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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 3/1
9th Marine Amphibious Brigade
FPO San Francisco, California 96602

3/THS/rmh
3000
31 Mar 68
0006-68

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commander, Special Landing Force Bravo

Subj: Command Chronology for period 4 March 1968 - 31 March 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) 9th Mar BrigO 5750.1B

Encl: ✓(1) Battalion Landing Team 3/1 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b), and (c) enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter downgraded to unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

M. McQuown
M. MCQUOWN

LF Task Group 79.5
S&C Control No 0010159

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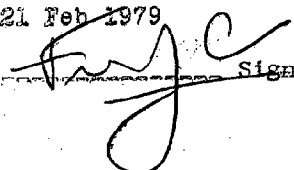
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BATTALION LANDING TEAM 3/1
COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

4 March 1968 - 31 March 1968

Declassified by the Director of
Marine Corps History and Museums
in accordance with the provisions
of CNO ltr Ser C09D323/232096 of
21 Feb 1979

 Signature

Date

7/10/97

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	✓ B. Combat After Action Report (Operation BADGER CATCH/SALINE/ NAPOLEON-SALINE). This report covers period 23 Jan 68 - 05 Mar 68 and includes statistics partially reflected in the BLT 3/1 Command Chronology for 1 Feb 68 - 3 Mar 68.	

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PART I

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ORGANIZATIONAL DATAPERIOD COVERED

4 March 1968 - 31 March 1968

A. UNIT DESIGNATION1. Battalion Landing Team 3/1

Company I
 Company K
 Company L
 Company M
 H&S Co (-) (Rein)
 3rd Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st Tank Bn
 3rd Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AT Bn
 1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st MT Bn
 3rd Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn
 4th Plt (Rein), Co B, 3rd AmTrac Bn

1st Plt (Rein), Co D, 1st Recon Bn

1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Med Bn
 Det, Co A, 1st SP Bn
 Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div
 Det, LSU, For Log Cmd

LtCol M. MCQUOWN

Capt. L.R. MORAN
 Capt. J.E. REGAL
 Capt. E.S. HEMPEL
 Capt. R.B. LEWIS
 Capt. R.J. FISHER
 Lt. R.E. PARRISH
 Lt. D.L. BROWN
 Lt. T.B. VOGEL
 Lt. C.J. MALONEY Jr
 Lt. E.L. METZIGER
 04-08 Mar 68
 Lt. D.D. BROYLES
 09-31 Mar 68
 Sgt. D.M. WOO
 04-26 Mar 68
 Lt. J.W. COCKRELL
 27-31 Mar 68
 Lt. M.R. POMERANTZ
 Lt. R.J. HEXUM
 Lt. R.W. RIPP
 Lt. A.M. COWARD

2. Attached Units

Btry C, 1st Bn, 11th Mar
 Btry W, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar

Capt. P.A. MCLAUGHLIN
 Capt. J.T. WINKLER

B. STAFF OFFICERS

XO

Maj. W.M. THURMAN
 04-16 Mar 68
 Maj. J.V. KNAPP
 17-31 Mar 68
 Lt. S.E. GRIFFIN

S-1

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S-2
S-3
S-4
Embarkation Officer
Communications Officer
Air Liaison Officer
Supply Officer
Motor Transport Officer
Chaplain
Medical Officer

Lt. R.D. TEMPLETON
Maj. T.H. SHANNON
Capt. D.E. NEWELL
Lt. C.D. EMBREY
Capt. R.G. SKINNER
Capt. C.E. FLEMING Jr
Lt. P.G. MCCARTHY
Lt. G.A. LAUTZ
Lt. A.A. GUETTERMAN
Lt. G.F. CARLOMAGNO

C. LOCATION

1. 04 Mar 68 - 051130H Mar 68: Operation NAPOLEON-SALINE, see PART IV.
2. 051130H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68: Operation LANCASTER II.
 - (a) BLT 3/1 CP: Hill 91 (YD 038557), 2000 meters NW of Camp Carroll.
 - (1) Co size bridge security position: YD 026562.
 - (2) Plt size bridge security position: YD 042566.
 - (b) Unit detachments
 - (1) Co K: OPCON 2/9, 051135H Mar 68 - 111500H Mar 68.
 - (2) Co M: OPCON 3/9, 051135H Mar 68 - 231800H Mar 68.
 - (3) Co L: OPCON 2/9, 111500H Mar 68 - OPCON 3/9, 161500H Mar 68 - OPCON 9th Marines, 241700H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
 - (4) Co I: OPCON 2/9, 231800H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
 - (5) Btry W: OPCON 12th Marines, direct support 3rd Marines 04 Mar 68 - OPCON 1/12, direct support 4th Marines 160900H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
 - (6) Btry C: OPCON 12th Marines, direct support 3rd Marines, 04 Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.
 - (7) Elements of the following units OPCON 3rd Marines, 04 Mar 68 31 Mar 68: 3rd Plt, Co C, 1st Tk Bn; 3rd Plt, Co A, 5th AT Bn; 4th Plt, Co B, 3rd AmTrac Bn.
 - (c) Unit attachments

Co L, 3/9 (-): OPCON BLT 3/1, 310900H Mar 68 - 31 Mar 68.

D. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>USMC</u>		<u>USN</u>	
<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Enlisted</u>
56	1462	8	98

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PART II

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

For the first 1½ days of the reported period Battalion Landing Team 3/1 was engaged in operation NAPOLEON-SALINE in Quang Tri Province, RVN under the operational control of the 3rd Marine Regiment. This operation is covered in detail in PART IV (Combat After Action Report).

At 051130H Mar 68 BLT 3/1 was placed under the operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment and switched operation areas with BLT 2/4. Since this change, BLT 3/1 has remained in the Camp Carroll area in a defensive posture with a mission of providing security for Camp Carroll and two key bridge locations along route #9. In general the situation has placed the BLT CP, provisional company and 2 rifle companies in positions just northwest of Camp Carroll along route #9. A 3rd company has been OPCON to 2/9 at Camp Carroll. The 4th company was OPCON to 3/9 at Ca Lu from 05-24 Mar 68 and OPCON to the 9th Marine Regiment from 24-31 Mar 68.

BLT operations in the Camp Carroll area were conducted as part of operation LANCASTER II. Enemy contact consisted of a small number of enemy sniper rounds and several long range sightings of small numbers of enemy troops. The BLT was assigned an extensive area of operations. See PART IV (Operation Overlay). However, actual operations were confined to a small area adjacent to route #9 and Camp Carroll.

As of the last day of the reported period BLT 3/1 has commenced a two company search and clear operation in the vicinity of Camp Carroll. Results are unknown at this time.

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PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

See PART IV (Combat After Action Report) for missions assigned through 051130H Mar 68. From 051130H Mar 68 through 31 Mar 68, the mission assigned was to maintain defensive positions consistent with the security of Camp Carroll and two key bridge locations along route #9. Within the area of operations the mission included implementation of an anti-mechanized plan and reinforcement of Camp Carroll should it be attacked. Daily activities consisted of providing security elements for mine sweeps and convoys along route #9. Extensive reconnaissance patrolling was conducted to maintain security of BLT fixed positions.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE - Quang Tri Province, RVN, 290600H Feb 68 - 051130H Mar 68.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY

None.

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED

8 KIA and 54 WIA of those indicated below were resultant from action occurring at the end of the reported period 01 Feb 68 - 03 Mar 68. They were not included in the earlier report because they died of wounds or were not verified until a later date.

1. USMC

<u>Officer</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	7	0

<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
9	57	0

2. USN

<u>Officer</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	0	0

<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
2	10	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

None.

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PART II

NARRATIVE SUMMARY

On 010600 February 1968, Battalion Landing Team 3/1 was ashore in Quang Tri Province, RVN, taking part in Operation Saline. This operation's primary aim was to keep the Cua Viet River open for supplies enroute to Dong Ha, and was under the control of the First Amtrack Battalion, Third Marine Division (Rein). On 17 February 1968, the S-1 section, the Disbursing Office, the record department of the BAS, the C. and C. Platoon, the S and C Files, and the Postal Office debarked to Dong Ha; while Amphibious Ready Group 76.5 sailed to Subic Bay, Philippines for repairs. These sections re-embarked on 5 March. Operation Saline remained in effect until 290600 February, when the BLT passed under operational control of the Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division (Rein) and began Operation NAPOLEON/SALINE whose objectives were the same as those for Operation Saline. This operation is still in progress as of the end of this reporting period.

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PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTSA. COMBAT MISSIONS ASSIGNED

See PART IV for missions assigned during period 01 Feb 68 - 18 Feb 68.
Assigned mission remains the same after this period.

B. SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED

1. Operation SALINE - Quang Tri Province, RVN, 26 Jan - 29 Feb 68.
2. Operation SALINE/NAPOLÉON - Quang Tri Province, RVN, 29 Feb - 5 Mar 68.

C. CASUALTIES INFLICTED ON THE ENEMY - 23 JAN - 3 MAR 68

NVA KIA (CONT)	512
NVA POW	26
VC SUSPECTS DETAINED	23

D. CASUALTIES SUSTAINED - 23 JAN - 3 MAR 681. USMC

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
5	16	0	69	355	0

2. USN

<u>Officer</u>			<u>Enlisted</u>		
<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>	<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA</u>	<u>MIA</u>
0	0	0	7	12	0

E. NEW TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED

See PART IV.

F. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

BLT 3/1 was under operational control of the First Amphibious Tractor Battalion and remained so until 290600H Feb 68 at which time the BLT was placed under control of the Third Marine Regiment, Third Marine Division (Rein).

G. EQUIPMENT

See PART IV.

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F. COMMAND RELATIONSHIPS

BLT 3/1 was under operational control of the 3rd Marine Regiment until 051130H Mar 68. At that time BLT 3/1 changed areas of operation with BLT 2/4 and came under operational control of the 4th Marine Regiment. The BLT remained OPCON to the 4th Marine Regiment through the end of the reported period.

G. EQUIPMENT

Equipment which proved to be in need of repair was off loaded in DaNang on 08 Mar 68 and moved to Maintenance Battalion FLC for repairs. Equipment moved ashore for repair included 19 - M422, Mighty Mites; and 7 - M35, 2 1/2 ton 6X6 trucks.

H. LOGISTICS**1. Supply**

(a) To meet changes resulting from BLT 3/1's move to the Camp Carroll area a LSA was established at Dong Ha Combat Base re-orienting the flow of all classes of supply except for Class II. Requests for Class II items were filled from the BLT assets aboard LPH-8.

(b) Shortages of Class II items exist, especially jungle utilities and gas masks. Requisitions are pending to satisfy all BLT requirements of this type.

(c) An inventory of serialized items was completed on 31 Mar 68 and will serve as a basis for making up any deficiencies in this area.

2. Transportation

(a) Supplies were moved from the LSA to the Camp Carroll area by two trucks from the BLT motor transport platoon. These trucks were stationed at Dong Ha.

(b) Administrative transportation in the Camp Carroll area was provided by vehicles organic to the BLT and augmented by two "Otters" from 9th Motor Transport at Camp Carroll.

(c) Movement of personnel and Class II supplies from LPH-8 to Camp Carroll was provided by CH-46's from HMM-164.

3. Mess

On 20 March the BLT began feeding one hot meal a day to the troops in the Camp Carroll area. This was done by augmenting the 4th Marine Regiment Headquarters Company mess with cooks and equipment from the BLT. The meals were served at noon and were well received by the troops. "C" Rations were distributed for the remaining meals.

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I. ADMINISTRATIVE1. Awards

(a) Two Bronze Star Medals, three Navy Commendation Medals, one Navy Achievement Medal and seven Purple Heart Medals were awarded to individual Marines. Presentation of awards was made by Brigadier General Chip, Commanding General, 9th Marine Amphibious Brigade in ceremonies held aboard USS VALLEY FORGE.

(b) BLT 3/1 recommended five Silver Star Medals, twenty Bronze Star Medals and two Navy Commendation Medals during the reported period with additional recommendations to follow.

(c) All award recommendations for operations FORTRESS RIDGE and BADGER TOOTH have been approved.

2. Legal and Discipline

During the reported period five investigations were initiated, three cases of non-judicial punishment and two Special Court-Martials were awarded. One Marine was declared a deserter and one has been in a "UA" status since failing to return from R&R. Overall discipline remains excellent.

3. Postal

Mail delivery has improved during this reported period; however, occasional delays are still encountered. One rerouting was required during the period. Space available for sorting and storing has improved; however, a problem still exists when large volumes of mail are to be handled.

4. R&R Quotas

BLT 3/1 received one hundred R&R quotas for the month of March. A few problems were encountered obtaining proper uniform for R&R personnel while the ARG was in Subic Bay with BLT personnel belongings aboard. Included were quotas to Bangkok, Hawaii, Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Sidney, Taipei, Tokyo, Manila, Penang, Singapore, and Okinawa.

5. Promotions

There were sixty regular promotions to Corporal, eighty to Lance Corporal, and twelve to Private First Class during the reported period. One Sergeant, one Corporal, and three Lance Corporal Meritorious Combat promotions were awarded. There were three promotions to 1st Lieutenant and one permanent promotion to Captain.

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6. Pay and Allowances

All men in the field were given an opportunity to send pay to their relatives by endorsed government checks. Health and comfort pay was provided for use at local post exchange facilities. In addition personnel being transferred, going home on emergency leave, or filling R&R quotas were paid prior to their departure.

7. Post Exchange

Post exchange facilities were available on a limited basis at Camp Carroll. In addition, sundry packs were issued to meet most health and comfort needs.

8. Religious Services(a) Divine Services

On 26 March, three Memorial Services were conducted near Camp Carroll for the men killed in action since 23 January. 254 men attended these services. The BLT Chaplain conducted 11 Protestant Services with 271 attending. There were 4 Protestant Lay Services with 115 attending. Catholic Mass was said 4 times by Chaplain McMerrill of 1/12 for our BLT, with 101 attending. There were 2 Catholic Lay Services with 72 attending.

(b) Personnel Response Program

The BLT Chaplain made 20 pastoral visits in the Valley Forge sick bay and had 21 counseling sessions, and made 4 brig visits. The BLT Chaplain wrote and had reproduced a twelve page booklet to be sent to the next of kin of men killed in action. Seven "care" packages from the states were delivered. Over 200 letters were written concerning personal problems, family counseling, and Chaplain functions.

9. Personnel Changes(a) Losses

Battle

Administrative

(b) Replacements

USMC		USN	
Officer	Enlisted	Officer	Enlisted
2	21	0	2
8	254	0	6
6	100	0	15

J. MEDICAL/DENTAL AFFAIRS1. Personnel

Throughout the reported period the BAS was maintained in the field to administer to the medical needs of the BLT in the Camp Carroll area. The Clearing Plt and the Dental Det remained aboard USS VALLEY FORCE to handle afloat, hospitalized, and medevac patients.

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2. Patient Load

- (a) During the month, 387 patients were seen at sick call for an average of twelve per day. The majority were treated by the BAS in the field.
- (b) 158 patients were seen at dental sick call during the period.

3. MEDCAP/DENTCAP

There were no MEDCAP/DENTCAP evolutions during the reported period.

4. Sanitation

A campaign was initiated to deal with a rodent problem which developed at the BLT Camp Carroll positions. Rat poison was distributed, trash was disposed of daily, and instruction was given on the importance of not leaving foodstuffs scattered about the area. The heads and urinals were inspected daily. In addition, the area outside and inside the BLT perimeter was sprayed with insecticide.

K. INTELLIGENCE

During the period, S-2 personnel conducted daily intelligence briefings with local intelligence developed in detail and intelligence from other operational areas presented in general. Daily liaison was maintained with S-2, 4th Marine Regiment.

The BLT began to use several anti-intrusion devices, including seismic intrusion devices and the PPS-6 radar set. A continuing evaluation of these devices is being made.

Aerial photographs, both oblique and vertical sets, were obtained through 3rd Marine Division covering the trace of National Route #9 from Dong Ha to Khe Sanh. Photos were plotted on a tactical map and set up as an additional reference source for briefing of patrols and for use in regular intelligence briefings. A similar project is underway for the operational area north of the Cua Viet River.

L. COMMUNICATIONS

1. Training

The following training was accomplished by the Communications Platoon during this reported period.

- (a) Radio school was held for all Communications Plt and company radio operators. Subjects stressed were preventative maintenance, communications security, proper operating procedures and field expedient communications.
- (b) School for officers and staff NCO's was conducted on communication security and the use of the KAC-QX and PX operational codes.

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During this period the BLT has called sixteen observed fire missions on enemy and suspected enemy activities. Ten H&I targets have been selected and fired nightly. The BLT has registered thirteen night defensive targets and placed several anti-mechanized targets on call. Eight missions were called to provide training in FO procedures and classes were conducted on "CoFram" ammunition.

N. AIR SUPPORT

The nature of BLT 3/1 activities throughout the reported period provided no requirements for close air support. HMM-164 provided CH-46 helicopters for administrative, and medevac transportation. Two troop lifts were conducted. The BLT was transported by helicopter from operation NAPOLEON/SALINE to the Camp Carroll area. On 31 Mar 68 two companies and the BLT CP were lifted into the search and clear operation beginning on that date. The 4th Marine Regiment "working birds" were utilized for reconnaissance flights.

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(c) The 4th Marine Regiment conducted class on the PPS-6 Battlefield Surveillance Radar set and the Patrol Seismic Intrusion Device. Classes were attended by Communication Plt personnel who then gave instruction to the BLT on the use of these devices.

2. General Communications

Radio communication with the companies and the 4th Marine Regiment has been good. Some difficulty was encountered when mine sweep teams were not able to communicate with the 4th Marine Regiment using the PRC-25. A MRC-109 is now being sent with the sweep teams and the problem has been eliminated.

Wire lines are being utilized to supplement radio communications. Constant trouble shooting is required to keep these lines in service due to the great amount of vehicular traffic, especially tracked vehicles. Seismic intrusion devices and battlefield surveillance radar are being utilized to supplement the BLT's defensive capabilities. No difficulty has been encountered in employing this equipment to date. A review of the KAC-QX and PX codes as directed by CTG 79.5 was completed and recommended changes were forwarded.

3. Maintenance

The movement of the LSU aboard USS VALLEY FORGE improved our maintenance capability. The Communications Plt also has two technicians aboard ship to speed the return of damaged or inoperative communication equipment. All equipment that cannot be repaired in the field is sent to our repair shop aboard ship and then evacuated to 1st FSR for repair if necessary.

4. Supply

We are still receiving BA-386's for the PRC-25 manufactured by the Crown Battery Corp. of Okinawa. These batteries are completely unsatisfactory. Normal operating life of these batteries continues to be from 6 to 8 hours as compared to approximately 72 hours with American made BA-386's. The contract number of the latest resupply of Crown batteries was M-67436-68-L-0039.

Certain items of communications equipment continue to be in short supply. Handsets, whip antennas, tape antennas, antenna bases, and packboards are the most needed items at this time.

M. FIRE SUPPORT

For operation NAPOLEON/SALINE see PART IV. When BLT 3/1 moved to the Camp Carroll area Btry C and Btry W remained behind OPCON to the 3rd Marine Regiment. During this period the BLT was dependent on 4th Marine Regiment direct support batteries for fire support.

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4. Task OrganizationBLT 3/1H&S Co (-) (Rein)

Det, Hq Bn, 1st Mar Div
 Det, Hq Co, 1st Mar
 Det, Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar
 Det, Comm Plt, Hq Co, 1st Mar
 Det, Dental Co, 9th MAB
 1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Med Bn
 3rd Plt (Rein), (-), Co A, 1st Eng Bn
 Det, LSU, For Log Cmd
 Det, Co A, 1st SP Bn
 1st Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st MT Bn
 (At 262040H Jan 68 a provisional rifle co
 (Co N) was formed utilizing personnel from
 attached units)

Lt. Col. M. MCQUOWN

Capt R. J. FISHER

Co I (Rein)

Co I
 Det, H&S Co
 FAC Tm
 Det, Med Plt
 FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt
 NGF Spot Tm
 Det, Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar
 Tm, 3d Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn
 HST Tm, Det Co A, 1st SP Bn

Capt L. R. MORAN

Co K (Rein)

Co K
 Det, H&S Co
 FAC Tm
 Det, Med Plt
 FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt
 NGF Spot Tm
 Det, Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar
 Tm, 3d Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn
 HST Tm, Det, Co A, 1st SP Bn

Capt J. E. REGAL

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HEADQUARTERS
Battalion Landing Team 3/1
FPO San Francisco Calif 96602

03/THS/rmh
3000
24 Mar 1968
Ser. No. 0004-68

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From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 3rd Marine Division

Subj: Combat After Action Report

Ref: (a) CTG 79.5 Operation Plan 120A-67
(b) MAPS: VIETNAM 1:50,000, AMS Series 6442 IV

Encl: (1) - Operation Overlay
(2) - Sketch Maps of Major Engagements
(3) - Extracts from S-3 Journal

1. Operation BADGER CATCH/SALINE/NAPOLEON-SALINE.

2. Dates and Locations

- a. The combined operation began on 23 January 1968 and was terminated 5 March 1968. This period was divided under three operational code names in accordance with changes in operational control.
 - (1) BADGER CATCH, 231630H Jan 68 - 261400 Jan 68, OPCON SLF Bravo (CTG 79.5).
 - (2) SALINE, 261400H Jan 68 - 290600H Feb, OPCON 1st AmTrac Bn.
 - (3) NAPOLEON-SALINE, 290600H Feb 68 - 051130H Mar 68 OPCON 3rd Marine Regiment.
- b. The mission assigned to BLT 3/1 was to clear the north bank of the Cua Viet River and adjacent areas of enemy forces. The mission remained unchanged throughout the operation. The exact boundaries of the area of operation were adjusted numerous times; however, all BLT 3/1 activities were conducted within 10,000 meters of the mouth of the Cua Viet River. See enclosure (1).

