b> COPIES RECD.					
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NICKERSON

PERSONNEL ADJUSTMENTS RELATED TO THE AMALGAMATION OF  
III MAF HEADQUARTERS AND XXIV CORPS

A. CG III MAF LTR 26D/CRS OVER 3000 SER: 000122369 OF  
30 OCT 1969, SUBJ: RIF-AMALGAMATION

B. CG III MAF 020534Z NOV 69

1. BY REFERENCE A, I FORWARDED A PROPOSED PLAN ON THE  
AMALGAMATION OF THE III MAF HEADQUARTERS AND XXIV CORPS  
HEADQUARTERS. THIS PLAN RECOMMENDED AN IMPLEMENTATION  
DATE COMMENCING ON OR ABOUT THE 15TH OF DECEMBER. IT IS  
UNDERSTOOD THAT FOR VARIOUS REASONS THIS 15 DECEMBER  
TARGET DATE MAY NOT BE MET AND THE DECISION TO IMPLE-  
MENT THE AMALGAMATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS MAY BE DELAYED.

2. REGARDLESS OF THIS, THERE ARE CERTAIN PERSONNEL  
ACTIONS WHICH MUST BE TAKEN IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE. BY  
REFERENCE B, I REQUESTED YOUR CONSIDERATION IN THE  
ASSIGNMENT OF AN ARMY COLONEL TO REPLACE COLONEL CANTON  
AS MY G-2 WHEN CANTON LEAVES SOMETIME IN DECEMBER. I  
UNDERSTAND, IN LIAISON WITH YOUR HEADQUARTERS, THAT  
ACTION IS BEING TAKEN IN THIS AREA.

3. I DO HAVE TO COME TO GRIPS WITH PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
IN MY STAFF THAT REQUIRE ACTION IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE  
OTHER THAN THE G-2 AS MENTIONED ABOVE. FOR EXAMPLE, I AM  
MOVING THE ASSISTANT G-3 TO MEET ANOTHER REQUIREMENT ON  
1. DECEMBER 1969. IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE ABOVE, THIS  
BILLET SHOULD APPROPRIATELY BE FILLED BY AN ARMY COLONEL.  
I CANNOT LEAVE THIS BILLET VACANT FOR LONG. ACCORDINGLY,  
I INTEND TO ORDER A MARINE INTO THE BILLET. HOWEVER, I  
WOULD PREFER TO PROCEED WITH THE AMALGAMATION.

4. MY CHIEF OF STAFF, UNDER THE NORMAL COURSE OF EVENTS,  
IS DUE TO LEAVE SOMETIME IN DECEMBER. THE MARINE CORPS  
HAD A BRIGADIER PROGRAMMED TO RELIEVE MY G-3 AND MY G-3  
WOULD HAVE MOVED UP TO BE MY CHIEF OF STAFF. HOWEVER,  
BECAUSE OF THE PLANNING INVOLVED WITH THE AMALGAMATION OF  
THE HEADQUARTERS, HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS HAS HELD THE  
REPLACEMENT BRIGADIER IN THE STATES ON THE POSSIBILITY  
THAT AN ARMY BRIGADIER WOULD RELIEVE MY PRESENT CHIEF OF  
STAFF. IF THE AMALGAMATION IS TO BE DELAYED, I MUST  
ADVISE HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS TO PROVIDE A BRIGADIER  
REPLACEMENT, AND I MUST ADVISE THEM NOW. IF THE AMALGA-  
MATION IS TO BE EFFECTED ON 15 DECEMBER OR SHORTLY THERE-  
AFTER, IT WON'T BE NECESSARY FOR HQMC TO ORDER A  
BRIGADIER TO III MAF

5. YOUR BEST REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.  
6. WARM REGARDS.

SEE NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG III MAF		DATE 5 NOV 69	
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**TOP SECRET**

PTTIDUW RHMMAFA0528 3100918-TIII--RUMHMA.

