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HEADQUARTERS

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division, FME
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

3/RAF/jrf

2 Sept 1966
Su:0028-66

SECRET

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2
(b) DivO 5750.2

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for the
period 1 August to 31 August 1966.
(2) Chronological Sequence of Events.
(3) After Action Report From Operation COLORADO.

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosure (1) through
(3) are submitted herewith

2. This chronology includes all pertinent and significant information
as defined in references (a) and (b).

H. L. Coffman
H. L. COFFMAN

5TH MAR S&C FILES

00495-66

COPY NO. 3 OF 8

ENCLOSURE (3)

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1474 copy 6 of 10 copies

Aug 1966

1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. The following organizational data is submitted:

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a. Designator/Location. During the month of August the Battalion occupied a position on Hill 54 and continued to control it's assigned TAOR. The Battalion is composed of a Headquarters Company and four rifle companies.

b. Period Covered. From 1 August 1966, to 31 August 1966.

c. Personnel Assignment/Attachments

(1) Commanding Officer	LtCol H. L. COFFMAN
(2) Executive Officer	Maj B. S. PICKETT
(3) S-1	WO J. J. TIMONY
(4) S-2	1stLt R. BENIGO
(5) S-3	Capt R. A. FREEMAN
(6) S-4	Capt G. J. STREMLOW
(7) CO, H&S Company	Capt F. M. KAUFFMAN
(8) CO, A Company	Capt M. T. COOPER
(9) CO, B Company	Capt J. P. T. SULLIVAN
(10) CO, C Company	1stLt M. B. DARLING
(11) CO, D Company	1stLt J. N. BRAY

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Encl #1

2. Sequential Listing of Significant Eventsa. Personnel

(1) Average monthly strength:

(a) USMC OFFICER 31
 ENLISTED 1050

(b) USN OFFICER 3
 ENLISTED 49

(2) Present on board strength:

(a) USMC OFFICER 31
 ENLISTED 1029

(b) USN OFFICER 3
 ENLISTED 50

(3) Current critical shortages based on manning level are as follows:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>PAY GRADE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0302	O-3	2
0302	O-1/O-2	12
0369	E-8	1
0369	E-7	5
0239	E-7	1
0848	E-7	1
3349	E-7	1
3516	E-7	1
0369	E-6	11
0441	E-6	1
2539	E-6	1
2861	E-6	1
3537	E-6	1
0141	E-5	3
5711	E-5	1

b. Intelligence

(1) During the period 1 August, the S-2 Section has compiled and provided the Battalion with a current order of battle within the Battalion TAOR, and within areas outside the TAOR for possible future operations. The S-2 is continuing to provide the Battalion with a Black List of known VC in the TAOR. This list and close cooperation with the Village Chiefs and with the DAI UY of Ly Tin District assisted in the apprehension of one known VC and twenty-two VCS within the TAOR. On one occasion, a captured VCS provided the names of four other VC who operate within the TAOR and their weapons, none of which had been previously reported.

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(2) During the month of August three VC surrendered under the CHIEU HOA Program.

(3) During Operation COLORADO, the S-2 provided timely intelligence to unit Commanders based on local interrogation in conjunction with information promulgated by higher Headquarters. The S-2 also processed eleven VCS and captured enemy equipment to include ten enemy weapons, ammunition, and numerous documents for evacuation to higher Headquarters.

(4) There has been an incident of a Vietnamese boy leading a Marine patrol to the location of two previously unreported caves.

(5) The S-2 Scouts continue to be employed as security elements for the Command Group. At the combat base, the scouts are utilized as security elements within the defense perimeter.

c. Logistics

(1) The camp improvement program has continued to the point that there are now 74 general purpose tents with eight section decking in addition to the 18 strong back tents. A cement deck "pot shack" for the galley is in it's early stages of construction. Road improvement has continued slowly with one engineer platoon scheduled to come to Hill 54 on 5 Sept to complete road drainage and grading. The engineers are also scheduled to provide a drainage system and fill in the area of the mess hall and to provide a drainage system in the ammo bunker. MCB40 is in the process of drilling a well, with a view toward establishing a water point within the Base Camp Area.

d. Communication

(1) Internal Battalion communications for company sized operations were dependent on HF and FM radio equipment. Voice radio nets were terminated at Battalion employing the AN/PRC 25 and AN/PRC 47. The results were excellent to outstanding.

(2) Internal Battalion and Regimental communications for the past month have been dependent on FM, HF, and SHF radio equipment. Voice radio nets have been terminated by the AN/PRC 25, AN/PRC 47. Teletype was terminated by AN/PRC 27 and land lines. The performance in this area of communications was also excellent to outstanding.

e. Air Support

(1) Helicopter Support. Six troop lifts were made during Operation COLORADO. The first was a company size lift in the morning of D+1. The second was a company size lift on the afternoon of D+1, followed by three lifts on the afternoon of D+1, of one company and command group; one company that was previously helo lifted on the morning of D+1, and ending with one 4.2 mortar battery lift in the late afternoon of D+1. All lifts were made with MAG 16 and MAG 36 aircraft. MAG 36 helicopters provided security on D+2, D+3, D+4, D+5. All troop lifts were accompanied by Armed UH-1E Aircraft. In addition to Operation COLORADO, MAG 36 Aircraft performed 14 Med evacs and 12 H 34 aircraft were used for troop or supply lifts.

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(2) Fixed Wing Aircraft were requested and provided HIZ preps on D+1 in the vicinity of 038211, 068242, and 075207. On D+2 a fixed wing strike was requested in the vicinity of 115225 against troops dug in. The strike was carried out with two MAG 12 A4E Aircraft and controlled by Cottage 14 Bravo. On D+4, at 1510 when the Battalion encountered heavy enemy contact, air support was requested. Two armed HU1E's reported on station and were almost immediately hampered in their operations due to a heavy rain storm that moved through the area. Numerous fixed wing aircraft from both MAG 11 and MAG 12 reported on station and commenced strikes at approximately 1730 when the rain storm ceased. All strikes were controlled by HU1E Aircraft. The airstrikes continued until approximately 2045. A flare ship reported on station just prior to sunset and provided continuous illumination through out the night. On the night of D+5 illumination was provided at 10 minute intervals by a flare ship until 0430 on the morning of D+6. Continuous illumination was requested at this time because of a mortar attack on the Battalion position. Armed HU1E aircraft were requested and conducted an air strike on retreating Viet Cong. Armed HU1E's provided air cover for the Battalion for it's movement back to TAM KY on D+6.

f. Artillery Support

(1) The month of August 1966 headlined by Operation COLORADO. During Operation COLORADO direct artillery support for 1st Bn, 5th Marines was provided with 105 Howitzers and 4.2 mortars from 2nd Bn, 11th Marines. General support was provided with 155 howitzers and 155 guns from 4th Bn 11th Marines.

Throughout the operation artillery provided preparatory fires, harrassing and interdicting fires, blocking fires, will adjust missions, and illumination.

4.2 mortars were successfully airlifted in areas out of range of all other artillery. From these areas they provided illumination and prop. fires for advancing infantry units.

Especially effective during the operation were the H&I and blocking fires on the night of D+4, fired at withdrawing Viet Cong.

(2) Other actions that took place during the month were:

(a) Nightly firing of approximately 150 rounds of harrassing and interdiction fires, which denied the Viet Cong use of trails, crossings and areas in 1st Bn., 5th Marines TAOR.

(b) Will adjust missions on Viet Cong and possible Viet Cong base camps.

g. Civil Affairs

(1) During the month of August, the emphasis of the Pacification program continued to be placed on the medical civic action program. Medical personnel assigned to this Battalion treated 3,920 civilian patients and distributed over 4,000 bars of soap. Fifteen of these patients were serious enough to require helicopter medical evacuation to the civilian hospital in Quang Ngai

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(2) Over 500lbs of rice were distributed to civilians who relocated their families from VC contested areas to more secure areas along route one. Additionally, 1100 lbs of captured rice was turned over to the district chief at Ly tin for distribution.

(3) English classes continued to be held for Vietnamese students during the first part of the month. 130 student hours were completed.

(4) The shower unit in the civilian aid station has been completed and is used in conjunction with medical treatment to stress the importance of sanitation and hygiene.

h. Medical

(1) Personnel - The BAS participated in Operation COLORADO during August, losing three men killed in action and five men wounded in action. Awards currently pending for this action are:

- One Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry
- One Silver Star
- Three Bronze Stars
- One Navy Commendation
- Ten Purple Hearts

(2) Health and Sanitation - Early in the month, a new outbreak of Malaria was noted and representatives from PMU came to the hill for mosquito check, using the bite count method. They again failed to find a significant number of anopholes mosquitoes. A portable fogging machine was acquired from PMU and has been used nightly during the past week with an apparent reduction in numbers of mosquitoes. Weekly sanitation inspections have shown steady improvement in the general level of sanitation, though there remain a few areas that require more work.

(3) Civic Action - This program has steadily moved forward. A shower was installed behind the civilian sick call area and instructions are given to the children daily on the importance of cleanliness. During the first County Fair, the MEDCAP team treated 350 patients. Total number of patients seen this month was slightly more than 3000.

i. Psychological Warfare.

(1) Leaflet drops and loudspeaker broadcasts emphasizing the CHIEU HOI program continued over the Battalion TAOR. 40,000 leaflets were dropped and two scheduled airborne, loud speaker broadcasts were made.

(2) A "County Fair" operation was conducted at Phu Vinh hamlet (BT 435149) on 24 August 1966. The Bn. provided a defensive perimeter around the hamlet while GVN forces searched the area and gathered its inhabitants into a central location. Once this was accomplished a GVN civilian psy war team and the district chief gave a series of speeches for support of the local government against the VC. US Marines and Navy personnel held MEDCAPS and distributed 500 magazines dealing with agriculture and good will programs between the Republic of Viet Nam and its allies.