3. Command Headquarters

- a. BADGER CATCH, SLF Bravo (CTG 79.5), aboard USS VALLEY FORGE.
- b. SALINE, 1st AmTrac Bn, 1st AmTrac Bn Combat Base (YD 345695).
- c. NAPOLEON-SALINE, 3rd Marine Regiment, 1st AmTrac Bn Combat Base (YD 345695).

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SLF Task Group 79.5
S&C Control No 000160

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BLT 3/1
a/c, BADGER CATCH/SALINE/
NAPOLEON-SALINE

23 Jan - 5 Mar 1968

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- b. Enemy Strength, Mission, and Tactics During the Operation. Interrogation of POW's taken during the operation confirmed that the enemy units contacted during the early phases of the operation in My Loc, Xuan Khanh, Lam Xuan, and Le Xuyen were subordinate to the 803rd NVA Regiment. The heaviest contacts were with elements of the 3d Bn, 803rd Regiment, but POW's were also taken from units of the 1st and 2d battalions, 803rd Regiment, as well as one POW who claimed to be from the 4th Bn, 270th Regiment.

The last phase of the operation (assault and capture of Mai Xa Thi west) involved contact with two reinforced companies of the 6th Bn, 52nd NVA Regiment. One POW taken during this phase stated that the 6th Bn had infiltrated down into Mai Xa Thi only six days previously. The condition of weapons and equipment captured in Mai Xa Thi tend to confirm that the unit had been in the field only a short time.

The primary mission of enemy units in the AOA was to harass and interdict waterborne traffic on the Cua Viet River between the Cua Viet port facility and Dong Ha Combat Base. Prior to, and at various times during the operation the enemy conducted attacks by fire on river traffic utilizing small arms, automatic weapons, rocket launchers, and mortars. To accomplish his primary mission, the enemy had moved units of up to company size into hamlets that fronted on the Cua Viet River and had set up fortified defense positions.

The enemy established fortified defensive positions in depth running back into the center of the hamlets themselves. In many instances he converted the "family" type bomb shelters that had been constructed by the civilian population into fortified positions for his own use. The enemy defended his positions with tenacity and skill and did not attempt to break contact until after dark in the apparent belief that the friendly forces would pull back and establish defensive positions as darkness approached. He was largely unsuccessful in this tactic because BLT 3/1 continued the attack throughout the night when necessary and made extensive use of illumination to light the battle area and to deny the enemy access to escape routes.

Enemy units contacted during the operation were armed with normal small arms, heavy and light machine guns, recoilless rifles, 60mm mortars and 82mm mortars. Extensive use was made of RPG-2 and RPG-7 rocket launchers against friendly tanks, ontos, and amtracs. Anti-tank mines were placed in likely avenues of tracked vehicle approach and were successful in disabling several tracked vehicles. Noteworthy was the almost complete absence of booby traps and other surprise firing devices in the captured hamlets, indicating that the enemy believed he could hold these areas against friendly attack and had not anticipated the direction nor intensity of friendly actions.

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Co L (Rein)

Capt E. S. HEMPEL

Co L

Det, H&S Co

FAC Tm

Det, Med Plt

FO, 81mm Mortar Plt

Det, Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar

Tm, 3d Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn

HST Tm, Plt, Co A, 1st SP Bn

Co M (Rein)

Capt R. A. THOMAS

Co M

23 Jan - 15 Feb

Det, H&S Co

Capt R. B. LEWIS

Det, Med Plt

16 Feb - 5 Mar

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

Det, Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar

Tm, 3d Plt (Rein), Co A, 1st Eng Bn

HST Tm, Plt, Co A, 1st SP Bn

Btry C (Rein), 1st Bn, 11th Mar

Capt P. A. MCLAUGHLIN

Btry W, 2d Bn, 11th Mar

Capt J. T. WINKLER

81mm Mortar Plt

Lt K. M. HAGGERTY

23 Jan - 26 Feb

Lt J. A. HAMILTON

27 Feb - 5 Mar

Lt R. E. PARRISH

3d Plt (Rein), Co C, 1st Tk Bn4th Plt (Rein), Co B, 3d AmTrac Bn

Lt E. L. METZIGER

1st Plt (Rein), Co D, 1st Recon Bn

Lt P. R. YOUNG

23 Jan - 7 Feb

Sgt D. M. WOO

8 Feb - 5 Mar

Lt D. L. BROWN

3d Plt (Rein), Co A, 5th AT BnTk Plt, BLT 2/4--assigned in direct support of BLT 3/1 as of 27 Jan 68.AmTrac Plt, BLT 2/4--assigned in direct support of BLT 3/1.5. Intelligence

- a. Enemy strength prior to operation. The AOA was the normal operating area of elements of the 803rd and 812th Regiments, 324th NVA Division. In addition, VC units of up to company size were believed operating in the general vicinity of Mai Xa Thi and Vinh Quanh Ha near the Cua Vie.

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- d. Weather. Weather for the first five days of the operation was characterized by early morning fog and then bright, sunny weather with unlimited visibility. For the remainder of the operation, the weather was typical of the "Crachin" period, characterized by fog, light drizzle, and ceilings generally under 200 feet. Both tactical and resupply operations by air were severely hampered and in many cases resupply had to be effected by LVT from the 1st AmTrac Bn location near the mouth of the Cua Viet River. The poor weather during the period also contributed materially to the trafficability problems encountered in the area by tracked vehicles.
6. Mission. BLT 3/1's mission during Operation BADGER CATCH/SALINE/NAPOLÉON-SALINE was to clear the north bank of the Cua Viet River and adjacent areas of enemy forces.
7. Execution.
- a. Concept. At the start of the operation, it was known that NVA forces had occupied positions on the north bank of the Cua Viet and from these positions had begun to interdict river traffic between the mouth of the Cua Viet River and Dong Ha Combat Base. Recent ARVN attacks on these positions had produced uncertain results and enemy strength in the area was unknown. BLT 3/1 landed at the mouth of the Cua Viet and began search and clear operations in the hamlets along the north bank. The direct support artillery battery was positioned within the 1st AmTrac Bn Combat Base to provide necessary fire support. NVA units were to be forced from positions along the river and when necessary the BLT would occupy strategic positions to prevent reoccupation by the enemy.
- b. Operations. BLT 3/1 found that the NVA still occupied strategic locations along the north bank despite recent ARVN operations. Five separate attacks were launched from 23 January to 3 February to secure enemy held positions. A combat base was established at My Loc (YD 305680) to protect Btry W and the 81mm Mortar Plt. On 14 Feb, BLT 3/1 was directed to move to the south bank of the Cua Viet and sweep the heavily populated rice growing area adjacent to the river. This phase of the operation lasted until 26 February. Extensive use was made of LVT's to move troops and supplies during this period. BLT 3/1 made two major assaults to drive NVA forces from established positions within the area of operations. On 26 Feb 68 BLT 3/1 returned to the north bank of the river reoccupying positions at My Loc (YD 305680) and Mai Xa Thi (east) (YD 287672). On 1 Mar 68, the final assault of the operation was launched against a well entrenched enemy at Mai Xa Thi (west). The enemy position was occupied on 2 Mar 68.

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The enemy displayed the ability to direct and adjust artillery fire on maneuvering friendly units as well as on friendly defensive positions. However, his artillery fires were of short duration and largely ineffective. Relatively few friendly casualties and equipment damage were the direct result of enemy artillery fires.

Both field radios and field telephones were captured during the operation, indicating the enemy's communication capabilities. In Lam Xuan, where the enemy's battalion CP was located, wire communications had been laid from a central bunker to a number of outlying bunkers for command and control coordination. Among the items taken from one radio operator's field pack in the area was a map with one of the friendly thrust points marked on it. However, the thrust points had been changed several days earlier due to a suspected compromise.

The large amounts of captured weapons and equipment taken during this operation as well as a number of classified documents, diaries, etc, also support the belief that the enemy intended to hold his positions and was only forced by intense friendly pressure to segment his units and attempt to withdraw.

In summary, the main enemy tactic during the operation was to attempt to defend and hold in his fortified hamlet positions, in order to utilize these locations to interdict traffic on the Gua Viet River. The only large-scale aggressive action he attempted was in the early morning hours of February 2 when he conducted a battalion size attack on the night defensive positions of Co K. However, intelligence developed from documents and POW's taken several days earlier in the operation had indicated such an attack was imminent. In light of this intelligence Co K had moved their defensive position several hundred meters just after dark. The enemy's preparatory artillery and mortar fire was directed harmlessly on the previously vacated positions. When he launched his ground assault, he was exposed to intense friendly artillery and naval gunfire attack, as well as small arms, automatic weapons, and mortar fires from the new Co K positions. This attack cost the enemy 141 dead as well as the loss of a large number of individual and crew served weapons.

- c. Terrain. The most prominent terrain feature within the AOA was the Gua Viet River running southwest to northeast. A belt of sandy barren soil extends inland about 5000 meters on both the north and south banks of the Gua Viet. This area has some hamlets, cultivated fields and paddies but large areas are barren and uninhabited. An extensive paddy area borders on the sandy area. It is heavily populated with numerous hamlets and is a rich rice growing area. Treelines along the river and within the hamlets were composed mostly of a species of pine tree and bamboo which provided the enemy excellent concealment and ideal locations for his fortifications. Extensive paddy areas prohibited the use of wheeled vehicles and in many cases proved difficult for tracked vehicles.

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c. Major Engagements. A summary of engagements involving units of a company size or greater follows. Sketch maps for each action appear in enclosure (2).

- (1) My Loc (YD 305680) 25 Jan 68. Co K attacked prior to dawn on a narrow front. Rules of engagement applied and "prep" fires were not used. One platoon moved around to the right flank to block. The blocking platoon came under intense close in small arms fire. Tanks reinforced Co K and assisted in evacuation of wounded. Tanks exchanged fire at very close range with enemy anti-tank weapons. Despite 5 RPG hits, no tanks were lost. Co K withdrew and enemy positions were shelled with artillery, Naval gunfire, and CAS. Co K assaulted again in the afternoon and was able to sweep through the enemy positions with little resistance as the enemy had withdrawn. The hamlet was occupied and a combat base established. This site was selected because of its strategic location relative to river traffic.
- (2) Lam Xuan (1) (YD 285689) 26 Jan 68. Co I assaulted Lam Xuan (east) from east to west on the afternoon of 26 Jan 68. Initially there was no resistance. As Co I reached the first treeline of the hamlet, they came under heavy small arms fire. Snipers opened up from the scrub area to the rear of Co I's lines inflicted moderate casualties and causing the attack to bog down. Casualties were evacuated with the aid of tanks, but only with difficulty. The attack was discontinued because of darkness.
- (3) Lam Xuan (2) (YD 285689) 28 Jan 68. Co L attacked with ontos and two platoons of tanks in direct support. Three tanks were knocked out by mines moving into the attack position. Co L made contact in the first treelines of the hamlet. The advance was slow and deliberate to ensure no enemy was by-passed. During the afternoon Co K moved up on line and attacked with Co L. As darkness approached the enemy began to break. The attack was continued well into the night under illumination. This was the first time the NVA displayed their often repeated tactic of withdrawing at dusk.
- (4) Mai Xa Thi (east) (YD 286672) 31 Jan 68. Co M moved into the attack position under cover of darkness. Co K moved one platoon down from the north to conduct a diversionary attack on the opposite side of the hamlet. Surprise was achieved; however, the enemy rapidly adjusted his defenses. Co M attacked throughout the day. A section of LVTH-6's arrived in direct support of Co M at about 0930H. Good progress was made on the left but none on the right. Co I moved up by LVT on the left to allow Co M to concentrate on the right flank. Co L moved up to assist Co M and Co I. Throughout the operation the enemy delivered effective mortar, artillery, and RR fire from their positions across the river in the western part of the hamlet.

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At dusk the enemy broke. Co M and Co I moved forward continuing the attack under illumination. Night defensive positions were established about 2300H. The remainder of the position was occupied the next morning. Among the weapons captured were a 82mm mortar and a 12.7mm machine gun.

- (5) Lam Xuan (3) (YD 285689) 2 Feb 68. The third battle at Lam Xuan was enemy initiated. Initially Co K occupied a defensive position within the hamlet. The company shifted its position 200 meters to the East after darkness in response to an intelligence report which predicted an attack. The enemy launched his attack from the north just before 0400H. Co K LP's gave warning of the enemy's approach. An intense mortar barrage fell on Co K's old position, completely missing Co K. All supporting fires and illumination were brought to bear on the enemy and his attack became confused and stopped short of Co K's position. Despite heavy losses, large numbers of the enemy remained close to Co K's positions after daylight. They used positions left over from previous battles. Co M with tanks was brought up to assist Co K. It took all day to drive the remaining enemy from the hamlet. A hasty body count was made and weapons were collected before withdrawing south at darkness.
- (6) Vinh Lai (YD 326637) 16 Feb 68. This engagement resulted from sweep operations south of the Gua Viet. After clearing adjacent villages Co L encountered heavy small arms fire as they entered Vinh Lai from the north east. Tanks and ontos were in direct support but terrain hindered their effectiveness. Co I moved to a position on the west side of the hamlet and was able to effectively block the enemy's escape attempts. Supporting arms including air were used effectively and by night fall Co L was within the hamlet. Co I with one tank in support killed many of the enemy as they tried to flee at dusk. Co I moved into the hamlet and set up a defensive position in conjunction with Co L.
- (7) Le Xuyen (YD 345633) 19 Feb 68. This hamlet had been previously swept on 16 Feb. At that time some fortifications had been found but the hamlet had not been occupied. Co I was given the mission of clearing the hamlet just before dusk prior to establishing a Bn night defensive position. The direction of attack was from Northeast to Southwest. About midway through the hamlet, Co I came under close-in small arms fire. One section of tanks was placed in direct support of Co I. The other section was dispatched to the southern end of the hamlet to block enemy escape. Co I attacked under illumination and pushed through to the southern end of the hamlet. Co L moved up and swept the left side of the hamlet which had not been completely cleared. By 0100H the hamlet was secured. This yielded two 82mm recoilless guns and an 82mm mortar and seven POW's as well as 19 NVA KIA.

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- (8) Mai Xa Thi (west) (YD 280667) 1 Mar 68. This was the largest and most challenging attack of the operation. The situation was unique in that the friendly held attack position was separated from the objective by a small river only 40 meters wide. The objective had been previously bombarded from 2 to 14 Feb in preparation for an attack. The attack was postponed due to operations south of the river. When operations south of the river were terminated, the part of the hamlet to the east of the north-south river (Mai Xa Thi east) was again occupied and the attack by fire continued. The assault was by LVT after extensive preparation by artillery, naval gunfire, air, and direct fire from tanks and LVTH-6's. Plans called for an LVTE to be the first vehicle ashore and to neutralize the beach with a line charge. The LVTE became stuck moving into position and was not used. In spite of a maximum effort to deliver all possible preparatory fires, the enemy inflicted heavy casualties as Co M left the LVT's. Co M pressed the attack and secured the beach area. Co I was able to cross the river using a partially destroyed bridge and to move up on Co M's right, attacking on line. One section of LVTH-6's were in direct support of Co M. A section of tanks was in direct support of both Co M and Co I. LVTE's with line charges were used to breach enemy strong points with excellent results. By-passed enemy snipers took a heavy toll and necessitated that Co L follow Co M and Co I in trace and mop up by-passed enemy. The attack was continued until 2100H when a defensive perimeter was established with about 80 per cent of the hamlet in friendly hands. A detailed search of the hamlet the following day revealed many extensive fortifications, living bunkers, and large stores of ammunition indicating that Mai Xa Thi (west) was the center of enemy activity on the north bank of the Cua Viet.

d. Supporting Arms.

- (1) General. The quality and amount of available fire support was outstanding. In addition to BLT 3/1's two organic batteries, fire support was available from the LVTH-6 company supporting the 1st AmTrac Bn, 3d MarDiv artillery, naval gunfire ships and air. Tanks, ontos and LVTH-6's delivered direct fire in close support of attacking infantry. Extensive use of all available supporting fire made it possible to maintain a favorable casualty ratio against a determined and well dug-in defender.

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- (2) Artillery. Artillery support consisted of 432 observed fire missions, 3 TOTs and numerous battery, one H&I's and other unobserved missions. An approximate total of 20,000 rounds of 105mm, 6000 rounds 107mm, and 300 rounds 155mm and 8" were expended. The heavy schedule of H&I fires was delivered on areas of known enemy activity and in response to intelligence information passed from higher echelons. Close-in missions were fired as close as 50 to 100 meters in front of advancing infantry units and were instrumental in weakening enemy resistance. Firing units were cooperative and responsive. Communication difficulties were minimal. Overall, artillery support was utilized to its maximum with excellent results.
- (3) Naval Gunfire. NGF was used extensively in support of BLT 3/1 during the operation. A total of 14 different ships was used for close supporting, counterbattery, saturation, and H&I type missions.

NGF ships delivered 1,170 rounds of close supporting fires during the actions Lam Xuan (2) and Lam Xuan (3). The attack by fire of Mai Xa Thi (west) from 4 Feb 68 to 14 Feb 68 was supported with 5,363 rounds of NGF. When the bombardment of Mai Xa Thi (west) was continued from 26 Feb 68 through the attack of 1 Mar 68 NGF added an additional 2,164 rounds. White phosphorus proved especially effective for producing fires to burn the cover from enemy positions.

In total, about 13,400 rounds of NGF were expended in support of BLT 3/1 during this operational period. In addition NGF units under control of Third Marine Division provided suppressive fire against enemy artillery batteries whenever the BLT received incoming rounds. Good availability of ships and ammunition enabled NGF to provide a valuable service in conjunction with the BLT's organic supporting arms.

- (4) Air Support.

- (a) CAS. BLT 3/1 used 42 two-plane flights consisting of Marine A-4's, A-6's, F-4B's and F-8's; Navy A-4's and Air Force F-4C's. These planes dropped 471 250 lb bombs, 152 500 lb bombs, 1 2,000 bomb, 140 500 lb napalm tanks, and expended thousands of 20mm rounds, and several hundred 2.75 inch rockets. Reported battle damage was 75 structures destroyed, 400 meters of trench line damaged, 20 bunkers destroyed, 11 secondary explosions, 28 NVA KIA confirmed and 11 NVA KIA probable. The amount of CAS available was adequate considering that prevailing bad weather prevented CAS on most days. On occasions when weather permitted use of CAS, its effectiveness was minimized by a failure to adhere to schedule and the inability of the DASC to predict the time of arrival on station.

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For this reason CAS was reduced to the roll of a supplemental supporting arm, to be used when available, but not to be depended upon. Once close support aircraft arrived and established communications with ground/air controllers, their performance was excellent providing accurate and effective close support for ground troops.

- (b) TPQ-10's. Extensive use was made of TPQ-10 directed aircraft for dropping bombs on suspected enemy locations and supply routes. Some difficulty was encountered on several occasions when bombs were dropped off target endangering friendly troops.
- (c) Flareships. Flareships were used on several occasions to support attacks continuing past dark. Some difficulty was encountered because DASC was unable to predict when the aircraft would arrive on station. After adjusting the flares on target illumination was outstanding.
- (d) AO's. BLT 3/1 had the services of AO's in O-1, O-2 and UH-1E aircraft. O-1 and O-2 aircraft proved more satisfactory due to their greater endurance on station and better availability from incountry sources.
- (e) Medevac's. HMM 165 provided helicopters for medevacs until the ARG departed on 18 Feb 1968. The medevac flights provided excellent support often flying into "hot" LZ's and flying while the weather was below minimum flying conditions.

e. Logistics

- (1) The LSA was established aboard the LPH-8 on D-Day and remained aboard until 2 Feb 68 at which time it was transferred to Dong Ha for a two day period. The LSA was reestablished aboard LPH-8 on 4 Feb 68 remaining so through 16 Feb 68. Moving ashore on 16 Feb 68 the LSA was established with one detachment at Dong Ha Combat Base and one detachment at 1st AmTrac Bn Combat Base. The LSA remained in these positions through the end of the reported period.
- (2) HMM-165 provided helicopters for resupply from 23 Jan 68 through 16 Feb 68. After this period resupply was staged at Dong Ha Combat Base and moved to 1st AmTrac Bn Combat Base by LCM for distribution to BLT units by LVTP-5.
- (3) The major problem encountered during the reported period was the non availability of certain Class V resupply items, such as 81mm ammo, at Dong Ha Combat Base during the period 2-4 Feb 68.