ZNY TTTT

P 050518Z NOV 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RHMMAFA/CG FMFPAC

BT

**T O P S E C R E T / S P E C I A L EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM  
LTGEN NICKERSON (DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS)**

**RIF-AMALGAMATION PLANS**

A. CG FMFPAC 04211Z NOV 69

B. CG III MAF 231100Z NOV 69

C. DTC 041847Z NOV 69

1. I AM IN RECEIPT OF REFERENCE A IN WHICH YOU EXPRESSED THE CONCERN OF THE COMMANDANT OVFF TWO SPECIFIC AREAS. YOU ALSO SUGGESTED THAT I DEVELOPE A RECLAMA POSITION FOR USE IN THE EVENT ABE AGREES TO THE ZAIS POSITION.

2. I AM FULLY IN AGREEMENT WITH TAKING ACTION NECESSARY TO PRESERVE OUR AIR GROUND TEAM AND WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO DO SO. REFERENCE B WAS SUBMITTED WITH THIS THOUGHT IN MIND AND I STATED IN REFERENCE B THAT I WOULD THINK THE

PAGE TWO RHMMAFA0528 TOP SECRET/SPECIAL EXCLUSIVE FOR  
BEST THING FOR US TO DO WOULD BE TO INSIST THAT I STAY AS CG III MAF UNTIL A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR FORCES ARE DEPLOYED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE AIR GROUND TEAM. YOU MAY NOT HAVE BEEN IN RECEIPT OF REFERENCE B WHEN YOU RELEASED REFERENCE A, BUT I THINK THAT I HAVE PROVIDED A RECLAMA POSITION IN THE EVENT ABE DOES DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH MEL ZAIS' PROPOSAL. IT IS GOING TO BE DIFFICULT FOR ABE TO MOVE ME OUT AND I WOULD THINK THAT THE TIME PHASING I MENTIONED WOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATE.

3. CONCERNING THE SECOND PORTION WHICH WAS THE LOSS OF THE COMPONENT COMMANDER TYPE PRIVILEGES DIRECTLY UNDER ABE. I WILL TAKE ACTION IF IT IS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THAT THE DEPUTY COMMANDING GENERAL BE A MARINE CORPS TYPE IN THE EVENT THAT THE LIEUTENANT GENERAL ARMY HAS COMMAND AND WOULD EXECUTE THOSE FUNCTIONS NORMALLY ATTENDANT TO A MARINE AIR GROUND TEAM HEADQUARTERS. YOU MAY RECALL WE INCLUDED THAT IN OUR LETTER TO GENERAL ABRAMS

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

(7)

III MAF 2100/4

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**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RHMAFA0528 TOP SECRET/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR  
ORIGINALLY AND WE MUTUALLY AGREED TO WITHDRAW  
IT ON THE BASIS OF RETAINING OVERALL COMMAND  
OF III MAF UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT.

4. IN THE EVENT I HAVEN'T COME TO GRIPS WITH WHAT  
YOUR THOUGHTS ARE WOULD YOU PLEASE ADVISE AND IF  
YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS I WOULD BE MOST HAPPY TO  
RECEIVE THEM.

5. REFERENCE C WAS RECEIVED A SHORT TIME AGO.  
WE WILL COMPLY. AS OF NOW, NEITHER OPTION HAS  
BEEN FLOATED FOR COMMENT. MEANWHILE, I HAVE  
ADVISED SAM JASKILKA OF CMC'S POSITION.

6. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4

BT

8528

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG III MAF		DATE 03 NOV 69	
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CG III MAF