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(3) A second "County Fair" was conducted at Bich Ngo hamlet (BT 342173) on 30 August 1966. Again, the Bn. secured a defensive perimeter while GVN forces searched the hamlet and gathered its inhabitants in a central location. Once this was accomplished, GVN officials gave a series of speeches appealing to the people for support of the legal government against the VC. Additionally they were encouraged to reject VC demands for rice during the coming harvest. Bn. medical personnel held MEDCAPS and treated 364 civilians and distributed 400 bars of soap. The district chief distributed 1460 lbs of wheat and corn to needy families.

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CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS.

1. 011600, OP Centerville extracted after 96 hours continuous surveillance in the ROAR. Negative Sightings.
2. 012045H, Plt. DEF A-1-5 (BT38019) received one frag grenade from SW of perimeter position, same vicinity. Returned ten rds S/A fire, searched area, nothing found.
3. 031030H, FT, SEC Ptl C-1-5 passing through village (BT414163) observed one person running in opposite direction from ptl. Ptl pursued and apprehended VCS. VCS identified by interpreter through interrogation as being VC corpsman, VCC held at D-1-5 CP. Will be brought to 1-5 CP 040930H.
4. 031600H, B-1-5 returned to 1-5 CP from Chu Lai defense perimeter.
5. 041220H, FT Sec Ptl D-1-5 located caves at coordinates (BT414163) six feet by six feet by four feet, (BT418465) four feet by six feet by four feet (BT420166) two feet by four feet by three feet, (BT423167), three feet by 12 feet by four feet. Checked caves, nothing found. Caves destroyed by demolitions.
6. 041530H, Third platoon Company C relieved of OP after 146 hours of surveillance. Negative sightings.
7. 041100H, PF's operating with D-1-5 apprehended on VCS female (BT421158). Interrogation revealed that her husband and son are VC. Also apprehended 2 VCS females (BT432161). Interrogation revealed that 1st VCS has been harboring VC and digging tunnels. The 2nd VCS's husband is XO of 93rd VC Reg't located in Quang Ngai Province. Three screened and sent to ITT.
8. D-Day (6 August 1966): Command Group, Companies A, B, and C commenced movement via motor convoy to Tam Ky, all elements arrived Tam Ky by 061000 and established defensive positions. At 061045 Company A moved from Tam Ky to Hill 29 vic 228320 to provide security for 2nd Bn., 11th Marines.
9. D+1 (7 August 1966): At 0800 2nd plt Company C displaced to coord 009217 from Tam Ky to provide security for downed Helo. At 0915 Company B commenced Helo lift to assigned LZ vic 038211 and conducted search and destroy mission to vic 075208. At 0930 Company A at Hill 29 vic 228320 was relieved by K Company 3/5 and displaced to Tam Ky. 2nd plt Company A relieved 2nd plt Company C at downed Helo vic 009217 and secured at 1055 after Helo was repaired. At 1100 Company B coord 041215 apprehended on VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Reg't S-2. At 1145 Company C Helo lifted to assigned LZ vic 064242 and commenced sweep of area. At 1215 Company B vic 053208 received approximately 40 rounds small arms fire from approximately seven VC in the same vic. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire, VC broke contact with neg results. At 1415 Company A Helo lifted to LZ vic 075208 and secured LZ for Command Group. At 1545 Company C, vic 097233 was Helo lifted to vic 064242 after completing sweep of area. At 1615 Company B coord 058208 received approximately seven rounds small

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arms fire from three snipers in the same vic. Company B returned approx 40 rounds automatic and 30 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. VC broke contact. Checked area with neg results. At 1629 Company C, coord 075206, captured eight boxes of VC medical equipment consisting of surgical tools, bandages and narcotics. All were forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't, S-2. At 1630, 1st Bn, 5th Mar Command Group helo lift to LZ vic 075208 and established night defensive with Companies A, B, and C, refer to enclosure 1. At 1830, 4.2 inch Mortar Battery was helo lifted to LZ 075208 in general support, and helo lifted back to Tam Ky at first light on D+2. At 1700 Company A, coord 075206, apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Reg't, S-2. At 1800 Company B, coord 075206, apprehended two VCS screened and released one and sent one to 5th Mar Reg't S-2.

10. D+2 (8 August 1966):- At 0730 all Companies A, B, and C and Command Group commenced movement toward assigned objectives, see enclosure 2. At 0930 Company B, coord 075213, observed two snipers, one at coord 077214 and one at 079215, fire approximately five rounds small arms fire at helo's. Company B fired approx 30 rounds small arms fire at VC and observed one knocked down by fire. Checked area and found nothing. Estimate one VC WIA probable. At 1300 Company C, coord 080208, captured one French made 30 cal bolt action rifle with four 30 cal rounds, one VC black uniform, two 50 cal machine gun repair kits and two booby trapped 20mm rounds. The two booby traps were destroyed in place and all other equipment was forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't S-2. At 1440 Company B, coord 106214, received approximately ten rounds sniper fire from two snipers in the same vicinity. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire and two LAW's. VC broke contact. Area was checked with negative results. At 1545, Company B, coord 109218, received approximately 12 rounds small arms fire from estimated six snipers. Company B returned approximately 20 rounds automatic and 15 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. Also six 60mm mortars which were observed on target. Estimate two VC KIA probable. At 1610 all units established night defensive positions. See enclosure 2.

11. D+3 (9 August 1966): At 0700 all companies and command group commenced sweep toward assigned obj, refer to enclosure 3. At 0905 Company C, coord 130221, received five rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 136220. Company C returned approximately thirty-five rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Area was searched and found one MAS 36 submachine gun with one magazine containing twenty rounds. 9mm ammo, weapon and magazine were forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't, S-2. At 0945 Company C, coord 130221, received six rounds sniper fire from one sniper in same vicinity. Company C returned twenty rounds small arms fire, three M-79 rounds and one LAW. VC broke contact with neg results. At 1030, Company H&S, coord 127216, received seven rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 127217. Company H&S sustained one USMC WIA and returned approximately twenty-five rounds small arms fire. Sniper broke contact and USMC WIA was emergency helo evacuated to D Med. At 1310 Company C, coord 134225, received approximately eight rounds small arms fire from two VC coord 134227. Company C returned approx 60 rounds automatic weapons fire and three M-79 rounds, observed one VC knocked down by fire. Searched area but was unable to locate VC body. Estimate one VC KIA, probable. At 1510 Company A, coord 153219, received approx 20 rounds small arms fire from six VC coord 155213. Company A returned seventy rounds small arms fire, eight M-79 rounds and six 60mm mortars. Estimate

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9. D+1 (7 August 1966): At 0800 2nd platoon Company C displaced to coord 009217 from Tam Ky to provide security for downed Helo. At 0915 Company B commenced Helo lift to assigned LZ via 038211 and conducted search and destroy mission to via 075208. At 0930 Company A at Hill 29 via 228320 was relieved by K Company 3/5 and displaced to Tam Ky. 2nd platoon Company A relieved 2nd platoon Company C at downed Helo via 009217 and secured at 1055 after Helo was repaired. At 1100 Company B coord 041215 apprehended on VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Reg't S-2. At 1145 Company C Helo lifted to assigned LZ via 064242 and commenced sweep of area. At 1215 Company B via 053208 received approximately 40 rounds small arms fire from approximately seven VC in the same vic. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire, VC broke contact with neg results. At 1415 Company A Helo lifted to LZ via 075208 and secured LZ for Command Group. At 1545 Company C, via 097233 was Helo lifted to via 064242 after completing sweep of area. At 1615 Company B coord 058208 received approximately seven rounds small

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arms fire from three snipers in the same vic. Company B returned approx 40 rounds automatic and 30 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. VC broke contact. Checked area with neg results. At 1629 Company C, coord 075206, captured eight boxes of VC medical equipment consisting of surgical tools, bandages and narcotics. All were forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't. S-2. At 1630, 1st Bn, 5th Mar Command Group helo lift to LZ vic 075208 and established night defensive with Companies A, B, and C, refer to enclosure 1. At 1830, 4.2 inch Mortar Battery was helo lifted to LZ 075208 in general support, and helo lifted back to Tam Ky at first light on D+2. At 1700 Company A, coord 075206, apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Reg't, S-2. At 1800 Company B, coord 075206, apprehended two VCS screened and released one and sent one to 5th Mar Reg't S-2.

10. D+2 (8 August 1966):- At 0730 all Companies A, B, and C and Command Group commenced movement toward assigned objectives, see enclosure 2. At 0930 Company B, coord 075213, observed two snipers, one at coord 077214 and one at 079215, fire approximately five rounds small arms fire at helo's. Company B fired approx 30 rounds small arms fire at VC and observed one knocked down by fire. Checked area and found nothing. Estimate one VC WIA probable. At 1300 Company C, coord 080208, captured one French made 30 cal bolt action rifle with four 30 cal rounds, one VC black uniform, two 50 cal machine gun repair kits and two booby trapped 20mm rounds. The two booby traps were destroyed in place and all other equipment was forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't S-2. At 1440 Company B, coord 106214, received approximately ten rounds sniper fire from two snipers in the same vicinity. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire and two LAW's. VC broke contact. Area was checked with negative results. At 1545, Company B, coord 109218, received approximately 12 rounds small arms fire from estimated six snipers. Company B returned approximately 20 rounds automatic and 15 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. Also six 60mm mortars which were observed on target. Estimate two VC KIA probable. At 1610 all units established night defensive positions. See enclosure 2.