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- f. Communications. Communications were very good. Some minor problems were encountered with mutual interference, but frequency changes usually solved them. Use of the LVTP-5 (C) was beneficial from a communications point of view. Although power difficulty precluded constant use of the command tractor's radios, the tractor provided a dry communications center and excellent antennas for the PRC-25 radios.

8. Resultsa. Friendly

	<u>BADGER CATCH</u>	<u>SALINE</u>	<u>NAPOLEON-SALINE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
(1) USMC Casualties				
(a) Enlisted				
KIA:	4	46	26	76
WIA:	18	279	97	394
MIA:	0	0	0	0
(b) Officer				
KIA:	0	3	1	4
WIA:	2	10	9	21
MIA:	0	0	0	0
(2) USN Casualties				
(a) Enlisted				
KIA:	1	5	2	8
WIA:	0	16	6	22
MIA:	0	0	0	0
(b) Officer: None				
(3) Equipment Damage				
(a) Tanks: 4 damaged--AT mines.				
1 damaged--Enemy AT fires.				
1 submerged and destroyed during combat operations.				
(b) LVTP-5: 2 destroyed--AT mines.				
1 damaged--AT mine.				
(c) LVTH-6: 1 damaged--AT fires.				
(d) LVTE : 1 damaged--AT mine.				

b. Enemy

(1) Enemy Casualties				
NVA KIA:	20	366	126	512
NVA POW:	1	21	4	26
VCS:	2	21	0	23
(2) Weapons Captured				
(a) AK-47 rifles:	1	45	18	64
(b) SKS carbines:	0	16	12	28
(c) RPD light MG:	0	6	9	15
(d) RPG-2 rocket launchers:	0	8	3	11
(e) RPG-7 rocket launchers:	1	3	2	6

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BADGER CATCH SALINE NAPOLEON-SALINE TOTAL

(f)	SG-43 7.62 MG				
	plus 2 barrels:	0	3	1	4
(g)	RP-46 company				
	MG's:	0	2	0	2
(h)	82mm recoilless				
	guns:	0	2	0	2
(i)	82mm mortars:	0	2	0	2
(j)	60mm mortars				
	(U.S. type):	0	2	0	2
(k)	75mm recoilless				
	gun:	0	0	1	1
(l)	12.7mm (DSHK)				
	heavy MG, AA				
	mounts, tripods,				
	2 barrels:	0	1	0	1
(m)	U.S. M-1 carbine:	0	0	1	1
(3)	Grenades Captured				
(a)	grenades, "chi com":	9	407	119	535
(b)	grenades, M-26:	0	22	0	22
(c)	grenades, Soviet				
	frag:	8	8	0	16
(d)	rifle grenade kits:	0	0	6	6
(4)	Mines and Explosives Captured				
(a)	claymore mines,				
	"chi com":	2	4	5	11
(b)	claymore, U.S.:	0	2	0	2
(c)	satchel charges:	0	4	0	4
(d)	AT mines:	0	10	3	13
(e)	"bangalore tor-				
	pedoes"(bamboo):	0	4	0	4
(5)	Ammunition (by rounds), Gas Masks and Miscellaneous Equipment				
	Captured				
(a)	82mm mortar:	416	(l)	NVA gas masks:	159
(b)	60mm mortar:	227	(m)	U.S. gas masks:	4
(c)	82mm recoilless:	18	(n)	VC gas masks:	33
(d)	75mm recoilless:	83	(o)	Field radios:	3
(e)	57mm recoilless:	4	(p)	Field phones:	2
(f)	RPG-7:	44	(q)	AK-47 magazines:	246
(g)	RPG-2:	78	(r)	Keying device:	1
(h)	12.7mm/50 cal:	6,450	(s)	Large boxes of medical supplies:	3
(i)	7.62mm:	45,902	(t)	82mm mortar wrenches:	10
(j)	30 cal carbine:	120	(u)	60mm mortar sights with tripods	
(k)	38 cal:	84		and base plates:	2
			(v)	Assorted documents and 782 gear	

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9. Commander's Analysisa. Close Air Support

- (1) Close air support was not available during most of the operation because of bad weather. When it was available, its effectiveness was greatly reduced due to the failure of scheduled air support to arrive on station as scheduled, and the inability of DASC to predict the arrival of on call air after it was called. Close air support is a primary supporting weapon and must be integrated with other supporting fires. When air is unreliable as it was on this operation, the fire plans can not be followed. Critical gaps appear in supporting fires that should be continuous and result in unnecessary and costly delays.
- (2) When targets of opportunity arose and air was called, the prediction as to when it would arrive on station was usually grossly inaccurate. Decisions made based on expected arrival of CAS were nullified because the air failed to arrive as predicted. The unreliability of CAS was not confined to lateness. On occasions the DASC would report that CAS would not arrive for a long period of time. Plans would be made accordingly only to be nullified when the aircraft would suddenly appear, far ahead of schedule.
- (3) The difficulties of scheduling CAS and the many unpredictable facets of aircraft operation are well known. However, the consistency with which CAS failed to meet schedules during this operation would indicate some improvement must be made if CAS is to be relied upon as a primary supporting arm.

b. Fires from Friendly River Craft

During the later stages of the operation, Navy landing craft carrying supplies from the mouth of the Cua Viet River to Dong Ha Combat Base were taken under mortar and 12.7mm fire from the enemy positions along the banks of the Cua Viet. Return fire from the boats was indiscriminate and endangered BLT 3/1 troops. Repeated efforts to correct this situation were to no avail as the Navy agency controlling the boat traffic insisted on returning fire and was apparently unable to sufficiently control boat firing to prevent their firing at friendly positions. BLT 3/1 was subjected to river boat firing daily which was extremely bad for morale and quite unnecessary. Even on the last days of the operation after enemy resistance along the river banks had been overcome, the boats were still firing into BLT positions.

c. Helicopter Support

HMM 165 provided outstanding helicopter support during the period in which helicopters were available. The squadrons policy of tree-top flying was ideal for the BLT. Low flying reduced the time for landing and take off and minimized the duration of check fires. This policy also prevented long range enemy observation of landing zones and minimized the instances when long range artillery fires were brought to bear on the landing zones.

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d. Use of the LVTP-5

- (1) LVT's proved invaluable in providing combat support. From 16 February to the end of the operation helicopters were not available and the BLT LVT Platoon with augmentation from the 1st AmTrac Bn carried the entire load. In addition to tactical movement of troops and daily resupply of class I, LVT's were used as mobile ammunition dumps, carrying extra 90mm, 106mm and 81mm ammunition, and an extra basic allowance of ammunition for a rifle company. After the attack on Vinh Lai of 16 February, the BLT was able to continue operations by using the mobile loaded ammunition resupply. Mechanical difficulties in the BLT LVT Platoon were kept to a minimum by constant preventive maintenance performed in the field. In spite of extremely difficult terrain, instances of bogging down were rare and did not affect operations. In addition to resupply, LVT's evacuated casualties on numerous occasions and undoubtedly saved lives.
- (2) The versatility and dependability of the LVTP-5 was complimented by the enthusiasm and professionalism of the crews which never wavered through many tiresome and dangerous assignments.

10. Lessons Learned

- a. Use of LVTH-6. The LVTH-6 was found to be an effective substitute for delivering direct fires in areas where water barriers precluded tank use. The 105mm howitzer was more effective than the 90mm gun for reducing dirt and log fortifications and fighting holes. Care must be exercised to protect the LVTH-6 from close in anti-tank fires. The thin body and high silhouette make it an easy target. Another factor increasing its vulnerability is the necessity to turn the turret to the side for maximum depression thereby exposing the side of the vehicle to the enemy.
- b. Use of Direct Fire Weapons. The use of direct fire from tanks, ontos and LVTH-6's is essential if casualties are to be kept at a minimum. The fire power, armor, and better trafficability make tanks superior to ontos and LVTH-6's. BLT 3/1 found that tanks can be used effectively in generally unfavorable terrain provided a careful reconnaissance is made and due care exercised by tank crews. The psychological effect of attacking armor was significant. It was noted that despite high exposure to the enemy's anti-tank weapons, no tanks were knocked out by enemy fire. A high rate of ordnance expenditure by the tanks and close cooperation with protecting infantry were contributing factors in avoiding enemy AT fire. The 106mm HEP round of the ontos is extremely effective. However, its inferior trafficability, small ammunition capacity and lack of armor detract from its usefulness as a direct support weapon.

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- c. Use of the Tank Xenon Search Light. The visible light feature of the Xenon light proved valuable when attacking under illumination. The light was used to mark flanks, maintain orientation for attacking units and to illuminate areas of suspected enemy activity.
- d. Stereotyped NVA Tactics. Except for his one attack, the enemy's tactics always followed the same pattern. He established a well camouflaged and well constructed 360° defensive perimeter within a hamlet. He held his fire until friendly units were extremely close. He fought tenaciously and skillfully during daylight hours neither retreating or surrendering. At nightfall he would withdraw and if closely pursued leave his dead and equipment. Success was amplified during the latter stages of the operations by anticipating their tactics and taking appropriate countermeasures.
- e. Lack of Intelligence. Despite extensive use of the reconnaissance platoon, air observation, and reliable intelligence reports from higher echelons, BLT 3/1 was not able to ascertain when the enemy occupied a given area. All areas that could be occupied by the enemy were assumed to be defended and were all attacked rather than occupied. This practice consumed time and resources but prevented the kind of surprise encounters which had been costly on previous operations.
- f. Effect of Indirect Fires. Despite large volume and good coverage, indirect fires were relatively ineffective in reducing the enemy's defensive positions. His positions are well constructed and only subject to damage from direct hits. During actual fire fights he is usually not subject to friendly mortar and artillery fires because of the closeness of contact. Friendly units should assume minimum effect from preparatory fires in planning and decision making.
- g. Effectiveness of Enemy Weapons. The enemy's best weapons were his individual weapons, machine guns, grenades, and mortars. In most cases mortars were used at ranges less than 1000 meters and were accurate and effective--particularly the 82mm. The enemy's AT fires were very poor. Despite his many AT weapons and large number of targets available only one vehicle was knocked out by AT fires and it was not seriously damaged. As usual AT mines were highly effective. AP mines and surprise explosive devices were not used. The enemy's artillery fires were poorly adjusted and the blast effect of most of the rounds encountered was relatively small.
- h. LVTE with Line Charge. During the assault on Mai Xa Thi (west) on 1 Mar 68, three line charges were fired with excellent effect. In all three instances the charges were used to neutralize areas where attacking troops were pinned down. Troops reported that enemy not actually wounded by the charges gave up their positions and became easy targets. The LVTE is vulnerable to AT fires and slow to maneuver. Care must be exercised to ensure that friendly troops are outside the danger area. If properly used the LVTE can be decisive in the attack of fortified areas.

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i. S-2 Recommendations for Future Operations.

- (1) The intelligence effort was seriously hampered by the lack of a competent interpreter attached directly to the BLT. The local exploitation of POW's was satisfactory only on those occasions when direct interrogation was accomplished in the field using a "borrowed" interpreter.
- (2) An interrogator/translator team attached to and working directly with the BLT in the field would have reduced considerably the time and effort involved in processing and evaluating the large quantities of captured documents taken throughout the operation.
- (3) The "beach jumper" teams used in psychological operations were largely ineffective due to the constantly changing tactical situation. It is recommended that in future operations ashore, the "psyops" team remain aboard ship "on call" to the BLT. When it is apparent that the BLT will be in static positions for a number of days and a target for "psyops" exists, the BLT will initiate a request for the teams.
- (4) The Provisional Reconnaissance Unit (PRU) personnel attached to the BLT during the early phases of the operation were of little value. It is recommended that PRU's not be attached to the BLT for future operations ashore.
- (5) The handling of POW's, captured weapons and equipment, and the prompt forwarding of captured documents to the intelligence section was outstanding throughout the operation, reflecting the efforts of the small unit leaders and individual Marines. Several days prior to this operation, classes on the handling of POW's and captured material had been conducted aboard ship by the S-2 section on the platoon level. It is recommended that whenever possible in the period between operations ashore, similar classes be included on the shipboard training schedule to be conducted by S-2 personnel.
- (6) Thrust points were changed four times during the operation, once due to a suspected compromise and the remainder of the times due to length of time they had been in use. The difficulty in disseminating new thrust points to widely separated supporting units is apparent. Therefore, it is recommended that intelligence estimates for future operations include three alternate sets of thrust points, the changeover could then be effected by a simple message informing unit leaders to switch to an alternate set at a given time.


M. MCQUOWN

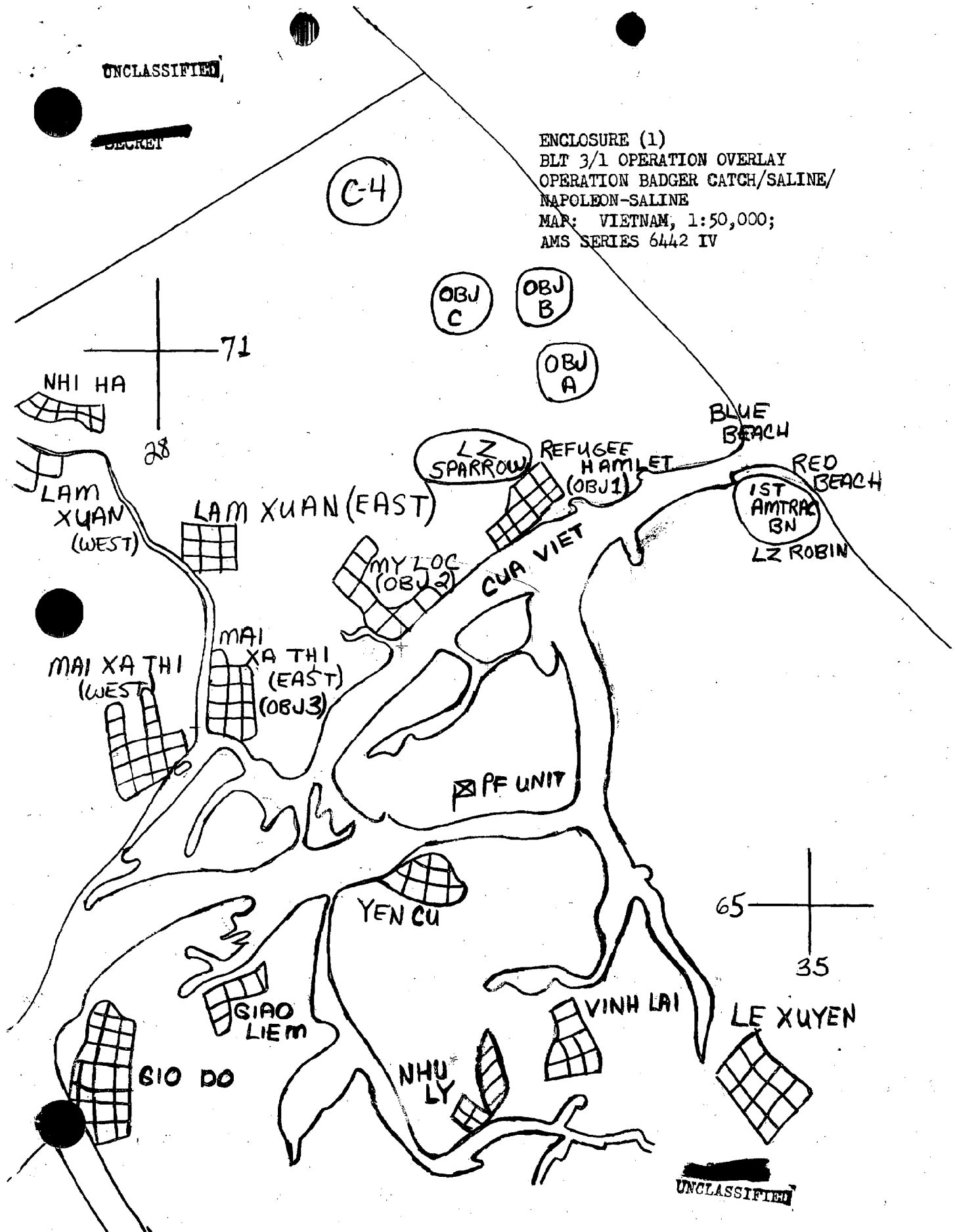
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CO, 1st AmTrac Bn

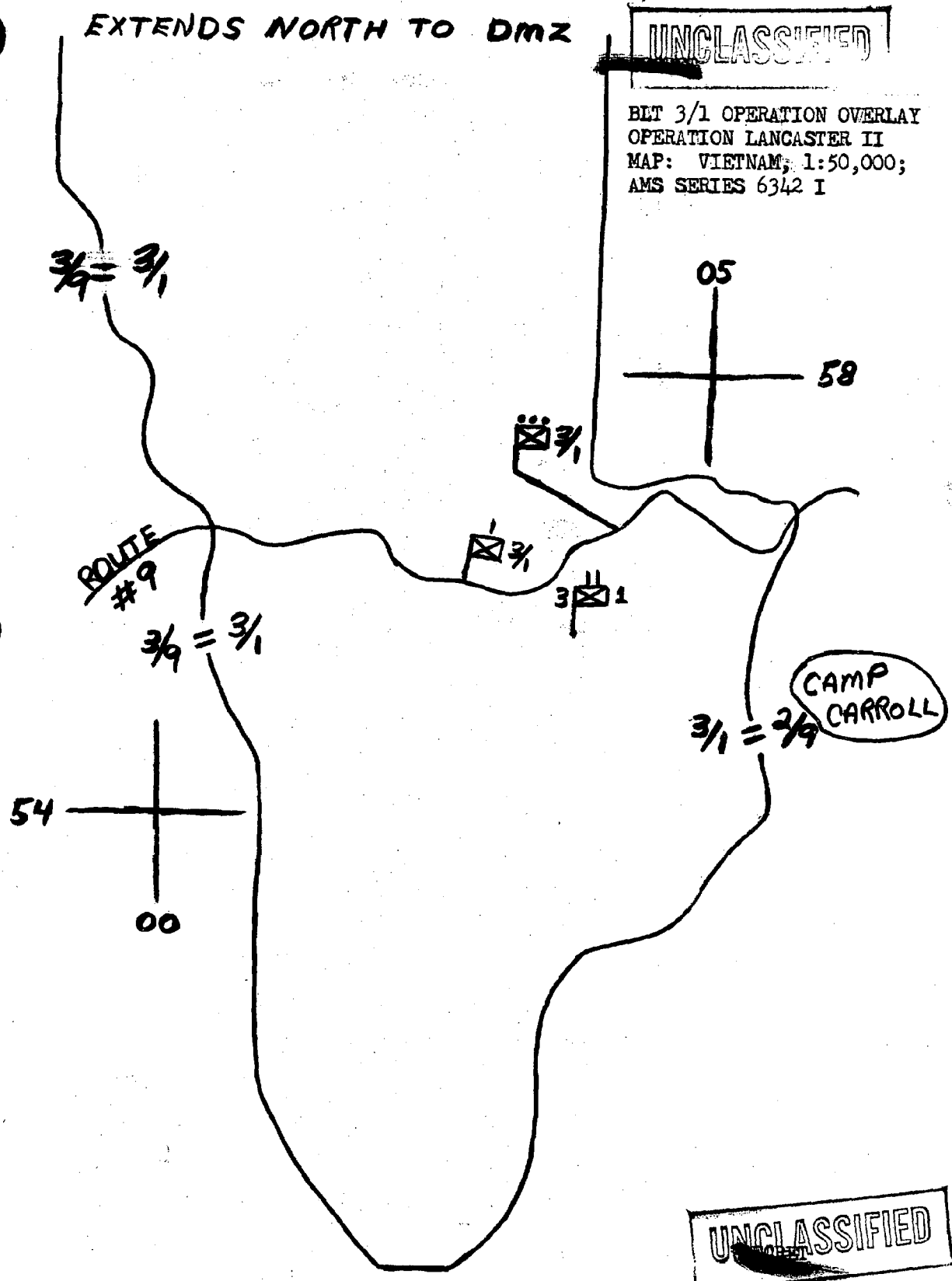
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ENCLOSURE (1)
 BLT 3/1 OPERATION OVERLAY
 OPERATION BADGER CATCH/SALINE/
 NAPOLEON-SALINE
 MAP: VIETNAM, 1:50,000;
 AMS SERIES 6442 IV





Tab A

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ENCLOSURE (2)
MY LOC 25 JAN 68