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SMALL SIGN THIS RECORD

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**TOP SECRET**

**TOP SECRET**

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ZNY TTTT

P 031100Z NOV 69

FM CG III MAF

TO RUMHFM/CG FMFPAC

BT

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

RIF-AMALGAMATED PLAN

A. NY 020616Z NOV 69

1. MY DIRECTIVE FROM GENERAL ABRAMS CONCERNING THE  
PLAN OF THE AMALGAMATION OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF  
XXIV CORPS AND III MAF INCLUDED A STATEMENT THAT  
HE WANTED ME TO COORDINATE WITH XXIV CORPS ON THE  
EXECUTION OF THE PLAN. ACCORDINGLY, PRIOR TO SUB-  
MISSION OF THIS PLAN I HAD MEL ZAIS COME TO MY  
HEADQUARTERS AND I GAVE HIM THE SAME TYPE BRIEFING  
WHICH YOU RECEIVED WHEN YOU WERE HERE LAST MONTH.  
HE REQUESTED THAT I ADD THE PROVISIO WHICH WENT INTO  
REFERENCE (A) CONCERNING AN ARMY LIEUTENANT  
GENERAL TAKING OVER. I DID NOT OBJECT AND, AS A  
RESULT, THE REVISED VERSION WAS SUBMITTED TO ABE.

PAGE TWO RHMMAFA0300 T O P S E C R E T/SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR  
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO ABE WHETHER I BLESSED  
IT OR NOT SO I DON'T BELIEVE ANY CONCESSION WAS MADE.

2. I AM SURE THE ARMY WILL WANT TO TAKE OVER AS SOON  
AFTER 15 DECEMBER AS POSSIBLE. THIS COULD ALLOW MEL  
ZAIS TO TAKE COMMAND WITH THE FEWEST VIBRATIONS  
OCCURRING IN THE ARMY CAMP. BUT I ALMOST HAVE TO BE  
ORDERED OUT BEFORE THE ARMY CAN TAKE OVER BECAUSE OF  
MY SENIORITY. THE LONGER I AM HERE, THE GREATER THE  
PROBLEM FOR THE ARMY. ZAIS CAN'T JUST SIT IN THE  
WINGS AND ABE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH SENIORITY FLEXIBILITY  
IF HE WANTS TO TAKE OVER THE JOB. MILDREN AND ROSSON  
ARE AVAILABLE IN COUNTRY BUT NEITHER ARE LIKELY  
CANDIDATES IN MY OPINION.

3. YOU WILL RECALL THAT WE DID NOT INCLUDE A SEPARATE  
STAFF OVER THE DIVISION AND WING BASED ON OUR THOUGHTS  
THAT WE SHOULD RETAIN COMMAND INDEFINITELY TO PROTECT  
OUR AIR GROUND ORGANIZATION. IT MAY BE NECESSARY FOR  
ME TO STICK AROUND AS CG III MAF UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE  
1ST DIVISION, FIRST WING AND FLC ARE WELL OUT OF THIS  
AREA. MY ORIGINAL THOUGHTS ON TIMING APPEAR TO BE

PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

COPY 1 OF 3 COPIES

III MAF 2100/4

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**TOP SECRET**

PAGE THREE RHMMAFA0300 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  
STILL VALID. I COULD STAY UNTIL 1 APRIL BUT WOULD  
HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ON ANY ADDITIONAL TIME. IF THE  
ALTERNATIVE WHICH RETAINS THE MARINE CORPS IN VIETNAM  
IS IMPLEMENTED, IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR III MAF  
TO REMAIN IN COMMAND. IF THE MARINES ARE TO LEAVE  
DURING THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY 70 TO 30 JUNE 70, THEN I  
WOULD THINK THAT MIDWAY THROUGH THE PERIOD WOULD BE  
AN APPROPRIATE TIME TO TRANSFER COMMAND. I WOULD  
THINK THAT THE BEST THING FOR US TO DO, FOR YOU AND  
CHAPPY TO DO, WOULD BE TO INSIST THAT I STAY AS CG  
III MAF UNTIL A LARGE NUMBER OF OUR FORCES ARE  
DEPLOYED IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE  
AIR GROUND TEAM. DEPENDING UPON WHAT THE PRESIDENT  
SAYS ON THE 3RD OF NOVEMBER AND ASSUMING THAT THERE  
WILL BE A MAJOR WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES IN THE IMMEDIATE  
FUTURE I WOULD GUESS THAT BY 1 APRIL WE WOULD HAVE  
ACHIEVED OUR PURPOSE.  
4. I HAVE HEARD NOTHING FROM TOWNSEND OR ABE ON THE  
PROPOSED PLANS. I DO EXPECT A RESPONSE IN THE  
IMMEDIATE FUTURE.