11. D+3 (9 August 1966): At 0700 all companies and command group commenced sweep toward assigned obj, refer to enclosure 3. At 0905 Company C, coord 130221, received five rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 136220. Company C returned approximately thirty-five rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Area was searched and found one MAS 36 submachine gun with one magazine containing twenty rounds. 9mm ammo, weapon and magazine were forwarded to 5th Mar Reg't, S-2. At 0945 Company C, coord 130221, received six rounds sniper fire from one sniper in same vicinity. Company C returned twenty rounds small arms fire, three M-79 rounds and one LAW. VC broke contact with neg results. At 1030, Company H&S, coord 127216, received seven rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 127217. Company H&S sustained one USMC WIA and returned approximately twenty-five rounds small arms fire. Sniper broke contact and USMC WIA was emergency helo evacuated to D Med. At 1310 Company C, coord 134225, received approximately eight rounds small arms fire from two VC coord 134227. Company C returned approx 60 rounds automatic weapons fire and three M-79 rounds, observed one VC knocked down by fire. Searched area but was unable to locate VC body. Estimate one VC KIA, probable. At 1510 Company A, coord 153219, received approx 20 rounds small arms fire from six VC coord 155213. Company A returned seventy rounds small arms fire, eight M-79 rounds. and six 60mm mortars. Estimate

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two VC KIA probable. At 1613 Company C, coord 169221, received one round sniper fire from coord 167219 and sustained one USMC WIA. Company C returned ten rounds small arms fire, VC broke contact. WIA was med evac to D Med. At 1630 Company B, coord 180220, apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Marine Reg't S-2. At 1640 all companies and command group established night defensive position in vicinity 179221, refer to enclosure #3. At 1845 Company C, coord 182222, during resupply via Helo's, observed sniper, coord 186214, fire approximately five rounds at Helo. Company C fired twenty-five rounds small arms fire and three 60mm mortars at sniper. Sniper fire ceased with neg results. At 1915 Company A, coord 182235, during resupply via Helo's, observed sniper coord 185248 fire ten rounds small arms fire at Helo's. Company A fired fifty rounds automatic weapons fire and two LAW's at sniper. Neg results.

12. D+4 (10 August 1966): At 0620 Company C, coord 183227, observed two VC with weapons running across rice paddy. Company C fired ten rounds small arms fire and killed one VC, captured one CHICOM 7.62mm rifle and wounded other VC who escaped leaving large trails of blood behind. Weapon was forwarded to 5th Marine Reg't S-2. One VC KIA confirmed and one VC WIA. At 0810, 2nd plt, Company B, Helo lifted to vic 182204 and conducted sweep of area. At 0830 all companies, less 2nd plt B Company, and command group commenced movement toward assigned obj. At 1000 Company A, coord 200227, received twenty rounds small arms fire from three snipers. Company A returned sixty rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact with negative results. At 1005 Company C, coord 206225, sustained one USMC WIA due to accidental discharge of WP rifle grenade. WIA was Helo evacuated to D Med. At 1009 Company C, coord 203221, located a 500 lb bomb and destroyed it in place with demolitions. At 1100, 2nd plt, Company B, coord 182204 completed thorough search of area vic 182204 and was Helo lifted to vic 213225 where they linked up with Company B. At 1510 Company A received approx 120 rounds small arms fire and approx 15 incoming mortars believed to be 60mm from estimated 20 VC dug in. Company A assaulted VC position, vic 228140, and came under heavy fire from estimated 130 VC in the same vic and received numerous bursts of automatic weapons fire and small arms fire. Company A returned approx 1800 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire, numerous M79 rounds and LAW's, also 40 rounds of 60mm mortars. Company A was in constant contact with VC from period 1510 to 1940. Company A was ordered to return to battalion perimeter. Refer to Enclosure #4. Total VC KIA confirmed by body count 62, estimate 10 VC KIA probable and 25 VC WIA probable. USMC casualties sustained by Company A, 4 KIA and 16 WIA. At coord 101513, Battalion Command Group received approx seven rounds incoming mortars believed to be 60mm. No casualties sustained. 1515 Company C, coord 230236, received approx 600 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire from estimated 85 VC, coord 230240. Company C returned approx 1600 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire, also numerous M79 rounds and LAW's. Company C assaulted VC position constantly receiving bursts of automatic weapons fire. Company C was in constant contact with VC from period 1515 to 1845 when Company C was ordered to return to battalion perimeter. Refer to Enclosure #4. Total confirmed VC KIA 30, and estimated 11 VC KIA and 35 VC WIA probable. Total casualties sustained by Company C were: 7 KIA's and 27 WIA's. 1520 Company B received approx 300 rounds automatic weapons and semi automatic weapons fire from estimated 70 - 80 VC. Company B returned approx 700 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire,

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several M79 rounds and LAW's. Also approx 40 rounds 60mm mortars. Company B continued the assault of VC positions and began receiving incoming mortars believed to be 60mm mortars. Air strike was requested and fired direct hit on target area. Company B was ordered to return to Battalion, perimeter. Company B was in constant contact with VC from period 1520 until approx. 1935. Total VC KIA confirmed by body count 22, estimate 18 VC KIA and 30 VC WIA probable. Company B sustained 3 KIA's and 22 WIA's.

13. D+5 (11 August 1966): All units remained in defensive positions. See Enclosure 5. At 0900 Company B, coord 233236, apprehended one VCS who had VC documents in his possession. He was screened and sent to 5th Marines Regt. S-2. At 0910 Company A, coord 230234, apprehended one VCS who admitted being a VC supplier. He was screened and sent to 5th Marine Regt. S-2. All units remained in same defensive positions as 10 August 1966. See enclosure 4 and 5. At 1945 Company B, coord 229234, during Helo resupply observed two snipers fire 10 rounds small arms automatic weapons fire at Holo from coord 228240. Company B fired approx 40 rounds automatic weapons fire and observed one VC hit by fire. Both VC escaped, one VC WIA. At 2030 Company A, coord 232240, observed four VC with weapons crossing a paddy. Company A sprung a squad ambush firing approx. 150 rounds small arms fire hitting all four VC, and withdrew. Other VC in area estimated to be plt in strength. Dead VC were not checked due to rapid withdrawal.

14. D+6 (12 August 1966): At 0415 command group in defensive perimeter, coord 231238, received approx. four incoming mortars and sustained two KIA's. Company A's perimeter received four mortars and three rounds 57mm RR's. Also approx. fifteen rounds small arms fire. Company B returned approx. 60 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC knocked down by fire. Total KIA's sustained three USMC. Total WIA's sustained nine USMC. At 0730 all companies and command group commenced movement to Tam Ky. At 0840 Company A, coord 253257, tripped one booby trapped frag grenade sustaining one USMC WIA who was med evac. to D Med. At 0905 Company A, coord 256256, tripped one booby trapped frag grenade, sustaining two USMC WIA's. Both were evac. to D Med. At 1145 all units and command group arrived at Tam Ky and established night defensive positions. See Enclosure 6, except Company A who displaced to Hill 29 to provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

15. D+7 (13 August 1966): At 1845 Company B and Command Group displaced to Hill 29 vic. 228320 to link up with Company A and provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines. Company C remained in defensive position at Tam Ky.

16. D+8 (14 August 1966): Company A and B and Command Group remained on Hill 29, Company C remained at Tam Ky with neg. results.

17. D+9 (15 August 1966): 1200, Companies B, C, and Command Group moved to Hill 54 and secured from Operation COLORADO. Company A remained at Hill 29 to provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

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18. 16 and 17 August - Negative
19. 18 August 1966 - Negative.
20. 191040H - Plt S&D patrol Company C coord (BT 395118) observed three VC, one with a Russian made rifle. Plt sprung an ambush and fired 45 rounds small arms fire and one M-79 round killing all three VC. Patrol captured one 7.62MM Russian made rifle which will be forwarded to Bog't. Three VC KIA confirmed.
21. 191145H - Plt S&D patrol Company C coord (BT 391114) received approx five rounds small arms fire and a burst of automatic weapons fire from coord (BT 391112). Returned approx 50 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Searched area, nothing found.
22. 20 August 1966 - Negative.
23. 210840H - Platoon S&D Company C coord (375115) fired ten rounds small arms fire at two VC, one was armed with a sub-machine gun. VC fled. A thorough search of the area revealed a trail of blood and a VC hat. One VC WIA probable.
24. 211000H - Platoon S&D patrol Company C, coord (374148) received a burst of approximately 15 rounds automatic weapons fire, from estimated one VC in the same vicinity. Returned approximately 40 rounds small arms fire and three M-79 rounds, VC fire ceased. A thorough search of the area was conducted and four VCS were apprehended in the same vicinity. All VCS were screened and sent to ITT.
25. 221215H - Company C, S&D mission coord (BT 399113) located a ammo cache consisting of 3 shotgun shells, 8-7.62mm rounds and 4 - 30 cal rounds. All were destroyed.
26. 230730H - Co C plt S&D mission (BT 369115) apprehended two VCS. One VCS's name appeared on 1st Bn., 5th Mar black list. Both VCS's were screened and sent to ITT.
27. 231110H - Co C sqd S&D coord (BT 353116) received ten rds small arms fire from estimated three VC. Sqd returned 30 rounds small arms fire and ten M-79 rounds. Conducted thorough search of area. Nothing found.
28. 231330H - Co C plt S&D mission (BT 337164) received three rounds small arms sniper fire. Plt returned approx 15 rounds small arms fire. Sniper fire ceased. A thorough search of the same vicinity revealed a classroom constructed of bamboo, with a capacity total of 15 men. The classroom contained an improvised radio antenna constructed of bamboo, approx 200 rounds, 30 cal ammo, bear trap, approx 700lbs of rice. A .155 dud was also found in the classroom and was destroyed with demolitions. All items in the classroom will be brought to 1st Bn., 5th Mar CP on 24 August 1966. One VCS was apprehended during the search of the classroom. VCS was screened and will be sent to ITT.

