

DECLASSIFIED

HEADQUARTERS

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

3/RAF/arw
010ct66
0060-66

5TH MAR S&C FILES

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

Subj: Command Chronology

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
(b) DivO 5750.2

00583-66

COPY NO. 2 OF 8

- Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology for the period 1 September to 30 September 1966.
(2) Chronological Sequence of Events.
(3) After Action Report NAPA.
(4) Operation Order Monterey.
(5) After Action Report MONTEREY.

1. In accordance with references (a) and (b), enclosures (1) thru (5) are submitted herewith.

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

B. S. Pickett
B. S. PICKETT
By Direction

Copy 7 of 9
copies

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (3)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~~~SECRET~~

~~DECLASSIFIED~~
1ST BATTALION, 5TH MARINES COMMAND CHRONOLOGY

1. The following organizational data is submitted:

a. Designator/Location. During the month of September 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 September 1966 to 30 September 1966.

c. Personnel Assignment/Attachments.

(1) Commanding Officer	LtCol Harold L. COFFMAN (1-18 September 1966) LtCol Edward R. WATSON (19-30 September 1966)
(2) Executive Officer	Maj Bayard S. PICKETT
(3) S-1	WO John J. TIMONEY
(4) S-2	1stLt Ronald BENIGO
(5) S-3	Capt Robert A. FREEMAN
(6) S-4	Capt George J. STREMLOW
(7) CO, H&S Company	Capt Francis M. KAUFFMAN
(8) CO, Company A	Capt Matthew T. COOPER
(9) CO, Company B	Capt John P. T. SULLIVAN
(10) CO, Company C	Capt Marshall B. DARLING
(11) CO, Company D	Capt John J. CARTY

2. Sequential Listing of Significant Events.

a. Personnel

(1) Average monthly strength:

(a) USMC OFFICER 26
ENLISTED 968

(b) USN OFFICER 3
ENLISTED 47

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(2) Present on board strength:

(a) USMC OFFICER 27
ENLISTED 986

(b) USN OFFICER 3
ENLISTED 49

(3) Current critical shortages based on Manning Level are as follows:

<u>MOS</u>	<u>PAY GRADE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
0302	O-1/2	11
0239	E-7	1
0369	E-7	2
0848	E-7	1
2539	E-6	1
2543	E-6	1
0141	E-5	4
0311	E-5	30
0431	E-5	1
5711	E-5	1

b. Intelligence

(1) During the period 1 September 1966 to 30 September 1966, the S-2 continued to provide the Order of Battle within the Battalion TAOR and areas outside the TAOR for possible future operations. In addition, the S-2 Section is providing the Battalion with a Black List of known VC in the TAOR. This list and close cooperation with local officials of the Ly Tin District have resulted in the apprehension of four known VC and six VCS within the Battalion TAOR.

(2) During Operation Napa, 5 September 1966 to 7 September 1966, the S-2 Section processed the following captured enemy equipment and documents: two Thompson Sub-Machine guns, one crossbow, three magazines and assorted documents, empty cartridge cases, two ID cards, one map, one hundred-sixty rounds .45 caliber ammunition and items of 782 gear and uniforms.

(3) The S-2 scouts have been employed as security elements for the movement of the Command Group and as intelligence assistants to Company Commanders. At the combat base, the scouts are used as security elements in night defensive positions in addition to manning weapons sights, infra red, which are employed in the defensive perimeter.

(4) As a result of Operation Monterey, 29 September to 30 September 1966, elements of this Battalion accounted for one VC WIA (probable) and one VCS. The VCS was forwarded to 12th DTA at Quang Ngai for further disposition. On D-Day, elements of the Battalion became engaged on two separate occasions with an estimated 3 to 4 snipers with each contact lasting for a short period. No further opposition was encountered during the operation.

DECLASSIFIED

c. Logistics

DECLASSIFIED

A cement deck has been completed in the port shack for the galley. Road improvement has continued by the 9th Engineers and currently the roads are being widened to 22 feet. This road when complete should give an all weather capability for resupply of artillery units in general support of the Division. In addition to the galley at Hill 54, two company size galleys located at Chu Lai and Hoa Vinh Than are in operation as is a platoon size galley. MCB 40 is in the process of drilling a well, with a view towards establishing a water point within the base camp area.

d. Communications

(1) Communication on the Battalion level was entirely dependent of FM, HF and SHF radio equipment. All voice radio nets were terminated by the AN/PRC-25, AN/PRC-47. During this reporting period all radio equipment proved very reliable considering the weather conditions.

(2) The teletype was dependent on land line and proved very reliable even though the area experienced damp weather. At all times the reception on both radio and teletype was excellent.

e. Air Support

(1) During September the following air activities took place:

Total helicopter requests sent 18
 Total troop lifts requested 2, number of troops 7
 Total VIP requested 1, number personnel 7
 Total spot and observe 6
 Total unit commander requested 2, number of personnel 5
 Total recon requests 3, number personnel 8
 Total logistics requested 4
 Total med evacs requested 14

(2) During Operation Napa, two armed UH-1E aircraft provided convoy escort from Hill 54 to Tam Ky on D-1. On D-Day, two HU-1E aircraft again provided convoy escort from Tam Ky to the Battalion dismount point. Six H-34 aircraft were used on D-Day for evacuation of casualties. In addition, two armed UH-1E aircraft were continually on station during daylight hours. Three H-34 aircraft accompanied by armed HU-1E aircraft, evacuated three casualties on D+1. Additionally, two and one half tons of rice were relocated to Tam Ky on D+1. One resupply mission, made up of six H-34 aircraft, brought in supplies on the evening of D+1. Three medical evacuations were performed on D+2, and two H-34 aircraft provided convoy escort for the Battalion back to Hill 54.

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 3

ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

(3) During Operation Monterey, four H-34 aircraft were located at Hill 54 for resupply and med evac. Two HU-1E aircraft provided helicopter escort on the movement to and from the objective area. On arrival at the disembarkation point, 2 fixed wing aircraft and 2 HU-1E aircraft were on station for close air support and thereafter on fifteen minute alert. Throughout the daylight hours bird-dog aircraft provided observation in the objective area.

f. Artillery Support

(1) During the month of September 1966 artillery supported 1stBn, 5thMar in operations conducted both inside and outside of the Battalion TAOR.

(2) Artillery support during Operation Napa consisted of pre-planned fires, on-call fires, will-adjust missions, H&I fires, NGF, and illumination. Events concerning artillery are as follows:

(a) Successful firing of preplanned fire in an area that was to be used as the battalion night defensive position. Fuze delay was used to attempt to destroy any booby traps in the area.

(b) Successful firing of an on-call, do not load mission on a possible VC ambush. When VC sprung the ambush, the mission was fired, immediately blocking the VC, resulting in 5 confirmed VC KIA by a Marine rifle company.

(c) Firing of night defensive fires on a VC escape route, with excellent effect on target. The next morning extensive blood trails were found on the escape route.

(d) Firing of H&I's within 500 meters of the battalion's perimeter.

(3) Artillery activities in support of 1stBn, 5thMar TAOR consisted of the following:

(a) 16Sep: Firing of an illumination mission after a Marine patrol sprung an ambush, resulted in the confirmation of one VC KIA and the capture of an enemy automatic weapon.

(b) 22Sep: Firing of an illumination mission on a Marine position believed to be the target of a VC suicide mission. 87 rounds of continuous illumination was fired.

(c) 23Sep: Firing of a will-adjust mission on 30 VC, 97 rounds of HE were fired. There was no confirmation of VC KIA or WIA.

(d) Firing of H&I's on confirmed and suspected VC positions, trails, OP's and supply points and assembly areas. H&I's were plotted in a pattern so as to try to channelize VC into Marine ambushes. Fuze delay was fired on areas known to have trench lines and caves.

DECLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

(4) Artillery capabilities during Operation Monterey consisted of E Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar in direct support and L Btry, 4thBn, 11thMar in general support. The only artillery supporting fires during the two day operation were the H&I's fired on the night of 29 September. Earlier that day a HE will adjust mission was called in on a VC village, but delays in receiving clearance caused cancellation of the mission.

g. Civil Affairs

(1) The Medical Civic Action Program continued throughout the TACR on a large scale. Navy Corpsmen treated 3643 Vietnamese civilians during the month. Seven of these cases were serious enough to require medical evacuation to 1st Medical Battalion at Chu Lai. Additionally, our corpsmen assisted local officials in administering approx. 500 plague inoculations in Ky Chanh Village. Ten cases of soap were distributed in conjunction with the Med Cap patrols, and lectures concerning health and hygiene were given by the four Vietnamese nurses being trained by the BN Corpsmen.

(2) Thirty lbs. of clothing were donated to the village Chief for distribution to needy families in Ky Chanh Village. Fifty kilos of rice were also donated for distribution to these same families. Basket balls and volley balls were distributed to the six village schools. School kits consisting of paper, pens, pencils and books have been ordered but have yet to be received. Additionally, six bags of cement were distributed for minor repairs in these same school buildings.

(3) The latter part of the month coincided with the beginning of the Vietnamese rice harvest. Marines provided security during Operation "Golden Fleece" to protect the harvest from Viet Cong collectors.

h. Medical

(1) Personnel: Five additional corpsmen were assigned to 1stBn, 5thMar this month. The total strength of corpsmen now stands at 49. Effective strength is now 43. BAS personnel participated in Operation NAPA and Monterey.

(2) Medical: Malaria continues to be the chief medical problem. Nine cases of malaria were diagnosed in September. Of these nine, three cases were P. Vivax. The other six were P. Faluporum. Daily fogging of the area with mosquitocide has continued as much as possible. This has been hampered to a degree by a somewhat reluctant fogging apparatus. Repairs on the machine are now in progress. Tuberculin skin tests have been administered to the majority of "B" and "C" Companies. There was one conversion from a negative to a positive in these companies. The individual has been scheduled for chest film and started on JNA. Further skin testing will be done as soon as more TPD is obtained.

DECLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (1)

DECLASSIFIED

(3) Sanitation: General sanitation within the camp area continues to improve. The most notable improvement has been the concrete deck for the pot shack. More adequate drainage in the shower area has also been accomplished.

(4) Medsop: Through 25 September, 3643 civilian patients had been treated this month. In addition 500 plague immunizations were given to civilians in the area.

i. Psychological Warfare

(1) Division psychological warfare provided U10 aircraft on two occasions for loudspeaker broadcasts over the TAOR. The first broadcast appealed to the Union Hai program and told of the good treatment the defectors received at the hands of the Vietnamese Government. The second aircraft advertised Operation "Golden Fleece", explaining how Marines would protect the rice harvest from falling into VC hands.

(2) Additionally, 40,000 leaflets were dropped over the TAOR explaining the rewards offered for information concerning the location of VC personnel or supplies.

DECLASSIFIED

PAGE 6

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. 01Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
2. 021245H 2nd Plt Company B, S&D mission, coord. (BT 349168), received 10 rds sniper fire from estimated 4 VC. Patrol returned 2 M-79 rds and approx. 40 rds small arms fire, and observed 1 VC knocked down by fire. VC WIA was immediately dragged off by other VC. Patrol pursued fleeing VC but was unable to regain contact. One VC WIA probable.
3. 022144H 1st plt Company B, S&D mission, coord. (BT 393114), apprehended 4 VCS. Interrogation revealed that suspect was on 1stBn, 5thMar black list and was possible VC messenger. VCS was forwarded to IFF on 03Sep66.
4. 03Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
5. 041145H Company E, 2ndBn, 5thMar OPCON to 1stBn, 5thMar for duration of Operation NAPA.
6. 041310H Command Group and Companies B, C and D displaced to Tam Ky for duration of Operation NAPA.
7. 05Sep66 Day-Long Operation NAPA.

(a) 051035H Company C, (BT 233253), received 3 rds sniper fire from one sniper. No fire was returned. Unable to determine location of VC due to thick vegetation.

(b) 051120H Company D, (BT 241258), received 6 rds sniper fire from an estimated 6 snipers at (BT 246457). Company D returned 12 rds small arms fire, and observed one VC knocked down by fire. VC broke contact. Searched area, found nothing. Estimate one VC WIA probable.

(c) 051225H Company D, (BT 232248), received approx. 50 rds small arms fire from an estimated 10 VC at (BT 230243). Company D returned approx. 50 rds small arms fire and two 60mm mortars. VC ceased fire. Area was not checked. Notified 3rdBn, 5thMar from whose assigned area VC fire came.

(d) 051230H Company B, (BT 227157), apprehended 2 VC. One admitted he was a VC. Other VC was identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. Both VC were screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(e) 051323H Company C, (BT 223250), received 40 rds small arms fire from an estimated 10 VC at (BT 223248). Company C returned approx. 150 rds small arms fire and five LAAW's. Company C sustained one USMC WIA, who was evacuated to 1stMedBn. Area was searched, nothing found.

PAGE 1

DECLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(f) 051335H Company D, (BT 225245), received approx. 20 rds automatic weapons fire from an estimated 11 VC at (BT 223247). Two platoons from Company D assaulted VC position and fired approx. 100 rds small arms fire and 4 LAAW's. VC broke contact. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Five dead VC were found. Also found were one US sub machine gun and a sack containing miscellaneous 782 gear. The captured weapon and 782 gear were forwarded to the 5thMar S-2.

(g) 051400H Company C, (BT 223249), apprehended 1 VC. VC was identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC was screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(h) 051430H Company B, (BT 214255), apprehended 3 VC. All VC were identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being VC suppliers. All were screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(i) 051430H Company D, (BT 224246), located a dead VC dressed in black short PJ's. Body was booby trapped with pressure release type Chi-Com grenade. Booby trap and body were destroyed in place.

(j) 051435H Company D, (BT 219249), apprehended 4 VCS. All were screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(k) 051600H H&S Company, (BT 213253), apprehended 4 VC. All VC were identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC were screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(l) 051630H Command Group and Companies B, C and D, established night defensive positions.

(m) 051730H Company B, (BT 210225), apprehended one VC female nurse identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC was screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(n) 051925H Company B, (BT 211254), received 4 rds small arms fire from an estimated 2 VC at (BT 214244). Company B returned 4 60mm mortars. VC broke contact. Area was not searched due to darkness.

(o) 052235H Company B, (BT 212254), in defensive position, was probed by an estimated 2 VC squads. VC threw 8 to 10 hand grenades, fired 8 60mm mortars and approx. 80 rds small arms fire. Company B returned approx. 20 hand grenades, 15 M-79 rds and 100 rds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled to the northwest. Artillery fire mission conducted on VC withdrawal route. Company B sustained 2 USMC WIA's. A thorough search of the area revealed 1 VC KIA, confirmed, 1 US sub machine gun and several pieces of 782 gear. Due to the extensive amount of blood and signs of bodies having been dragged away, Company B estimated 1 VC KIA probable and six VC WIA probable.

PAGE 2

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

DECLASSIFIED

06Sep66 D+1

(a) 060635H Company C, (BT 209249), received approx. 7 rds sniper fire from 2 snipers at (BT 207245). Company C returned approx. 20 rds small arms fire and 1 LAAW. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing.

(b) 060700H Company C, (BT 205243), apprehended 1 VCS who had approx. 800 lbs of rice concealed in his hut. VCS was sent to 5thMar S-2.

(c) 060835H Company C, (BT 200243), located a VC billeting area. Police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet stated area was used for VC lectures. Billeting area was destroyed by fire.

(d) 060840H Company C, (BT 200244), apprehended one female VC indentified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being a VC supplier. VC was screened and forwarded to 5thMar S-2.

(e) 061130H H&S Company, (BT 214255), apprehended one VC indentified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being chairman of Young Woman VC Association. VC was screened and sent to 5thMarS-2.

(f) 061315H Company B, (BT 233255), tripped two tension release booby trapped Chi-Com grenades buried along the trail. Company B sustained 4 minor USMC WIA's.

(g) 061430H Company D, (BT 252256), apprehended one VCS. VCS was screened and sent to 5thMar S-2.

(h) 061625H Company C, (BT 247255), received 4 rds sniper fire from 1 sniper at BT 247253. Company C returned 50 rounds small arms fire, 1- M-79 rds and 3 3.5 rockets. Company C sustained one USMC KIA. A thorough search of the area was conducted and 5 VCS were apprehended, screened and sent to 5thMar S-2.

(i) 061630H Command Group and Companies B, C and D established night defensive positions.

9. 07Sep66 D+2

(a) 070835H Companies B, C (BT 274264), received approx. 50 rds automatic weapons fire after loading on trucks from an estimated 4 VC. Companies B and C returned approx. 80 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and a thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing. Company B sustained 3 USMC WIA's and Company C sustained 2 USMC WIA's.

(b) 070915H Command Group and Companies B, C and D arrived Hill 54 and secured from Operation NAPA.

PAGE 3

DECLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (2)

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

10. 070940H Company E, 2ndBn, 5thMar chopped OPCON 1stBn, 5thMar.
11. 071200H XC Command Group and Company D OPCON to Chu Lai Defense Command.
12. 082005H Sqd ambush 2nd plt Company C, coord. (BT 388116), received two rds sniper fire from an undetermined direction. No fire was returned.
13. 092045H Fire team listening post, Company B, coord. (BT 394136), received one incoming hand grenade. Fire team returned two hand grenades and five rds small arms fire. 81mm mortar illumination was fired. Observed nothing.
14. 101330H Sparrowhawk sqd displaced to coord. (BT 462968).
15. 101435H Sparrowhawk sqd returned to Hill 54.
16. 110835H Company B, S&D Mission, (BT 405109), received approx. 40 rds small arms fire from an estimated 2 VC at coord. (BT 405116). No fire was returned due to distance. Four squads were dispatched to pursue VC at vic. (BT 405116). Two VC were apprehended, both VC were identified as being VC by a popular forces patrol. VC were screened and forwarded to ITT.
17. 111230H Company B, S&D mission, (BT 391118), apprehended 2 VCS. Both were screened and forwarded to ITT.
18. 122125H H&S Company, (BT 397145), fire team listening post observed 6 VC vic. (BT 394140). Requested mortar fire mission. 81mm fired 7 rds WP and 16 rds HE. 60mm mortars from Company B fired 14 rds HE during the firing. 1stBn, 5thMar combat base received 2 rds of incoming 60mm rds. Sustained 3 friendly WIA's non med evac. VC broke contact and patrol searched the area at first light. Found nothing.
19. 13Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
20. 14Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
21. 150900H Company B, S&D mission (BT 365157), located and destroyed one tunnel dimensions 2½' X 4' X 8'.
22. 152120H Sqd amb Company A, (BT 487103), received 16 rds small arms fire from two directions (BT 489103) and (BT 490103). Squad returned approx. 20 rds small arms fire. Searched area. Nothing found.
23. 152200H Sqd amb Company A, (BT 489101), received approx. 20 rds small arms fire from one sniper. Sqd returned 10 rds small arms fire. Searched area. Found nothing.
24. 162100H Sqd amb Company A, (BT 478142), received 2 rds small arms fire from (BT 478142). Conducted search of area. Found nothing.

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

25. 162147H 1st plt Company A in defensive position, (BT 487103), received one rifle grenade from (BT 485105). No fire was returned. Checked area found nothing.

26. 171050H 2nd plt Company C, S&D mission, (BT 396117), observed 5 VC wearing PJ's and carrying weapons travelling in a westerly direction at (BT 396103). Plt fired 5 60mm mortars and lost sight of VC due to thick brush. A squad was dispatched to check area. Found nothing.