PAGE FOUR RHMMAFA0300 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  
5. WARM REGARDS.  
GP-4  
BT  
0300

PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

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	C/S	I				REMARKS:	
	DC/S	I					
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FOR  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

(USE REVERSE FOR ADDITIONAL SPACE)

**TOP SECRET**

5



**TOP SECRET**

PP RHHMAMA RUEBNGA  
DE RHHMAMA 0430 3000211  
ZNY TTTT  
P 040211Z NOV 69  
FM CG RUEBNG  
TO RHHMAMA/CG 111 MAF  
INFO RUEBNGA/CNG  
BT

T O P S E C R E T, PERSONAL FOR LYGEN WYCHERSON, INFO BEN  
CHAPMAN FROM LYGEN DUSE, MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY.  
REF-AMALGAMATION PLAN

A. CG 111 MAF 020515Z/NOV69

1. (TS) REF A WAS FORWARDED TO CMC FOR INFO.
2. (TS) UPON REVIEW OF REF A CMC VOICED CONCERN OVER  
TWO AREAS SHOULD WE ACCEPT THE ZAYS POSITION THAT AN  
ARMY LYGEN ASSUME COMMAND OF THE JOINT HEADQUARTERS.  
THESE ARE:

A. WITH AN ARMY GENERAL IN COMMAND OUR AIR-  
GROUND TEAM CONCEPT WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY. (MARINE WING  
COMMANDED BY AN ARMY GENERAL).

B. THE LOSS OF DIRECT WAGON ACCESS TO ABE.  
3. (TS) IN CONSIDERATION OF THE ABOVE, SUGGEST YOU  
DEVELOP A RECLAMA POSITION FOR USE IN THE EVENT ABE

PAGE TWO RHHMAMA0430 T O P S E C R E T MCGD  
AGREES WITH THE ZAYS POSITION. IN THIS CONNECTION WE  
MUST PRESERVE OUR AIR-GROUND TEAM. ADDITIONALLY  
SOME MEANS MUST BE PROVIDED, IN THE FINAL MACV PLAN  
ON THE SUBJECT, TO ENSURE THAT MARINE CORPS FORCES IN  
AVN, AS A UNI-SERVICE FORCE, RETAIN DIRECT ACCESS TO  
ABE OTHER THAN THROUGH NORMAL OPERATIONAL CHANNELS  
TO ASSIST HIM IN DISCHARGING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR  
HIS COMPONENT MARINE FORCES AS SPECIFIED IN UNAAF.

4. WARM REGARDS.

GP-4.

BT

0430

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES

# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-69)

X - ORIGINATOR A - ACTION/COGNIZANCE C - COMMENT/RECOMMENDATION I - INFORMATION S - SIGNATURE			OPERATION CODE		FROM CG III MAF		DATE 02 NOV 69			
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ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT				
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Section	Signature									
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**TOP SECRET**



TOP SECRET

DE RHMMAFA 0161 3060616

ZNY TTTT

P 020616Z NOV 69

FM CG III MAF

TO CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T / S P E C A T EXCLUSIVE FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON.

RIF - AMALGAMATION PLAN.

1. AS A RESULT OF A BRIEFING GIVEN LTGEN ZAIS ON 1 NOV AT THIS HEADQUARTERS, A NEW PARAGRAPH ON PAGE 5 OF SUBJECT PLAN HAS BEEN ADDED AS FOLLOWS:

"11. THIS PLAN HAS BEEN BRIEFED TO LTGEN ZAIS AND WHILE HE CONCURS WITH THE GENERAL CONCEPT THEREOF, HE BELIEVES THAT AN ARMY LTGEN SHOULD ASSUME COMMAND OF THE JOINT HEADQUARTERS ON 15 DECEMBER 1969 FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:  
A. ARMY STRENGTH IN PERSONNEL AND MANEUVER UNITS IS, AND WILL REMAIN THROUGHOUT REDEPLOYMENT, LARGER THAN THAT OF THE MARINE CORPS.