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29. 231115H - Co B plt OP coord (BT 387009) observed smoke from a suspected VC base camp. Arty fire mission requested and fired 16 rounds with excellent coverage. Area not checked due to distance.
30. 240500 - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines command group and companies A and D conducted COUNTY FAIR 5-5, in the complex of Phu Vinh (BT 437147).
31. 231500H - 2nd plt Company C S&D mission (BT 345169) apprehended six VCS. All suspects were acting suspicious. All suspects were screened and sent to ITT.
32. 240845H - 2nd plt Company C S&D mission (BT 351163) apprehended five VCS. All suspects were apprehended in possible VC billeting area. A thorough search of area revealed three spears, three bear traps, several ammo canisters and approx 600 lbs of rice. All VCS were screened and sent to ITT. All captured material is being held at 1/5 Bn. CP. All rice is being forwarded to Ly Tin District.
33. 25 August 1966 - Negative
34. 26 August 1966 - Company B Opcon to 3/7 for Operation JACKSON.
35. 271515H - 2nd plt Company C S&D mission coord (BT 369153) observed one VC carrying a rifle and wearing black PJ. Patrol fired four rounds small arms fire. Checked area, found nothing.
36. 27 August 1966 - 1st Bn., 5th Marines XO Command Group OPCON 2/7 TAOR defense command.
37. 272155H - Fire team Sec patrol Company C coord (BT 489117) received three rounds small arms fire from the same vicinity. Patrol sustained one USMC WIA and returned 20 rounds small arms fire also three M-79 rounds. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing.
38. 281128H - 3rd plt Company C S&D mission coord (BT 377150) received eight rounds small arms fire from the same vicinity. Patrol returned approximately 20 rounds small arms fire and five M-79 rounds. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing.
39. 281435H - 2nd plt Co C S&D mission apprehended one VCS. VCS is being screened and will be sent to ITT on 29 August 1966.
40. 291415H - Company C S&D mission coord (BT 372147) received ten rounds automatic weapons fire from coord (BT 371149). Company C returned 40 rounds small arms fire and conducted a thorough of the area. Found nothing.

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41. 291625H - Co C S&D mission observed eight VC in the open. Fifty rounds small arms, one LAW and one M-79 round was fired at VC, killing 2, six VC escaped. Arty fire mission was fired in vicinity (BT 370147), where VC were observed fleeing. A thorough search of the area was conducted and two confirmed VC KIA's were found. Also found were one 30 cal M 1903 rifle and one French sub-machine gun.
42. 291820H - Co C S&D mission coord (BT 365148) was approaching river crossing same coord, received approx 140 rounds small arms fire and approx 150 to 160 automatic weapons fire from coord (BT 361147) from estimated five VC. Co C returned approx 150 rounds small arms fire, 100 rounds automatic fire, ten M-79 rounds and three LAW's. VC ceased fire. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Found one VC KIA (confirmed) dressed in black PJ's. Also found in same area one very worn map, series no. 6757 IV. Co C sustained one USMC WIA who was Med Evac to D Med.
43. 300400H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group and Companies C and D conducted County Fair 5-7 in the area of Bich Ngo (3).
44. 300640H - Company D, S&D mission, coord (BT 359168) received three rounds small arms fire from one sniper. Company D returned 10 rounds small arms fire and conducted a thorough search of the area. Found nothing.
45. 300715H - Co D while on S&D mission, coord (BT 348172) received three rounds small arms fire sniper from coord (BT 347172). Co D returned 15 rounds small arms fire. Observed one VC fleeing immediate area from where sniper fire was received. Co D fired one M-79 round wounding VC in foot. VC WIA med evac to Chu Lai.
46. 301140H - Company B returned to combat base (BT 379145).
47. 31 August 1966 - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines XO's command group returned to Hill 54

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
1st Marine Division (-)(Rein), FMF
FPO, San Francisco, 96602

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3/BP/jrf
Ser: 0020-66
16 August 1966

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (-)(Rein), FMF
Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report; Operation COLORADO

Ref: (a) CG 1st MarDiv Planning Directive 30540Z of July 1966
(b) CG 1st MarDiv Frag Order 8-66 Operation COLORADO
030700Z of August 1966
(c) 5th Marines OpOrder 301-66
(d) DivO 3480.1
(e) Maps: AMS Series L701, Vietnam, 1:50,000, Sheets
6657 III, 6658 II, 6757 IV
(f) Maps: AMS Series L7014, Vietnam, 1:50,000, Sheets
6639 I, 6640 II, III, IV, 6739 IV

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, D+1 (7 August 1966)
(2) Operation Overlay, D+2 (8 August 1966)
(3) Operation Overlay, D+3 (9 August 1966)
(4) Operation Overlay, D+4 (10 August 1966)
(5) Operation Overlay, D+5 (11 August 1966)
(6) Operation Overlay, D+6 (12 August 1966)

1. Code Name and Type of Operation. Operation COLORADO (Search and Destroy)
2. Dates of Operation. 6-15 August 1966.
3. Location. Hiep Duc-Song Ly Ly Valley, Quang Tin and Quang Nam Provinces, RVN, on map sheet, AMS Series L701, Vietnam, 1:50,000 Sheets 6657 III, 6658 II, 6757 IV and AMS Series L7014, Vietnam, 1:50,000, Sheets 6639 I, 6640 II, III, IV, 6739 IV.
4. Command Headquarters

CO, 1st Bn, 5th Mar

CO, Co A

CO, Co B

CO, Co C

LtCol H. L. COFFMAN

Capt. J. R. FURLEIGH

Capt. J. P. T. SULLIVAN

1stLt. M. B. DARLING

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Encl #3.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT


H. L. COFFMAN

DISTRIBUTION: SPECIAL

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LtCol COFFMAN

H&S Co(-)

Det, HST

1st Plat, (-) (Rein), Co B, 1st Engr Bn

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

Company A (Rein)

Capt. FURIEIGH

CO A

Det, H&S Co

Det, Comm Plat

Det, Med Plat

1st FO, Tm 81mm Plat

1st FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

1st Sqd, 1st Plat, CoB, 1st Engr Bn

1st FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11

Company B (Rein)

Capt. SULLIVAN

CO B

Det, H&S Co

Det, Comm Plat

Det, Med Plat

2nd FO Tm, 81mm Plat

2nd FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

2nd Sqd, 1st Plat, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

2nd FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11

Det, Sentry-Dog Plat

Battalion Reserve: Company C (Rein)

1stLt DARLING

CO C

Det, H&S Co

Det, Comm Plat

Det, Med Plat

3rd FO Tm, 81mm Plat

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

3rd Sqd, 1st Plat, Co B, 1st Engr Bn.

3rd FO, Btry D, 2/11

Det, Sentry-Dog Plat

81mm Mortar Plat (-)

1stLt BELKNAP

6. Supporting Armsa. Air Support

(1) Helicopter support. Six troop lifts were made during Operation COLORADO. The first was a company size lift on the morning of D+1. The second was a company size lift on the afternoon of D+1, followed by three lifts on the afternoon of D+1, of one company and command group, one company that was previously helo lifted on the morning of D+1, and ending with one 4.2 mortar battery lift in the

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late afternoon of D+1. All lifts were made with MAG 16, and MAG 36 aircraft. MAG 36 helicopters provided security on D+2, D+3, D+4, D+5. All troop lifts were accompanied by armed OH-1E Aircraft.

(2) Fixed Wing. Aircraft were requested and provided HLZ preps on D+1 in the vicinity of 038211, 068242 and 075207. On D+2 a fixed wing strike was requested in the vicinity of 115225 against troops dug in. The strike was carried out with two MAG 12 A4E Aircraft and controlled by Cottage 14 Bravo. On D+4, at 1510 when the Battalion encountered heavy enemy contact, air support was requested. Two armed HUEI's reported on station and were almost immediately hampered in their operations due to a heavy rain storm that moved through the area. Numerous fixed wing aircraft from both MAG 11 and MAG 12 reported on station and commenced strikes at approximately 1730 when the rain storm ceased. All strikes were controlled by HUEI Aircraft. The airstrikes continued until approximately 2045. A flare ship reported on station just prior to sunset and provided continuous illumination through out the night. On the night of D+5 illumination was provided at 10 minute intervals by a flare ship until 0430 on the morning of D+6. Continuous illumination was requested at this time because of a mortar attack on the Battalion position. Armed HUEI aircraft were requested and conducted an air strike on retreating Viet Cong. Armed HUEI's provided air cover for the Battalion for its movement back to TAM KY on D+6.

b. Artillery Support. The artillery support of First Battalion Fifth Marines on Operation COLORADO consisted of preparation fires, H and I fires, blocking fires, observed fire missions, and illumination.

First Battalion Fifth Marines was directly supported by Battery D, Second Battalion, Eleventh Marines and by 4.2 inch Mortar Battery, Second Battalion, Eleventh Marines. General artillery support was provided by 155mm. Gun Battery, 8 inch Howitzer Battery and 5 inch naval guns.

The most significant event of the operation occurred on D day plus 4 which was 10 August 1966. The battalion encountered and estimated two Viet Cong Main Force Battalions in the vic of 231241 at approximately 1500.