USMC		NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW	VCS
6	9	20	1	2

69

31

MAIN
ATTACK

CO K
BLOCKING
FORCE

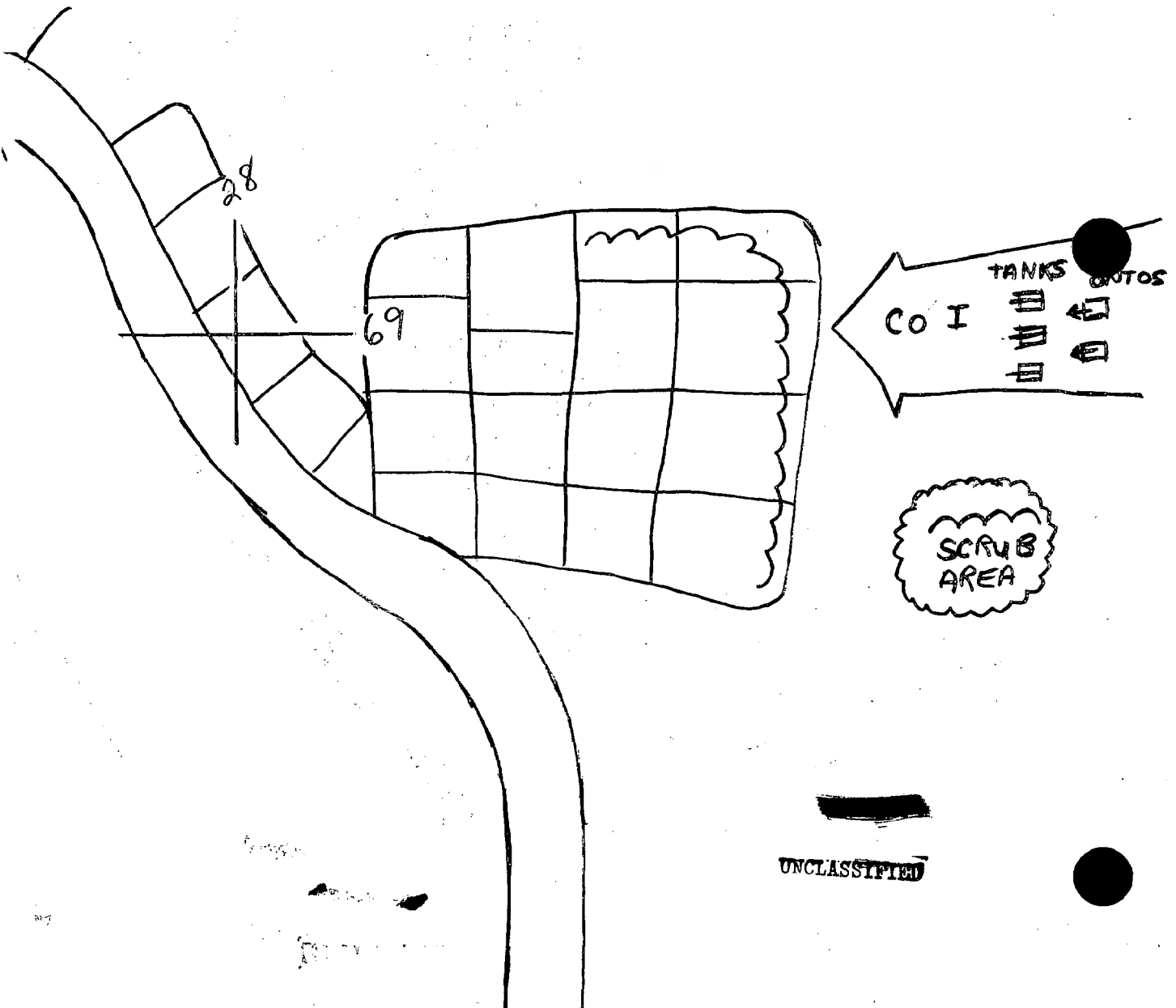
CUA VIET RIVER

UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (1) 26 JAN 68

USMC		NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW	VCS
8	29	17	2	0

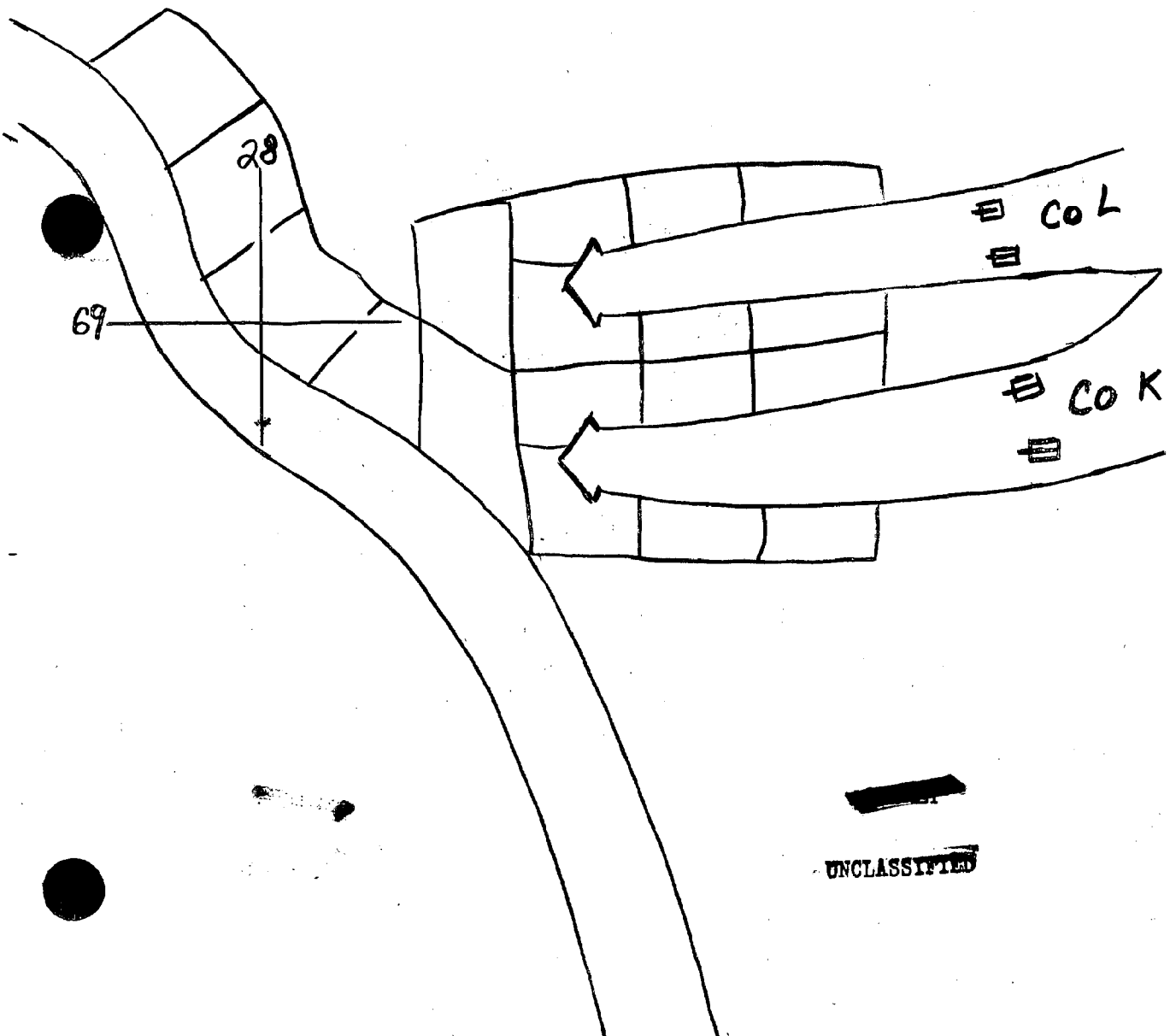


UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (2) 28 JAN 68

USMC		NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW	VCS
8	41	69	2	0



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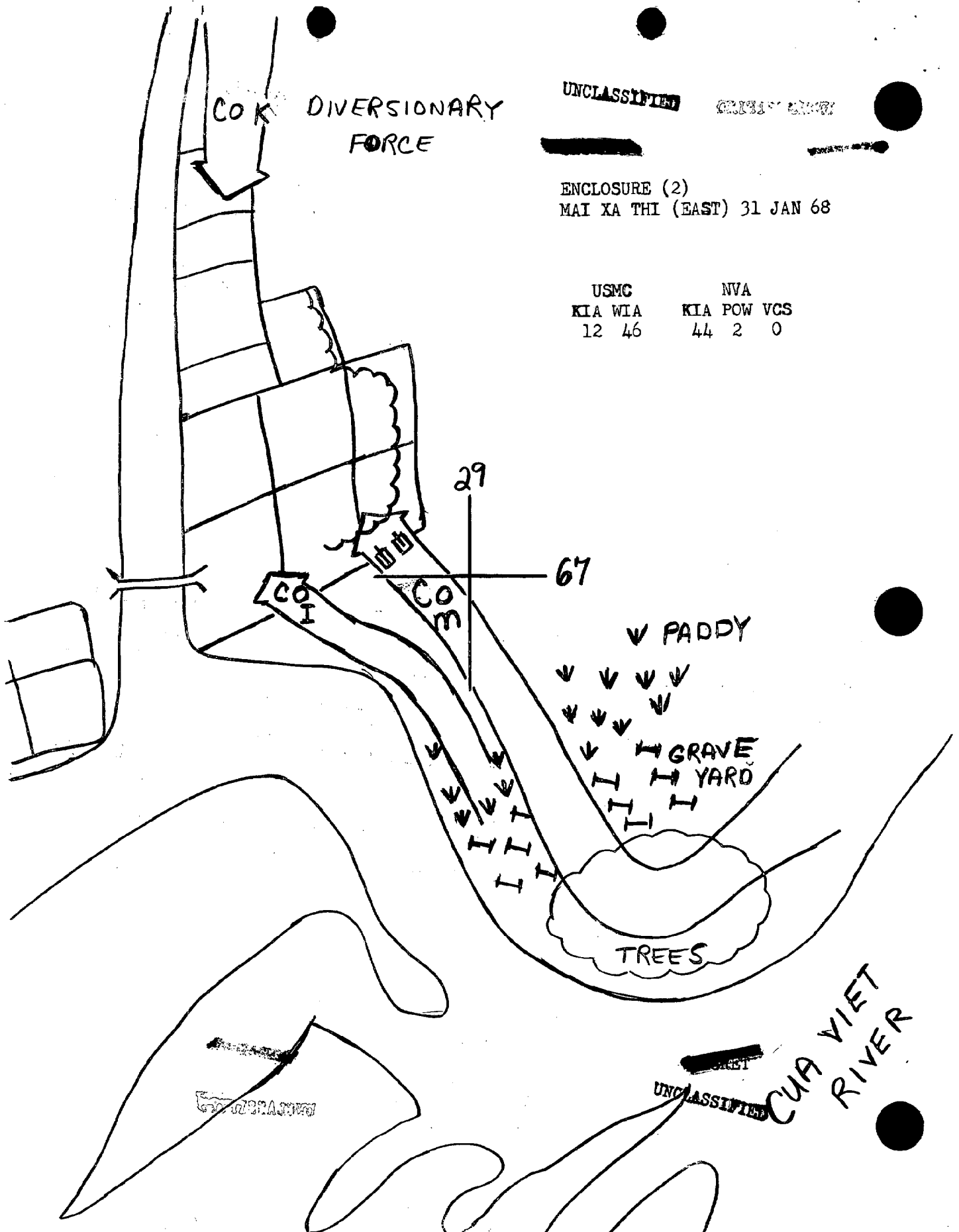
SECRET

CO K DIVERSIONARY
FORCE

ENCLOSURE (2)
MAI XA THI (EAST) 31 JAN 68

USMC
KIA WIA
12 46

NVA
KIA POW VCS
44 2 0

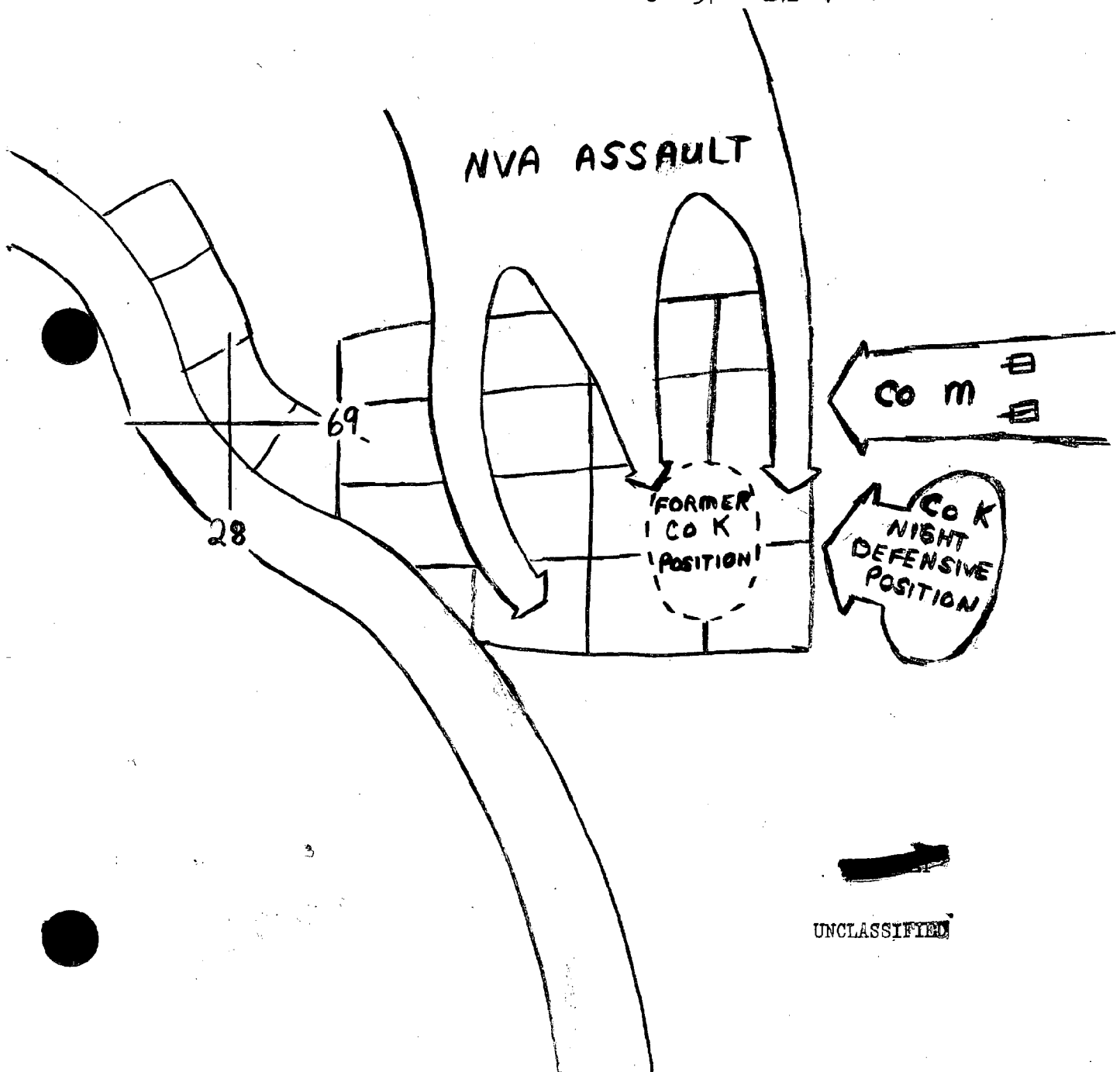


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ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (3) 2 FEB 68

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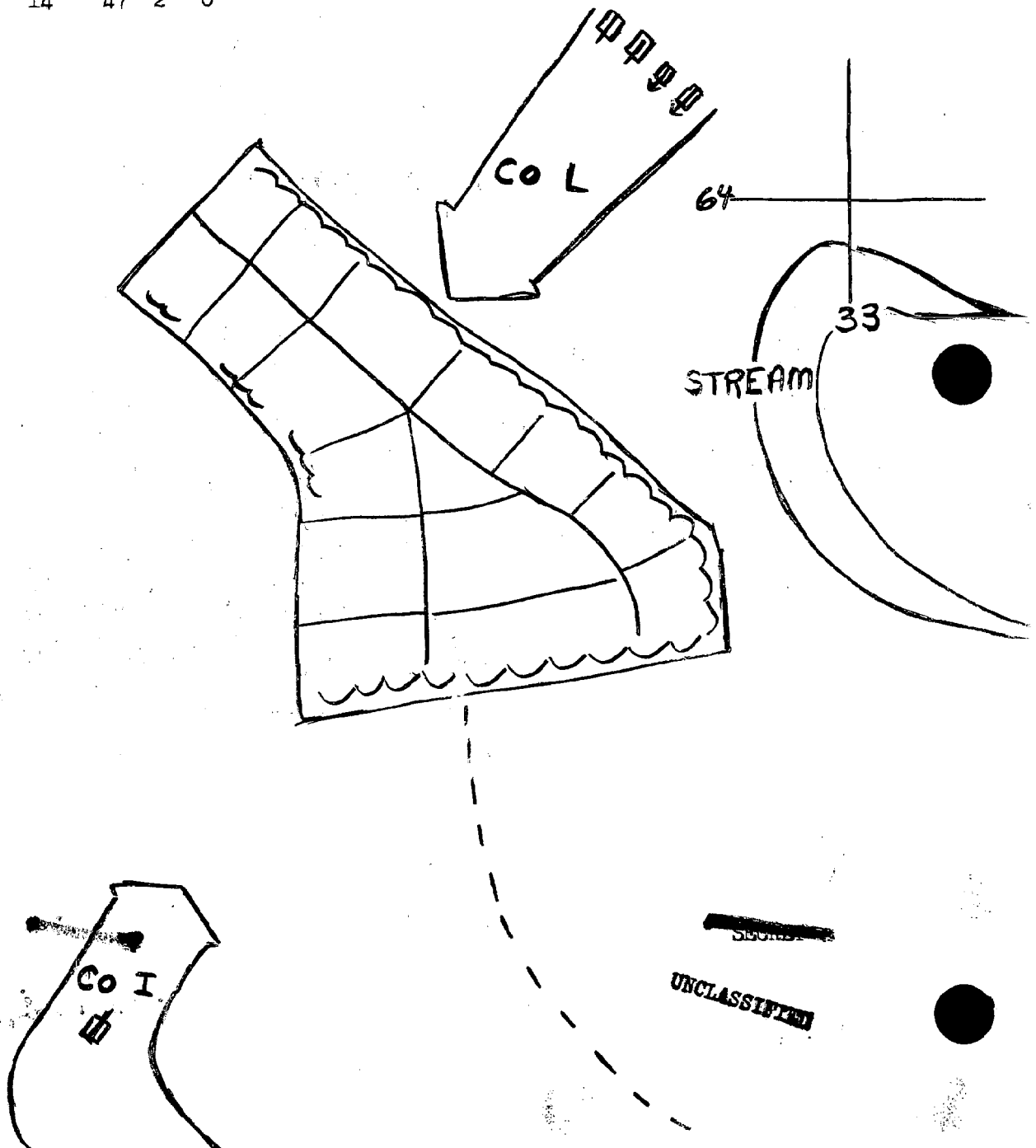


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ENCLOSURE (2)
VINH LAI 16 FEB 68

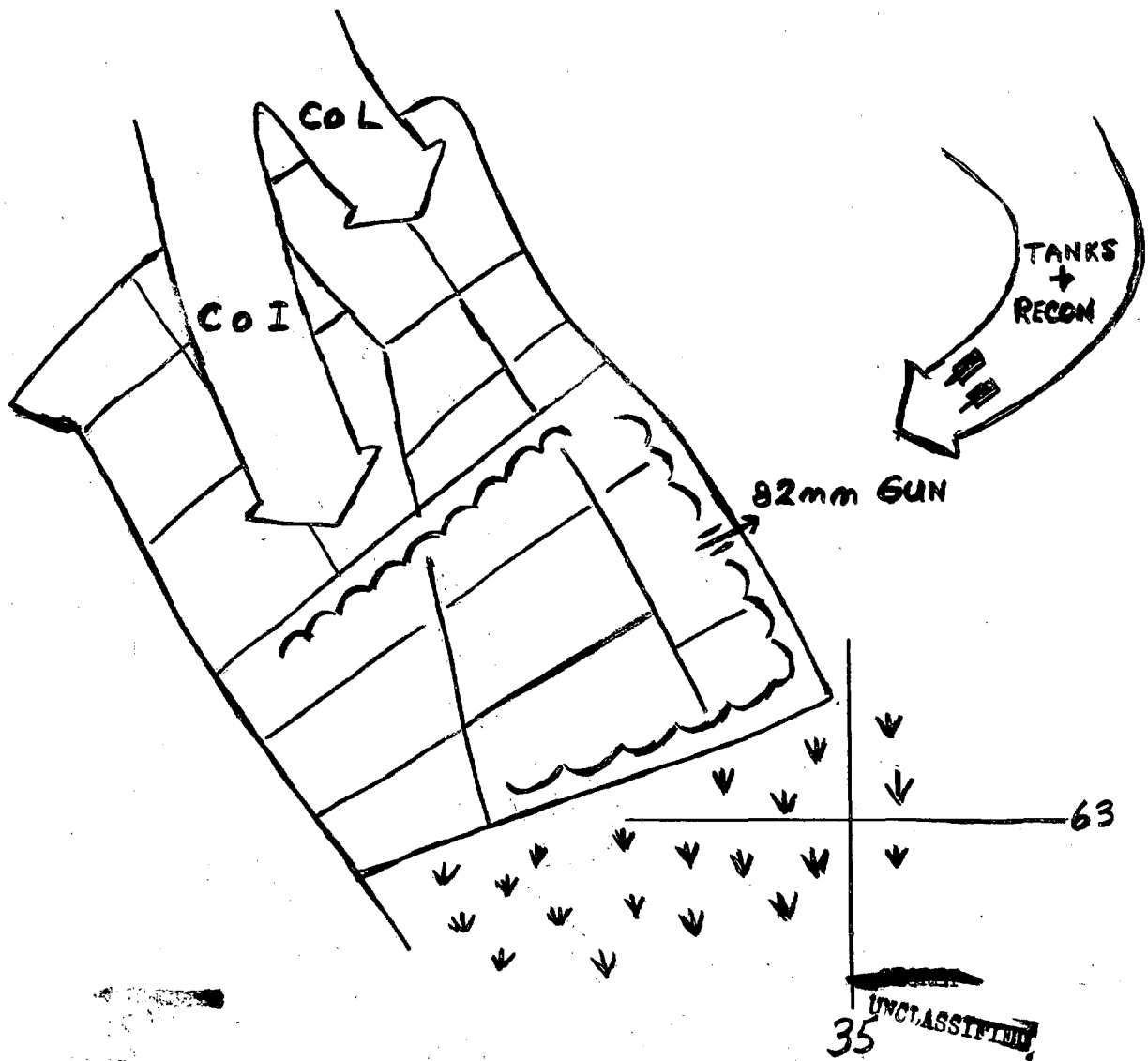
USMC		NVA	
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW VCS
2	14	47	2 0