	CURRENT STRENGTHS	
PERSONNEL	ARMY	USMC
	82,606	54,500

PAGE 02 RHMMAFA 0161 3060616 T O P S E C R E T / S P E C A T

MANEUVER UNITS	\$27 BNS	14 BNS
ARTILLERY UNITS	\$18 BNS	6(PLUS) BNS

\$ INCLUDES 13 BNS OF AMERICAL DIV

\$\$ INCLUDES 6 BNS OF AMERICAL DIV

B. RESIDUAL FORCE PLANNING ENVISAGES ULTIMATE STATIONING OF ARMY FORCES, EXCLUSIVELY, IN RVN. THEREFORE, THE NECESSITY TO CONTINUE OPERATIONS WITH THE LEAST AMOUNT OF TURBULENCE AND CHANGE SUGGESTS THE NEED FOR APPOINTING AN ARMY COMMANDER AT THE INCEPTION OF THE NEW JOINT HEADQUARTERS.

ADDITIONALLY, HE FEELS THAT THE CG AND DCG SHOULD BE FROM DIFFERENT SERVICES IN ORDER TO REPRESENT THE NEEDS OF THE SUBORDINATE SERVICE IN THE PROPOSED COMMAND STRUCTURE."

2. RENUMBER CURRENT PARAGRAPHS 11 AND 12 TO READ 12 AND 13 RESPECTIVELY M WARM REGARDS.

GP-3

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# HEADQUARTERS III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

**TOP SECRET**

III MAR FORM 5216 (REV 8-67)

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			011200Z NOV 69			
ROUTE	SECTION	CODE	DATE		INITIAL	SUBJECT
			IN	OUT		
	CG	I		3 Nov	N	INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIF-AMALGAMATION
	DCG	I				
	C/S	I				REMARKS:
	DC/S	I		11/2		
	DCS PLANS	A	was	copy		DISPOSITION: <input type="checkbox"/> Retain for _____ months. <input type="checkbox"/> Destroy after routing.
	DEP COORDS					
	DSA ICTZ					Section _____ Signature _____  REMARKS: This document may not be retained over night except as noted in Force Order P5511.A.  The Record of Disclosure must be signed by all persons sighting this document.
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CG III MAF

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2 4

INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIF-AMALGAMATION

S&C

COPIES 2-3-4 OF 4 COPIES

HEADQUARTERS II MAF

3

OTITZYUW RHHMAFA0094 305 1200-TTTT--RUMLOPA.  
ZNY TTTT  
O 011200Z OCT 69  
FM CG III MAF DNG RVN  
TO RUMLBPA/CG XXIV CORPS PHB RVN  
BT

T O P S E C R E T

JPC PREPARATION OF IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIF-AMALGAMATION

(ATTN: LTC SHORT, G-5 PLANS)

A. LOI RIF-TZAR, 1 OCT 1969 (TS)

B. MEMO, CG III MAF TO COMUSMACV, 30 OCT 1969

1. (C) THE JPC ESTABLISHED BY A. WILL PREPARE DETAILED IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPLISH THE RIF-AMALGAMATION OUTLINED IN B.

2. (C) UPON RECEIPT OF B, BOTH HEADQUARTERS CONCERNED WILL DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING:

A. SPECIFIC ADMIN AND LOGISTICS TASKS TO BE PERFORMED BY EACH STAFF SECTION AND THE TIME PHASING OF EACH.

B. OTHER GENERAL TASKS NOT DELINEATED IN REF (B) WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY.

C. UNUSUAL PROBLEMS RELATED TO THE RIF-AMALGAMATION WHICH THE

PAGE TWO RHHMAFA0094 T O P S E C R E T

JPC SHOULD ADDRESS AT THIS TIME.