When initial contact was made, the enemy was too close to the Marines for artillery support. One mission was fired by Battery D, Second Battalion Eleventh Marines at the withdrawing Viet Cong. The rounds landed on target, but the Forward Observer could not see the effect since the Viet Cong were behind the hill.

During the night of 10 August artillery, and naval gunfire fired extensive H and I and blocking fires on the withdrawing Viet Cong. 105mm Howitzers, 155mm Guns and 8 inch Howitzers provided the artillery blocking fires while 5 inch naval guns comprised the naval gunfire portion.

The helicopter transportability of the 4.2 inch mortar was utilized the night of D plus 1. 4.2 inch Mortar Battery, Second Battalion Eleventh Marines provided two mortars for the perimeter defense since the location was out of range for other artillery.

The overall support of artillery was excellent.

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7. Intelligence

- a. Estimate of VC Strength, Disposition in the Objective Area.

(1) Forces Anticipated in the Immediate Objective Area

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>TACTICAL DISPOSITION</u>
<u>Confirmed</u>			
20th Division	BT0922	UNK	UNK
Military Staff	UNK	UNK	UNK
Political Staff	UNK	UNK	UNK
Rear Service Staff	UNK	UNK	UNK
RQ 20th Bn (Recon)(GK)	AT925254	UNK	UNK
RQ 21st Bn (AA 18 12.7mm AA MG)	AT925223	400	UNK
RQ 22nd Bn (RR 6 75mm RR's)	AT935208	400	UNK
RQ 23rd Bn (Mort, 6 120mm Mort)	AT885246	400	UNK
RQ 24th Bn (Engr)	UNK	120+	UNK
U/I Security Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
U/I Med Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
U/I Trans Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
U/I Signal Bn	UNK	UNK	UNK
1st Regiment (VC)	BT0629	2000	UNK
HL00 Regimental Hqs	UNK	UNK	UNK
HL01 Staff Section	UNK	UNK	UNK
HL02 Political Section	UNK	UNK	UNK
HL03 Service Section	UNK	UNK	UNK
60th Bn (3 60mm Mort, 2 57mm RR's 1AA MG, 2MGS)	BT0736	300	UNK
80th Bn (2 81mm Mort, 3 60mm Mort, 6 57mm RR's, 6IMG's, 3AA MG's)	BT1136	400	UNK
90th Bn (3 81mm Mort, 3 57mm RR's, 2 IMG's 1 AA MG)	BT0934	400	UNK
3rd Regiment (VA) (64th)	BT0823	3000	UNK
1st Bn (Binh Minh) (4 82mm Mort, 2 57mm RR's 4 MG's)	BT1726	700	UNK
2nd Bn (Binh Da) (4 82mm Mort, 2 57mm RR's, 4 MG's)	BT0720	700	UNK
3rd Bn (Binh Thien) (6 60mm Mort, 3 57mm RR's 5 50Cal MG's)	BT2020	700	UNK
21st Regiment (NVA) (6th, 36 36th)	BT2704	200	UNK
1st Bn (11th) (12 81mm Mort, 9 12.7 AA MG's 4 57mm RR's)	UNK	600	UNK
2nd Bn (22nd) (2 81mm Mort 3 60mm Mort, 3 57mm RR's 4 30 cal MG's)	UNK	250	UNK

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<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>TACTICAL DISPOSITION</u>
3rd Bn (33rd)(5 82mm Mort, 3 60mm Mort, 4 30cal MG's, 4 57mm RR's)	UNK	600	UNK

Probable

7th Regiment Hqs (Poss)	UNK	UNK	UNK
1st Bn	AT9823	UNK	UNK
2nd Bn	BT0416	UNK	UNK
3rd Bn	AT 9921	UNK	UNK
400th Bn (MF)(1 81mm Mort, 1 60mm Mort, 2 57mm RR's, 3 MG's)	BT2406	200	UNK
72nd Bn (4 57mm RR's, 3 81mm Mort, 3 IMG's, 4 HMG's, 9 AR's)	BT2527	450	UNK
70th Bn	BT1835	500	UNK
57th Bn	BT0224	UNK	UNK

(2) Intelligence information was initially furnished to this unit by briefings at 5th Marines Headquarters and by 5th Marines Intelligence Annex to Operation Order 322-66.

(3) The objective of the operation was to fix and destroy any VC units in assigned area and to destroy or capture tunnel complexes and VC food and arms.

b. VC Strength and Situation actually found on Operation COLORADO.
As a result of the operation, elements of 1/5 accounted for 129 VC KIA, by body count; 54 VC KIA Probable; 91 VC WIA Probable; and 11 VCS. All VCS forwarded to ITT for further interrogation. From D plus 1 to D plus 4 consisted of only hostile sniper fire. On D plus 4 the Battalion became heavily engaged with an estimated two Main Force Battalions and Local force units, with contact lasting four and one half hours. On D plus 5 to the end of the operation consisted of sniper fire and two booby trapping incidents.

c. VC Units identified. 3rd NVA Regiment

d. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) Found documents from VC KIA indicating them to be NVA, supported by LF units from dead VC officer revealed previous VC operations, status of VC troops as to strength, sick personal, training, etc. The diary indicated VC had previous knowledge of friendly operations, and intentions in area of operations.

(2) During the approach march, trenches, fighting holes and punji traps were prevalent along major routes and trails, approximately 50 to 100 meters apart. Hamlets and villages were laced with hedge rows, and rice paddies, with one hamlet noted as being heavily fortified with trenches and other defensive positions.

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- (3) Tunnels and Caves.
- (4) Demolitions required. None

g. Terrain

(1) Critical Terrain Feature. Hill 150 (BT 041191), Hill 155 (BT045214), Hill 352 (BT 075225), Hill 356 (BT119235), Hill 242 (BT1129225) Hill 253 (BT 181205), and Hill 488 (Bt 131202).

(2) Observation and Fields of fire. The terrain varied from rugged hills, which favored the defender to fairly flat areas. Throughout, it offered excellent fields of fire for defenders and attackers.

(3) Cover and Concealment. Excellent cover and concealment was provided by the mountainous area, in the flat areas hedge rows, tree lines and grassy areas provided good concealment. Vegetation was generally heavy in the mountains to sparse in the low lands, except for areas covered by hedge rows and villages.

(4) Obstacles. No major obstacles were encountered.

8. Mission. 1st Battalion (-) (Rein), 5th Marines conducted search and destroy operation in Hiep - Duc - Sing Ly Valley, Quang Tin and Quang Nam Provinces with ARVN forces to locate, capture, and destroy enemy forces, supplies, and equipment.

9. Concept of Operations. Commencing 0900 on D-Day, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) moved by truck convoy to Tam Ky; thereafter prepares on order, to land in a reinforcing role in Objective Areas 1, 2, or 3; and, lands via helicopter on D+1 to conduct reconnaissance and search and destroy operations within assigned area.

10. Chronological Sequence of Events.

(a) D-Day (6 August 1966): Command Group, Companies A, B, and C commenced movement via motor convoy to Tam Ky, all elements arrived Tam Ky by 061000 and established defensive positions. At 061045 Company A moved from Tam Ky to Hill 29 Vic 228320 to provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

(b) D+1 (7 August 1966): At 0800 2nd plt Company C displaced to coord 009217 from Tam Ky to provide security for downed Helo. At 0915 Company B commenced Helo lift to assigned LZ vic 038211 and conducted search and destroy mission to vic 075208. At 0930 Company A at Hill 29 vic 228320 was relieved by K Company 3/5 and displaced to Tam Ky. 2nd plt Company A relieved 2nd plt Company C at downed Helo vic 009217 and secured at 1055 after Helo was repaired. At 1100 Cottage B coord 041215 apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Reg S-2. At 1145 Company C Helo lifted to assigned LZ vic 064242 and commenced sweep of area. At 1215 Company B vic 053208 received approximately 40 rounds small arms fire from approximately seven VC in the same vic.

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Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire, VC broke contact with neg results. At 1415 Company A Helo lifted to LZ vic 075208 and secured LZ for Command Group. At 1545 Company C, vic 097233 was Helo lifted to vic 064242, after completing sweep of area. At 1615 Company B coord 058208 received approximately seven rounds small arms fire from three snipers in the same vic. Company B returned approximately 40 rounds automatic and 30 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. VC broke contact. Checked area with neg results. At 1629 Company C coord 075206 captured eight boxes of VC medical equipment, consisting of surgical tools bandages and narcotics. All were forwarded to 5th Mar Regt. S-2. At 1630, 1st Bn, 5th Mar Command Group Helo lift to LZ vic 075208 and established night defensive with Companies A, B, and C, refer to Enclosure 1. At 1830 4.2 inch Mortar Battery was Helo lifted to LZ 075208 in general support, and Helo lifted back to Tam Ky at first light on D+2. At 1700 Company A coord 075206 apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Mar Regt S-2. At 1800 Company B coord 075206 apprehended two VCS screened and released one and sent one to 5th Mar Regt S-2.

c. D+2 (8 August 1966): At 0730 all Companies A, B, and C and Command Group commenced movement toward assigned objectives, see enclosure #2. At 0930 Company B coord. 075213 observed two snipers one at coord 077214 and one at 079215. Fired approximately five rounds small arms fire at Helo's. Company B fired approximately 30 rds small arms fire at VC and observed one knocked down by fire. Checked area nothing found. Estimate on VC KIA probable. At 1300 Company C coord 080208 captured one French made 30 Cal bolt action rifle with four 30 cal rounds, one VC black uniform, two 50 cal machine gun repair kits and two booby trapped 20 mm rounds. The two booby traps were destroyed in place and all other equipment was forwarded to 5th Mar Regt S-2. At 1440 Company B coord 106214 received approximately ten rounds sniper fire from two snipers in the same vicinity. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds small arms fire and two LAWS. VC broke contact. Area was checked with negative results. At 1545 Company B coord 109218 received approximately 12 rounds small arms fire from estimated six snipers. Company B returned approximately 20 rounds automatic and 15 rounds semi automatic weapons fire. Also six 60mm mortars which were observed on target. Estimate two VC KIA probable. At 1610 all units established night defensive positions. See enclosure #2.