27. 17Sep66 Operation Golden Fleece: 1. Commencing 15Sep66 within coord. (BT 383163), (BT 372189), (BT 383146), (BT 365141), and (BT 363159). Two rifle plts with a company command group have been continually conducting ~~extensive~~ daylight patrols and night ambushes on routes of approach and within hamlets and harvesting area. 2. Initially coordination with local officials requested that 200 lbs of already harvested rice be moved for relocated villagers. This has been accomplished. Harvesting proceeding satisfactorily with only two minor incidents thus far, both happening on 15Sep66 when one VC tax collector was killed and one tunnel was destroyed. Presently there is approx. 400 to 500 kilos of rice to be harvested.

28. 172300H Plt amb Company C, (BT 405105), sprung an ambush on an estimated 7 VC. Plt fired approx. 400 rds small arms fire. VC returned 2 hand grenades and broke contact. Illumination fire mission was fired and a search of the area revealed one VC KIA confirmed, armed with a French sub machine gun. Two minor USMC WIA's were sustained. A thorough search of the area at first light revealed extensive amounts of blood trails and signs of bodies having been dragged away. Estimate 2 VC KIA probable.

29. 17Sep66 Operation Golden Fleece continuing satisfactorily with negative results.

30. 182250H Sqd sec ptr, Company A, (BT 491139), observed 3 men at (BT 489138). Upon approaching the men, patrol received 30 rds automatic weapons fire. Sqd returned approx. 80 rds small arms fire and observed one VC knocked down. VC immediately broke contact, assisting the VC that was knocked down. Patrol immediately pursued, but was unable to regain contact. Estimate one VC KIA probable.

31 18Sep66 Operation Golden Fleece continuing satisfactorily. Approx. 25 Vietnamese harvested in the vicinity of 1500 lbs of rice. There is approx. 500 acres of rice remaining to be harvested. No VC contact.

32. 19Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.

33. 201155H 2nd Plt Company C, S&D mission, (BT 382145), apprehended 2 VCS, one female and one male. During the process of searching them, the male bolted and would not halt. Plt fired 2 rds small arms fire killing VC male. A thorough search of VC revealed a map of Hill 54's defensive positions. Map and female VCS will be forwarded to ITT. One VC KIA confirmed.

PAGE 5 DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

34. 20Sep66 Operation Golden Fleece secured. Approx. 40 Vietnamese harvested all the rice this morning. It is estimated approx. 6,000 kilos of rice were harvested over the past 5 days. Within 3 to 4 weeks green rice within this area will again be ready for harvest. Operation Golden Fleece ended today with one incident.

35. 201815H Company C, coord. (BT 366163), plt ambush, received 3 rds small arms fire. Plt returned one round small arms fire. Sniper broke contact. A search of the area was conducted. Found nothing.

36. 21Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.

37. 222045H 1stBn, 5thMar combat base, (BT 394145), received 3 rds small arms fire from estimated 6 to 7 VC, (BT 394143). No fire was returned. Illumination fired, observed nothing.

38. 222223H Plt defensive position Company A (BT 514157, received one round believed to be 82mm mortar in front of position, (BT 511163). Also heard voices and movement in same area. Illumination fired. Observed nothing.

39. 222235H Squad sec patrol Company A (BT 515518), received 3 rds automatic weapons fire from (BT 515153). Searched area with sentry dogs. Believe one VC penetrated perimeter. Continuous illumination was fired. Nothing was observed.

40. 230030H Fire team listening post 1stBn, 5thMar, (BT 394145), received 4 rds small arms fire from (BT 392144). No fire was returned. Fired illumination. Observed nothing.

41. 230100H Squad sec patrol Company A, (BT 515158), received sporadic small arms fire from village (BT 513153). No fire returned. Checked area found nothing.

42. 231335H Company B(-) S&D mission, (BT 383103), observed approx. 30 VC carrying weapons and moving northwesterly (BT 398090). Arty fire mission called, fired 2 rds WP and 95 rds HE. Excellent target coverage. In the process of searching area, apprehended 71 Vietnamese. Company B screened them with interpreter. Estimate 3 VC KIA and 3 WIA all probable. Dispatched squad to search Hill 99, (BT 398090).

43. 231118H Squad S&D mission Company B (BT 375156), located and destroyed a tunnel 10' long by 3' wide by 3' high.

44. 232150H Company C LP, (BT 397145), observed one VC moving in vicinity of defensive wire (BT 398145). LP fired illum. and approx. 15 rds small arms fire. Searched area with negative results.

PAGE 6

DECLASSIFIED ENCLOSURE (2)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

45. 24Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
46. 251045H 3rd Plt Company C security mission, (BT 382142), apprehended one VCS female in hut while checking ID cards. VCS apprehended appeared on 1stBn, 5thMar black list. VCS was forwarded to ITT.
47. 262040H 2nd Plt Company C S&D mission, (BT 371149), located and destroyed in place one booby trap in the shape of a radio approx. half the size of a "C" ration case with a fake antenna.
48. 26Sep66 Company B conducted sweep of Ky Xuan Island with negative contact.
49. 261515H Squad S&D mission, Company C, (BT 406114), apprehended 3 VCS, two of which appeared on 1stBn, 5thMar black list. All were screened and forwarded to ITT.
50. 261800H 3rd Plt Company C S&D mission, (BT 372150), apprehended one VCS. He was screened and forwarded to ITT on 27Sep66.
51. 27Sep66 Negative contact throughout the day.
52. 28Sep66 Company D chop to 1stBn, 5th Marines from Chu Lai defense command and returned to Hill 54.
53. 28Sep66 Companies K, L and M, 3rdBn, 5thMar OPCON 1stBn, 5thMar for duration operation Monterey.
54. 290845H 3rd Plt Company B squad S&D mission, coord. (BT 352164), apprehended one VCS who was identified by village hamlet chief as being a VC. VCS was screened and sent to 1stBn, 5thMar combat base for further transportation to ITT.
55. 290905H 1stPlt Company B squad recon mission, coord. (BT 398090), received 4 rds small arms fire from westerly direction. Squad returned 12 rds small arms fire and two M-79 rds. VC broke contact. Squad continued mission.
56. 29Sep66 Operation Monterey
- (a) 290630H Company L, 3rdBn, 5thMar and L Btry, 2ndBn, 11Mar commenced movement via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 301189).
- (b) 290800H Company L, 3rdBn, 5thMar and L Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar arrived coord. (BT 301189).
- (c) 290810H Company C and D, 1stBn, 5thMar and Company K, 3rdBn, 5thMar commenced movement to dismount point (BT 291201).

DECLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (2)

PAGE 7

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(d) 290900H Company C and D, 1stBn, 5thMar and Company K, 3rdBn, 5thMar arrived at dismount point, (BT 291201) and commenced search and destroy operation within zone of action.

(e) 291045H Company D, coord (BT 264184), located and destroyed a 7' by 12' cave.

(f) 291445H Company C, coord. (BT 237168), received approx. 10 rds sniper fire from estimated 3 snipers at coord. (BT 225168), fired 6 rds HE 81mm mortars. Company C searched area and received 10 to 15 more rds small arms fire from hut. Returned 100 rds small arms fire and burned hut. Found blood trail, estimate one VC WIA.

(g) 291630H Established night defensive positions. Front line positions are as follows: Command Group, (BT 235173); Company C, (BT 232173); Company K, (BT 235175) and (BT 232174).

57. 30Sep66 D+1

(a) 301100H All units commenced movement via motor convoy to Hill 54.

(b) 301150H All units arrived Hill 54 and secured from Operation Monterey.

(c) 301200H Companies K, L and M ohop to 3rdBn, 5thMar from 1stBn, 5thMar.

58. 302310H Squad ambush Company A, coord. (BT 433140), observed two boats without lights on river vicinity (BT 437136). Squad fired six rounds 81mm illum. Squad observed five occupants on boat who fired four rounds small arms fire. Squad returned three M-79 rounds and approx. 100 rounds small arms fire sinking both boats. Estimate 5 VC KIA probable.

(d) 301730H Company B OPCON to Chu Lai Defense Command.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

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

3/RB/af
3480
0035-66
11 Sep 1966

UNCLASSIFIED

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

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation NAPA

Ref: (a) CG, 1stMarDiv Frag Order 15-66
(b) DivO 3480.1
(c) Maps: MAS Series L7014, Vietnam (1:50,000) Sheets 6640 II and 6640 III.

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, D-Day, 5 September 1966
(2) Operation Overlay, D+1, 6 September 1966
(3) Operation Overlay, D+2, 7 September 1966

1. Code Name and Type of Operation

Operation NAPA (Search and Destroy)

2. Dates of Operation

5 - 7 September 1966

3. Location

East of Hiep Duc-Song, Ly Ly Valley, Quang Tin Province, RVN, on Map Sheet, AMS Series L7014 Vietnam, (1:50,000) Sheets 6640 II and 6640 III.

4. Command Headquarters

CO, 1st Bn, 5th Marines

LtCol H. L. COFFMAN

CO, Co B

Capt J. P. T. SULLIVAN

CO, Co C

1stLt M. B. DARLING

CO, Co D

1stLt J. N. BRAY

1523

Copy 13 of 17 copies

DECLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

Encl #3

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

5. Task Organization1st Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol COFFMAN

H&SCo(-)
 1st plt(-), Co B, 1st Engr Bn
 Det, ARVN interpreter Tm

Company B (Rein)

Capt SULLIVAN

Co B
 Det, H&SCo
 Det, Comm plt
 Det, Med plt
 FO tm, 81mm plt
 FAC tm
 FO tm, Btry D, 2/11
 Det, Sentry-Dog plt
 Det, ARVN interpreter tm
 1st Sqd(-), 1st plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

Company C (Rein)

1st Lt DARLING

Co C
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm plt
 Det, Med plt
 FO tm, 81mm plt
 FAC tm.
 FO tm, Btry D, 2/11
 Det, Sentry-Dog plt
 Det, ARVN interpreter tm
 2nd sqd (-), 1st plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

Battalion Reserve: Company D (Rein)

1stLt BRAY

Co D
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm plt
 Det, Med plt
 FO tm, 81mm plt
 FO tm, Btry D, 2/11
 3rd sqd (-), 1st plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

81mm Mortar plt(-)

1stLt BELKNAP

6. Supporting Armsa. Air Support

(1) Helicopter Support - Two armed Huey aircraft provided convoy escort from Hill 54 to Tam Ky on D-1. On D-Day, two Huey aircraft again provided convoy escort from Tam Ky to the Battalion dismount point. Six H-34 aircraft were used on D-Day for evacuation of casualties.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>TACTICAL DISPOSITION</u>
3rd Bn	BT 2223	600	UNK
80th Bn	BT 2125	400	UNK
72nd Bn	BT 2122	450	UNK
A-16 Co	BT 2124	150	UNK
K-52 Co	BT 1021	150	UNK

(2) Intelligence information was initially furnished to this unit by the 5th Marines.