D. RECOMMENDED ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EXECUTION/STAFF SUPERVISION OF RIF-AMALGAMATION.

3. (U) TWO JPC MEETINGS WILL DISCUSS THE ITEMS IN PARAGRAPH TWO ABOVE. THESE WILL BE HELD:

A. 1330, WED, 5 NOV 69, CG'S CONF RM, III MAF.

B. 1330, FRI, 7 NOV 69, CG'S CONF RM, III MAF.

4. (U) REQUEST REPRESENTATIVES FROM G-1, G-4, G-3 AS A MINIMUM ATTEND THE TWO MEETINGS, AND THAT THEY BE PREPARED TO PRESENT RECOMMENDATIONS/COMMENTS UPON THE ITEMS LISTED IN PARA TWO.

5. (C) ANTICIPATED COMPLETION/PUBLICATION DATE OF IMPLEMENTING INSTRUCTIONS IS 15 NOV 69. III MAF ACTION OFFICER: LTC DANA G. MEAD, 951-5537/5565.

GP-4

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0094

SEC FILES  
HEADQUARTERS III MAF

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGES



O 171315Z ZYH

FM CG III MAF

TO CG FMVAC

ZEN

**T O P S E C R E T / EYES ONLY FOR LTGEN BUSE FROM LTGEN NICKERSON**

**CONSOLIDATION OF THE III MAF HQ AND XXIV CORPS**

**1. YOUR LTR TO CHAPPY DATED 15 SEP 1969**

1. AS YOU KNOW, WE ARE IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A PLAN ON THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE HQ OF III MAF AND XXIV CORPS. WE EXPECT TO SUBMIT THIS TO GEN ABRAMS IN EARLY NOV AND WE WILL BRIEF YOU ON IT DURING YOUR NEXT VISIT. MEANWHILE WITH THE DEPARTURE OF THE 3RD MARDIV, THE XXIV CORPS HQ HAS BECOME QUITE VISIBLE AND ITS REDUNDANCY IS OBVIOUS. IT IS A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THIS ISSUE WILL COME TO A HEAD AND AT THAT TIME THE HQ WILL HAVE TO GO, I AM SURE. IT WOULD APPEAR TO ME THAT AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE DEACTIVATION OF XXIV CORPS WOULD BE ABOUT 15 DEC. THIS WOULD GIVE US SUFFICIENT TIME TO PLAN FOR AND EXECUTE THE DEACTIVATION SUBSEQUENT TO THE DEPARTURE OF THE 3D MARDIV.

2. SIMILARLY, I BELIEVE THAT THE CONTINUATION OF A M-RINE LTGEN AS CG SHOULD BE DECIDED. DO WE WANT TO TRY TO RETAIN THIS COMMAND FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR NOT? WHILE IT WOULD BE CHAPPY'S DECISION I WOULD THINK THAT IT IS NOT PROBABLE (NOR DESIRABLE) THAT III MAF HOLD ON TO THIS BILLET SUBSEQUENT TO MY DEPARTURE. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO GIVING IT UP TO THE ARMY FOR REASONS YOU STATED. IF THIS IS ACCEPTED AS A VALID PLANNING FACTOR THEN WE COULD PREPARE FOR AMALGAMATION OF THE TWO HQS SUBSEQUENT TO THE DEACTIVATION OF XXIV CORPS AND IN ANTICIPATION OF THE MARINE CORPS GIVING UP THE BILLET WHEN I AM DETACHED. A RECOMMENDED TIME FRAME FOR ME TO TURN OVER CMD HERE COULD BE 1-15 MARCH.