d. D+3 (9 August 1966): At 0700 all companies and command group commenced sweep toward assigned obj, refer to enclosure #3. At 0905 Company C coord 130221 received five rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 136220. Company C returned approximately thirty-five rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Area was searched and found one MAS 36 submachine gun with one magazine containing twenty rounds. 9MM ammo. Weapon and magazine was forward to 5th Marine Regt S-2. At 0945 Company C coord 130221 received six rounds sniper fire from one sniper in same vicinity. Company C returned twenty rounds small arms fire, three M79 rounds and one law. VC broke contact with Neg results. At 1030 Company H&S coord 127216 received seven rounds sniper fire from one sniper coord 127217. Company H&S sustained on USMC WIA and returned approximately 25 rounds small arms fire. Sniper broke contact and USMC WIA was emergency Helo evacuated to D Med. At 1310 Company C coord 134225

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received approximately eight rounds small arms fire from two VC coord 134227. Company C returned approximately sixty rounds automatic weapons fire and three M-79 rounds, observed ~~one VC~~ knocked down by fire. Searched area but was unable to locate VC body. Estimate one VC KIA probable. At 1510 Company A coord 153219 received approximately twenty rounds small arms fire from six VC coord 155213. Company A returned seventy rounds small arms fire, eight M-79 rounds and six 60mm mortars. Estimate two VC KIA probable. At 1613 Company C coord 169221 received one round sniper fire from coord 167219 and sustained one USMC WIA. Company C returned ten rounds small arms fire, VC broke contact. WIA was med evac to D Med. At 1630 Company B coord 180220 apprehended one VCS who was screened and sent to 5th Marine Regiment S-2. At 1640 all companies and command group established night defensive position. Vic 179221, refer to Enclosure #3. At 1845 Company C coord 182222 during resupply via Helo's observed sniper coord 186214 fire approximately five rounds at Helo. Company C fired twenty-five rounds small arms fire and three 60mm mortars at sniper. Sniper fire ceased with neg results. At 1915 Company A coord 182235 during resupply via Helo's observed sniper coord 185248 fire ten rounds at Helo's. Company A fired fifty rounds automatic weapons fire and two LAWS at sniper. Neg results.

c. D+4 (10 August 1966): At 0620 Company C coord 183227 observed two VC with weapons running across rice paddy. Company C fired ten rounds small arms fire and killed one VC, captured one CHICOM 7.62 MM rifle and wounded other VC who escaped leaving large trails of blood behind. Weapon was forwarded to 5th Marine Regiment S-2. One VC KIA confirmed and one VC WIA. At 0810, 2nd plt, Company B Helo lifted to vic 182204 and conducted sweep of area. At 0830 all companies, less 2nd plt B Company, and command group commenced movement toward assigned obj. At 1000 Company A coord 200227 received twenty rounds small arms fire from three snipers. Company A returned sixty rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact with neg results. At 1005 Company C coord 206225 sustained one USMC WIA due to accidental discharge of WP rifle grenade. WIA was helo evacuated to D Med. At 1009 Company C coord 203221 located a 500 lb bomb and destroyed it in place with demolitions. At 1100 2nd plt, Company B coord 182204 completed thorough search of area vic 182204 and was Helo lifted to vic 213225 where they linked up with Company B. At 1510 Company A received approximately 120 rounds ~~sn~~ and approximately 15 incoming mortars believed to be 60mm from estimated 20 VC dug in. Company A assaulted VC position vic 228240 and came under heavy fire from estimated 130 VC in the same vicinity received numerous bursts of automatic weapons fire and small arms. Company A returned approximately 1800 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire, numerous M-79 rounds and LAW's, also 40 rounds of 60mm mortars. Company A was in constant contact with VC from period 1510 to 1940. Company A was ordered to return to I/5 Bn. perimeter. Refer to Enclosure #4. Total VC KIA confirmed by body count 62, estimate 10 VC KIA probable and 25 VC WIA probable. USMC casualties sustained by Company A, 4 KIA and 16 WIA. 101513 I/5 Bn. Command Group received approximately seven rounds incoming mortars believed to be 60mm. No casualties sustained. 1515 Company C coord 230236 received approx. 600 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire from estimated 85 VC coord 230240. Company C returned approx 1600 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire also numerous M-79 rounds and LAWS. Company C assaulted VC position constantly receiving burst of automatic weapons fire. Company C was in constant contact with VC from period 1515 to 1845

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when Company C was ordered to return to 1/5 Bn. perimeter. Refer to enclosure #4. Total confirmed VC KIA 30. Estimate 11 VC KIA and 35 VC WIA probable. Total casualties sustained by Company C were: 7 KIA's and 27 WIA's. 1520 Company B coord 229232 was in reserve and committed to assist Cottage A. Company B received approx 300 rounds automatic weapons and semi automatic weapons fire from an estimated 70-80 VC. Company B returned approx 700 rounds automatic and semi automatic weapons fire, several M-79 and LAW's. Also approximately 40 rds 60mm mortars. Company B continued the assault of VC positions and began receiving incoming mortars believed to be 60mm mortars. Air strike was requested and fired direct hit on target area. Company B was ordered to return to 1/5 Bn.'s perimeter. Company B was in constant contact with VC from period 1520 until approximately 1935. Total VC KIA confirmed by body count 22, estimate 18 VC KIA and 30 VC WIA probable. Company B sustained 3 KIA's and 22 WIA's.

f. D+5 (11 Aug 1966): All units remained in defensive positions. See enclosure #5. At 0900 Company B coord 233236 apprehended one VCS who had VC documents in his possession. He was screened and sent to 5th Marines Regiment S-2. At 0910 Company A coord 230234 apprehended one VCS who admitted being a VC supplier. He was screened and sent to 5th Marine Regiment S-2. All units remained in same defensive positions as 4 Aug 1966. See enclosure #4 and 5. At 1945 Company B coord 229234. During Helo resupply observed two sniper's fire ten rounds small arms at Helo from coord 228240. Company B fired approximately 40 rounds automatic weapons fire and observed one VC hit by fire. Both VC escaped, one VC WIA. At 2030 Company A coord 232240 observed four VC with weapons crossing a paddy. Company A sprung a squad ambush firing approximately 150 rounds small arms fire. Killing all four VC, and withdrew. Other VC in area estimated to be plt. in strength. Dead VC were not checked due to rapid withdrawel.

g. D+6 (12 August 1966): At 0415 command group in defensive perimeter coord 231238 received approximately four incoming mortars and sustained two KIA's. Company A perimeter received four mortars and three rounds 57mm RR's. Also approximately fifteen rounds small arms fire. Company B returned approximately 60 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC knocked down by fire. Total KIA's sustained three USMC, WIA's sustained nine. At 0730 all companies and command group commenced movement to Tam Ky. At 0840 Company A coord 253257 tripped one booby trapped frag grenade sustaining one USMC WIA who was med evacuated to D Med. At 0905 Company A coord 256256 tripped one booby trapped frag grenade, sustaining two USMC WIA's. Both were evacuated to D Med. At 1145 all units and command group arrived Tam Ky and established night defensive positions. See enclosure #6. Except Company A who displaced to hill 29 to provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines.

h. D+7 (13 August 1966): At 1845 Company B and Command Group displaced to Hill 29 via 228320 to link up with Company A and provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Marines. Company C remained in defensive position at Tam Ky.

i. D+8 (14 August 1966): Company A and B and Command Group remained in Hill 29, Company C remained at Tam Ky with no contact.

j. D+9 (15 August 1966): 1200 Companies B, C, and Command Group moved to Hill 54 and secured from Operation COLORADO. Co. A remained at Hill 29 to provide security for 2nd Bn, 11th Mar.

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II. Results(1) Personnel

(a) VC KIA	129	(aa) Friendly KIA	20
(b) VC KIA Probable	54	(bb) Friendly WIA	100
(c) VC WIA Probable	91	(cc) Friendly non-hostile	11
(d) VCC	0		
(e) VCS	11		

(2) Equipment and Material

(a) 3 ChiCom Assault type Rifles	
(b) 2 ChiCom Machine Guns	
(c) 2 ChiCom Carbines	
(d) 1 57mm Recoilless Rifle Mount	
(e) 1 French 9mm Sub Machine Gun	
(f) 1 MAS-36	
(g) 1 wooden training rifle	
(h) Rounds Ammo	502
(i) Entrenching Tools	7
(j) ChiCom Magazines	14
(k) Drum Magazine	1
(l) Razor	1
(m) Hats (2 Camouflaged)	5
(n) Grenades (Destroyed)	15
(o) Cartridge Belts	4
(p) Canteens	3
(q) Rockets and Containers	3
(r) Cleaning Rod	1
(s) Rice	1500 lbs
(t) Meat	50 lbs

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(u) Dishes	106
(v) Ammo Pouches	3
(w) Grenade Pouches	2
(x) Ponchos	4
(y) Pack	1
(z) Sandals	6 pr
(aa) Hammocks	2
(bb) Expended Rds W/Belt	25
(cc) Khaki Uniforms	2
(dd) Fountain Pens	4
(ee) Wet Stone	1
(ff) Holders (Camouflaged)	2
(gg) Sight Mortar (61MM)	1
(hh) Medical Equipment, Vietnamese, French, Chinese	
(1) Bandages	3
(2) Bottles	3
(ii) Assorted Tools	7
(jj) Training Booklet	1
(kk) Francs (Vietnamese, French, Chinese)	
(ll) Assorted Documents	
(mm) 57mm Recoiless Rifle Ammo	2 Rounds
(nn) Medical Supplies (Surgical tools, bandages narcotics, and empty penicillin bottles)	
(oo) Bear Traps	3

12. Administrative Matters

a. Supply Maintenance. Because of the excellent job by personnel of HST and the Battalion both at the LSA and forward units no matters of an unusual nature occurred

b. Casualties. Evacuation. was excellent due to the immediate response of helicopter.