(3) The objective of this operation was to conduct search of area of operation and to destroy any VC units in assigned area.

b. VC Strength and Situation Actually Found on Operation NAPA. As a result of the operation, elements of this Battalion accounted for six VC KIA by body count; one VC KIA (probable); seven VC WL (probable); thirteen VCC; and eleven VCS. All VCC/VCS were forwarded to 9th ITT for further interrogation. On D-Day, elements of the Battalion became engaged with an estimated squad size local force unit, with contact lasting for a short period. During the night of D-Day, an element of the Battalion was probed for a period of approximately one hour by an estimated two Main Force squads, utilizing small arms, automatic weapons, hand grenades and 60mm mortar fire. From D+1 to the end of the operation, enemy activity consisted of sporadic sniper fire and one booby trapping incident.

c. VC Units Identified. None

d. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) The voluntary evacuation of approximately 60 villagers from QUI XUAN Hamlet to TAM KY indicates a growing discontent with VC forces in the area of operation.

(2) Interrogation of villagers in THON BON Hamlet (BT 230255) and QUI XUAN Hamlet (BT 213253) indicated the possible presence of one Main Force VC/NVA Company in these areas as late as 0500 on the morning of D-Day. VC were thought to have moved northwest to the vicinity of PHU THU Hamlet (BT 197253) prior to the arrival of the Marines.

(3) Enemy units engaged in probing attack on B Company position on night of D-Day were thought to be main force units as indicated by uniform and equipment discovered on VC KIA. Enemy snipers were estimated to be local force personnel, with the mission of harassing and delaying the Marine advance.

e. Terrain

(1) Critical Terrain Features. Hill 26 (BT 209249) and Hill (unk) (BT 223248) and surrounding hamlets.

DECLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

In addition, two armed Huey aircraft were continually on station during daylight hours. Three H-34 aircraft, accompanied by armed Huey aircraft, evacuated three casualties on D+1. Additionally, two and one half tons of rice were relocated to Tam Ky on D+1. One resupply mission, made up of six H-34 aircraft, brought in supplies on the evening of D+1. Three medical evacuations were performed on D+2, and two H-34 aircraft provided convoy escort for the Battalion back to Hill 54.

(2) Fixed Wing - Fixed wing support for this operation consisted solely of one aircraft performing spotting missions throughout the daylight hours of the operation.

b. Artillery Support.

(1) 5 September 1966 - Artillery was used to fire preparation fires on the Battalion objective. The fires were for a duration of fifteen minutes and were controlled by an air observer. Target coverage was excellent. Fuzes, quick and ~~delay~~, were employed in order to detonate any booby traps. During the night of 5 September, extensive H & I fires were fired within approximately 500 meters of front line positions. At 052235, Company B received mortar fire, grenades and small arms fire from an estimated two VC squads. The fire fight continued for approximately one hour. Continuous artillery illumination was provided during this period. Fires were called on suspected VC withdrawal routes. The area was investigated the following morning and numerous VC blood trails were found.

(2) 6 September 1966 - The Battalion moved back over the previous day's route in the direction of Highway 1. Artillery air observers provided excellent visual coverage of the operation area and made timely reports to the Battalion. This provided the Battalion with current information regarding terrain and villager movement. The night of 6 September was comparatively uneventful as far as enemy contact was concerned. Again artillery H & I fires were fired close to friendly troops. Naval gunfire was on call throughout the night but was not employed due to lack of enemy contact.

(3) 7 September 1966 - At 0830, the Battalion boarded trucks to return to the combat base at Hill 54. The overall support by artillery was considered to be excellent. The support was provided by E and F Batteries of Second Battalion, and K Battery, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines.

7. Intelligence

a. Estimate of VC Strength, Location and Tactical Disposition

(1) Forces Anticipated in the Immediate Objective Area.

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>TACTICAL DISPOSITION</u>
21st Regt, 620th Div	BT 1821	200	UNK
1st Bn	BT 2023	600	UNK

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(2) Observation and Fields of Fire. The terrain in the area of operation consisted primarily of several hamlets surrounded by rice paddies under cultivation. Throughout, it offered excellent fields of fire for defenders and attackers. Cultivated areas and small hills offered excellent observation.

(3) Cover and Concealment. Excellent cover and concealment were provided by tree lines, grassy areas, hedge rows and locally constructed trench lines within and surrounding the hamlets. Concealment in cultivated areas was poor, but, some cover was provided by paddy dikes.

(4) Obstacles. No major obstacles were encountered. Streams were found to be fordable.

8. Mission. 1st Battalion(-)(Rein), 5th Marines conducted search and destroy operation east of Hiep Duc-Song, Ly Ly Valley, Quang Tin Province.

9. Concept of Operation. Commencing 1300 on D-1; 1st Battalion 5th Marines (-)(Rein) moved via truck convoy to Tam Ky; thereafter on D-Day moved via truck east of Hiep Duc-Song, Ly Ly Valley, Quang Tin Province, and conducted search and destroy operation in assigned area.

10. Chronological Sequence of Events.

a. D-Day 5 September 1966

(1) 051035H - Company C, (BT 233253), received three rounds sniper fire from one sniper. No fire was returned. Unable to determine location of VC due to thick vegetation.

(2) 051120H - Company D, (BT 241258), received six rounds sniper fire from an estimated six snipers at (BT 246257). Company D returned 12 rounds small arms fire, and observed one VC knocked down by fire. VC broke contact. Searched area, found nothing. Estimated one VC WIA (probable).

(3) 051225H - Company D (BT 232248), received approximately 50 rounds small arms fire from an estimated ten VC at (BT 230243). Company D returned approximately 50 rounds small arms fire and two 60mm mortars. VC ceased fire. Area was not checked. Notified 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines from whose assigned area VC fire came.

(4) 051230H - Company B, (BT 227257), apprehended two VC. One admitted he was a VC. Other VC was identified by police chief of QUI XUAN Hamlet. Both VC were screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(5) 051323H - Company C, (BT 223250), received 40 rounds small arms fire from an estimated ten VC at (BT 223248). Company C returned approximately 150 rounds small arms fire and five LAAW's. Company C sustained one USMC WIA, who was evacuated to 1st Med Bn. Area was searched, nothing found.

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(6) 051335H - Company D, (BT 225245), received approximately 20 rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated eleven VC at (BT 223247). Two platoons from Company D assaulted VC position and fired approximately 100 rounds small arms fire and four LAAW's. VC broke contact. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Five dead VC were found. Also found were one US sub-machine gun and a sack containing miscellaneous 782 gear. The captured weapon and 782 gear were forwarded to the 5th Marines S-2.

(7) 051400H - Company C, (BT 223249), apprehended one VC. VC was identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC was screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(8) 051430H - Company B, (BT 214255), apprehended three VC. All VC were identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being VC suppliers. All were screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(9) 051430H - Company D, (BT 224246), located a dead VC dressed in black short PJ's. Body was booby trapped with pressure release type Chi-Com grenade. Booby trap and body were destroyed in place.

(10) 051435H - Company D, (BT 219249), apprehended four VCS. All were screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(11) 051600H - H&S Company, (BT 213253), apprehended four VC. All VC were identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC were screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(12) 051630H - Command Group and Companies B, C and D, established night defensive positions. Refer to Operation Overlay for D-Day.

(13) 051730H - Company B, (BT 210255), apprehended one VC female nurse identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet. VC was screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(14) 051925H - Company B, (BT 211254), received four rounds small arms fire from an estimated two VC at (BT 214244). Company B returned four 60mm mortars. VC broke contact. Area was not checked due to darkness.

(15) 052235H - Company B, (BT 212254), in defensive position, was probed by an estimated two VC squads. VC threw eight to ten hand grenades, fired eight 60mm mortars and approximately 80 rounds small arms. Company B returned approximately 20 hand grenades, 15 M-79 rounds and 100 rounds small arms. VC broke contact and fled to the northwest. Artillery fire mission conducted on VC withdrawal route. Company B sustained two USMC KIA's. A thorough search of the area revealed one VC KIA (confirmed), one US sub-machine gun and several pieces of 782 gear. Due to the extensive amount of blood and signs of bodies having been dragged away, Company B estimated one VC KIA (probable) and six VC WIA (probable).

b. D+1 - 6 September 1966.

(1) 060635H - Company C, (BT 209249), received approximately seven rounds sniper fire from two snipers at (BT 207245). Company C returned approximately 20 rounds small arms fire and one LAAW. A thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing.

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(2) 060700H - Company C, (BT 205243), apprehended one VCS who had approximately 800 lbs of rice concealed in his hut. VCS was sent to 5th Marines S-2.

(3) 060835H - Company C, (BT 200243), located a VC billeting area. Police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet stated area was used for VC lectures. Billeting area was destroyed by fire.

(4) 060840H - Company C, (BT 200244), apprehended one female VC identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being a VC supplier. VC was screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(5) 061130H - H&S Company, (BT 214255), apprehended one VC identified by police chief of Qui Xuan Hamlet as being Chairman of Young Women VC Association. VC was screened and sent to 5th Marines S-2.

(6) 061315H - Company B, (BT 233255), tripped two tension release booby trapped Chi-Com grenades buried along trail. Company B sustained four minor USMC WIA's.