3. THIS LEADS INTO ANOTHER PROBLEM AND RELATES TO RELIEF OF PRESENT INCUMBENTS. AS YOU KNOW, TOM MILLER IS ON HIS WAY OUT HERE AS A NUMERICAL REPLACEMENT FOR GEORGE DOOLEY AND I HAD INTENDED TO MAKE LEO MY CHIEF OF STAFF. HOWEVER, IF THIS AMALGAMATION IS TO BE COMPLETED WHEN I LEAVE IN MARCH, I WOULD THINK IT TO BE ACCEPTABLE FOR AN ARMY BRIGADIER TO RELIEVE GEORGE, PROVIDING I COULD CHOOSE HIM. I WOULD THEN RETAIN LEO AS MY G-3 AND HE WOULD REMAIN THE G-3 OF THE NEW HQ UNTIL HE IS REPLACED IN JUNE. TOM MILLER WOULD BE ACCESS TO THIS HEADQUARTERS. HE COULD BE ASSIGNED AS AWC 1ST MAJ. OF COURSE THIS IS ONLY ONE OF MANY PERSONNEL ACTIONS WHICH WOULD BE REQUIRED AND IS MENTIONED TO POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE A PROBLEM WITH WHICH WE MUST COME TO GRIPS IMMEDIATELY.

4. I SPECIFICALLY NEED GUIDANCE AND AT THE EARLIEST. IN ONE CASE I AM REQUIRED TO ADVISE ABE ON THE BEST WAY TO SOLVE A PROBLEM. AT THE SAME TIME ANY SOLUTION I OFFER HIM MUST HAVE YOURS AND CHAPPY'S APPROVAL AND WILL HAVE AN EFFECT ON PERSONNEL ACTIONS YOU ARE PRESENTLY DEVELOPING AND IMPLEMENTING. YOUR LETTER REFERENCE



5. I AGREE WITH YOUR LETTER TO CHERRY ALTHOUGH THE  
HQ WILL HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THE PROPOSAL FOR  
OPERATIONAL CONTROL.

OF OUR DIVISION/WING TEAM. I BELIEVE THE CS SHOULD BE A  
PERSON WHO COULD ALSO SERVE AS DEPUTY CS OF THE NEW  
AMALGAMATED COMMAND. IN THIS REGARD, I AM CONCERNED WITH  
THE DEGREE OF CONTROL THAT THIS STAFF WOULD PERFORM.  
AS YOU POINTED OUT, WE COULD NOT MAKE IT SO LARGE AS TO  
CONTRAVENTE THE INTENT OF THE III MAF AND XXIV CORPS  
CONSOLIDATION. AT THE SAME TIME, I REMEMBER WE GROWING  
PAINS WE HAD WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE III MAF HQ WHEN  
WE ESTIMATED WHAT WOULD BE REQUIRED. IF IT IS  
TO BE OPERATIONAL, IT NEEDS A CAPABILITY. WHILE I  
AGREE WITH YOUR PROPOSALS, IT IS NOT GOING TO BE EASY.  
I THINK IT IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME TO ADDRESS THE  
INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SITUATION AGAIN. CANTON WILL LEAVE  
IN LATE DEC UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND AS YOU KNOW  
WE ARE HAVING DIFFICULTIES FINDING A MARINE INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER TO REPLACE HIM. I THINK THAT AN APPROPRIATE  
SOLUTION WOULD BE TO RELIEVE HIM WITH AN ARMY INTELLIGENCE  
OFFICER. THIS WOULD LEAD INTO THE AMALGAMATION OF THE  
HQ AND I THINK IT WOULD BE A GOOD SOLUTION WHETHER WE  
AMALGAMATE OR NOT.

6. PLEASE DON'T THINK THAT I AM ATTEMPTING TO INFLUENCE  
A MAJOR PULL OUT OF THE MARINES OR OF III MAF. I DO  
SEE THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL AND I THINK THAT EARLY  
MARCH WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE TIME FOR THE MARINES TO  
TURN OPERATIONAL CONTROL OVER TO THE ARMY. IF WE WAIT  
ANY LONGER, I AM SURE IT WILL BE TAKEN FROM US.