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c. Communication

(1) Battalion Communications for Operation COLORADO was dependent on the AN/prc-47, AN/prc-41 and AN/prc-25.

(2) The AN/prc-47 and AN/prc-41 proved excellent to outstanding. The only trouble encountered was with the AN/prc-47 when a heavy cloud coverage prevailed.

(3) The AN/prc-25 proved quite dependable however due to great distances and mountains between stations all communicators depended on relay stations both ground and air. Also the Battalion utilized locally manned relay sights using a field expedient RC-292 and AN/prc25. The RC-292 proved most valuable.

(4) At all times the Battalion was in constant radio contact with the regiment. Communications was good to excellent throughout the Operation.

13 Commander's Analysis.

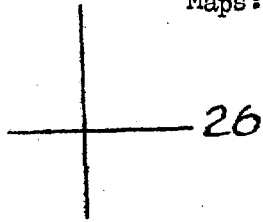
a. The major portion of the operation was relatively uneventful except for scattered sniper fire. However, on D+4 an estimated two Main Force battalions were encountered. It is firmly believed that these units were in the process of establishing an ambush, on well-considered terrain when they themselves were surprised by the lead elements of this Battalion. Security was well-out to the front, flanks and rear. As a result, it is felt that this enabled the Battalion to react properly to the situation at hand and to neutralize the element of surprise the enemy had hoped to attain.

b. The helicopter support rendered by MAG-36 was particularly noteworthy. During the late afternoon and early evening of D+4, these helicopters made repeated trips into the battalion perimeter to deliver ammunition and reinforcements and evacuate casualties. Almost universally these landings and takeoffs were made through intensive ground fire that could not be suppressed by the troops on the ground.

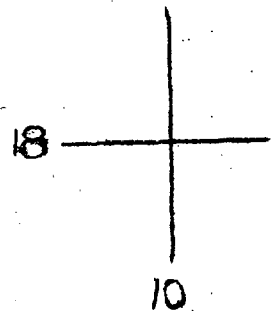
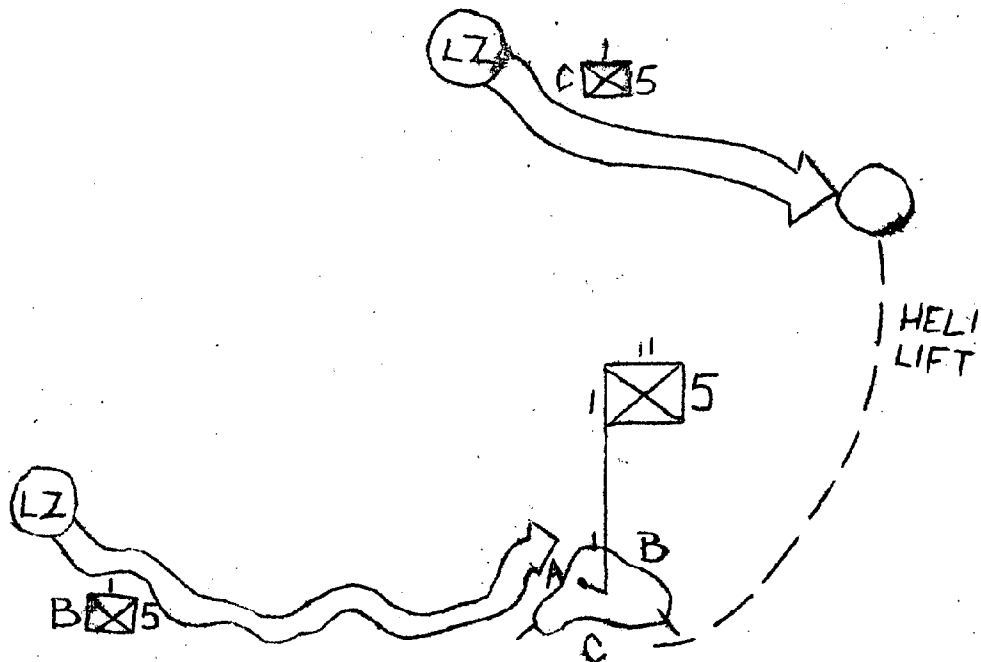
c. Artillery and Naval gunfire was well planned and executed. It is felt that these supporting arms prevented the enemy from massing and launching an attack on the battalion perimeter during the night of D+4.

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Maps: AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 (1:50,000) TAM KY
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 III (1:50,000) HIEP DUC

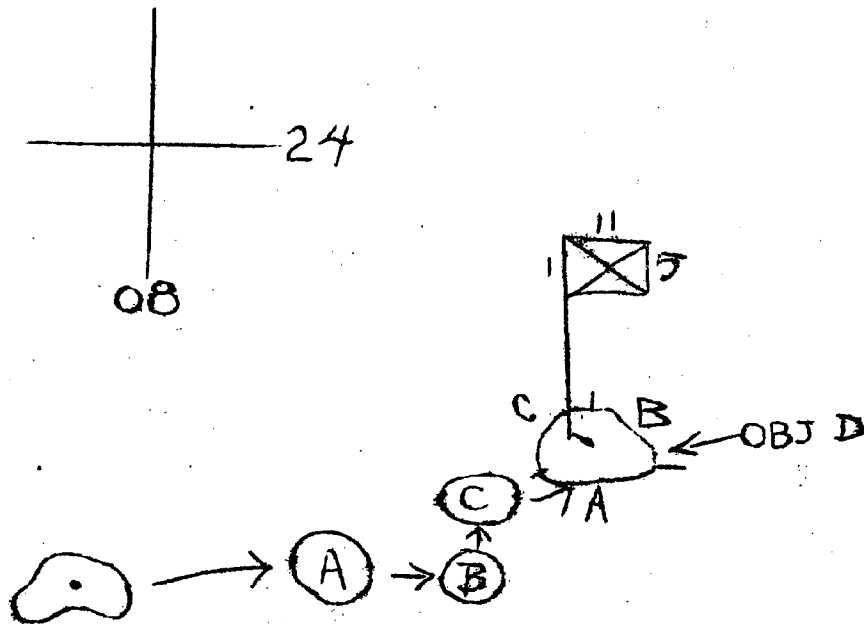


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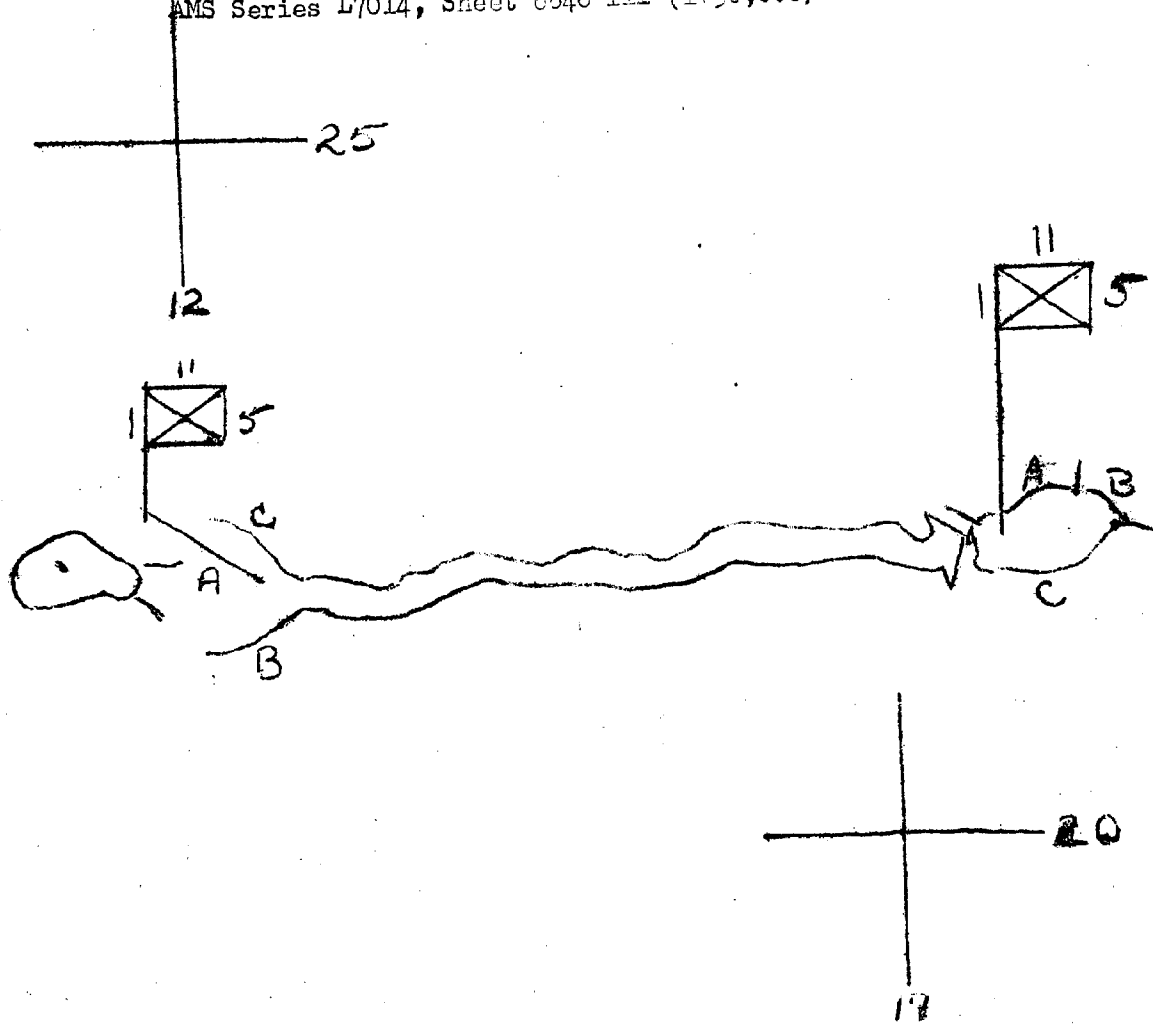
ENCLOSURE (1)