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ENCLOSURE (2)
LE XUYEN 19 FEB 68

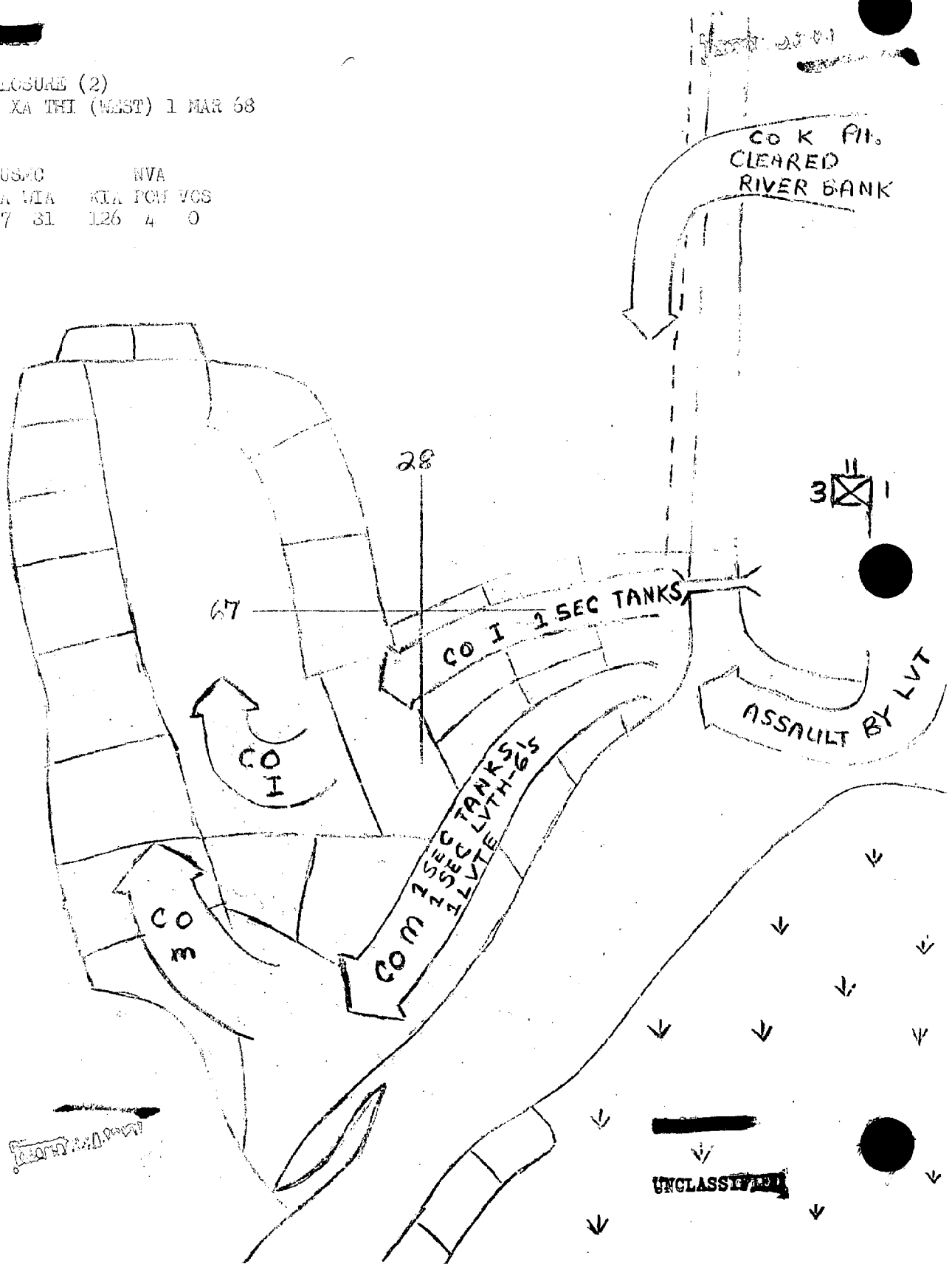
USMC	NVA
KIA WIA	KIA POW VCS
3 8	18 7 1



UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)
 BAI XA THI (WEST) 1 MAR 68

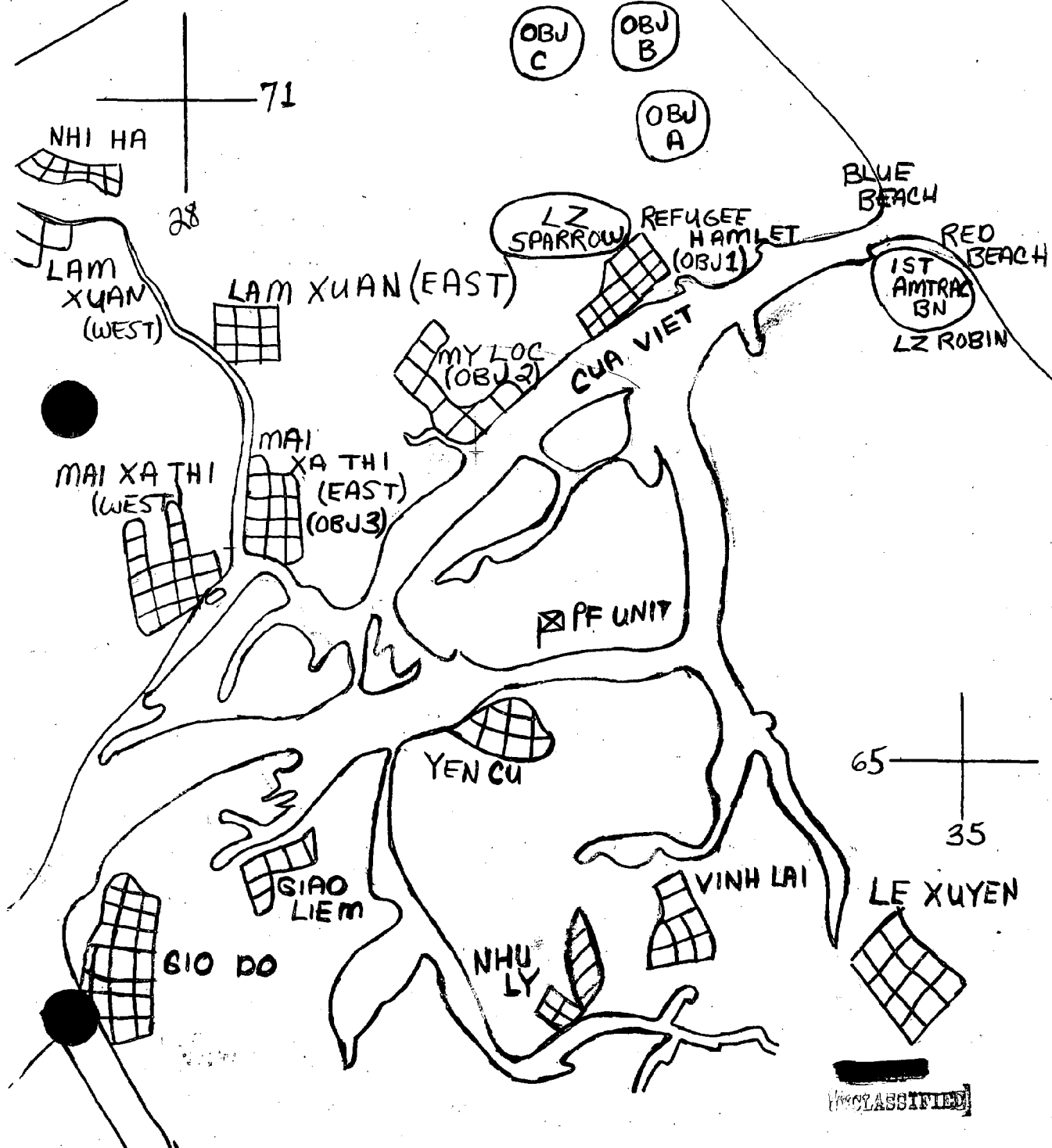
USFC	NVA
KIA VIA	KIA PCH VCS
27 31	126 4 0



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ENCLOSURE (1)
 BLT 3/1 OPERATION OVERLAY
 OPERATION BADGER CATCH/SALINE/
 NAPOLEON-SALINE
 MAP: VIETNAM, 1:50,000;
 AMS SERIES 6442 IV



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ENCLOSURE (2)
MY LOC 25 JAN 68

USMC		NVA	
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW VCS
6	9	20	1 2

69

31

MAIN
ATTACK

CO K
BLOCKING
FORCE

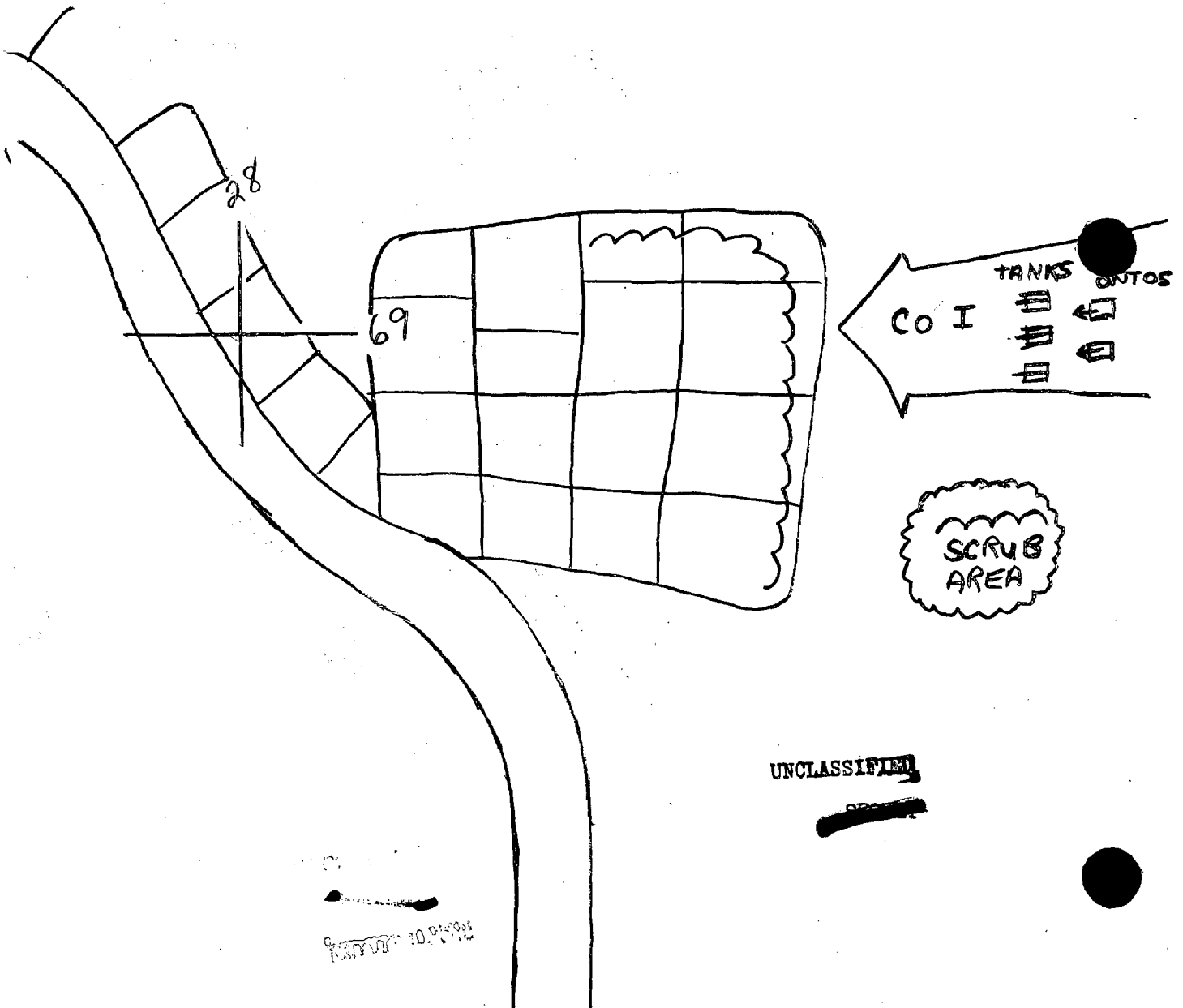
CUA VIET RIVER

UNCLASSIFIED

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ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (1) 26 JAN 68

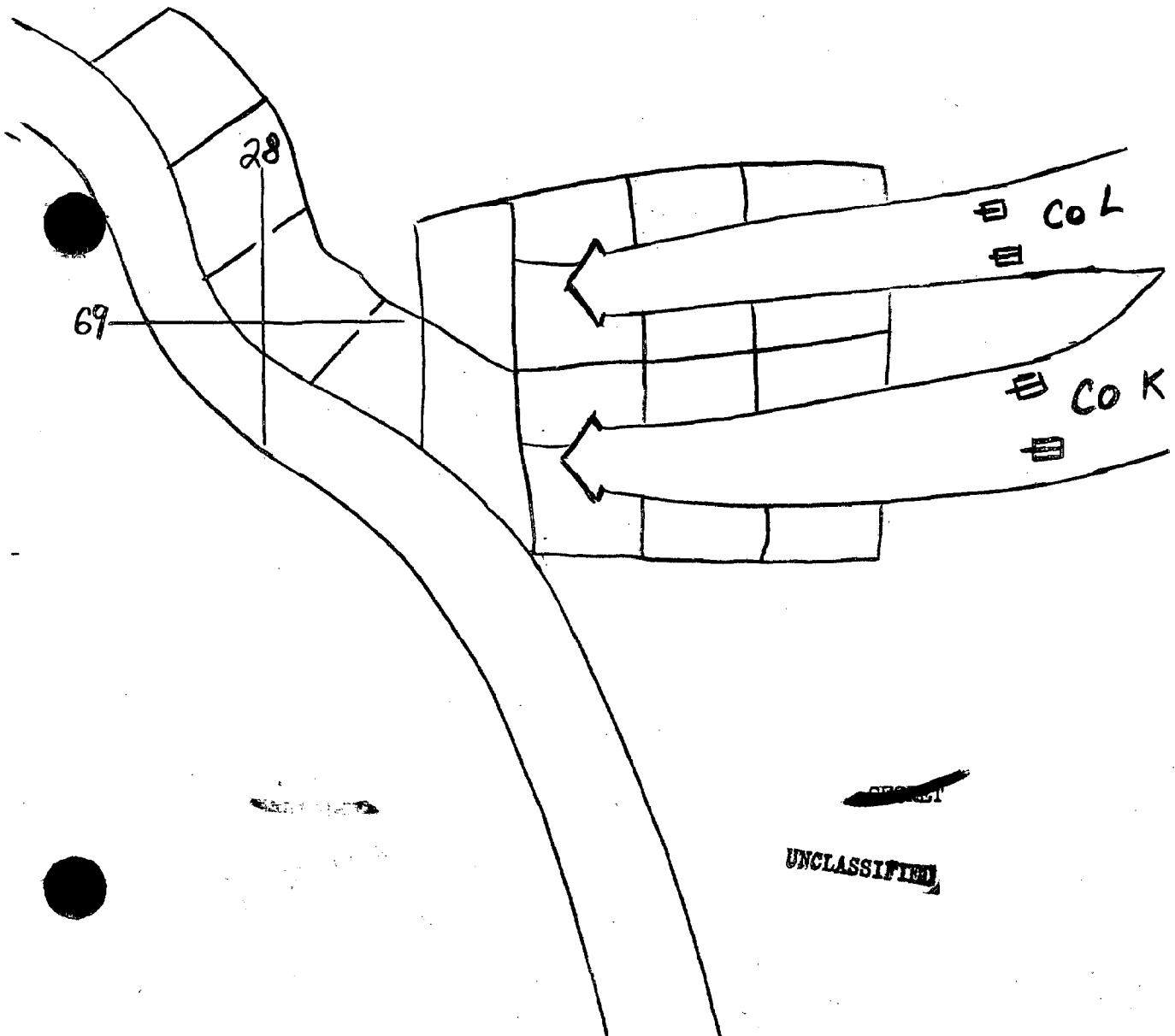
USMC		NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW	VCS
8	29	17	2	0



UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (2) 28 JAN 68

USMC		NVA	
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW VCS
8	41	69	2 0



UNCLASSIFIED

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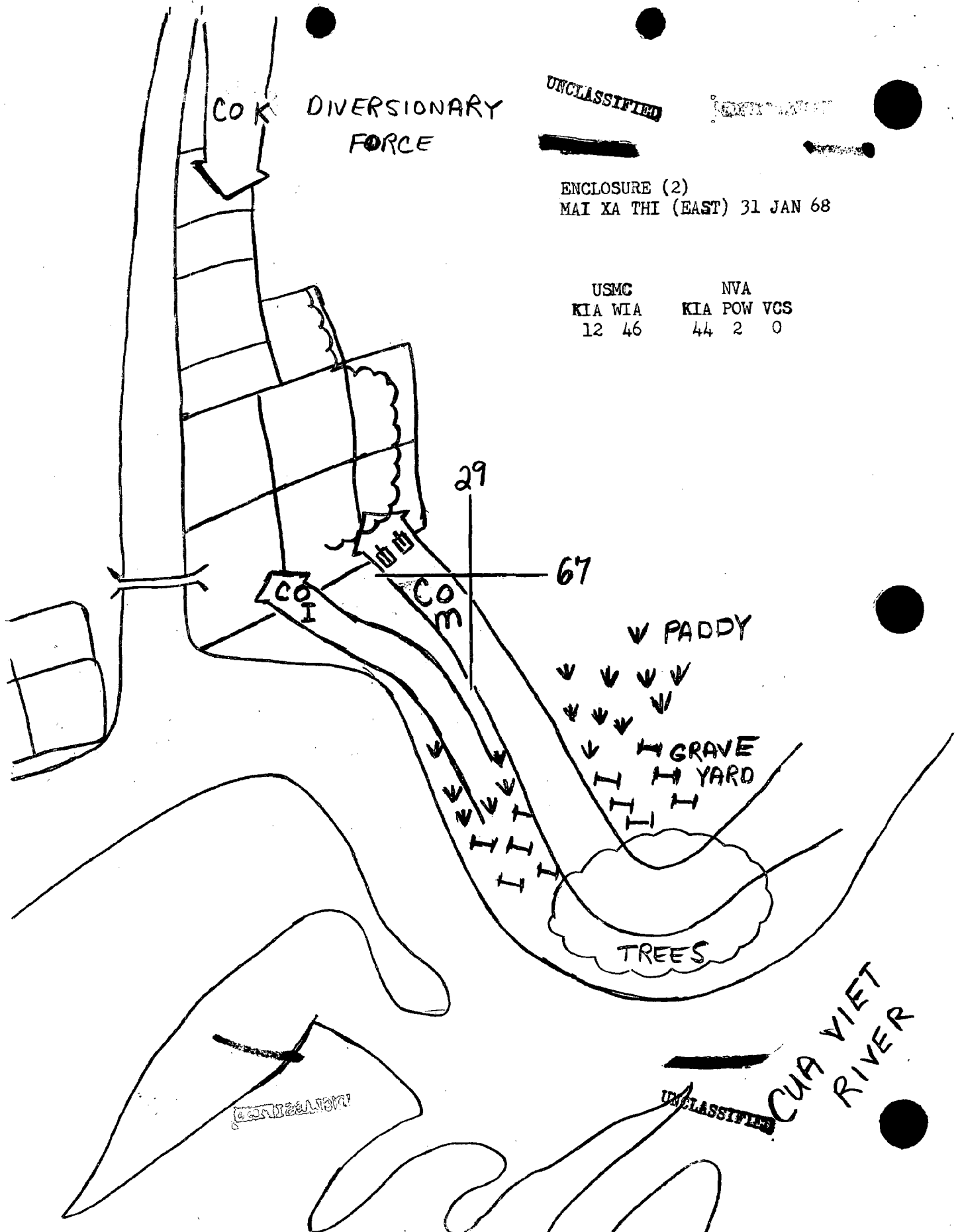
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CO K DIVERSIONARY
FORCE