7. IF WE DO AWAY WITH XXIV CORPS ON 15 DEC I HAVE NO  
IDEA WHAT THE ARMY WOULD DO WITH MEL ZAIS DURING THE  
ENSUING PERIOD UNTIL EARLY MARCH. HOWEVER, I CONSIDER  
THAT TO BE GENERAL ABRAMS PROBLEM. THE POSSIBILITY  
COULD ALWAYS EXIST THAT A PROPOSAL WOULD BE MADE FOR  
ZAIS TO COME DOWN HERE IF XXIV CORPS IS DISESTABLISHED  
ON 15 DEC AND FOR ME TO BE REPLACED. I PERSONALLY THINK  
THAT WOULD BE A MISTAKE AND THAT I SHOULD STAY UNTIL  
THE END OF MY TOUR.

8. AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, WE WILL BRIEF YOU DURING  
YOUR NEXT VISIT. ANY GUIDANCE YOU CAN GIVE ME AT THAT TIME  
WOULD BE MOST WELCOME. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT I AM  
SUBMITTING A PAPER TO ABE ON OR ABOUT 1 NOVEMBER SO  
THERE ISN'T MUSH TIME LEFT.

WITH REGARDS

NOTE: DELIVER DURING WORKING HOURS.

HAS BEEN SENT

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TOP SECRET/  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY



MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

15 September 1969

Dear Chappy,

Nick recently submitted a planning proposal to Abrams for combining the headquarters of III MAF and XXIV Corps, with a resultant saving of some six-hundred people. A copy of the proposal, together with Abe's response, is attached for your information as enclosures (1) and (2), respectively.

I am in accord with Nick's philosophy as I consider it to be a logical approach both for the purpose of effecting force reductions in I Corps and for facilitating eventual transition to an Army Field Headquarters upon redeployment of III MAF.

Presumably, Zais will depart after the consolidation of the two headquarters, leaving only one Lieutenant General in I Corps (Marine). This would provide you with the flexibility of appointing a successor for Nick of your choosing since service seniority would no longer be a factor.

You may decide to turn the command over to the Army when Nick leaves and the Army may understandably seek to succeed Nick because of its preponderance of maneuver elements and looking to continuity of command after further Marine redeployments. Should the Army take over, I have reservations concerning the interpretation which contemporary news analysts and future Army historians may attach to

TOP SECRET/MCEO

MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

Page 1 of 3 pages

TOP SECRET

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MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

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TOP SECRET/MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

the departure of a Marine commander from I Corps with an Army general taking over and carrying the ball to war's end, particularly while a major Marine headquarters and a substantial Marine air/ground force remained. Therefore, I believe it prudent that Nick commence planning now for a small headquarters to be generated out of the III MAF assets under command of a senior Major General to assume operational control of, and preserve the integrity of our division/wing team. Note that I specify Major General because I believe a Lieutenant General's assignment would lend support to the suspected implication that "the Marines finally had to turn over the command to the Army, but were allowed to keep a Lieutenant General to save face".

As I see it, this headquarters would be located in the vicinity of Danang, subordinate to the Army Field Force Headquarters presumably located elsewhere as indicated in paragraph 2.b. of MACV letter of 25 August 1969. It would be concerned primarily with operational matters, having only limited logistic or administrative responsibilities. In short, the quintessence of the move would be austerity; otherwise, it would contravene the intent of the III MAF/XXIV Corps consolidation.

I plan to discuss this further with Nick on my next trip and will keep you informed of any further developments. I would appreciate your views when they are crystallized.

With warmest regards,

*Bill*

H. W. BUSE, JR.

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Page 4 of 3 pages  
MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY

TOP SECRET

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**MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY**

**TOP SECRET**

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Encl:

- (1) Copy of CG III MAF memo to COMUSMACV 26/dkd 5300 of 14 Aug 1969 (TS), Subj: Reduction in Force (C)
- (2) Copy of C/S MACV ltr to CG, III MAF MACJ3-022 of 25 Aug 1969 (TS), Subj: Reduction in Force (C)

General Leonard F. Chapman, Jr., USMC  
Commandant of the Marine Corps  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

TOP SECRET/MCEO

Page 3 of 3 pages

**MARINE CORPS EYES ONLY**

**TOP SECRET**

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