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AMS Series L7014, Sheet 69, (1:50,000) HIEP DUC



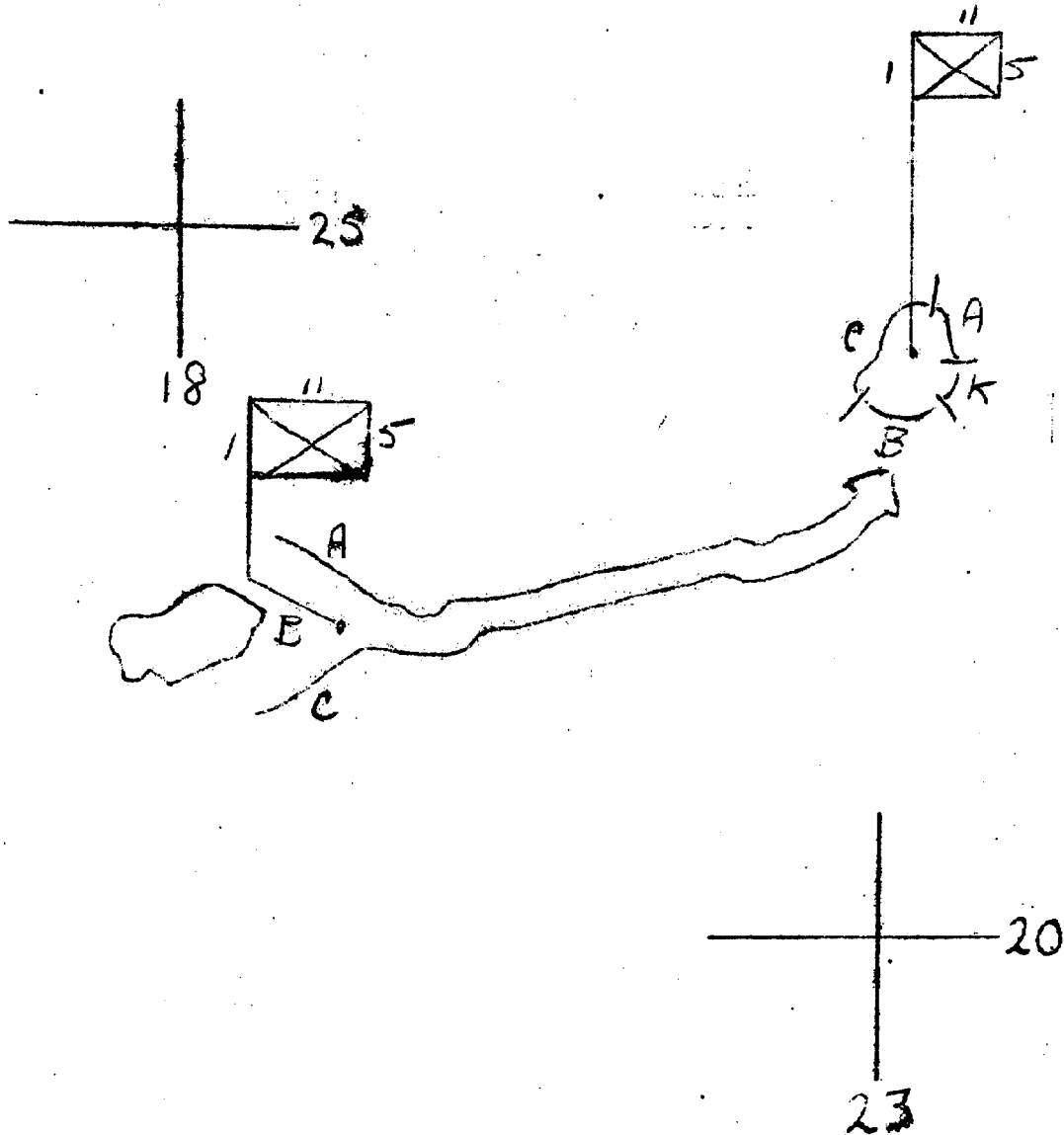
ENCLOSURE (2)

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 MS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 III (1:50,000) HIEP DUC



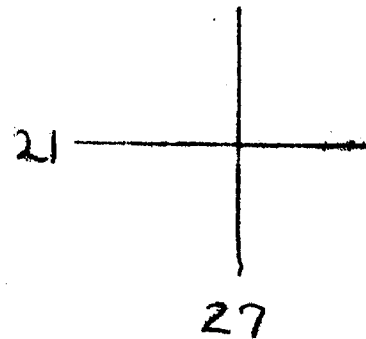
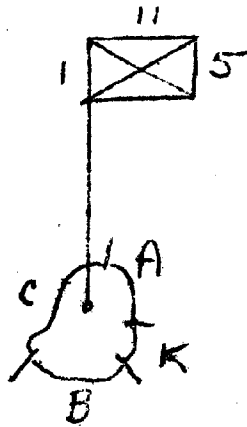
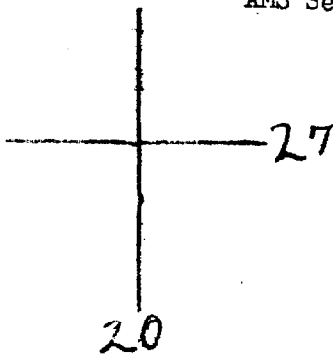
ENCLOSURE (3)

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AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 III (1:50,000) HIEP DUC

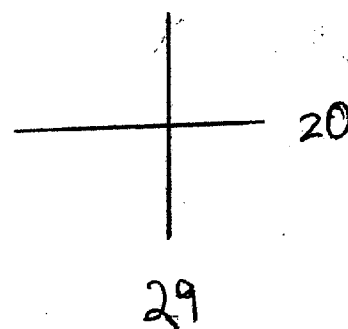
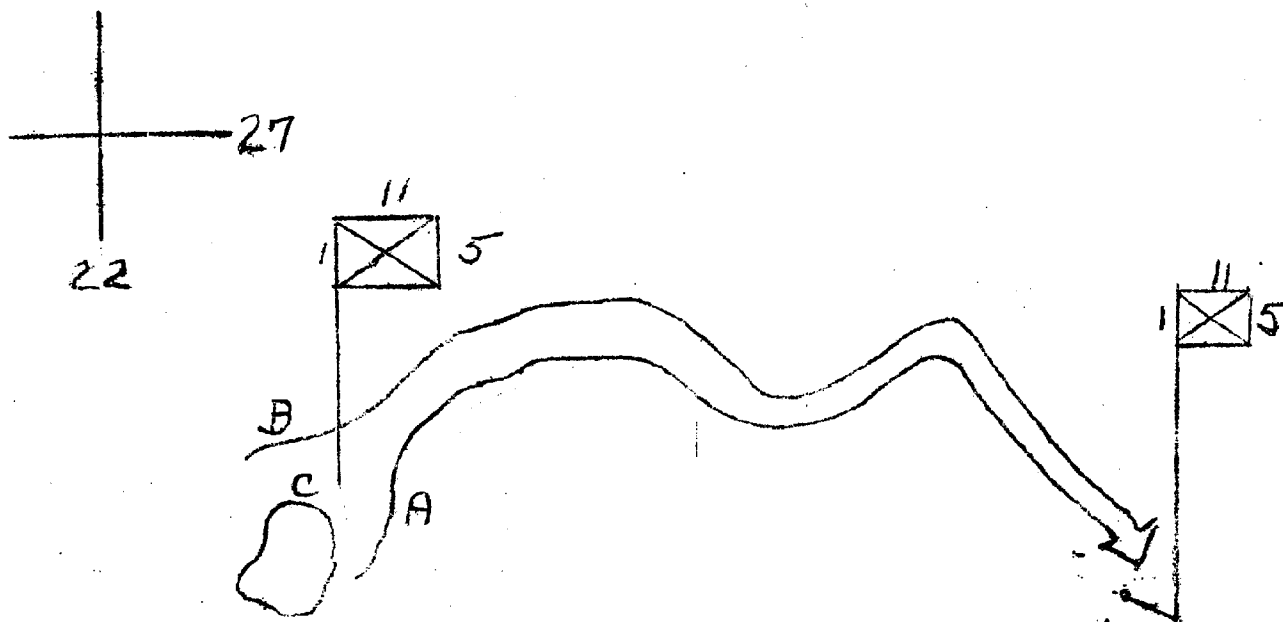


ENCLOSURE (4)

Maps: AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6540 (1:50,000) TAM KY
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6540 (1:50,000) HIEP DUC



ENCLOSURE (5)



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