ENCLOSURE (2)
MAI XA THI (EAST) 31 JAN 68

USMC
KIA WIA
12 46

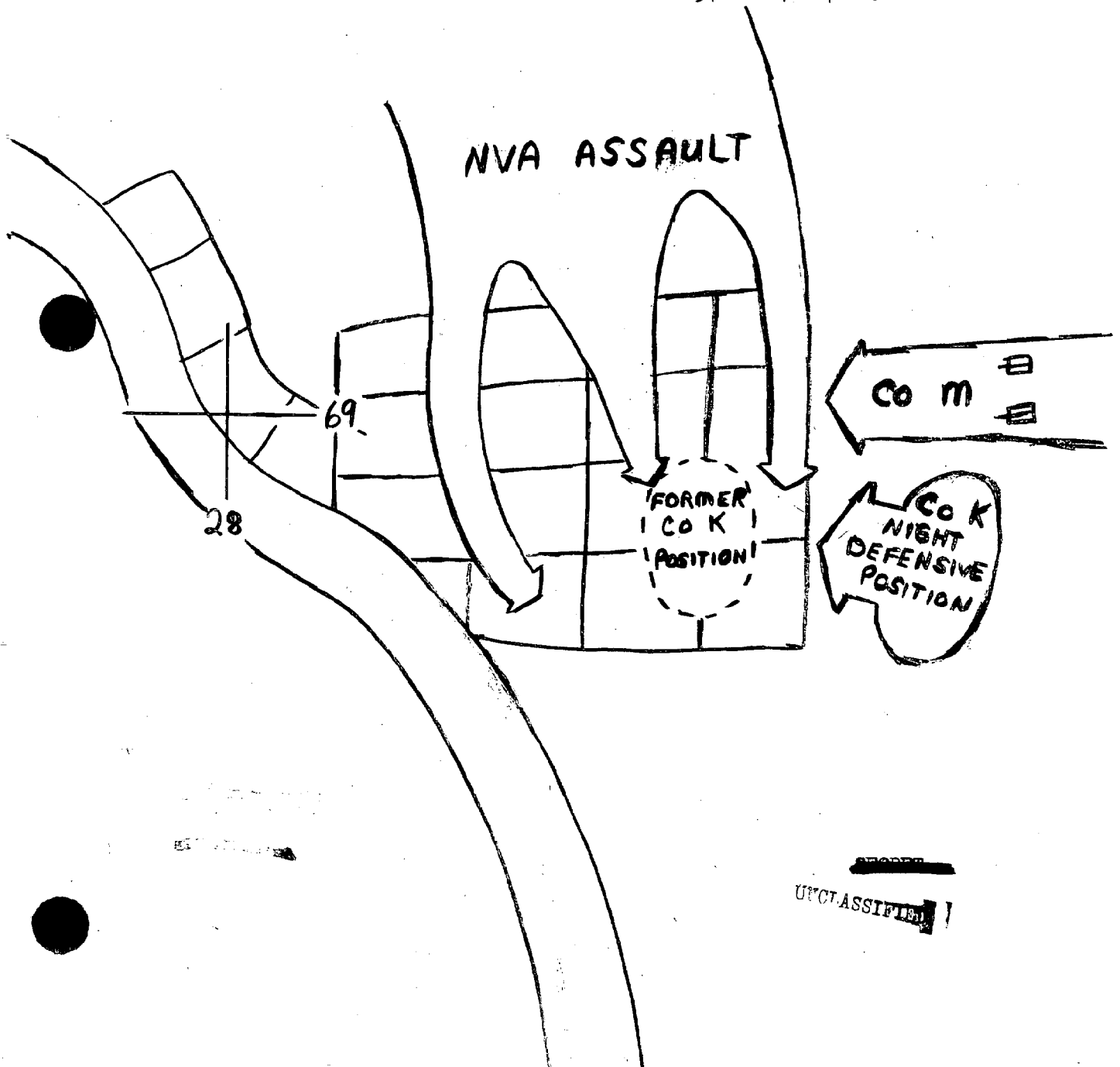
NVA
KIA POW VCS
44 2 0



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ENCLOSURE (2)
LAM XUAN (3) 2 FEB 68

USMC		NVA		
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW	VCS
8	37	141	7	0



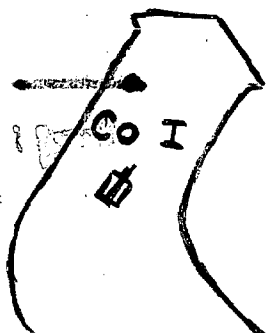
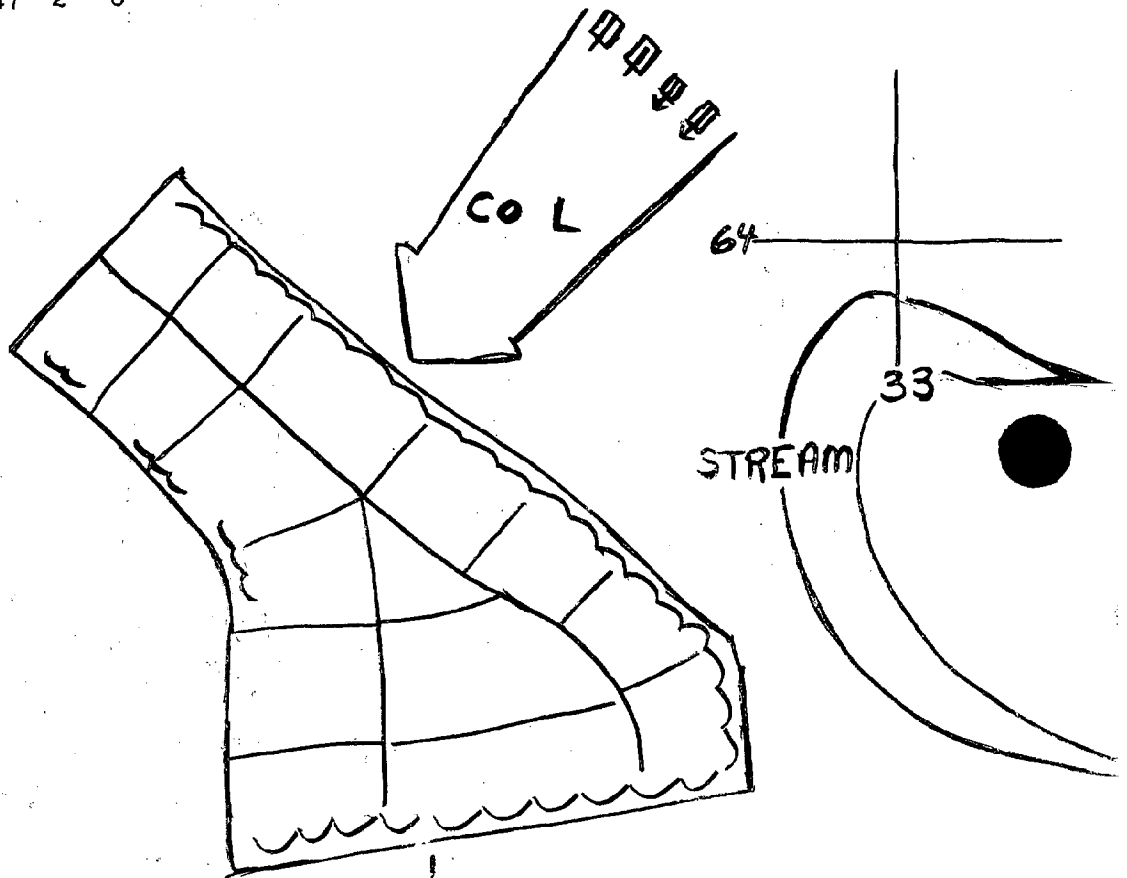
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UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)
VINH LAI 16 FEB 68

USMC		NVA	
KIA	WIA	KIA	POW VCS
2	14	47	2 0



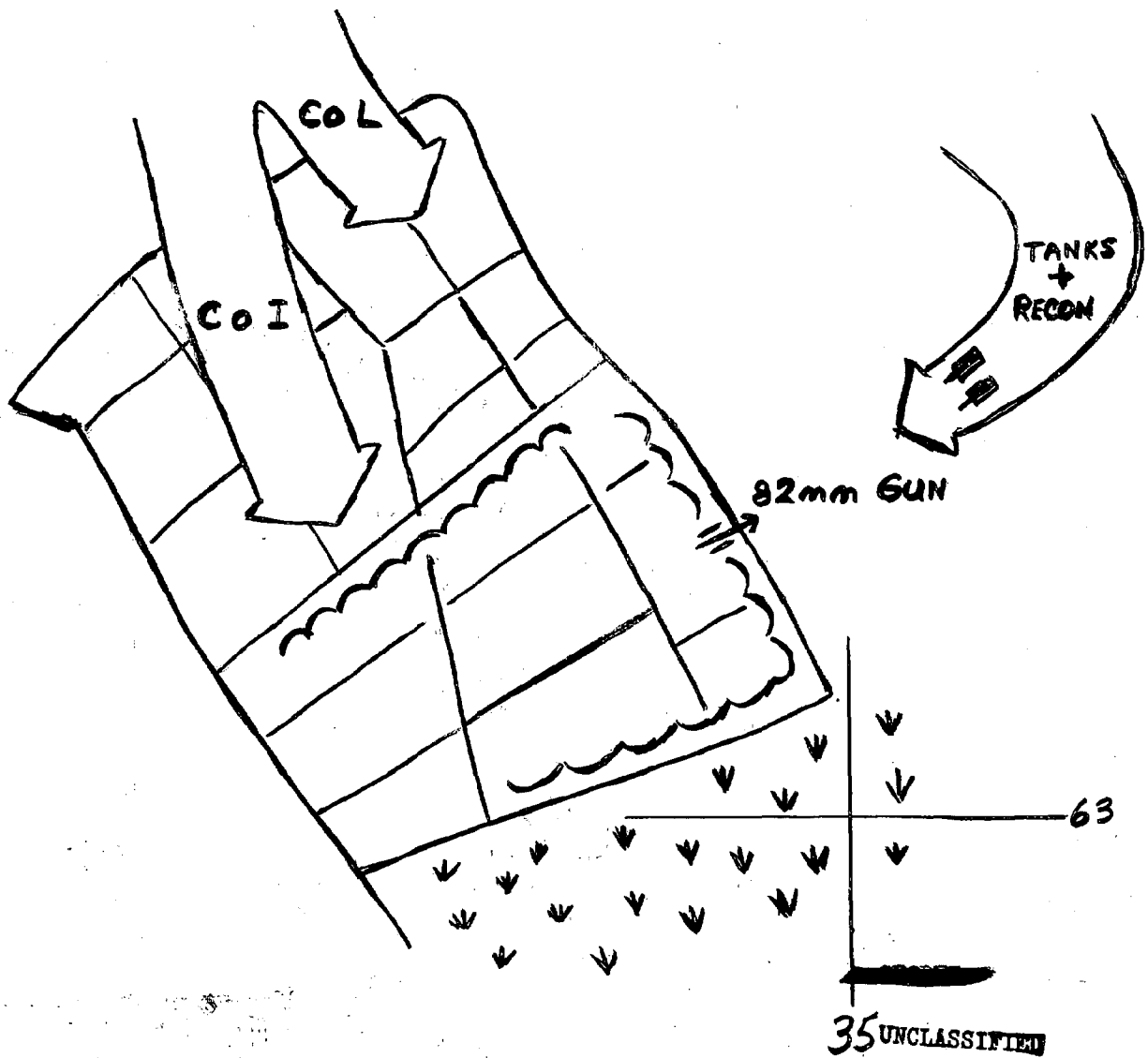
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ENCLOSURE (2)
LE KUYEN 19 FEB 68

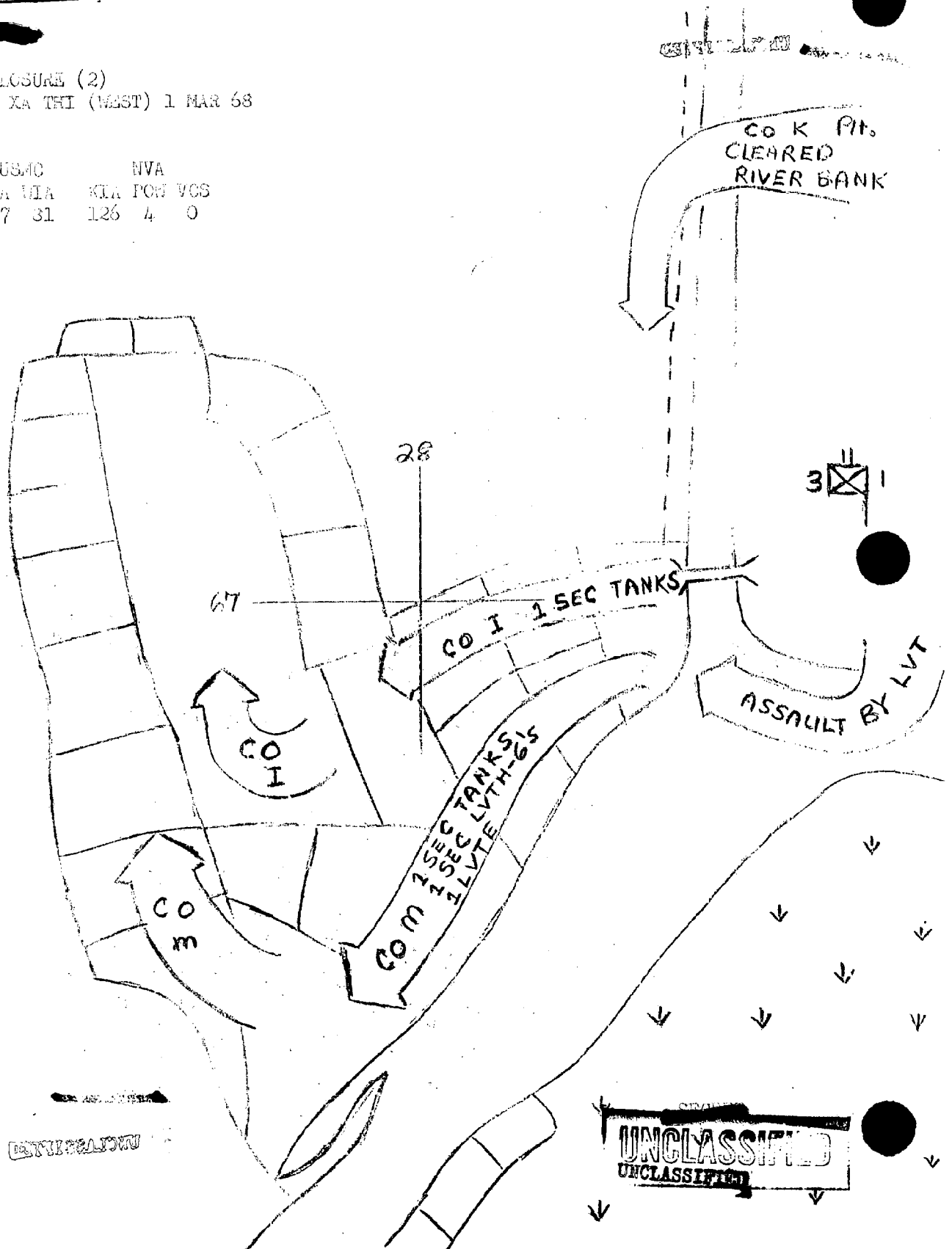
USMC		NVA	
KIA WIA		KIA POW VCS	
3 8		18 7 1	



UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)
MAI XA THI (WEST) 1 MAR 68

USMC	NVA
KIA MIA	KIA POW VCS
27 31	126 4 0



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BLT 3/1 - Extracts from S-3 Journal - Operation BADGER CATCH/SALINE/NAPOLEON-SALINE

231850H-Co I landed at LZ Robin and has moved to Blue Beach to set up night defensive positions.
 231910H-Co L reports they landed at Red Beach at 1900H and Blue Beach at 1910H.
 231925H-Bn CP lands in LZ Robin.
 231950H-Co K lands at LZ Robin.
 232005H-Co L and Co I have joined together and are digging in.
 232100H-CP and Co K moving by AmTrac to Blue Beach.
 232130H-CP and Co K arrive at Blue Beach from LZ Robin.
 232200H-Co L's position report: YD 336702.
 232230H-Btry "C" has landed.
 232355H-Tanks arrive at Blue Beach and have been positioned with Co K and Co I.
 240211H-Ontos Plt landed at Blue Beach and are positioned with Co I and Co K.
 240530H-First elements of Co L departing to secure LZ Sparrow.
 240655H-Co L is at northern tip of Obj 1.
 240713H-Leading elements of Co I have reached Obj A.
 240825H-Co I is searching Obj A.
 240840H-LZ Sparrow is secure.
 240946H-At 0830H Co L found one M-26 grenade at YD 324700. Grenade was blown in place with C-4.
 240953H-Co L reports receiving fire from general direction of Obj 2.
 240958H-Co L reports that an BOM was blown up south of Obj 2.
 241015H-Co I has cleared Obj A and B and is moving to Obj C.
 241038H-CP group moving out. Co K informed to have four tanks ready to go.
 241120H-Co M lands in LZ Sparrow.
 241130H-CP and Co L receiving 8 rounds incoming artillery from a northerly direction.
 241200H-81mm Plt lands in LZ Sparrow.
 241335H-Co I at Obj C receives 8-10 rounds SAF.
 241340H-Co K's position report: YD 320693. New CP location: YD 315705.
 241430H-Co L is ready to move to island area at YD 315663. Co L will be lifted by helicopter to obj area.
 241625H-AO reports observing 300-400 civilians moving across river at YD 318683.
 241630H-Co L has landed first wave with negative contact.
 241650H-Remainder of Co L has landed.
 241655H-Co K receiving 10 rounds of 130mm artillery south of Obj 2.
 241705H-Co K receiving 7 rounds of 230mm artillery resulting in 3 WIA's 1 of which was non medevac.
 241750H-Co K receiving 14 rounds of 130mm 50 meters north of Co K's CP.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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241800H=Position reports received as follows: Co M (YD 316692), Co K (YD 317705), Co I (YD 313714), Co L (YD 307663).
 242152H-Co L reports initial search of area with negative results. Will continue tomorrow.
 250510H-Co L at 0330H received 20 rounds SAF. Returned fire and wounded 1 VC with M-26 grenade, capturing 1 AK-47.
 250725H-Co K receiving SAF from Obj 2.
 250920H-Tank hit by RPG rocket round at YD 315687.
 250921H-Co L receiving SAF at YD 293667.
 250926H-Co K trying to get wounded out.
 250940H-ARVN's report NVA Bn with 57mm RR at Obj 2.
 250958H-Ontos Plt sent to join Co M.
 251000H-Co K reports WIA's have been evacuated by tank.
 251030H-Co K reports pulling back from Obj 2. One tank was hit by RPG round but still operable. Commencing to bring all supporting fires to bear on Obj 2.
 251030H=First air strike in progress.
 251035H-Co L and Co I's position reports same as last night.
 251205H-Co K receiving 10 rounds of 130mm artillery.
 251230H-Co K at YD 308683 reports receiving 800 rounds semi and automatic weapons fire from fortified positions since 0730H. Tanks reported 15 anti-tank rounds fired by enemy with 5 hits. Action up to this time resulting in 3 NVA KIA.
 251231H=Second air strike in progress on Obj 2.
 251245H-Co K says that the berm wall at the edge of Obj 2 has not been hit by supporting fires.
 251335H=Third air strike now in progress. Supporting arms are set to follow.
 251435H=Fourth air strike now in progress.
 251450H-Co K is now moving toward the obj. Artillery is supporting Co K's movement.
 251515H-Co K has moved well into obj area with negative contact.
 251535H-Co K taking SAF.
 251550H-Co K well into obj finding fighting holes and RPG-7 rocket launcher in excellent shape.
 251620H-Co K reports 12 rounds 130mm artillery hitting in front of their position. Direction of incoming: 5700 mils.
 251715H=Sparrowhawk platoon landed at CP location and will remain for night defense.
 251805H-Co K receiving 19 rounds incoming mortar fire.
 251830H-Co I LP reports observing 9 NVA moving in treeline with packs and weapons at YD 298692. Called in fire mission. Results unobserved.
 251935H=Position reports received: CP (YD 312710), Co K (YD 306683), Co I (YD 299693), Co L (YD 345697), Co M (YD 317690), AmTracs and Btry "C" (YD 345697).