(7) 061430H - Company D, (BT 252256), apprehended one VCS. VCS was screened and sent to 5th Marines S-2.

(8) 061625H - Company C, (BT 247255), received five rounds sniper fire from one sniper at (BT 247253). Company C returned 50 rounds small arms fire, ten M-79 rounds and three 3.5 rockets. Company C sustained one USMC KIA. A thorough search of the area was conducted and five VCS were apprehended, screened and forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(9) 061630H - Command Group and Companies B, C and D established night defense positions. Refer to D+1 operations overlay.

c. D+2 - 7 September 1966

(1) 070835H - Companies B and C, (BT 274264) received approximately 50 rounds automatic weapons fire after loading on trucks from an estimated four VC's. Companies B and C returned approximately 80 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and a thorough search of the area was conducted. Found nothing. Company B sustained three minor USMC WIA's. Company C sustained two minor USMC WIA's.

(2) 070915H - Command Group and Companies B, C, and D arrived Hill 54 and secured from Operation NAPA. Refer to D+2 operations overlay.

11. Results

a. Personnel

(1) VC KIA 6

(2) VC KIA/(Probable) 1

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

(3) VC WIA	0	(7) Friendly KIA	3
(4) VC WIA (Probable)	7	(8) Friendly WIA	15
(5) VCC	13		
(6) VCS	11		

b. Equipment and Material

CAPTUREDDESTROYED

(1) Jacket, military	1	Chi-Com Grenades	3
(2) Empty Penicillian bottles	3	Hut	1
(3) Assorted Documents			
(4) Hand book	1		
(5) ID Cards	2		
(6) Map	1		
(7) Links ammo w/expended cartridge	1		
(8) Fuse	1		
(9) Knife	1		
(10) Crossbow	1		
(11) Rds 45 cal ammo	160		
(12) Cartridge belt	1		
(13) Canteen w/cover	1		
(14) Ammo carrier	2		
(15) Rds empty cartridges	200		
(16) Rds empty carbine cartridge	60		
(17) Rds empty 50 cal ammo	10		
(18) Rds empty 45 cal cartridge	30		
(19) Thompson sub-machine gun	2		

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

CAPTURED

(20) Rounds carbine ammo	9
(21) Magazine	3
(22) Magazine Carrier	2
(23) Canteen	1
(24) Plastic poncho	1
(25) Towel	1
(26) Toothbrush	1
(27) Spoon	1

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 helicopters.

c. Communication

(1) Battalion communication for Operation NAPA was dependent on HF, UHF and VHF. Voice radio nets were terminated at the Battalion with the AN/PRC-47, AN/PRC-41 and the AN/PRC-25. Two field expedients RC 292 antenna were used on the Regimental TAC #1 and #2.

(2) In the Battalion CP, one SB-22 and one TA-1 were used. All rifle Companies laid wire to the switchboard as soon as they were in defensive positions. Considering the weather, terrain and distance, communications was excellent to outstanding.

13. Commanders Analysis

a. Although Operation NAPA was of relatively short duration, definite contact was made with local and main force VC units. Initial contact was made with an estimated 11 local VC's. An immediate assault by the two lead platoons of Company D neutralized the element of surprise and resulted in five confirmed VC killed. One weapon was captured. During the night of D-Day an estimated two squads of main force unit probed the defensive perimeter. Here, properly prepared fighting holes and fire discipline prevented this attack from being successful.

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

7
UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

b. The artillery support during this operation was well planned and executed. Additionally, the "on station" aerial observer provided timely information in regards to terrain and village activities while the Battalion was on the move.

H. L. Coffman
H. L. COFFMAN

DISTRIBUTION: Special

DECLASSIFIED

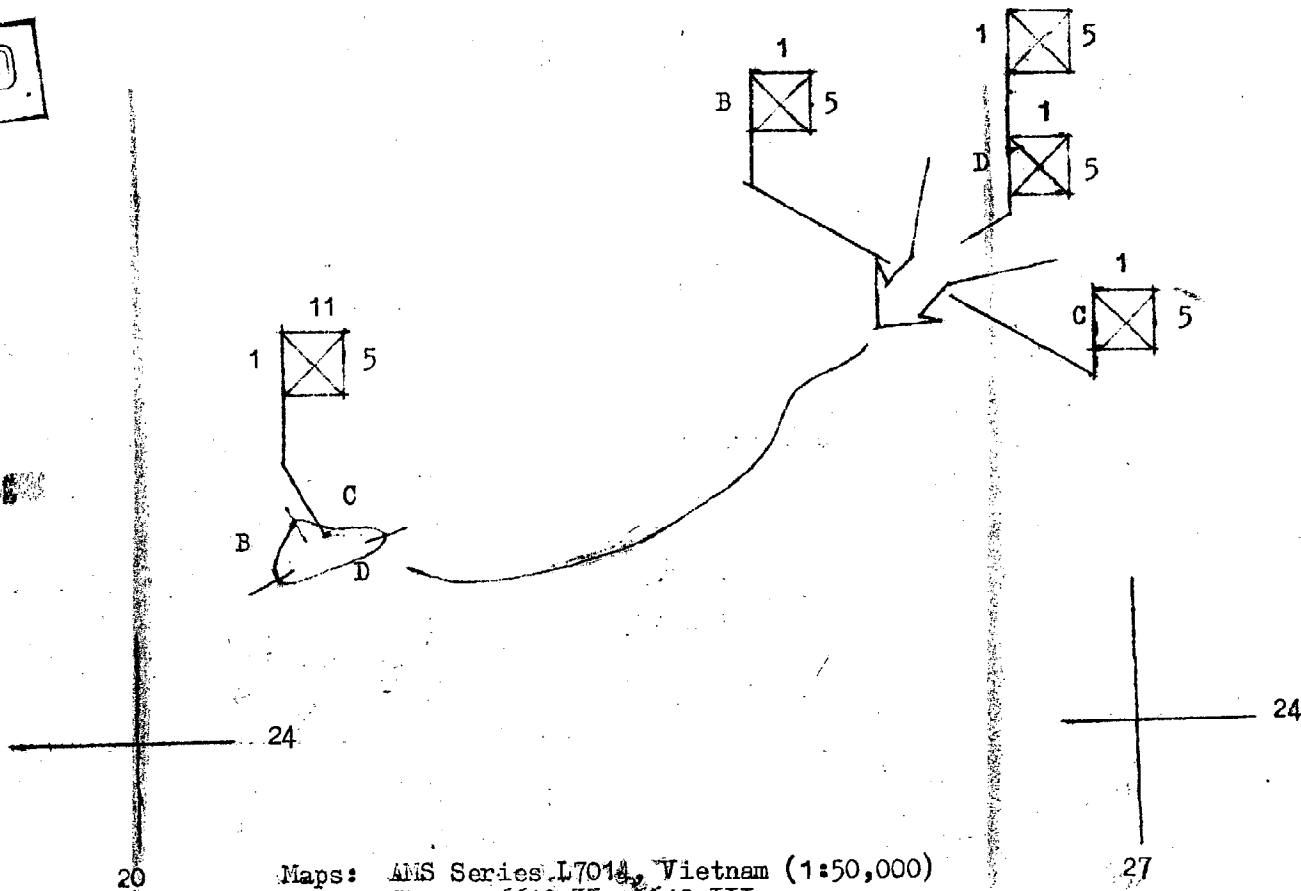
UNCLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED



Maps: AMS Series L7014, Vietnam (1:50,000)
Sheets 6640 II, 6640 III

ENCLOSURE # 1

UNCLASSIFIED

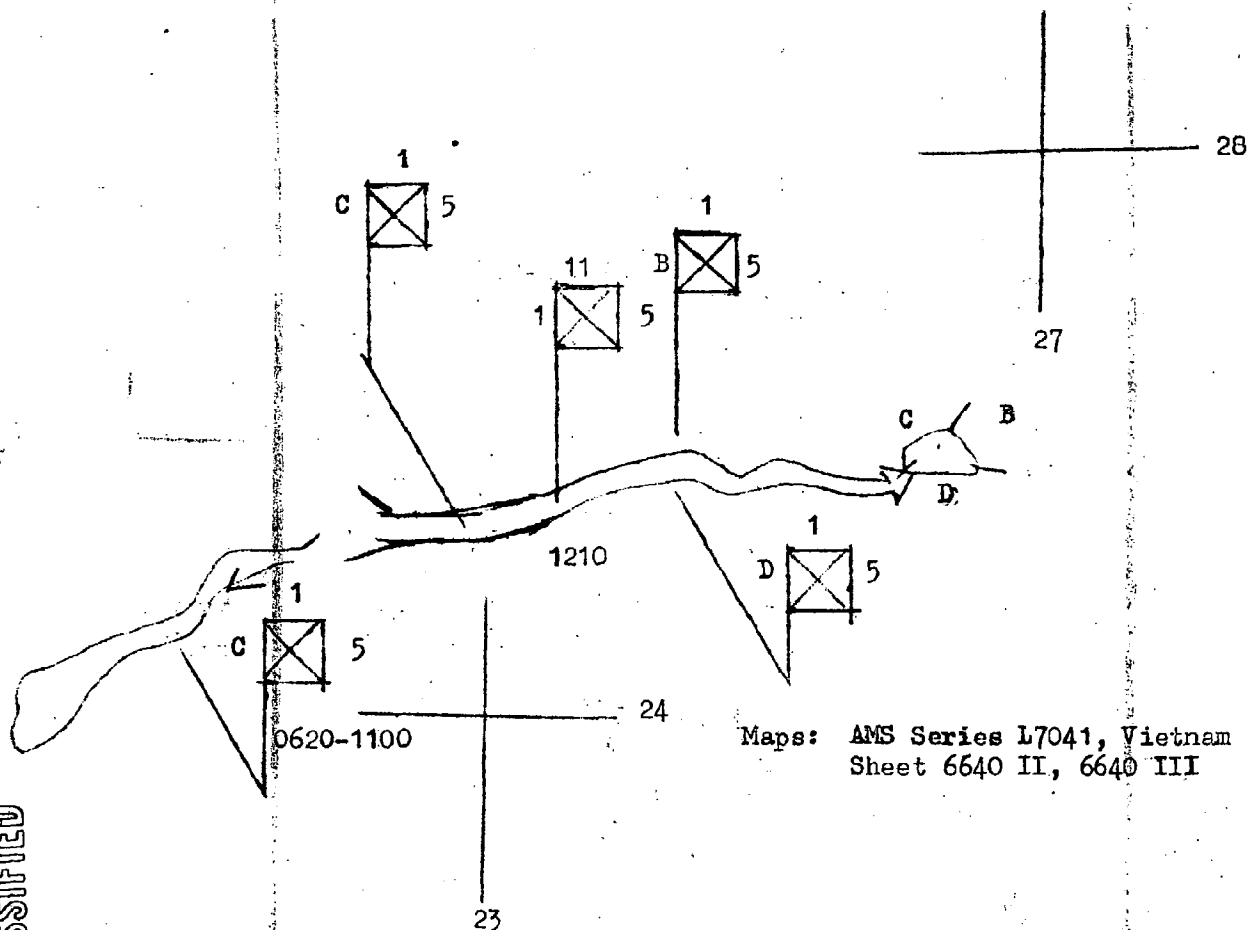
DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED



DECLASSIFIED

Maps: AMS Series L7041, Vietnam (1:50,000)
Sheet 6640 II, 6640 III

ENCLOSURE # 2

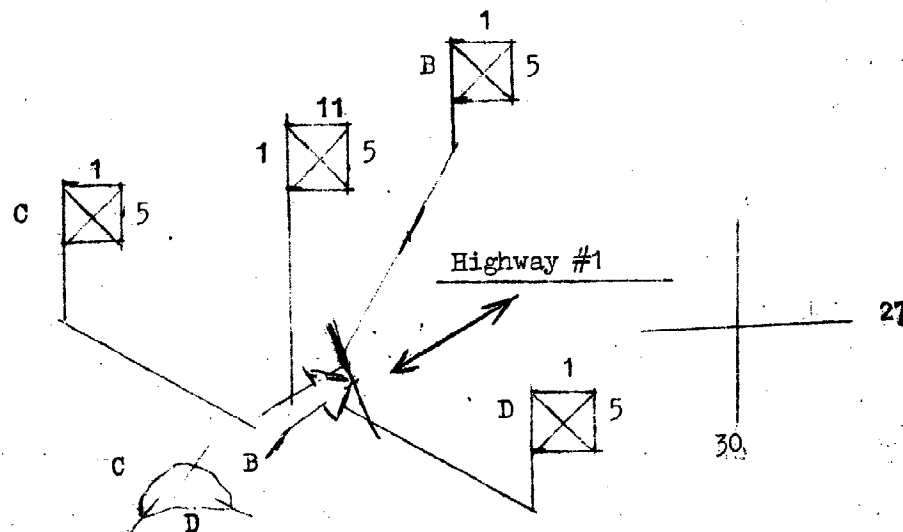
SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED



At Highway #1 Command Group and Companies B, C, and D embarked aboard trucks for Hill 54

Maps: AMS Series L7014, Vietnam (1:50,000)
Sheets 6640 II, 6640 III

ENCLOSURE # 3

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
 Ly Tin District, Tam Ky District
 1966 Ser: 028-66

Operation Order 1-66

Ref: (a) Viet Nam AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
 (b) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
 (c) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Tien Phoc
 (d) Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky
 (e) BnO 5000.B (SOP for Administration)
 (f) BnO 2000.1A (SOP for Communication)

ANNEX A: Operation Overlay

Time Zone: H

Task Organization: Annex B (Task Organization)

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces

See current INSUM's

b. Friendly Forces

- (1) 1st MAW provide air support as required.
- (2) E Btry, 2ndBn, 11th Marines provide direct support.
- (3) 4thBn(-), 11th Marines provide general support.

c. Attachments

- (1) Companies K, L and M, 3rdBn, 5th Mar
- (2) Det, Sentry/Dog Plt
- (3) Det, HST, 1st SP Bn
- (4) 3rd Plt, Co B, 1stEngrBn
- (5) Shore Fire Control Party
- (6) Det, Btry D, 2/11
- (7) Det, 1st AT Bn
- (8) Det, 1st Recon Bn

2. MISSION

To conduct search and destroy operations in Soui Cau Chua and Soui Giang/Song Ba Ky Valleys.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

Initially 1stBn, 5thMar(-) (Rein), moves one reinforced rifle

PAGE 1

Encl #4

1545

Copy 19 of 90 copies.

company via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 301189; thereafter move three reinforced rifle companies and command group via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 291201; thereafter conduct search and destroy operations along Tam Ky/Tien Phuic Road to vicinity coord. 235175; thereafter, on order, conduct search and destroy operations in a southeasterly direction into the Squi Cau Chua and Soui Giang/Song Ba Ky Valleys.

b. Company L (Rein)

- (1) Commencing at 0630 on D-Day, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 301189.
- (2) Provide security for direct support artillery battery.

c. Company C (Rein)

- (1) Commencing at 0800 on D-Day, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 291201.
- (2) Conduct search and destroy operations within zone of action as prescribed in Annex A (Operation Overlay).
- (3) Attack, seize and defend northern sector of objective 1.

d. Company D (Rein)

- (1) Commencing at 0800 on D-Day, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 291201.
- (2) Conduct search and destroy operations within zone of action as prescribed in Annex A (Operation Overlay).
- (3) Attack, seize and defend southern sector of objective 1.

e. Company K (Rein)

- (1) Commencing at 0800 on D-Day, move via motor convoy to vicinity coord. 291201; thereafter move along route prescribed in Annex A (Operation Overlay).
- (2) Be prepared on order to assume the mission of either Company C or Company D.
- (3) Be prepared on order to land by helicopter in designated landing zone and establish blocking positions.

f. Company M (Rein)

- (1) Commencing on D-Day, provide security for camp complex located at Hill 54.
- (2) Be prepared on order to land by helicopter in designated landing zone and execute such mission as may be assigned in support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

ga. 81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

- (1) Move initially with Company C.
- (2) On order, occupy designated firing positions.
- (3) General support.

f. Coordinating Instructions

- (1) D-Day: 29Sep66
- (2) H-Hour: 0900H
- (3) All units have front line/unit identification markers.
- (4) Companies will carry necessary equipment for river crossings.
- (5) Rules of engagement apply.
- (6) Annex A (Operation Overlay).
- (7) Contact initially from left to right.
- (8) Attachments effective 281200H September 1966.
- (9) Company C has responsibility for Tien Phuic/Tam Ky Road in area of operation.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

(a) See reference (e)

(b) Individual uniform and equipment: Utility uniform, normal arms and equipment, helmet and upper torso body armor.

(c) Basic load: As previously prescribed.

(d) All personnel carry **five** meals

(e) Resupply: Units submit routine requests for delivery of re-supplies to this headquarters no later than 1400 daily: emergency requests anytime.

(f) LSA located at Hill 54.

5. COMMAND COMMUNICATIONS - ELECTRONICS

a. See reference (f)

b. Radio: Report immediately all attempts to interfere with or jam radio nets.


c. Signals

- (1) Day
 - (a) Red and white smoke signifies enemy positions.
 - (b) Red parachute or star cluster signifies request for help.
 - (c) Yellow and green smoke signifies friendly positions.
- (2) Night
 - (a) Red parachute or star cluster signifies request for help.

- [REDACTED]
- d. Battalion Command Group: Initially with Company C.
 - e. Command Post: Initiall in vicinity of BT 236174.

ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT:

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATSON


B. S. PICKETT
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

ANNEX :

- A - Operation Overlay
- B - Task Organization

DISTRIBUTION: Special

PAGE 4

[REDACTED]

Annex A (Task Organization) to Operation Order 1-66

Time Zone:

1st Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol WATSON

H&S Co(-)
Det, HST(-)
3rd Plt(-), Co B, 1st Engr Bn
Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
Det, Btry D, 2/11
Shore Fire Control Party

Company C (Rein)

Capt DARLING

CO C
Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plt
Det, Med Plt
2nd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
1st FAC Tm
Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
1st Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn
Det, 1st Security Dog Plt
2nd FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11
NGF Spot Tm #1

Company D (Rein)

Capt CARTY

CO D
Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plt
Det, Med Plt
2nd FAC Tm
4th FO Tm, 81mm Plt
Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
3rd Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn
Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
4th FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11
NGF Spot Tm #2

Company K

Capt DARLING

CO K
Det, H&S Co
Det, Comm Plt
Det, Med Plt
3rd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
2nd Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1st Engr Bn
Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
3rd FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11

PAGE 5

81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

1stLt BELKNAP

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATSON



B. S. PICKETT
Major, U. S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer

DISTRIBUTION: Special

PAGE 6

Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
 Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
 Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Tien Phoc
 Sheet 6640 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky

OBS



K

D

27

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL WATSON



B. S. PICKETT
 Major, U. S. Marine Corps
 Executive Officer

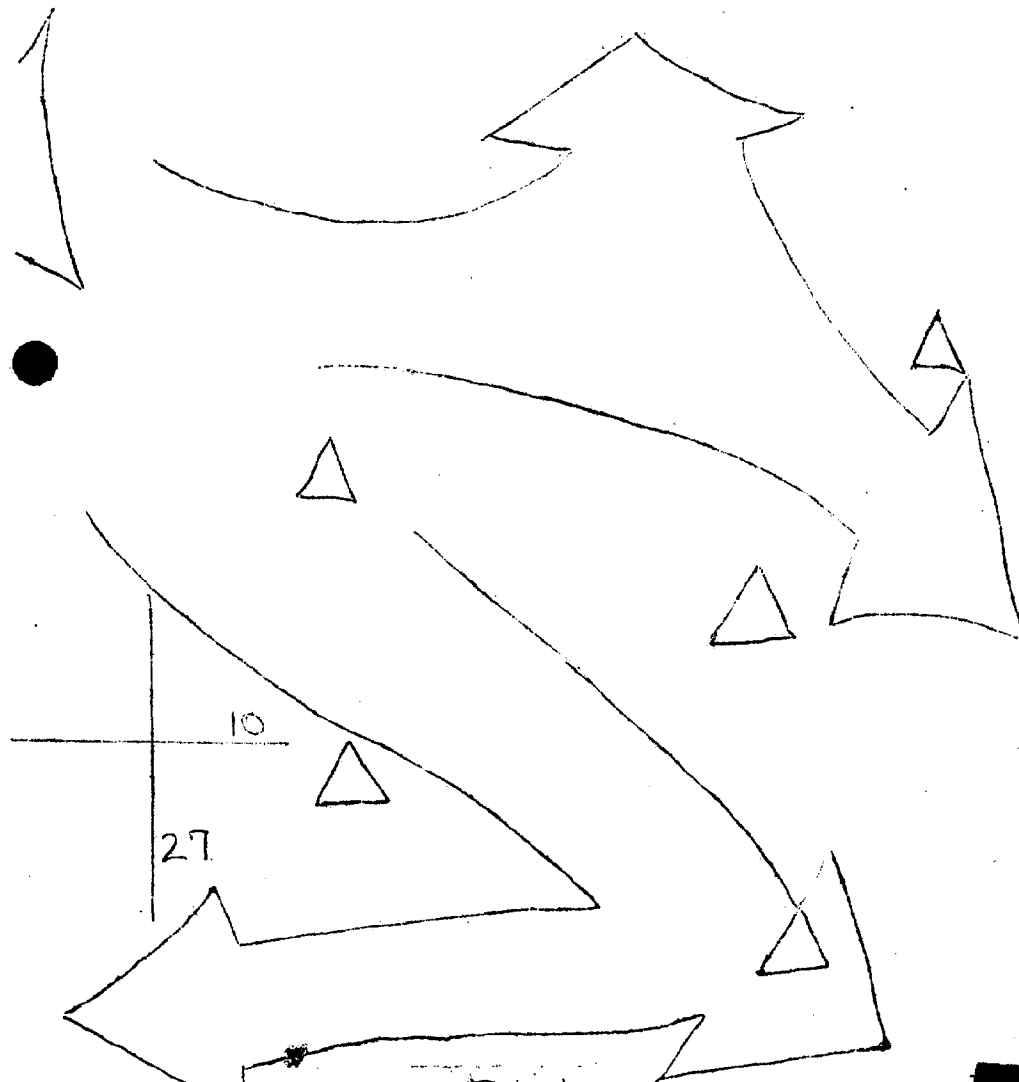
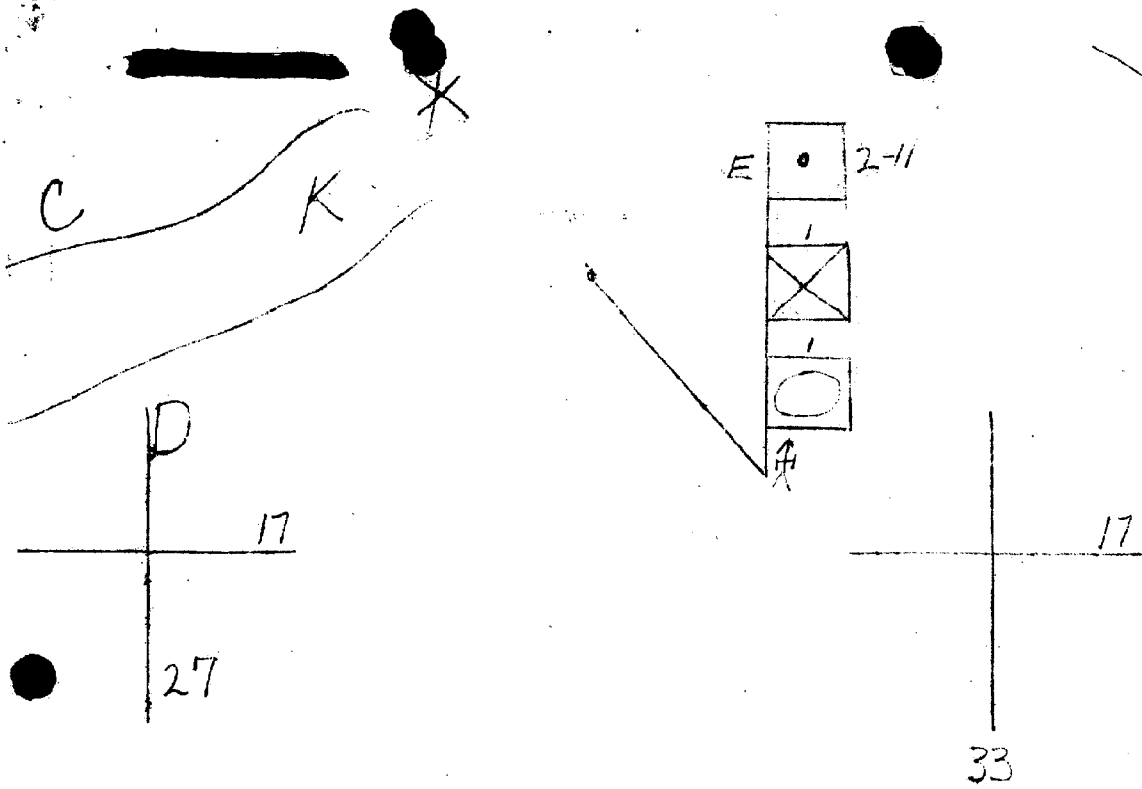
10

24

10

27

ANNEX A (PAGE 1)



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

3/RAF/af
3480
0061-66
2 Oct 1966

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

Subj: Combat Operation After Action Report; Operation MONTEREY

Ref: (a) CG, 1stMarDiv Msg 171150Z Sept 66
(b) 5th Mars Frag Order 15-66, 272355Z Sept 66
(c) 1stBn, 5thMar Operation Order 1-66
(d) DivO 3480.1
(e) Maps: Viet Nam AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Thien Phoc
Viet Nam AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6640 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay, D-Day, 29Sep66
(2) Operation Overlay, D-Day, 30Sep66

1. Code Name and Type of Operation

Operation Monterey (Search and Destroy).

2. Dates of Operation

29 - 30 September 1966.

Ccpy _____ of _____ copies.

3. Location

Along Tam Ky/Tien Phuoc Road from coord. BT 291021 to vic BT 235175. Southeasterly into the Squi Cau Chau and Sou Giang/Song Ba Ky Valleys.

4. Command Headquarters

CO, 1stBn, 5th Mar

LtCol E. R. WATSON

CO, Co C

Capt M. B. DARLING

CO, Co D

Capt J. J. CARTY

CO, Co K

CAPT R. E. MARESCO

Encl #5

5. Task Organization1st Battalion, 5th Marines

LtCol WATSON

H&S Co(-)
 Det, HST(-)
 3rd Plt(-), Co B, 1stEngBn
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 Det, Btry D, 2/11
 Shore Fire Control Party

Company C (Rein)

Capt DARLING

CO C
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 2nd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 1st FAC Tm
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 1st Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1stEngrBn
 Det, 1st Security Dog/Plt
 2nd FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11
 NGF Spot Tm #1

Company D (Rein)

Capt CARTY

CO D
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 2nd FAC Tm
 4th FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 3rd Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1stEngrBn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 4th FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11
 NGF Spot Tm #2

Company K

Capt R. E. MARESCO

CO K
 Det, H&S Co
 Det, Comm Plt
 Det, Med Plt
 3rd FO Tm, 81mm Plt
 Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm
 2nd Sqd, 3rd Plt, Co B, 1stEngrBn
 Det, 1st Sentry Dog Plt
 3rd FO Tm, Btry D, 2/11

81mm Mortar Platoon (-)

1stLt BELKNAP

6. Supporting Arms

a. Air Support

(1) During Operation Monterey four H-34 aircraft were located at Hill 54 for resupply and Med Evac. Two UH1E aircraft provided helicopter escort on the movement to and from the objective area. On arrival at the disembarkation point, two A4D aircraft and two UH1E aircraft were on station for close air support and thereafter on fifteen minute alert. Throughout daylight hours birdog aircraft provided observation in the objective area.

b. Artillery Support

(1) Artillery capabilities during Operation Monterey consisted of Echo Battery, 2nd Bn., 11th Marines in direct support and Lima Battery, 4th Bn., 11th Marines in general support.

(2) The only artillery supporting fires during the two day operation were the H&I's fired on the night of 29 September. Earlier that day a HE will adjust mission was called in on a V.C. village, but delays in receiving clearance caused cancellation of the mission.

7. Intelligence

a. Estimate of VC strength, Location and Tactical Disposition

(1) Forces Anticipated in the Immediate Objective Area

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>TACTICAL DISPOSITION</u>
U/I Bn 21st Regt, 620th Div	BT 3014	600	UNK
75th Sapper Company	BT 2812	100-200	UNK
K-53 Company	BT 3407	100	UNK
U/I Bn 21st Regt, 620th Div	BT 3005	600	UNK

(2) Intelligence information was initially furnished to this unit by the 5th Marines.

(3) The objective of this operation was to conduct search of area of operation and to destroy any VC units in assigned area.

b. VC Strength and Situation Actually Found on Operation Monterey. As a result of the operation, elements of this Battalion accounted for one VC WIA (Probable) and one VCS. The VCS was forwarded to 12th DTA at Quang Ngai for further disposition. On D-Day, elements of the Battalion became engaged; on two separate occasions, with an estimated three to four shipers, with each contact lasting for a short period. No further opposition was encountered during the operation.

c. VC Units Identified. None

d. Significant Intelligence Gained. None

SECRET

e. Terrain

- (1) Critical Terrain Features. Tam Ky - Tien Phuoc Road, Hill 94 (BT 246167) and surrounding hamlets.
- (2) Observation and Fields of Fire. The terrain in the area of operation consisted primarily of hamlets surrounded by rice fields under cultivation. Observation and fields of fire throughout the area were excellent. Hill 94 (BT 246167) offered excellent observation and fields of fire for defenders.
- (3) Cover and Concealment. Excellent cover and concealment were provided by tree lines, hedge rows and locally constructed trench lines within and surrounding the hamlets. Concealment in cultivated areas was minimal, but some cover was provided by paddy dikes.
- (4) Obstacles. No major obstacles were encountered.
- (5) Avenues of Approach. Roads and trails in the area of operation were excellent. The Tam Ky - Tien Phuoc Road will support heavy vehicle and tracked vehicle traffic.