ENCLOSURE (3)

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252025H-Received Frag Order #4 from SLF Bravo.

252250H-Preparations made for TOT and TPQ-10 on area in vicinity of YD 284689.

252338H-Co I at YD 298693 observed 25 people in open and engaged with grenades and SAF. Will check out the area at first light.

260015H-TPQ-10 completed with bombs on target.

260600H-TOT now in progress on suspected NVA Bn in fortified positions.

260725H-Co I has one detainee. Will be forwarded on first available helicopter.

260730H-Co M challenged small boat at YD 345689. Boat did not respond. Fired on boat. Search of river after losing sight of boat revealed nothing.

260845H-Co K's air strike delayed 30 minutes. Co K will use other supporting arms and will not wait for air. Co K will jump off at 0915H toward Obj 2.

260930H-Air strike being directed by Co L against Lam Xuan (YD 285689).

260945H-Co K has entered north end of Obj 2 with no contact and no significant findings.

260945H-Co I (YD 298693) reports that their lines were probed throughout the night. Called for two 81mm missions and fired 60mm mortars. Search of area revealed that a large amount of enemy ammunition was being transported southwest.

260952H-Co L reports suspected VC on south bank of river (YD 303672). Called artillery mission. Patrol checking out area.

260955H Sparrowhawk Plt is now at Co M's position.

261000H-Co I receives 10 rounds incoming artillery at YD 298694 from a direction of 5700 mils.

261108H-Co K completed sweep securing Obj 2.

261215H-Co I is in attack position and ready to move against YD 284689.

261230H-Ontos Plt moving to Obj 2 area.

261240H-Btry "W" now moving by helicopter to Obj 2.

261248H-Co I receiving heavy artillery from northerly direction.

261258H-Co I reports taking 60mm mortars from outside objective.

261302H-Co I reports incoming on last night's position.

261320H-Air is on station for Co I's use.

261340H-AO spotted VC in bunkers and is marking position with smoke at YD 287692.

261345H-Co I meeting heavy resistance at YD 284690. Air strikes and supporting arms will be used.

261355H-Co I is pinned down making withdrawal from obj very difficult. Northeast end of obj has 300 meters of heavily fortified positions with overheads.

261400H-End Operation BADGER CATCH-CHOP to 3d MarDiv - begin Operation SALINE.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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261400H-Ontos and tanks are moving north to aid Co I.
261405H-Calling in smoke to help Co I move back to direct air strikes.
261510H-Co I still in close contact with NVA - slowly extracting his people.
261530H-Co M and Co K receiving incoming artillery from 6100 mls. Total of 20 rounds of 130mm artillery.
261630H-Co I still does not have all casualties out of area.
261840H-CP moving to Obj 2.
261845H-Co I receiving heavy mortar fire.
261900H-CP arrives at new location (YD 304681).
261925H-BLT 3/1 CHOP to 1st AmTrac Bn.
262025H-Co N proceeding to CP.
262040H-Co N arrives at CP.
262340H-Co L at YD 314674 reports suspected VC movement. Fired 16 rounds 60mm mortar with negative results.
270805H-GL-3A informs 3/1 that there are 5 tanks available from BLT 2/4.
271020H-Requested tanks (BLT 2/4) be sent to Blue Beach. Informed that tanks are already there.
271130H-CP receiving incoming artillery from a direction of 6200 mls. Incoming consisted of 23 rounds 130mm artillery.
271213H-CP moving to new location (YD 308683).
271320H-Ontos Plt now at Blue Beach ready for pick up.
271320H-Co M receives 6 rounds artillery (YD 305679).
271500H-Co M reports finding 2 females leaving obj area at YD 287673 where Co M has been observing hostile movement. Detainees were forwarded to 1st AmTrac Bn.
271600H-ARVN unit to north advises it will not be able to attack obj at YD 284691 due to darkness.
271615H-Co L moved by helicopters to Blue Beach and are setting up in night defensive positions.
271955H-Informed 1st AmTracs that we will attack Lam Xuan tomorrow.
272100H-Intelligence report indicates NVA mortar element located in vicinity of YD 283715 or YD 279715. Also, mine field at YD 280674.
272300H-TPQ-10 run at YD 285689.
280450H-Co I received 1 incoming grenade.
280600H-CP receiving incoming 140mm rockets.
280820H-NGF mission now in progress at YD 284691. Co L preparing to move out.
280837H-Co L moving out.
280846H-Tanks hit AT mine at YD 298686 breaking axle--out of action. Co K to provide security for tanks. Co L utilizing mine sweep teams. Air strike now in progress.
280920H-Second air strike in progress--fixed wing receiving SAF on passes.
280935-Another tank hit AT mine at YD 298686.

ENCLOSURE (2)

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031735H-NGF and artillery FO's continuing to direct fires on YD 276664 where enemy had previously been observed from digging bunkers.

032150H-TPQ-10 in progress.

032255H-TPQ-10 in progress.

040800H-All units continuing to conduct search of area.

041450H-Co K at YD 284675 received 6 rounds 60mm mortar fire. Called in counter mortar fire.

041620H-Co L received 20 rounds incoming mortars at YD 278672.

041630H-Co I and Co M have been moved by helicopter to 4th Marines CP. Begin to make change of operations area with BLT 2/4.

041705H-CP receiving 8 rounds incoming artillery from a direction of 6100 mils.

042002H-CP receiving 10 rounds artillery from a direction of 6100 mils.

050947H-Co K now completely displaced by helicopter.

051034H-Co L displaced by helicopter.

051135H-BLT 3/1 now OPCON to 4th Marines.

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ENCLOSURE (3)

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010645H-Splash with Co M at YD 285670 began by sending one LVT across to insure trafficability, followed by 3 LVT's. Encountering small arms fire and mortar fire.

010815H-Co M is receiving small arms and mortar fire, but is continuing to move and has a strong hold on the west bank of the river. Co I across river by LVT and bridge.

010835H-BAS arrives at Mai Xa Thi (east) and is providing medical care for medevacs.

010837H-Co M's right flank moving with LVTH-6's firing in direct support. Co I is receiving artillery from north.

010844H-LVTH-6 took hit from RPG rocket resulting in 2 USMC WIA with slight damage to LVTH-6.

010850H-Co M still moving.

011030H-Co M continues to move forward slowly. Enemy fighting from camouflaged fighting holes making advance difficult.

011100H-Request LCM's to transport tanks to west bank of river.

011145H-LVT-E now being sent to Co M's position.

011140H-AO has been hit by 50 cal. rounds. Personnel believed to be wounded. Trying to get another AO.

011155H-Co M needs reinforcements. Co I and Co K will be moved up in support.

011205H-Co I will sweep east to west.

011235H-Attacking units making slow progress. Enemy well dug in using bunkers and fighting holes. Fighting is from house to house. Have 3 NVA POW which will be forward to S-2.

011258H-POW's arrive at CP location. Co M meeting stiff resistance. Co K receiving sniper fire from northern edge of hamlet.

011310H-LVTH-6 received another RPG rocket round knocking it out of action.

011318H-POW's say there are over 200 NVA in obj. CP taking 22 rounds incoming artillery.

011325H-Co M fires one line charge on bunker complex from LVT-E.

011330H-Co I is on Co M's right flank. AO observes squad size enemy force attempting to flank Co I.

011330H-CP received 4 rounds incoming artillery.

011339H-CP receiving 5 rounds incoming artillery.

011352H-LCM's now arriving to move tanks to support Co M. AO observes NVA escaping to west and will direct artillery mission.

011415H-LVT making medevac run was hit by RPG rocket round, but its still operable.

011417H-First tank across river and is moving in support of Co M.

011420H-Gunships are on way to obj. AO has a bomb crater full of NVA spotted and will attempt to direct LVT-E line charge on them.

011500H-Co I now has 2 tanks in support. Air strike is now being conducted.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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011630H-Co M moving to the west with enemy resistance continuing at YD 276665. Co I is sweeping to the northwest, while Co K is moving south at YD 282673. Enemy remains dug in using fortified positions to slow progress of the attack. Co L is conducting detailed search and sweep of area behind advancing troops.

011645H-Co K has arrived at graveyard (YD 281672). Encountered strong resistance from enemy in camouflaged fighting holes. Enemy was cleared out using 3.5 rockets and hand grenades, resulting in 10 NVA KIA's.

012040H-CP taking incoming artillery from a direction of 6200 mils.

012120H-Co M and Co I received 25-30 rounds of artillery and mortar fire from the north while setting in night defensive positions.

012135H-Co M receiving sniper fire and recoilless rifle fire.

Attempts are being made to free tanks that are presently stuck using LVT's.

012145H-Co M reports securing southern portion of obj by 1730H, then changing direction of advance to northwest to link up with Co I.

Received accurate sniper fire and mortar fire resulting in heavy casualties. Co M has 15 NVA KIA by body count.

012200H-All units set in defensive positions. Will continue sweep of area and conduct detailed search at first light.

020550H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

020750H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

021045H-All units conducting detailed search of area. Co M at YD 277677 found 3 USMC KIA that were not recovered last night due to enemy fire and darkness.

021625H-CP moves to Co M's position YD 278664. Searching units report finding numerous enemy KIA, fresh graves, and weapons including a 75mm recoilless gun and a new type rifle grenade with launcher.

Co I reports finding 21 NVA KIA in their section of the search. Co L found 8 NVA KIA in southern section and Co K found 5 additional NVA KIA.

022000H-NGF and artillery FO's begin bombarding hamlet at YD 269659 with 5 inch guns and 105mm artillery.

030315H-While maintaining defensive positions TPQ-10 was dropped within friendly positions. Coordinates of TPQ-10 had previously been given negative clearance by 3/1 ALO.

031030H-Co L while searching northern part of hamlet found 1 NVA POW, and 16 NVA KIA. Co M found 22 NVA KIA with large amounts of enemy munitions. Appears to be an ammunition cache at YD 276666.

031430H-Co L has completed search of island at YD 280660 with negative findings.

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251800H-Co M at YD 274638 reported hamlet was abandoned. Area was heavily fortified with freshly dug fighting holes. Co M returned to CP area and will continue sweep of obj tomorrow.

252025H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

252035H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

252130H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

260015H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

34 260800H-Rockets heard being launched and directed against Dong Ha Combat Base. Direction from Co L's position is 275⁰ mag. Approximate grid of launcher is YD 270680.

260905H-Co M is almost through obj at YD 270634.

261010H-Co M is finding many military aged males and will detain them until National Police Representatives arrive for questioning. Co M reports north and south ends of obj have fortifications.

261130H-Co K at YD 275630 and YD 290630 report negative contact.

261310H-Co M has between 40-60 male detainees.

261330H-Co K reports finding downed helicopter, #14644 at YD 298625. Will attempt to remove all equipment possible for forwarding to the Army.

261650H-Co M returns to CP location. National Police took 20 Vietnamese males to be drafted, and 7 ARVN's that were in a UA status.

262015H-TPQ-10 being dropped.

262025H-TPQ-10 being dropped.

262045H-TPQ-10 being dropped.

262335H-TPQ-10 being dropped.

57 270530H-Army will send helicopter to pick up equipment taken from downed HU-E1.

270805H-Air strike is being conducted against Mai Xa Thi (west).

270820H-LCM's making pick up of tanks and personnel at YD 296654. Co M and tanks will be landed at YD 294665. Co L, Co K and the CP will return to My Loc (YD 304679).

270830H-Second air strike in progress against Mai Xa Thi (west).

270910H-Co M is now ashore (YD 304679).

270945H-All tanks have landed.

271000H-Air strike in progress on Mai Xa Thi (east).

271015H-AO conducting fixed wing air strikes. BDA: 3 NVA KIA's and 11 structures destroyed.

271210H-Co M receiving incoming artillery from a direction of 6100 mils.

271300H-Co M continuing to receive incoming artillery.

271310H-Co L and Co M directed to link up and dig in.

271510H-Co K conducting platoon size patrol up to YD 272690.

271525H-Co K receiving machine gun fire from treeline.

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271620H-Co M and Co L at YD 285671 receiving mortar and sniper fire from My Xa Thi (west) as well as artillery fire from a northerly direction. Continuing sweep to river with tanks in support. Units have found 2 NVA KIA.

271715H-Co K patrol received approximately 50 rounds automatic weapons fire from west of river. Received 35 rounds artillery and 3 rounds 60mm mortar fire.

281835H-Co L reports incoming artillery direction 6300 mils.

282010H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

282300H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

280045H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

280455H-TPQ-10 now being dropped.

281020H-Navy boats firing at Co I and Co M resulting in 1 USMC WIA.

Request made to cease firing.

281235H-Co M received incoming sniper fire from YD 283668 resulting in 1 USMC WIA.

281240H-Co M receiving incoming sniper fire from YD 282668 resulting in 1 USMC WIA.

281245H-Co K receiving incoming artillery from a direction of 6300 mils.

281300H-Co K conducting platoon size patrol north to Nhi Ha (YD 284704).

Plt is receiving heavy automatic weapons fire and taking casualties.

281340H-AO on way to assist Co K's platoon.

281414H-Platoon can't get to casualties. Enemy fire is too intense to evacuate them.

281416H-AO conducting air strikes. Two additional flights of fixed wing requested and are on the way.

281525H-Co K requests ontos.

281615H-Air strike for Co K in progress. All casualties have been evacuated and activity is returning to Co area. Co K reports that the patrol was taken under intense enemy fire including 4 separate barrages of very accurate enemy artillery fire resulting in 14 USMC WIA's.

290600H-End operation SALINE--CHOP to 3rd Mar--Begin NAPOLEON/SALINE.

290815H-Co M (YD 285671) received 1 round enemy sniper fire from YD 284671 resulting in 1 USMC KIA.

290830H-292400H-Continuing to direct NGF and artillery against Mai Xa Thi (west). Also, LVTE's have arrived from 1st AmTrac Bn for use in the attack tomorrow.

010055H-LVT's headed for Co M's position.

010110H-LVT's are now stuck. Trying to pull them out at present.

010150H-LVT's still stuck at this time.

010315H-LVT's still stuck. LVT's will be required for river crossing to make the attack at YD 285670.

010410H-LVT's still stuck. May not be able to free them until first light.

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27 191200H-CP arrives at 1st AmTrac Bn position. 1st AmTrac Bn CP received 16 rounds of incoming artillery.

191550H-CP group while preparing to move back south to repeat sweep through same area previously swept received 10 rounds 130mm artillery.

191605H-CP group moving out to new location at YD 346636.

191710H-Co K while sweeping through area (YD 339634) flushed out one male and called to him to halt. Man continued to run and was fired upon resulting in 1 VCS captured.

191730H-192230H-Co I while beginning to make sweep of area at YD 345635 encountered sporadic automatic weapons and sniper fire. Units continued to sweep through area with artillery illumination and tanks adding direct fire support. Movement was slow due to fog, darkness and enemy resistance. Tanks were placed south of the obj.

28 200140H-CP while setting up COC and defensive positions within the obj area found 4 NVA POW's with weapons.

200930H-Co K at YD 345633 while searching assigned area found 3 NVA in bunker. All surrendered with 2 rifles.

201115H-Searching units finding large amounts of munitions, weapons, and 16 NVA KIA.

201300H-Co L is moving out to obj at YD 336635.

201405H-Co L now sweeping obj reporting nothing abnormal.

201455H-Co I now moving to YD 336627.

201525H-CP now at new location (YD 333628). Co I left one platoon in ambush while rest of unit pulled out.

201905H-Co I platoon in ambush at YD 345630 observed 3 NVA making way into hamlet. Attempt was made to capture all 3, however, unit was forced to open fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA.

29 210815H-Co K moving out to sweep and search obj at YD 316634. Co L moving out to search obj at YD 326637.

210935H-Co K reports obj secured, nothing unusual. Hamlet to west also secured.

211013H-Co L through large part of obj with no enemy contact.

211400H-Co L returning back to CP position after searching obj with negative results.

211620H-personnel from Btry "W" at YD 307681 while searching out family bunker found 1 RPG-7 in excellent shape.

30 220830H-Co L moving into obj at YD 320647 with no contact. Co K moving up to north of hamlet to tie in with Co L.

221140H-CP now at new location (YD 325645). Units conducting detailed search of area.

221200H-222400H-Conducted detailed search of area with negative results. Units, however, report unusually large number of young, military aged Vietnamese males in hamlet (YD 320646).

31 230800H-231400H-Units conducted search of area. Report large number of military-aged males in area.

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231530H-Co M reports 31 rounds incoming artillery at YD 303682.
 231720H-CP moved to new location (YD 319647). Units now set in defensive positions on north side of hamlet.
 232115H-TPQ-10 being dropped in Mai Xa Thi (east).
 232245H-TOT in progress at YD 288629.
 232330H-TPQ-10 being dropped (Mai Xa Thi).
 240730H-Informed by 1st AmTrac Bn that representatives of National Police will arrive at this position to question military aged males.
 240930H-National Police representatives from Dong Ha now at this location questioning military aged youths.
 241000H-Co I at YD 306656 now beginning to conduct sweep.
 241105H-Co L getting ready to move out to join Co I, K, and M in defensive positions.
 241355H-National Police representatives at YD 319645 found 14 Vietnamese males of military draft age and 5 VC suspects. All were forwarded by National Police to appropriate locations.
 241540H-CP on move to new location (YD 307656).
 241550H-Co M arrives at new location (YD 307656).
 242000H-Recon Plt conducting activity to YD 297654 to check for possible landing of tanks by LCM's. Results indicate trafficability good.
 242100H-TPQ-10 now being dropped on Mai Xa Thi (west).
 250040H-TPQ-10 now being dropped on Mai Xa Thi (west).
 250540H-Co I ready to move out. Co K now moving by LVT's.
 250610H-LVT's with Co I and Co K continue to have trouble moving in paddy area.
 250635H-Co I has LVT's unstuck. Will complete movement by shuttle with LVT's available.
 250650H-Co K now across river and moving on foot to attack position at YD 293646.
 250730H-Co I now in blocking position at YD 298637.
 250750H-Tank arrived by LCM and is now moving up in support of Co K.
 250830H-Co K reports all is normal at obj (YD 290643). Co I is now conducting search of area at YD 286641 reporting no civilians in area.
 250930H-Co I moving to obj at YD 286647. Navy convoy boats receiving enemy small arms fire from north bank of river. Navy commenced to fire on both north and south banks with automatic weapons fire. Co I receiving heavy small arms from north. Unable to distinguish friendly fire from enemy fire.
 251205H-Navy convoys continue to fire on Co I south of river. Request again made to stop firing on friendlies.
 251240H-All boat traffic is being discontinued until Co I secures obj.
 251330H-Co I is into obj and has it secured.
 251550H-Co I again receiving automatic weapons fire from Navy boats. Request made that they stop firing.

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131510H-Co I fired 60mm mortars and 106mm rounds in area west of Obj 3 causing 1 NVA to flee from structure. NVA was taken under fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA.

141205H-Co I and Co K and Co L told to destroy positions at Obj and prepare to move on order.

141430H-Co I taking incoming mortars and artillery from direction 5900 mils.

141445H-Bridge to be destroyed at YD 284672.

141515H-Co I fired 5 rounds 106mm RR at bridge knocking out 8-10 foot section.

141630H-Co K moving from present position to go south of the Cua Viet River by AmTrac.

141650H-Co I now moving out in trace of Co K. Co L will follow.

141720H-Co L is taking approximately 2 rounds of artillery.

141800H-Co M and Co N with Btry "W" remain at YD 304680. Co K, Co L, Co I, and CP are now at 1st AmTrac's CP preparing to continue south for sweep.

142100H-Co L, Co K, Co I, and CP now setting in new night defensive positions at YD 345654.

142235H-Co M at YD 303680 receiving 5-8 rounds incoming artillery. TPQ-10 now being dropped.

150925H-AO reports heavy fortifications at YD 344634 and YD 336634.

151250H-Tank now on way from Blue Beach to CP position.

151640H-Recon Plt reports finding fighting holes and bunkers at YD 335650 and YD 342640.

152345-TPQ-10 being dropped.

160530H-Co I reports ready to move out.

160600H-Co L reports ready to move out.

160650H-Co L and Co I dismounting AmTracs--have arrived at attack position (YD 352628). AmTracs returning to CP.

160730H-Co L and Co I sweeping Le Xuyen (YD 344634) meeting no enemy resistance.

160800H-Ordered to move out and sweep area of YD 356625.

160925H-CP now located at YD 349630. Received Co K's position report: YD 346621.

161050H-Co K is now across river at YD 344622.

161135H-All units moving well with no contact. NVA believed to have moved from the area 2 days ago.

161145H-Co K's position: YD 335618.

161400H-Co K is moving to north side of river.

161405H-Co L at YD 327639 is receiving SAF from hamlet at YD 325637 (Vinh Lai).

161420H-Co L is still taking SAF from unknown size unit. Fire fight started with small arms sniper fire and has developed into intense small arms and automatic weapons fire. Tanks are moving up to support Co L at YD 326637. Supporting arms are being directed against the enemy.

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161530H-New CP location at YD 333627.
161545H-Co I and 2 tanks are in blocking position at YD 323634. AO on station is directing first air strike.
161600H-AO while directing fixed wing strike on obj at YD 326635 claimed 1 NVA KIA and 1 large secondary explosion.
161610H-AO is calling in artillery on obj.
161625H-Platoon from Co K moving up to left flank of Co L. Co L pressing the attack from northeast to southwest.
161650H-Flaership requested.
161715-Air strike in progress. Fixed wing receiving heavy automatic fire on bomb runs.
161825H-Co L and tanks have penetrated into obj area. Continuing to press the attack with a rolling cover effect by supporting arms.
161925H-Illumination started in order to continue the attack.
161945H-CP group spotted 10-12 VC/NVA fleeing obj attempting to cross river about 75-100 meters from CP location. CP group opened fire on enemy resulting in 7 NVA KIA and 1 POW.
162210H-Co L is still proceeding through hamlet area meeting resistance.
170420H-Co I and Co L's lines now tied together for the remainder of the night.
170820H-Co K moving to attack hamlets at YD 314630 and YD 316634.
171100H-Co K at YD 317632 while reconning obj at YD 316634 made contact with 3 VC in a house resulting in 3 VC KIA.
171200H-CP now located at YD 322641.
171300H-Co I and Co L report after conducting detailed search of obj area at YD 325636 finding 30 NVA KIA.
171400H-Co K at YD 316633 encountered a small delaying force left behind while 20-30 VC fled to north. Attack by Co K killed 3 VC, found 6 weapons (3 of which were found near the 3 VC killed in a house previously mentioned), 1 POW, and munitions.
171520H-Co K and Co I now moving to YD 307637.
171630H-CP moving to new location by AmTracs.
172315H-TPQ-10 being dropped at YD 285689.
180255H-TPQ-10's being dropped on Obj 3.
180800H-Co I sweeping through hamlet YD 320646--no contact. Everything appears normal.
181000H-Co K at YD 310654 reports all is normal.
181200H-CP is now at YD 309657 awaiting to be picked up by LCM's to return to 1st AmTrac Bn.
181500H-Last tank loaded on LCM. CP group now moving out by LVT's.
181600H-CP arrives at 1st AmTrac Bn position.

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021245H-Co M and Co K continue to maintain pressure on the enemy. Intense SAF and close in grenade exchange is occurring with the enemy.

021250H-Co I at YD 286674 received a total of 17 rounds of 130mm artillery from a direction of 5600 mils.

021255H-Recon Plt while maintaining defensive positions observed 1 NVA at YD 292684 moving to the east trying to flee from obj area.

021445H-Co M and Co K continue to meet resistance from enemy, however, most of hamlet area has been secured. Large numbers of NVA bodies and amounts of equipment are being found throughout the area.

021550H-Request was made to destroy submerge tank because of inability to remove it from bomb crater. Permission received to destroy tank after it is stripped.

021600H-Co M and Co K are still in close contact. The enemy retains a foot hole in the western edge of the hamlet. Attack continues with casualties estimated at 135 NVA KIA and 7 FOW's plus two 60mm mortars captured.

021640H-FAC team directed "Huey" gunship against snipers shooting across river resulting in 2 NVA KIA.

021735H-Co I reports finding 1 NVA KIA while conducting search of Obj 3 area.

021815H-AmTrac while on resupply run from 1st AmTrac Bn to CP location hit 40 lbs pressure detonated mine at YD 303686.

021820H-Co M and Co K advised to continue search of area till dark, then move back to Obj 3 area and Mai Xa Thi (east).

022100H-Co M and Co K report casualties for day at 8 USMC KIA and 39 WIA's with 141 NVA KIA's.

030815H-Intelligence report indicates NVA will attempt large scale movement in this area.

030936H-Co L receiving 13 rounds incoming artillery.

031405H-Tank #202142 that was submerged at YD 288687 has been destroyed.

031440H-Co I while observing bridge and west side of river from Obj 3 saw NVA moving in hamlet. Called in artillery and fired 3.5 rocket resulting in 1 NVA KIA.

031830H-Co I reports sporadic sniper fire from west side of river at YD 284670.

031850H-Co L receiving incoming mortars from unknown direction.

040655H-Co I and Co K began to move on the attack at YD 285689 and are meeting no resistance. Obj is secured. Now conducting detailed search of area.

041215H-Co L at YD 278670 received 3 rounds 82mm mortar fire resulting in 3 WIA USMC.

041440H-Co L received 3 rounds 82mm resulting in 1 USMC KIA.

041445H-Btry "C" reports incoming rockets on their position (YD 343686) resulting in 1 damaged truck (6 X 6) and 2 USMC WIA non medevacs.

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041715H-Co I received 14 rounds 60mm mortar fire. Spotted possible mortar position and are calling in counter mortar fire.
 050945H-Co L receiving 6 rounds 82mm mortar fire from YD 282669.
 051530H-Co I while search area at YD 276698 came under intense sniper fire and incoming 60mm mortar fire. AmTracs with Co I received RPG rounds. Co I is responding with artillery and NGF missions.
 060855H-Co I at Obj 3 saw 3 NVA at first light and opened fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA.
 061200H-Co L spotted movement across river and fired on approximately 5-10 NVA moving from bunker to bunker resulting in 2 NVA KIA.
 070700H-Continuing to bombard area west of Obj 3 with NGF and artillery fire. TPQ-10 concentrations also being conducted in this area.
 080230H-TPQ-10 being dropped.
 080930H-TPQ-10 being dropped.
 081350H-AmTrac hit pressure detonated mine of 150 lbs at YD 316688. AmTrac burst into flame and was completely destroyed.
 081435H-Co L at YD 286672 received 2 incoming 82mm mortar rounds; 1 direct hit on bunker resulting in 3 USMC WIA's.
 081845H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 081935H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 082225H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 082230H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 090220H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 090320H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 091030H-Co I saw 1 NVA at YD 284670 and fired 30 rounds M-16 resulting in 1 NVA KIA.
 091215H-Co L at Obj 3 receiving 4 rounds artillery from a direction of 6200 mils and 10 rounds 82mm mortar fire.
 091250H-Co L at Obj 3 receiving 7 rounds 60mm mortar fire from YD 280670.
 091640H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 091657H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 091720H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 091745H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 091935H-TPQ-10 dropped.
 100700H-0830H-7 TPQ-10's were dropped. Normal day activities are being conducted to the north and northeast throughout the day. Bombardment of area west of Obj 3 will continue throughout the day.
 110001H-112400H-Conducted normal security activities and directed NGF and artillery against area west of Obj 3.
 120001H-122400H-Conducted normal security activities, and directed NGF and artillery against area west of Obj 3.

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311900H-Co L moving to trace of Co I and Co M. Attacking units making better progress.

311930H-Attacking units now well into Obj 3.

312030H-Co I reports that its lead elements are through the obj.

312130H-At this time Obj 3 is 80% secured. Co I and Co M and Co L all occupying positions within the hamlet. Sniper fire continues but organized resistance has ceased.

312355H-Flare ship leaving obj area. All units set into night defensive positions.

010005H-Co L at YD 287670 received 3 rounds 82mm mortars from YD 271668 resulting in 4 USMC WIA's.

010510H-CP group received 40 rounds incoming 82mm mortar and artillery fire. Counter battery fire being directed against suspected enemy artillery positions.

010750H-Co I at YD 286676 had man trip booby trap while moving through hedge row resulting in 1 USMC WIA Medevac.

010800H-Co M and Co I now moving out to conduct detailed search of area and sweep through rest of obj.

010835H-Co K at YD 285687 while checking area of last night's ambush found 1 NVA KIA, 2 rifles, 1 additional pool of blood and various equipment.

010856H-Co I captured 1 NVA WIA. Initial interrogation reveals NVA is a corpsman with 3rd Co, 3rd Bn, 803rd NVA Regt and that the Bn CP was located at this point.

011310H-Co I while conducting sweep and detailed search of obj found 17 NVA KIA, large amounts of enemy weapons, radios and equipment including 1 Russian 30 cal. light MG.

011415H-Co M and Co L receiving heavy artillery fire from a northerly direction.

011500H-Co K receiving 4 rounds 60mm mortar fire.

011510H-Co M reports, while attacking Obj 3, sustaining 9 USMC KIA's, and 37 WIA's.

011530H-Co L at YD 285688 received 6 rounds 82mm mortar fire resulting in 2 USMC WIA's.

011540H-Co M at YD 287675 completed sweep finding weapons, RPG rounds and a 12.7mm MG. Co L reports finding another NVA POW and 2 NVA KIA's.

011715H-Co L, Co I, and Co M conducted a detailed search of Obj 3 finding fortifications orientated for an attack from north or east. Enemy's defense was complete with a communication's system of comm wire connecting bunkers. A total of 44 NVA KIA's, 2 POW's, weapons, and assorted gear was captured.

012030H-Position reports: Co L (YD 287671), Co I (YD 285672), Co M (YD 302681), Co K moved from its position at dusk to (YD 288687) because of intelligence report indicating possible attack in area.

020352H-Co K receiving approximately 70-100 rounds incoming mortars and artillery.

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020355H-NGF to give illumination for Co K.
 020403H-All companies directed to be on 100% alert. Be ready to move in support of Co K.
 020410H-1st AmTrac Bn advised that Co K is under heavy ground attack. Flaership is requested to support Co K.
 020412H-Tanks directed to be ready to move. Co M advised to be ready to move.
 020420H-Co M to send 1 platoon with tanks to aid Co K.
 020425H-Co K directed to consider any routes for possible enemy withdrawal. Routes can be covered by artillery.
 020435H-Flaership on station.
 020445H-Enemy troops in front of Co K CP location are milling around. 81mm mortars firing at observed troop movement.
 020540H-Tanks advised to use mine sweep team and move out with 1 platoon from from Co M to support Co K. Co K directing 81mm mortars, 107mm mortars, artillery, and NGF with repeated fire for effects. Tanks will check for possible ambush.
 020620H-Co M advised to have rest of company to move out.
 020630H-Co K continues to receive enemy fire and what appears to be a second assault. Enemy made first assault on position that Co K was in before moving after dark. Co K continues to call in fire support and has received tanks and Co M's platoon in support.
 020745H-Enemy attack seems to have been repulsed. Sniper fire continues from the direction of the attack. Tanks and Co K continues to direct fire on avenues of enemy withdrawal. An AO has been requested for obj area.
 020810H-CP group at YD 307682 received 16 rounds of artillery from a northerly direction. Calling in counter battery fire.
 020815H-Co K receiving large amounts of mortar fire from within hamlet of Lam Xuan. Also, receiving automatic weapons fire. Directing artillery and NGF on mortar positions at this time.
 020900H-Co K and Co M receiving mortar fire and automatic weapons fire from west side of river and Mai Xa Thi. Large numbers of NVA appear to be moving out of hamlet to the north. Directing maximum use of supporting fires against enemy.
 020930H-Mortar fire continues to be directed against Co M. Mortars believed to be 82mm from a direction of 6100 mils. Co M with tank are pressing the attack.
 021000H-Enemy 82mm mortar fire continues from north. Believe it to be coming from Nhi Ha (YD 2770 grid square). Co M continuing to make good progress moving in the attack. Mortar fire is continuous and heavy.
 021050H-Co M and Co K are moving forward meeting automatic weapons fire and taking large numbers of 82mm rounds. Progress is slow—using tanks to knock out enemy in fortified positions.

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291830H-Co K reports receiving 40 rounds of incoming artillery.
 291950H-TPQ-10's will be run on Obj 3 (YD 286672).
 292000H-Position report: CP (YD 307681), Co L (YD 285690), Co K (YD 283688), Co I (YD 303681), Co M (YD 300686).
 292130H-TPQ-10's being run against Obj 3 (YD 286672).
 300140H-Co M at YD 301686 receiving 3 hand grenades and approximately 5 M-79 grenades.
 300945H-Co L has 1 platoon across river to west of obj area.
 300955H-Co K has 2 NVA POW's, 1 rocket launcher and 2 light MG's. Co K requests interpreter for interrogation of POW's. POW's were found by scout dogs at YD 281689.
 301035H-Co K while searching at YD 285688 found 1 dead NVA outside bunker.
 301115H-Intelligence report reveals that on 22 Jan Chieu Hoi reported AP mine field in the vicinity of YD 236676.
 301130H-Co L found 2 NVA bodies in shallow graves, assorted documents and gear. Gear believed to be that of a corpsman.
 301215H-Interrogation of 2 POW's found by Co K indicates that there is a Bn CP at YD 286673.
 301500H-Co L at YD 281689 finding bloody bandages leading north and west across river.
 301515H-Co M at YD 292687 found 1 artillery 105mm dud which was blown in place.
 301540H-Request TPQ-10's on YD 288677 and YD 286675 be dropped before 2400H due to patrols in area after that time.
 301630H-Air strike on Obj 3 in progress.
 301720H-Co L at YD 286690 while searching a bunker found 1 NVA body and 3 chi com grenades.
 301855H-Co L at YD 285691 received approximately 12 rounds incoming 130mm artillery. They request counter battery fire against suspected enemy artillery positions.
 301935H-Co K at YD 287688 received 20 rounds of 130mm artillery from a direction of 6000 mils.
 302310H-TPQ-10's now being dropped.
 310130H-1 squad from Co M departing toward Obj 3 (YD 286673) are to act as guides for Co M movement to attack position.
 310230H-Co M now moving to assembly area to arrive there at 0530H.
 310555H-Co K's platoon-sized diversionary force now in position at YD 288678.
 310655H-Co M is in attack position awaiting first light.
 310702H-Co K's divisionary force now in the attack from north. Will attack by fire for 15 minutes.
 310710H-CP taking 15 rounds incoming 130mm artillery from a northerly direction.
 310715H-Co M reports receiving incoming artillery and 50 cal MG fire.

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310730H-Co M reports assault elements inside first treeline of obj in heavy contact with well dug in NVA. Attack continuing utilizing maximum supporting arms fire. Waiting for fog to lift to direct fixed wing support. LVTH-6's now moving down Cua Viet River to Co M's position to lend direct fire support.

310750H-Bn CP receiving 15 more rounds 130mm artillery at YD 307681. Direction 6000 mils.

310830H-Co M moving forward slowly against heavy resistance. Enemy has 50 cal. MG and mortars. Co M is employing 81mm mortars, artillery, NGF, and awaits CAS and LVTH-6's.

310845H-LVTH-6's have arrived at Co M's position.

310900H-Co M is meeting heavy resistance reporting 50 cal. MG's in 4 bunkers which must be knocked out prior to advance. Co M still reports incoming artillery rounds from a direction of 6050 mils. Enemy is employing RR from obj area.

310915H-Co I is moving out by LVT's to support Co M in the attack. 2nd Plt Co M taking heavy casualties. Co M receiving 50 rounds 130mm artillery, and recoilless rifle fire.

311005H-Co I now taking incoming artillery fire. Direction 5800 mils.

311040H-At YD 287672 Co M is still held up due to SAF and incoming artillery. Co I is moving up on west flank. Supporting fires taking heavy toll on enemy.

311200H-Fixed wing has yet to arrive on station. Co M is advised that CAS is doubtful and to proceed without it.

311207H-Co I is moving up behind smoke screen.

311215H-Co I and Co M are prepared to mark lines for air strike.

311235H-Co M and Co I at YD 287672 continue to maintain contact with the enemy and are pressing the attack using smoke and whiskey papa as a screen.

311250H-Co I reports negative observation of bridge on west side of obj.

311425H-Co L given warning order to be ready to move.

311430H-Co M and Co I in close contact with enemy in fortified positions at YD 287672. Co L will be moved to support the attack if required. Very little progress being made at this time.

311515H-AO and fixed wing are on the way. Co M dropping back for air strike.

311545H-Co M (YD 287672) with Co I on their left flank continuing to attack with little progress. More CAS is on the way. Co M estimates 40 casualties up to this time.

311555H-Air strike in progress. Requesting flare ship and relief.

311600H-Co L moving out on order to position behind Co I and Co M. After pulling back for air strike Co I and Co M returned to the attack. Air strike was largely ineffective due to haze and many duds.

311810H-Report received that there will be no more fixed wing available.

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281020H-Advised Co L that 803rd NVA Company is in obj area.
 281048H-CP and Co L at YD 298686 received 24 rounds of 130mm artillery from 315 degrees.
 281118H-Co L moving behind tanks and receiving negative resistance. Co L reports that one tank while crossing paddy sunk into large bomb crater and is submerged.
 281125H-Co L reports hitting booby trap resulting in casualties.
 281130H-Co L taking SAF from obj area.
 281135H-Co K advised to be prepared to move out.
 281210H-AO spots 4 NVA moving out of obj west across river.
 281212H-Co L reports tank hit by RPG.
 281215H-Artillery AO reports enemy moving around in obj. Calling in artillery on target.
 281217H-Co L ordered to hold back so air can be utilized against enemy attempting to move out of west side of obj.
 281230H-CP receiving 22 rounds incoming 130mm artillery.
 281236H-Co L advised to bring tanks back for air strike. Co L requesting Co K for support.
 281240H-CP receiving 16 more rounds incoming.
 281312H-CP receiving more incoming artillery. Co K preparing to move out.
 281315H-Co L advised to take it slow and make maximum use of supporting arms. Co K moving up.
 281330H-Co L reports taking heavy casualties.
 281340H-Air strike in progress. AO reports that air strike accounted for 10 NVA KIA's and that enemy is moving around in obj area.
 281421H-Air strike completed and Co K reports making good progress.
 281510H-Half way through obj still meeting heavy resistance.
 281523H-Co L advised to keep moving and call in fire support.
 281531H-Tank reported stuck.
 281550H-Co M at YD 293678 sighted bunkers with VC. Called in artillery and NGF destroying 5 shelters and 100 meters of trenchline.
 281600H-Requested to have Flames fueled and ready to go tomorrow.
 281640H-Air strike conducted--BDA: 14 NVA KIA.
 281721H-Artillery firing at YD 282689 credited with 4 NVA KIA.
 281740H-Co L just knocked out big bunker with automatic weapon that was holding them back.
 281745H-Air strike conducted--BDA: 7 bunkers destroyed and 3 secondary explosions.
 281800H-Co L reports finding an enemy 30 cal. MG, 1 RPG-2 launcher, 8 NVA KIA, and a lot of gear in obj area. Total is 36 NVA KIA for this obj so far.
 281813H-AmTracs report tank hitting mine as they were attempting to pull it from a paddy. AmTracs will try again tomorrow.
 281815H-AO observed 4 NVA moving into a house. AO is adjusting artillery on house.

ENCLOSURE (3)

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281820H--Co M moving to take up a position north of the obj to block and observe enemy withdrawal.

281825H--Co L advised to continue attack by using illumination. Will use NGF and artillery to provide illumination. Flareship has been requested.

281850H--Co M reports 1 NVA KIA when he ran into blocking force at YD 278696.

281855H--Air strike in progress, AO reports a large secondary explosion.

282015H--Flareship reports on station.

282140H--Co L reports 15 more NVA KIA found in obj. Co L and Co K told to consolidate their position.

282235H--Position reports: Co M (YD 277693 to YD 283694), Co L (YD 282688 to YD 287686), Co K (YD 280693 to YD 283688), Co I (YD 300682), CP (YD 310684), AmTracs (YD 310684), Ontos and Tanks (YD 282688 to YD 287686), Btry "C" (LZ Robin), Recon Plt (YD 300682), Co N (YD 306680), and Btry "W" (YD 305680).

290145H--Co L and Co K at YD 285688 receiving 23 rounds incoming artillery believed to be 130mm from a direction of 5300 mils.

290150H--Co L and Co K advised to be watchful for ground attack.

290450H--Co K to move at 0645H--advised to coordinate with Co L.

290806H--Position report from Co M: (YD 288688).

290945H--Co L and Co K informed to have FO's register danger close fire missions.

291010H--Co I at (YD 285672) observed NVA moving about; called in artillery mission resulting in 3 NVA KIA.

291010H--Co M at (YD 289689) finds 1 NVA KIA with gear.

291030H--Co I at (YD 293674) detained 2 males age 19 and 24, turned over to S-2.

291055H--Prisoner captured at YD 287691 is member of 4th Co, 3rd Bn, 82nd NVA Regt. States that 110 men were in obj. Many escaped.

291120H--Co L reports taking 15 rounds 130mm artillery at YD 284689 from a direction of 6000 mils.

291137H--Co L will be moving out very shortly. Co L and Co K again taking incoming artillery: 10 rounds.

291255H--Co K reports finding 2 more NVA bodies.

291305H--Co K advised scout dogs are available.

291350H--Co M starting to search obj area with Co L.

291445H--Obj is completely secured. Co M is advised to move to YD 300685 at 1600H. Co M has found 1 NVA KIA with AK-47 in burned out bunker.

291735H--Co K reports finding 2 NVA KIA and various documents. Co L after search of obj area reports 37 dead NVA, assorted equipment and gear.

291800H--Received information that the "TET cease fire" will not go into effect.

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