8. Mission

To conduct search and destroy operations in Soui Cau Chua and Soui Giang/Song Ba Ky Valleys.

9. Concept of Operation

Initially 1stBn, 5th Mar (-) (Rein), moved one reinforced rifle company via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 301180); Thereafter moved three reinforced companies and command group via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 291201); thereafter conducted search and destroy operations along Tam Ky/Tien Phuoc Road to vicinity (BT 235175).

10. Chronological Sequence of Events

a. D-Day 29 September 1966

- (1) 290630H Company L, 3rdBn, 5thMar and E-Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar commenced movement via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 201189).
- (2) 290800H Company L, 3rdBn, 5thMar and E-Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar arrived vicinity (BT 301189).
- (3) 290810H Companies C and D, 1stBn, 5thMar and Company K 3rdBn, 5th Mar commenced movement via motor convoy to vicinity (BT 291201).
- (4) 290900H Companies C and D 1stBn, 5thMar and Company K 3rdBn, 5th Mar arrived vicinity (BT 291201) and commenced search and destroy operation along the Tam Ky/Tien Phuoc Road.

SECRET

SECRET

(5) 291045H Company D 1stBn, 5thMar located and destroyed a tunnel 7 feet by 7 feet by 12 feet.

(6) 291140H Leading elements of Operation Monterey (BT 261188) with negative contact.

(7) 291300H Leading elements of Operation Monterey (BT 258188) with negative contact.

(8) 291445H Company C (BT 237168) received ten rds sniper fire from hut at (BT 225166). Fired six rds HE 81mm mortars. Searched area and received ten to fifteen more rds from same area. Company C returned approx. 100 rds small arms fire and burned hut where sniper fire came from. Found blood trail, estimate one VC WIA probable. Apprehended one VCS, screened and forwarded to 12th DTA.

(9) 291630H All elements established night defensive positions. Refer to Operation Overlay D-Day.

b. D+1 30 September 1966

(1) 290810H All elements commenced movement back to pick up point vicinity (BT 301189).

(2) 291005H All elements arrived vicinity (BT 301189).

(3) 291100H All elements commenced movement via motor convoy back to Hill 54.

(4) 291155H All elements arrived Hill 54 and secured from Operation Monterey. Refer to Operation Overlay D+1.

11. Results

a. Personnel

(1) VC WIA Probable 1

(2) VCS 1

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 matter of an unusual nature occurred.

b. Communication. Battalion Communication was dependent on HF, UHF and VHF. Voice radio nets were terminated at the Battalion with the AN/PRC-47, AN/PRC-41 and the AN/PRC-25. One field expedient RC 292 antenna was used on the Regimental Tac #1.

SECRET

SECRET

13. Commanders Analysis

a. Although the operation was terminated before contact with the enemy was made, much experience was gained through multi-lateral staff planning and coordination. The exchange of liaison officers between this unit and the 6th ARVN Regiment, and the attachment of a liaison officer from Recon Bn and the Regimental S-3 were invaluable. Additionally an interrogator-translator team from 9th ITT was attached to the S-2 section of this unit. This team was extremely effective in interrogating Vietnamese civilians and in differentiating between likely VC suspects and ordinary farmers.

b. It is felt that definite contact would have been made with both local and main force VC units if the operation had continued.

14. Recommendations

a. It is recommended that an interrogator-translator team from 9th ITT always be used with this battalion in future operations.

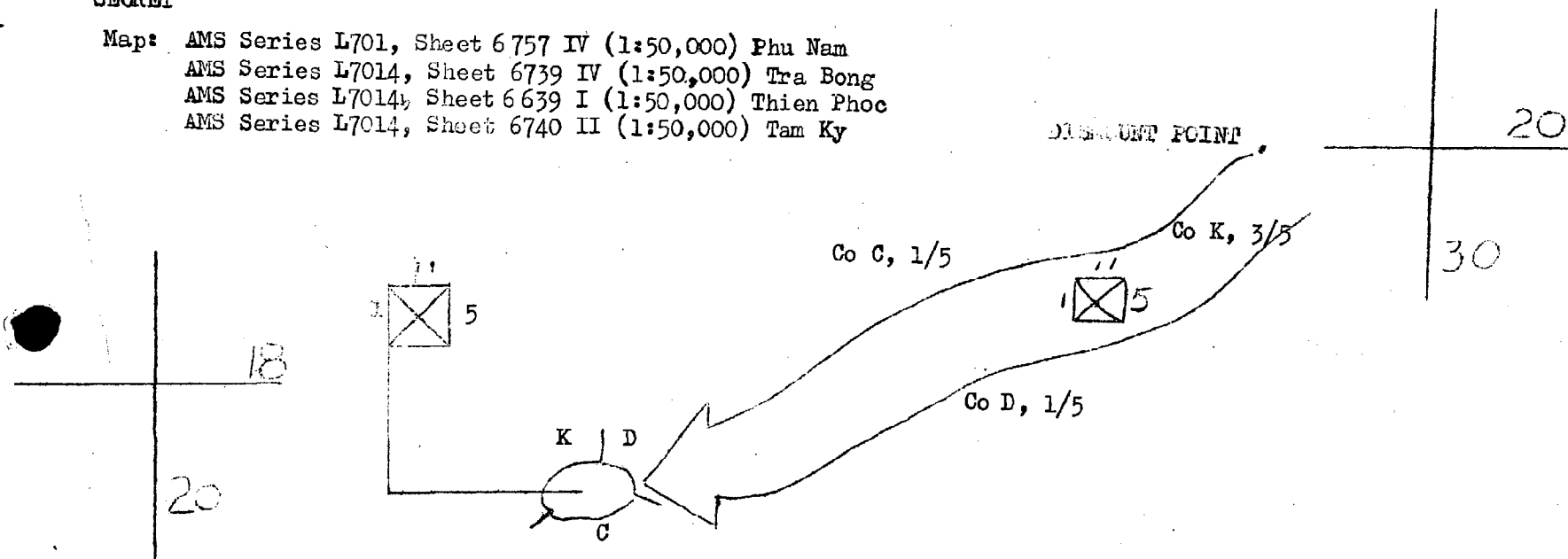
b. It is recommended that the exchange or attachment of liaison officers be used for operations such as this as much as possible.

c. It is strongly recommended that "Operation Monterey" be conducted in the near future.

E. R. Watson
E. R. WATSON

SECRET

Map: AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Thien Phoc
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6740 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky



ENCLOSURE (1)

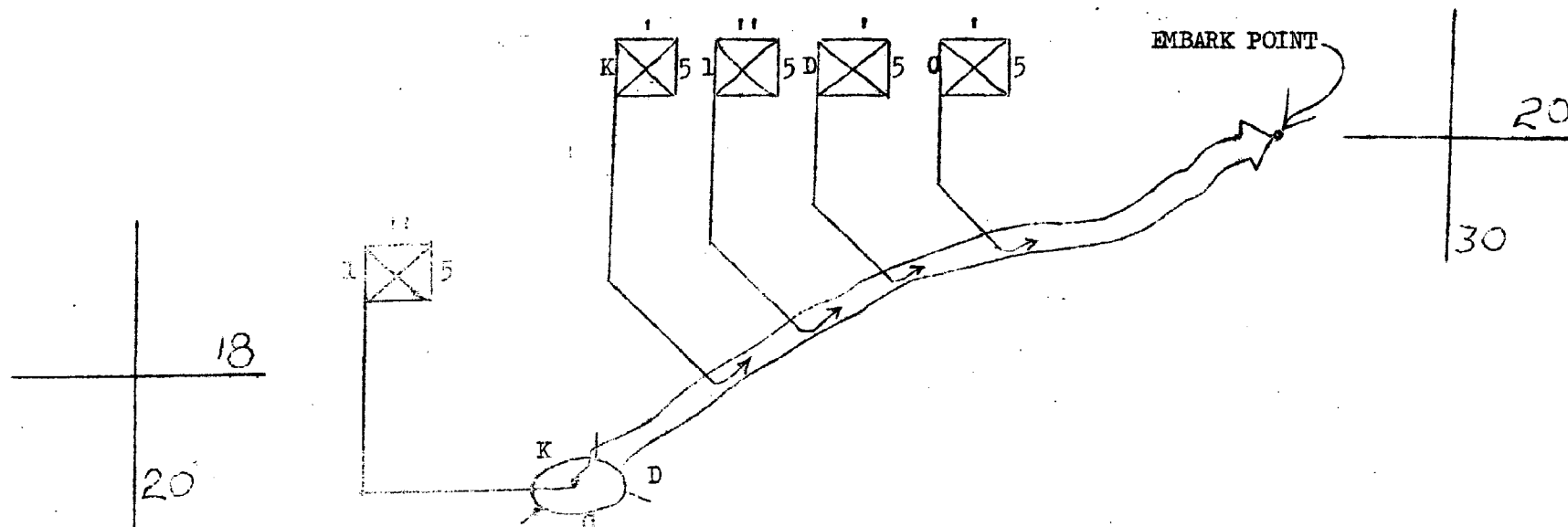
SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

SECRET

Maps: AMS Series L701, Sheet 6757 IV (1:50,000) Phu Nam
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6739 IV (1:50,000) Tra Bong
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6639 I (1:50,000) Thien Phoc
AMS Series L7014, Sheet 6740 II (1:50,000) Tam Ky



ENCLOSURE (2)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED