

UNCLASSIFIED

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

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5750
00119:67
1Apr67

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commandant of the Marine Corps (Code A30D)
Via: (1) Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
(2) Commanding General, 1st Marine Division (Rein) FMF
(3) Commanding General, Fleet Marine Force Pacific

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1 March 1967 to 31 March 1967

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMFPACO 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

Encl: (1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Chronology

1. In accordance with the provisions of references (a), (b) and (c), enclosure (1) is submitted.

R. J. Alger
R. J. ALGER
By direction

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 March 1967 to 31 March 1967

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ENCLOSURE (1)
[REDACTED]

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

1. Designation

1st Battalion, 5th Marines

Commander

LTCOL P. L. HILGARTNER

2. Location

1-31 March 1967: Hill 54, CMU LAM RVN

3. Staff Officers

Commanding Officer

LTCOL P. L. HILGARTNER

Executive Officer

MAJ. R. J. ALGER

S-1

2NDLT G. L. GORTON

S-2

2NDLT W. H. GORMAN

S-3

MAJ. W. C. WARREN, JR.

S-4

1-17 MARCH 1967

CAPT G. J. SERAFLOW

18-31 MARCH 1967

CAPT A. C. BLAD S

1-15 MARCH 1967

CAPT G. L. GORTNER

16-22 MARCH 1967

2NDLT W. J. DREN

23-31 MARCH 1967

CAPT G. L. MCKAY

1-31 MARCH 1967

CAPT E. D. DARLING

1-3 MARCH 1967

1STLT L. G. HUTCHINSON

CO, RES Co

CO, Company A

1-1

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CO, Company B

CO, Company C

CO, Company D

4-10 March 1967

2NDLT J. L. ADKINS

11-31 March 1967

2NDLT W. P. VACCA

1-31 March 1967

CAPT H. G. LYLES

1-31 March 1967

CAPT R. J. CASWELL

1-29 March 1967

CAPT J. J. CARTY

30-31 March 1967

1STLT D. L. MCINTURFF

4. Average Monthly Strength

USMC

USN

OFFENLOFFENL

33

1086

3

52

ENCLOSURE (1)

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NARRATIVE SUMMARY

During the month of March 1967, the Battalion (-) terminated operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" that had commenced the latter part of February. The Battalion (-) also participated in operation "TIPPECANOE", conducted in the northwestern sector of the Battalion TAOR.

In addition to participating in the above code named operations, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines executed seven (7) company search and destroy operations lasting over a two to four day period. In conjunction with Vietnamese assets, this Battalion participated in County Fair, 5-12, held in KY BICH Village, BICH NGO (2) Sub-Hamlet.

Psychological warfare operations were continually emphasized throughout the month. A total of 30,000 leaflets were hand distributed by small units conducting patrols and combat operations. Additionally twelve propaganda movies were shown and on six occasions taped broadcasts were employed. It is considered that the Kit Carson Scouts have been effective in contributing towards the establishment of confidence in the Government of Vietnam.

An extensive reconnaissance effort was undertaken to determine earliest feasibility for employment of tracked vehicles in the north and western portions of the TAOR. The rivers have receded and the rice paddies are drying and it is anticipated that mechanized patrols can be conducted within the next thirty to sixty days.

Wire communications were installed from the Battalion Command Post to the Combined Action Company Headquarters. This service has resulted in reducing the administrative traffic previously transmitted on tactical nets.

The camp improvement program continued during the month of March. Significant work was accomplished on the existing roat nets and culverts. Engineer support was requested for completing turn around area to facilitate traffic flow. Concrete decks/walk ways have been installed in the recreation hut and shower unit facility.

Civil Affairs activities conducted during the month were highlighted by MEDCAP's. A total of 4650 Vietnamese received medical assistance. Additional self help projects included expansion of the pig co-operative and provision of material for the building of school desks and benches for 100 children.

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An awards and promotion ceremony was conducted during March. The presentations were made by Brigadier General W. L. STILES, CG, Task Force X-Ray. One Silver Star, one Bronze Star and nine Purple Hearts were awarded to Marines of this Battalion. Additionally, three Corporals were promoted to Sergeant by virtue of meritorious combat achievement.

The cumulative casualties inflicted and sustained during the month of March are reflected below:

Enemy Casualties:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>KIA (Probable)</u>	<u>WIA (Probable)</u>	<u>VSS</u>	<u>Detainees</u>
28	21	33	8	31

Friendly Casualties:

<u>KIA</u>	<u>WIA (Evac)</u>	<u>WIA/E</u>
8	27	6

Significant captured enemy equipment is reflected below:

- a. 2 - US M-1 Rifles
- b. 4 - US US Carbines
- c. 1 - Russian Bolt Action Rifle
- d. 1 - US M-14 (Mod.)
- e. 1 - Soviet Carbine
- f. Assorted Ordnance
- g. Bamboo Silhouette Targets
- h. Assorted Documents

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PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 011110H Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines (OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines) Squad Security Patrol 26D21 at coordinates (BT 409114) received three rounds small arms fire from one sniper at a range of approximately 300 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 409111). While searching area, patrol received approximately 15 rounds small arms fire from vicinity coordinates (BT 411111), approximately 200 meters east of patrol location. Sniper was not observed. Area was searched with negative results.
2. 011500H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Squad Security Patrol 50AC1 at coordinates (BT 338165) spotted three VC at coordinates (BT 335162) approximately 500 meters from patrol dressed in black pajamas and wearing coolie hats. VC came out of brush and entered rice paddy. One VC carried a rifle. Upon seeing the patrol, the VC turned and ran in a southwesterly direction back into the brush. Patrol fired approximately 50 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC fall and then got up. VC did not return fire. Area was searched and blood found where VC fell. Search was made for wounded VC with negative results.
3. 011700H Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines (OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines) Squad Security Patrol 26D1 at coordinates (BT 421101) observed one Vietnamese female at a distance of 200 meters running in a southeast direction. Patrol challenged in Vietnamese for female to halt, and observed female go into house at coordinates (BT 424102). No rounds were fired by patrol. Patrol apprehended female at subject house. Vietnamese female had no I.D. card and was approximately 18 years of age. Vietnamese female appeared highly suspicious and was forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2 for interrogation. Subject was very uncooperative during interrogation and evasive in answers to questions. Detainee was forwarded to 9th IFF.
4. 020130H CAC I Fire Team Security Patrol (50AC9) in vicinity coordinates (BT 438115). PF member of the patrol tripped a booby trapped grenade wounding one PF. Medical evacuation requested and completed at 020237H. A search of the area was made from 020630H to 020800H from coordinates (BT 488103) to (BT 482116). One female detainee about 35 years of age and without an I.D. card was apprehended in vicinity of booby trap incident. Detainee was questioned by hamlet chief and she revealed location of male detainee who was later apprehended with no I.D. card. Hamlet Chief believed that he was a deserter from the Vietnamese Marines. The two detainees were not at anytime under U.S. control and were forwarded to LY TIN District Headquarters for processing.
5. 020905H CAC I Squad Security Patrol (50AC1) was at coordinates (BT 335160) when member of patrol closed the weapon after inserting round in chamber of M-79 Grenade Launcher. The weapon fired accidentally and round exploded approximately 10 meters away wounding two USMC members of the patrol. Helicopter transporting Pay Officer medically evacuated wounded to 1st Medical Battalion at 020950H.

ENCLOSURE (2)

6. 021645H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Fire Team Security Patrol (5D2) was at coordinates (BT 437145) when patrol approached young Vietnamese male dressed in black shorts and T-shirt. Vietnamese male started running from patrol. A PF member of the patrol shouted in Vietnamese to halt. When Vietnamese failed to halt, three warning shots were fired in the air. When Vietnamese male was halted, he was questioned and a check of his I.D. card revealed that he was about 20 years old. No one in area knew him. Detainee was forwarded to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-2 and subsequently to 9th IRT.

7. 031045H 1st Platoon, Company I, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was dropped from OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

8. 031230H Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Marines was dropped from OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

9. 031800H Operation DIRECT/DUCKHOUSE VI was terminated.

10. 032040H CAC I 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at coordinates (BT 349149) was informed by inhabitants of THATH KIEU (1) hamlet that the 37th VC Battalion was in the vicinity of THATH KIEU (2) at coordinates (BT 349147) and planned to assault CAC I position. CAC I was placed on 100% alert. An artillery mission was called and eight 105mm rounds were fired, 4 rounds at coordinates (BT 353140) and four rounds at coordinates (BT 353141). IN TIN District Headquarters reported having no knowledge of 37th VC Battalion being in the area.

11. 040810H Company C 3rd Platoon (507) Combat Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 364155) observed 3 VC, 2 with weapons, one with a pack at a range of approximately 200 meters. Two VC wore black pajamas, and one wore khaki clothing. The patrol took the 3 VC under fire with 25 rounds of 7.62mm, 3 M-79 rounds and 13 3.5 inch rocket rounds. The VC returned 5 rounds small arms fire, broke contact and fled in a southwesterly direction. A thorough search of the area was conducted with negative results.

12. 041015H Company C 3rd Platoon (507) Combat Patrol at coordinates (BT 352157) received approximately 75 rounds small arms fire from 3 unobserved snipers. Patrol returned 150 rounds of 7.62mm and one 3.5 inch rocket round at enemy position. An artillery mission was requested and 9 105mm HE rounds were fired at coordinates (BT 344151) to suppress sniper fire. At 041100H, an aerial observer was called to the area. The AO received sniper fire from vicinity coordinates (BT 340154) and (BT 358157). The AO requested clearance for an air strike at coordinates (BT 358157). The area was cleared, and an air strike was conducted: Aircraft dropped 32-500 pound bombs. A large secondary explosion occurred, 2 bunkers, 11 huts and a 80 ft. trench line were destroyed. 8 huts were damaged. At 041215H, while air strike was in progress, patrol received approximately 25 to 30 rounds small arms fire at a range of 200 meters from 4 VC located at coordinates (BT 357143). Three VC wore black pajamas,

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one VC wore khaki clothing and two VC carried weapons. The patrol returned approximately 100 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire. The 4 VC broke contact and fled in a southwest direction. While searching for the 4 VC, the patrol found an old trench line with new diggings running from coordinates (BT 35715 to coordinates (BT 358145). The platoon combat patrol conducted a comprehensive search of the air strike area. No additional storage areas were found and patrol returned to the combat base.

13. 041630H 50401 Security Patrol from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at coordinates (BT 350162), while conducting a routine patrol through the Bich Ngo (2) area, reported that the area had been hit by an air strike. The area of damage was from coordinates (BT 348164) to (BT 354156). The patrol observed 6 Vietnamese burying a 12 year old Vietnamese male. The Vietnamese stated that the 12 year old male had been killed by an air strike. However, there was no additional evidence to substantiate that the boy had been killed by an air strike. The Vietnamese stated that they were moving out of the area and were going to relocate at Bich Ngo (3). The indications are that no backlash from the civilian populace will occur.

14. 051050H A shot was heard by Cpl K. H. KITCHELL at CMC I 1st Battalion, 5th Marines combat base in vicinity coordinates (BT 325181). Upon investigation Cpl KITCHELL found PFC J. M. DONOVAN a member of 1st Platoon, Company C, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion dead approximately five feet behind an ontos. A .45 caliber sub-machine gun which had been fired recently was found cradled in PFC DONOVAN's arms. The Marine was moved to the supply tent for evacuation. Commanding Officer, Company C, 1st Anti-Tank Battalion; Commanding Officer, 5th Marines and Commanding Officer, 7th Marines were notified. An investigation officer was appointed by PFC DONOVAN's parent organization.

15. 061000H 2nd Platoon Company C (Rein) and 1st Platoon Company B (Rein) commenced search and destroy operations in accordance with operation order 11-67.

16. 062230H Company C Squad Ambush Patrol at coordinates (BT 369147) observed four figures moving from east to west approximately 25 meters from the ambush site. The ambush fired 150 rounds of 7.62mm and requested and received 10 minutes of illumination. Area was immediately searched for 20 minutes and at first light from 070630H to 070700H with negative results.

17. 6 March 1967 2nd Platoon Company C (Rein) and 1st Platoon, Company B (Rein) continues operation in accordance with operation order 11-67.

18. 071500H 2nd Platoon Company B (Rein) relieved 2nd Platoon Company C.

19. 081630H 1st and 2nd Platoon (Rein) Company B terminated operation in accordance with Operation Plan 11-67.

20. 091330H Company B (Rein) commenced operations in accordance with Operation Plan 12-67.

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21. 091710H Company B while conducting search and destroy operation at coordinates (BT 335160) received approximately 40 rounds automatic sniper fire from an estimated one unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 500 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 340155). Company B returned approximately 50 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire. Area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

22. 101010H Company B while conducting search and destroy operation at coordinates (BT 313153) encountered one VC dressed in black shorts and blue shirt, walking at a range of approximately 100 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 313152). The VC was carrying an M-14 rifle and five M-14 magazines. Company B took VC under fire with 5 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire, resulting in one VC KIA confirmed. The incident resulted in the capture of one M-14 rifle (modified); serial number 135474 and 5 M-14 magazines.

23. 101020H Company B while conducting search and destroy operation at coordinates (BT 310154) received approximately 10 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 300 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 307155). Company B returned fire with approximately 30 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire and 4 WP 3.5 inch rocket rounds. One platoon was dispatched to search the area from where sniper fire was received. The area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

24. 101150H Company B Squad Security Patrol while conducting search and destroy operations in vicinity coordinates (BT 309139) received approximately 10 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 500 meters from vicinity coordinates (BT 302144). Squad returned fire with 50 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire, one M-79 round and 3 60mm mortar HE rounds. Area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

25. 101210H 1st Platoon Company B while conducting search and destroy operations in vicinity coordinates (BT 303143) received approximately 75 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 150 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 303144). Platoon returned fire with 200 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire and assaulted area from which sniper fire was received. Platoon observed one VC dressed in khaki clothing and carrying a carbine fleeing in a northwesterly direction. Platoon pursued the VC and lost contact due to dense vegetation. Platoon searched area and found 4 Vietnamese bodies, 2 adult males and 2 adult females with ages ranging from 18 to 35 years. It was determined that the four KIA's were VC based on the fact that the bodies were found in the vicinity from where sniper fire was received. The area of operations had been under VC control for a long period time. The bodies had no identification cards or documents and were dressed in the normal apparel worn by Local Force VC. The search of the area was continued with negative results.

26. 101300H 1st Platoon Company B while conducting search and destroy operations in vicinity coordinates (BT 309145), when the second man in the point

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following load man at a distance of about 15 meters detonated one booby trap. Based on the area covered by the explosion, it was believed that the booby trap was a 60mm HE mortar round with trip wire attached. The booby trap was set in a hedgerow bordering a rice paddy and a hamlet. The incident resulted in one USMC KIA, and one USMC WIA. Both the KIA and WIA were evacuated to 1st Medical Battalion at 101420H. The unit commander was interviewed, and he verified that his troops were dispersed. The area was searched for additional booby traps with negative results.

27. 101700H Company B while searching houses at coordinates (BT 313145) apprehended four female detainees without I.D. cards. The Detainees were questioned by the Kit Carson Scout. After questioning the detainees, the Kit Carson stated he believed the 4 detainees were from the Thanh Hoa (2) area and were lookouts and supply couriers for local VC operating in the area. The detainees were shown the body of the VC KIA reported in incident report 101010. The detainees claimed they did not know the VC KIA. The detainees reaction upon seeing the VC KIA indicated they knew him. The Kit Carson believes that the crying detainee was the wife or relative of the VC KIA. The four detainees were forwarded to CAC I's position for further processing to 9th ITT.

28. 110600H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commenced County Fair 5-12 in accordance with Operation Plan 12-67.

28. 110705H Company B while conducting search and destroy operations in vicinity coordinates (BT 348167) received approximately 30 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one sniper at a range of approximately 400 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 335170). Company B returned fire with 50 rounds of small arms fire and 2 3.5 inch WP rounds. A squad searched area from where sniper fire was received. The area was searched with negative results.

29. 110715H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines in vicinity coordinates (BT 349 received 10 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one sniper fire at a range of approximately 800 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 352161). CAC I return fire with 25 rounds small arms fire and searched area from where sniper fire was received with negative results.

30. 111315H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at coordinates (BT 348163) received approximately 14 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 6 unobserved snipers at a range of approximately 500 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 353). A squad was dispatched to search area from where sniper fire was received. As the squad patrol reached coordinates (BT 353158), the patrol received approximately 60 rounds of small arms fire from an estimated six unobserved snipers from two positions, coordinates (BT 356157) and (BT 359153). Squad returned approximately 30 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire at enemy positions. Squad searched enemy positions and apprehended one Vietnamese male as he was leaving a house in vicinity coordinates (BT 356157). Squad continued search with negative results. Detainee was 76 years old, wore white pajamas and had no I.D. card. Detainee's daughter-in-law brought his I.D. card to CAC I's CP at coordinates (BT 338176). Detainee was forwarded to 9th ITT.

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31. 111420H Company B Squad Patrol in vicinity coordinates (BT 324175) observed 2 VC armed with rifles at a range of approximately 50 meters moving in a northeasterly direction. The VC were dressed in black shirts and white trousers. Squad took the two VC under fire with approximately 30 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire. Patrol observed one VC fall. Area was searched with negative results. One VC WIA probable.

32. 112135H Company B listening post at coordinates (BT 347173) observed 8 VC at a range of approximately 50 to 75 meters with weapons moving in a northeasterly direction. No fire was received or returned.

33. 112200H Company B perimeter in vicinity coordinates (BT 348168) received approximately 25 rounds small arms fire, five (5) were tracer rounds. The fire was received from a southeasterly direction at a range of approximately 400 meters from vicinity of coordinates (BT 352116), from an estimated one sniper. Company B returned approximately 30 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire, and 5 M-79 rounds. Area from which sniper fire was received was searched at 120630H with negative results.

34. 120930H 1st Platoon Company B while conducting search and destroy operations vicinity coordinates (BT 349148) observed 3 VC with weapons moving in a southwesterly direction at a range of approximately 400 meters vicinity coordinates (BT 325146). The platoon deployed to envelop the VC. The platoon fired 20 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire killing 2 VC. The incident resulted in 2 VC KIA confirmed and the following equipment captured: One foreign made carbine, 1 M-26 grenade, 3 ChiCom grenades, 2 ammunition pouches, 2 cartridge belts, one bayonet, one pack, 39 rounds .30 caliber ammunition and 5 rounds 7.62mm ChiCom ammunition.

35. 121500H Company B Squad Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 344124) observed one Vietnamese male dressed in black pajamas at a range of approximately 300 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 347127). Upon observing the Marines, the Vietnamese fled to the northwest. Patrol pursued the Vietnamese male to a hamlet at coordinates (BT 347129) where they lost contact. Area was searched with negative results.

36. 122310H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines perimeter at coordinates (BT 325179) received 2 incoming grenades from a westerly direction, of which one was an M-26 dud. No enemy was observed. CAC I returned one M-26 grenade and fired 4 rounds of 81mm illumination. Area was searched with negative results.

37. 130155H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines perimeter at coordinates (BT 323181) received one grenade from the north along the river from an unobserved enemy. CAC I returned six M-26 grenades, 2 WP grenades and fired 3 rounds of 81mm illumination. Area was searched with negative results.

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38. 130430H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines perimeter at coordinates (BT 323181), observed one person in a boat along the river moving east to west. The boat was taken under fire with approximately 190 rounds small arms fire. Area was searched with negative results.

39. 130930H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) terminated County Fair 5-46

40. 131200H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commenced Operation TITTECANOE.

41. 150135H CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines perimeter at coordinates (BT 324218) received four incoming grenades, 2 of which exploded approximately 10 meters in front of a machine gun emplacement. The grenades were thrown from the northwest from vicinity of the river bank at coordinates (BT 324218). Marines returned 3 grenades and fired 10 rounds of small arms fire in the direction from which grenades were thrown. The inner perimeter was immediately swept with negative results. At 150630H the area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

42. 160300H CAC I, Combat Base at coordinates (BT 477143) received approximately 150 to 200 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 7 to 10 VC at a range of approximately 75 meters northeast of billeting area and 16 fragmentation grenades from 2 observed VC dressed in green utilities within the perimeter. The VC broke contact and fled to the southwest. 100% security was established after the first grenade explosion, and the perimeter was swept for the VC who were observed with negative results. A Marine heard movement approximately 50 meters southwest of his fighting position and threw 2 M-26 grenades toward the area where the noise originated. A PF BAR man observed 1 VC to the northeast of the perimeter, at a range of approximately 300 meters at coordinates (BT 477143) and fired 5 rounds small arms fire. At 0445H illumination was requested and 10 rounds of 81mm illumination were fired. The illumination rounds were approximately 500 meters short of target. Artillery illumination was requested and 16 rounds of 105mm illumination was fired at 0530H. Nothing was observed under illumination. At 0610H the combat base searched and seven live fragmentation grenades were found and blown in place. A Marine fire team patrol was dispatched to search the area for booby traps and possible remaining VC. The area was searched with negative results. At 0640H a Combined Action Squad was sent to coordinates (BT 477148) to search for VC that was observed the previous night. The patrol found a blood trail running from coordinates (BT 477148) to the north for about 30 meters. Blood trail ended at river. Estimate 1 VC KIA probable.

43. 160830H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines combat base at vicinity coordinates (BT 397145) received one round carbine fire from the north, from an unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 200 meters from vicinity coordinates (BT 397145). The sniper round struck the rear of the fighting position. One round of 7.62mm small arms fire was returned and a fire team was dispatched to search the area from where sniper fire was received. The area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

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44. 181200H Operation TITIECANOB was terminated.

45. 191600H CAC 3 Platoon, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at coordinates (BT 345162) observed 4 VC at a range of approximately 500 meters crossing a rice paddy in vicinity coordinates (BT 337165). The 3 VC were dressed in black and one in white clothing. 1 VC was carrying a weapon. The patrol engaged the VC with 30 rounds small arms fire and observed one VC fall. Result of contact: 1 VC WIA probable. 81mm mortar fire was requested to block the route of withdrawal toward a hamlet. Two 81mm HE rounds were fired. Platoon deployed and pursued VC into a hamlet and found 50 pounds of rice, and 30 7.62mm projectiles removed from their casings. The patrol also noted that fires were burning in the fire places within the houses with no one around. Area was searched with negative results. The 7.62mm projectiles were forwarded to Battalion S-2.

46. 191735H In vicinity at CAC I, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines combat base at coordinates (BT 335175), a Vietnamese girl age 15, and a boy age 14 tripped one anti-personnel mine at coordinates (BT 335157). Shrapnel from the mine inflicted serious wounds on the girl and less serious wounds on the boy. The mine was placed by the ARVN who had occupied the position approximately one year ago. A detailed of Marines and corpsmen from CAC I's position went to the scene. CAC corpsmen administered first aid to the wounded Vietnamese. A priority medical evacuation was requested and completed at 191800H.

47. 201000H Company D Squad Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 365149), received 3 rounds small arms fire from one sniper at a range of 400 meters at coordinates (BT 361149). Patrol returned 30 rounds of small arms fire and searched area from coordinates (BT 361149) to coordinates (BT 359148). Patrol found VC literature pamphlet printed in English. VC propaganda material was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

48. 211530H CAC I Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 353166) received 15 to rounds sniper fire as patrol was crossing rice paddy. Patrol continued to cross rice paddy and received an additional 150 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 8 VC dressed in white and black clothing at coordinates (BT 360165). Patrol returned fire with 300 rounds small arms fire, pursued VC and searched area with negative results. A heavy Ontos section moving in position to support CAC I patrol, struck an anti-tank mine, completely destroying the Ontos. CAC I patrol moved to the Ontos to offer assistance. An emergency medical evacuation was requested and completed at 211605H. The hole made by the mine was 6 to 8 feet deep and 8 to 10 feet wide. It is suspected that Ontos ran over a 250 pound booby trapped bomb, which was controlled or pressure detonated. There were mines in vicinity of the explosion to indicate controlled detonation. Result of contact, 2 USMC KIA, 2 USMC WIA and 2 VC WIA probable.

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49. 211800H CMC I Squad Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 341165) apprehended six female detainees in vicinity of Ontos incident. Patrol received approximately 30 rounds small arms fire from an unobserved VC at a range of approximately 500 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 346165). Patrol returned approximately 60 rounds small arms fire, requested fire support and received 6 rounds 106mm HE rounds, 16 rounds 81mm HE rounds. Two UH-1's on station to effect a routine medical evacuation drew approximately 400 rounds automatic sniper fire. Patrol returned approximately 400 rounds small arms fire and assaulted enemy position. The area was searched with negative results. Estimate 3 VC WIA probable.

50. 221130H Company C while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 349178) apprehended one male detainee with an altered I.D. card. Detainee claimed that he was 14 years old. Detainee is approximately 18 years old and was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

51. 230810H Company D while conducting search and search operations at coordinates (BT 361085) received 5 rounds sniper fire from an estimated 1 VC at a range of approximately 100 meters from vicinity coordinates (BT 360084). The sniper was unobserved due to dense vegetation. Returned 20 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire and assaulted enemy position, with negative results. Snipers most probable route of withdrawal was to the southwest. The incident resulted in one USMC KIA.

52. 230145H Company D while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 354078) received 100 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 7 to 10 well dispersed unobserved VC. Fire was received from southwest at a distance of approximately 300 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 353074). Company D deployed and returned fire with 700 rounds small arms fire and 15 M-79 rounds. VC broke contact and fled in a southwest direction. Company D searched area and found cartridges and links from M-60 machine gun, 3 blood trails and 2 drag marks. Search was concluded with negative additional results. The incident resulted in 2 VC KIA probable, 3 VC WIA probable and one USMC WIA. An emergency medical evacuation was requested and completed at 231118.

53. 231400H Patrol from Company D while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 356088) received 15 rounds automatic weapons fire from an estimated 2 VC at a range of approximately 200 meters from vicinity coordinates (BT 355090). Patrol returned 70 rounds small arms fire, 7 M-79 rounds and assaulted sniper position.

54. 232345H Company D perimeter at coordinates (BT 352085) received 30 rounds small arms fire and two to three grenades from estimated 4 VC at coordinates (BT 352086). Company D returned 130 rounds small arms fire and 1 60mm mortar illumination round. At first light a squad searched area and found one VC rifle grenade, type unknown with markings of AT TNT 1-65-Y. Grenade was

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forwarded to Battalion S-2 for processing to 5th Marines S-2. Squad continued to search area with negative results. Result of contact, 2 USMC WIA. [REDACTED]

55. 240615H Company D defensive perimeter at coordinates (BT 352085) received 20 rounds small arms fire and 2 grenades. Company D returned 50 rounds small arms fire and one 60mm mortar illumination. The VC ceased fire, broke contact and withdrew to the northwest. At first light squad searched area and found one blood trail. Blood trail was folled with negative results. Result of contact, 2 USMC WIA, 1 VC WIA probable.

56. 240830H Company D while sweeping area at coordinates (BT 351084) found 3 caves. Average size of caves were 8 feet deep, 3 feet wide and 45 meters long. Caves were searched with use of RCA with negative results. In area of caves, Company D found one wallet containing one homemade I.D. card and one name tag. Wallet was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

57. 241050H Company D while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 346086) received approximately 60 rounds small arms fire from 6 VC in a trench line at a range of approximately 300 meters at coordinates (BT 345086). The VC were dressed in black pajamas and carried packs. Marines returned 200 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire, 2 M742 CS grenades and assaulted the enemy position. VC fled into heavy underbrush. 3 VC fell as if wounded by Marines fire. Area was searched and patrol found one French 9mm machine gun round, 1 expended 7.62mm Russian cartridge and one ShiCom 7.62mm crimp cartridge. Crimp cartridge indicated that VC employed rifle grenades on the night of 23 March 1967. Search was concluded with negative additional results. Incident resulted in 3 VC WIA probable, and 0 USMC WIA. Captured equipment was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

58. 241420H Company D while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 351078) received approximately 100 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 6 to 10 snipers at a range of approximately 350 meters at coordinates (BT 347076). VC were across a stream in a hedgerow. Marines returned approximately 100 rounds of 7.62mm small arms fire, 5 rounds 60mm HE rounds, and 2 M742 CS grenades. Company D requested an artillery mission and 14 rounds 105mm HE rounds were fired at VC positions. Marines envelope and assaulted VC positions. VC broke contact and withdrew to the west. Area was searched with negative results. The incident resulted in 4 USMC WIA. An emergency medical evacuation was requested, and completed at 241450H.

59. 251055H CAC I Platoon Patrol at coordinates (BT 358167) received approximately 50 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 6 to 10 VC from two different positions at coordinates (BT 363162) and (BT 353166). Patrol returned 200 rounds small arms fire and one 81mm HE round at the enemy positions. Patrol deployed and swept the area. VC broke contact and fled in an undetermined direction. Area was thoroughly searched with negative results.

ENCLOSURE (1)
[REDACTED]

60. 251305H Company D (Rein) terminated search and destroy operation.

61. 261230H A letter was turned over to gate sentry at coordinates (BT 39714) by a Vietnamese National. Letter was translated and it accused TROUNG HOA, age 42 of giving information to the VC of Marine troop movements to and from Hill 54. TROUNG HOA was apprehended and questioned by Kit Carson Scout. TROUNG HOA admitted he had been a VC in the past, but has been supporting the RVN Government for the past 4 years. Detainee and letter was forwarded to 9th IFF.

62. 261430H Company B (Rein) went OPCON 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

63. 270910H A member of patrol 501 while conducting S&C operations at coordinates (BT 384237) tripped what appeared to be a 250 pound booby trapped bomb. A hole was blown in the ground 4 to 5 feet deep and 8 to 10 feet wide. Explosion went 50 feet in the air. Patrol was well dispersed with at least 10 to 12 meters (30 to 35 feet) between members of the patrol. All personnel had on buttoned armored vests. Prior to commencement of operation, patrol was briefed on mission of patrol and mine and booby trap hazard by the Company Commander. The Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant thoroughly briefed members of the patrol to be cautious, look out for booby traps, change the point twice hourly and make sure all personnel kept armored vests on and buttoned and kept well dispersed. Just prior to the explosion one unarmed Vietnamese dressed in black pajamas was observed running from the area of the explosion. Patrol didn't pursue the Vietnamese. Incident resulted in 2 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIAE. An emergency medical evacuation was requested and completed at 0935H.

64. 271040H Company C Platoon Security Patrol coordinates (BT 382238) apprehended two Vietnamese, approximately 40 years of age, in vicinity where patrol had detonated booby trapped 250 pound bomb. Questioning of villagers in the area disclosed that 10 VC had planted the bomb at 260730H in vicinity coordinates (BT 384237). The villagers gave the patrol 7 of the 10 VC names. The two Vietnamese detainees had the following items in their possession: One expended shell from Russian carbine, and 13 handwritten documents. The detainees, captured material and the results of the questioning of local villagers was forwarded to Battalion S-2 for further processing to 9th IFF.

65. 271630H Company C Squad Security Patrol 5016 at coordinates (BT 395112) apprehended two Vietnamese males without I.D. cards. The detainees were approximately 20 years of age. The detainees were forwarded to Battalion S-2 for further processing to 9th IFF.

66. 271809H Company B returned from OPCON 1st Battalion, 7th Marines.

ENCLOSURE (1)

67. 280900H A wounded Vietnamese arrived at 3rd Platoon Company C position at coordinates (BT 346161), with a gunshot wound in the neck. A medical evacuation was called and completed at 280920H. An interpreter was dispatched from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to 3rd Platoon Company C position to question the wounded man's brother. It was determined from questioning of the brother that the wounded Vietnamese name was HO KINH. He was 28 years of age, lived in the village of KY CHANH at coordinates (BT 470149), and was wounded while hunting snails in the vicinity of KY CHANH Village. The nearest Marine position to the location of the incident is about 800 meters. Units in the surrounding area reported hearing no firing at the alleged time of the incident.

68. 281000H 1st Platoon Company C went OPCON to Hotel Battery, 2nd Battalion 11th Marines.

69. 282200H 3rd Platoon Company C at coordinates (BT 436161) fired two 81mm HE rounds of H&I fire at coordinates (BT 436173) and observed a large secondary explosion followed by flames and black smoke. A patrol was dispatched to area to conduct a search. While the patrol was moving into the area of the secondary explosion, 15 81mm HE and WP rounds were fired. Patrol found one fisherman's hut destroyed and 15 small trenches, 5 feet long, 2 feet wide, and 3 feet deep around the destroyed hut. The search was concluded with no additional results.

70. 291205H (5D5) Squad Security Patrol at coordinates (BT 358167) received approximately 300 rounds semi-automatic and automatic small arms fire from an estimated 4 VC at a range of approximately 300 meters from coordinates (BT 352165). Patrol returned 750 rounds 7.62mm small arms fire, 6 M-79 rounds and 1 L&W. Patrol observed one VC fall as if hit. Squad searched from coordinates (BT 359167) to (BT 364170) and apprehended 4 Vietnamese males without I.D. cards, ages ranging from 35 to 50. Search was concluded with negative results. Result of contact: 1 VC KIA probable.

71. 300641H (5C10) Patrol received 6 rounds of fire from one unobserved sniper at a range of approximately 300 meters from coordinates (BT 361161). Patrol returned 1 M-79 round and searched area with negative results.

72. 301330H Fire team security patrol (5C10) at coordinates (BT 365148) apprehended one Vietnamese female, approximately 20 years of age without I.D. card. The detainee was forwarded to 9TH ITT.

73. 301400H Company B commenced search and clear operation in vicinity THANH HOA coordinates (BT 3312) in the Battalion TAOR in accordance with Frag Order 14-67.

74. 301600H 1st Platoon Company C returned from OPCON Hotel Battery, 2ndBn, 11th Marines.

75. 301735H Company B while conducting operation at coordinates (BT 342132) observed 3 VC dressed in black pajamas at a range of approximately 100 meters at coordinates (BT 341131) setting in a booby trap. The booby trap exploded, possibly wounding one VC. The VC observed the Marines and fled in a westerly direction. Point pursued the VC and a second explosion occurred.

ENCLOSURE (

Point encountered 5 elderly Vietnamese females who claimed that 17 VC with 5 weapons were operating in the immediate area. Search of the area was conducted with negative results.

76. 310730H Squad Security Patrol (5022) at coordinates (BT 361169) apprehended two Vietnamese females without I.D. cards, wearing black and white pajamas. The two detainees were approximately twenty-five years old. Detainees were forwarded to Battalion S-2 for further processing to 9th ITT.

77. 311030H Company A returned from OPCON CHU LAI Defense Command.

78. 311030H Company D went OPCON CHU LAI Defense Command.

ENCLOSURE (1)

PART IV

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ TAB A - 1st Battalion 5th Marines Combat After Action Report (OPERATION DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI).
- ✓ TAB B - 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Operation Order 12-67 (COUNTY FAIR 5-12).
- ✓ TAB C - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Wrap-up Report (COUNTY FAIR 5-12)
- ✓ TAB D - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 13-67 (OPERATION TIPPECANOE)
- ✓ TAB E - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat After Action Report (OPERATION TIPPECANOE).

ENCLOSURE (I)

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HEADQUARTERS
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Marine Division (Rein) FIF
FPO, San Francisco 96302

3/WCW/dah
3480
Ser. No. 0092-67
10Mar67

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 7th Marines

Subj: Combat Operations After Action Report
"DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI"

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
(b) Task Force X-Ray Frag Order 8-67
(c) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 10-67
(d) Maps: Vietnam, 1:50,000, AMS Series L7014,
Sheets; 6738I-II and 6838III-IV

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay D-Day
(2) Night Activity and Disposition Overlay D-Day
(3) Operation Overlay D+1
(4) Night Activity and Disposition Overlay D+1
(5) Operation Overlay D+2
(6) Night Activity and Disposition Overlay D+2
(7) Operation Overlay D+1
(8) Night Activity and Disposition Overlay D+3
(9) Operation Overlay D+4
(10) Night Activity and Disposition Overlay D+4
(11) Operation Overlay D+5

1. CODE NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION.

Operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" (Search and Destroy)

2. DATE OF OPERATION.

261100H February 1967 to 031800H March 1967

3. LOCATION.

Area north of Duc Pho, located in Quang Nang Province, Duc Pho District, with the eastern boundary of the operating area the song Cau River, the southern boundary a line from coordinates (BS 825405) to (BS 740360), the western boundary generally along grid line 74 running north and south, and the northern boundary along the Song Tra Cau River running east of coordinates (BS 787417) and northwest to the Song Cau River.

4. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS

CO, 1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)

LTCOL P. L. HILGARTNER

CO, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)

CAPT M. B. DARLING

Tab: A

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CO, Co B, 1stBn, 5thMar (Rein)

CAPT J. N. PETERSON

CO, Co C, 1stBn, 5thMar (Rein)

CAPT R. J. CASWELL

CO, Co D, 1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)

CAPT J. J. CARTY

5. TASK ORGANIZATION.1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)

LTCOL HILGARTNER

H&S Co (-)(Rein)

CAPT DARLING

H&S Co (-)

Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Det, Sub Unit 2 HqBn, 1stMarDiv

Det, Co C, 1stSPBn

Plt Hqs, Co B, 1stEngrBn

ARVN Ln O

Det, Hq Btry, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Kit Carson Scout

Co B (Rein)

CAPT PETERSON

Co B

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stEngrBn

Det, Co C, 1stSPBn

Det, HqBn, 7thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

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Co C (Rein)

CAPT CASWELL

Company C

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stIngrBn

Det, Co C, 1stSPBn

Det, HqCo, 7thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

Co D(-)(Rein)

CAPT CARTY

Co D(-)

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stIngrBn

Det, Co C, 1stSPBn

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tm

1stBn, 5thMar (Rear)

MAJOR ALGER

Co D, 1stBn, 26thMar

3rd Plt, Co D, 1stBn, 5thMar

1st Plt, Co I, 3rdBn, 5thMar

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6. Supporting Arms.

A. Air Support

(1) Helicopter. At L-Hour on D-Day 261100H February 1967, thirty CH-46 and twenty H-34 helicopters lifted 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) from KY HL vicinity coordinates (BT 530115) to a pre-selected landing zone in vicinity coordinates (BS 744374) to commence operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI". The helicopters encountered light sniper fire during initial insertions.

(2) Fixed Wing. On D-Day six fixed wing aircraft were utilized for conducting preparation fires on the landing zone. The landing zone preparation commenced at L-45 minutes and terminated at L-01 minutes. In addition, two fixed wing aircraft flew cover in support of the helicopter insertions, plus two fixed wing aircraft were on station to provide smoke for cover.

On D-Day, four fixed wing aircraft flew close air support missions on enemy bunkers and tunnels at coordinates (BS 756382). Two aircraft expended 40 250 pound bombs, and 200 20mm rounds. A search of the target area, after the completion of the air strike revealed four huts destroyed, six huts damaged, fifty feet of trenchline and one cave destroyed. The fixed wing were controlled by TAC (A) in a Marine UH-1E.

On D+2, four fixed wing aircraft flew close air support missions against enemy bunkers and tunnels located in a railroad bed and treeline near a village at coordinates (BS 775408) and (BS 783406). The aircraft expended 24 500 pound bombs, 10 napalm bombs, and 10 250 pound bombs. The aircraft were controlled by a Marine C-1E. Damage assessment was 26 structures destroyed, 12 structures damaged, and 100 feet of trenchline destroyed.

On D+3, nine fixed wing aircraft flew missions against enemy trenchlines and bunkers vicinity coordinates (BS 808420). The aircraft expended 15 500 pound bombs, 15 napalm bombs, 76 2.75 rockets, 10 250 pound bombs and 40 20mm rounds. The aircraft were controlled by USAF C-1E. The strike accounted for numerous structures, trenchlines and bunkers destroyed. 1 VC KBA confirmed.

On D+4, two fixed wing aircraft provided close air support to Co D vicinity coordinates (BS 770418). The aircraft expended 12 250 pound bombs, 9 napalm bombs against bunkers and automatic weapon positions. The airstrike was controlled by TAC (A) Marine UH-1E. The airstrike accounted for destroying 4 bunkers, 1 automatic weapon position, an estimated 2 to 4 VC KBA, 5 to 10 VC KBA and neutralized enemy fire.

(3) TAC (A). The TAC (A) proved effective in spotting lucrative targets and enemy positions in the path of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines advance. TAC (A) also was effective as an aerial relay for air requests.

(4) General. An increased number of air panels were used and proved invaluable for marking friendly front lines during air strikes.

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A. Artillery Support. Artillery support for the 1stBn, 5thMar was provided initially by 3rdBn, 11th Marines (-) in direct support of USMC units engaged in the operation from D-Day to D+4. On D+4, G Battery, 3rd Battalion, 11th Marines was designated direct support for the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Pre-assault preparation fires were utilized to a greater degree on operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" than on previous operations in which 1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated. Artillery smoke screens and blocking fires were employed. Coverage of preparation fires and smoke screens initially were light, but by D+2 accuracy and coverage of these fires was excellent. A total of one hundred eighty-eight HE and one hundred eighty-seven WP rounds were fired during the operation.

During operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" artillery fired five observed missions against snipers totaling 49 HE and 8 WP rounds. All five areas were searched with negative results. Nightly during "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" H&I fires were planned on known VC activities, infiltration routes, assembly areas, mortar positions, and escape routes. A total of 816 rounds were expended during the operation.

B. Naval Gunfire. Naval gunfire support was provided by USS TURNERJOY. Naval gunfire was given the mission of supporting the Battalion with on call night illumination and HE missions as required. In carrying out the assigned mission NCF fired 3 rounds illumination and 3 rounds of HE on D+4.

8. Intelligence.

A. Estimate of Enemy Strength, Location and 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>			
2nd Regt Hqs Bn	BS 7014	500	Unknown
93rd Bn, 2nd Regt	BS 8340	500	Unknown
95th Bn, 2nd Regt	BS 7443	500	Unknown
97th Bn, 2nd Regt	BS 6857	500	Unknown
38th MF Bn	BS 6857	400	Unknown
C-219th LF Co	BS 7740	100	Unknown
<u>PROBABLE</u>			
9th MF Bn	BS 7753	400	Unknown
C-217th LF Co	BS 8626	100	Unknown
506th LF Co	BS 7756	100	Unknown

(2) Intelligence was initially furnished this unit by the 7th Marine Regiment.

(3) The operational objective was to conduct search of the area of operation to fix and destroy VC units.

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B. VC Strength and Situation: Search and Seizure Operation was Conducted.

As a result of the operation, elements of the Battalion accounted for seventeen VC KIA (confirmed and eight VC KIA (probable). Seven VCC and four (4) VCS were forwarded to 9th IFF for interrogation and further disposition. This unit encountered harassing sniper fire throughout the operation. The only unit contact was the estimated VC platoon engaged by Company C on D+3.

C. VC Units Identified. NoneD. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) Information obtained from Vietnamese populace in the objective area indicated the VC Main Force had withdrawn to the west one to three days prior to D-Day.

(2) Extensive VC infrastructures noted from initial interrogation of VCS.

(3) Defensive positions along the railroad tracks vicinity coordinates (BS 774405) were oriented to defend against attacks from the East and South-east.

(4) Many punji pits and helicopter obstacles were noted and destroyed on NUI GIANG THUONG (Hill 156).

E. Terrain.(1) Critical Terrain.

(a) Hill 156 NUI GIANG THUONG

(2) Terrain in the immediate objective area was composed mainly of paddy land interspersed with sparsely vegetated hills.

(3) Obstacles. None

(4) Avenues of Approach.

(a) Trails in the operational area were good to excellent for foot troops.

(b) National Route 1 in this area was damaged extensively.

(5) Cross Country Movement was poor to fair, flooded rice paddies with dikes 2 to 5 feet high hindered movement.

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9. Mission.

(a) TF X-Ray in conjunction with all forces assigned, conduct search and destroy operations in Duc Pho area, Quang Ngai Province, RVN for a period of about six days.

(b) At L-Hour on D-Day the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) lands by helicopter in a selected landing zone and conducts search and destroy operations as directed.

10. Concept of Operation. Commencing at L-Hour on D-Day, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) lands with three companies and Command Group in designated landing zone; with two companies securing the landing zone, and one company in Battalion Reserve. Upon securing landing zone, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) commences search and destroy operations as directed.

11. Execution.

A. D-1. 25 February 1967.

(1) 251500H The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) attached all supporting units.

(2) 251830H The Battalion Commander conducted a briefing of operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" for all participating units. All units were issued operation plans.

B. D-Day. 26 February 1967. (See Enclosure (1))

(1) 260725H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) departed combat base located in vicinity coordinates (BT 396145), by motor convoy.

(2) 260835H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) arrived KY EL air facility located in vicinity coordinates (BT 530115).

(3) 260900H Battalion Commander changed Operation Plan 10-67 to operation order 10-67 and ordered its execution.

(4) 260950H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) embarked aboard helicopters awaiting movement to and insertion into operational area.

(5) 261100H Helicopters landed in LZ DOVE vicinity coordinates (BS 744374) and inserted the first wave of troops while receiving light sniper fire.

(6) 261130H Insertion of troops into LZ DOVE vicinity coordinates (BS 744374) was completed. Co C and Co B secured LZ DOVE. Co D moved to secure Battalion Objective 1.

(7) 261200H Co D secured Battalion Objective 1.

(8) 261300H Co C found cave vicinity coordinates (BS 749380). Movement was heard inside the cave. Light inside the cave was ordered to come out in Vietnamese. There was no response. One fragmentation grenade was thrown into cave. Co C searched the cave, and found one VC KIA, confirmed.

(9) 261305H Co C at coordinates (BS 746379) received one round of sniper fire from unobserved sniper at coordinates (BS 746382) fired from a distance of 300 meters. A squad searched the area and found one VCS, age about 25 years old, without I. D. card and wearing black pajamas. VCS was uncooperative and refused to talk. VCS was forwarded to 7th Marines S-2. Squad searched for weapon in area where fire was received. Search ended with negative results.

(10) 261315H Co B and Co C crossed line of departure with companies on line moving to secure Regimental Objective A, with Co C on the left and Co B on the right.

(11) 261430H While Co C and Co B sweep from the line of departure to Regimental Objective A, companies picked up 41 refugees. Refugees were screened and one refugee was suspected of being a VC. The VCS was forwarded to 7th Marines S-2. The refugees were held overnight and released next morning. Refugees were told to leave the operational area.

(12) 261430H Co C at coordinates (BS 758383) received one mortar round and 75-100 rounds of small arms fire from unobserved VC across river at coordinates (BS 761382). Co C returned fire with 150 rounds of small arms fire, two 3.5 WP rounds. Area was searched with negative results. Co C sustained two USMC casualties, one WIA and one KIA.

(13) 261450H Co B found one 500 pound US bomb, without markings at coordinates (BS 758379). Bomb was destroyed by engineers.

(14) 261520H Co B at coordinates (BS 759384) received 3 to 4 rounds sniper fire from two VC from across the river at coordinates (BS 759380). The VC were wearing black pajamas and one VC carried a weapon, type undetermined. Co B returned fire with 6 60mm mortar rounds. VC broke contact and fled in a southwesterly direction. Area was searched with negative results.

(15) 261525H Co C found a tunnel underground which was 13 feet deep, 10 feet long, 4 feet high and 3 feet wide running north to south in vicinity coordinates (BS 759383). Tunnel was destroyed by engineers.

(16) 261610H Co C at coordinates (BS 758383) observed three VC, wearing black pajamas and carrying weapons moving east across river at coordinates (BS 761382). Co C instituted action by delivering 100 rounds of small arms fire, three M-79 and two 81mm HE rounds. Two squads searched the area and found three VCS. VCS were turned over to the Battalion S-2. S-2 determined VCS were refugees and were released the following morning.

(17) 261630H Co C and Co D secured Objective 1.

(18) 261640H Co D departed Objective 1 to conduct search and destroy operations and secure Battalion Objective 2.

(19) 261645H Co B dispatched a security patrol to Battalion Objective 3 to establish contact with a patrol from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein).

(20) 261730H Co D secured Battalion Objective 2.

(21) 261730H Patrol 5B1 established contact with patrol from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and returned to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) combat base.

(22) 261815H Co D at coordinates (BS 755381) observed three VCS at coordinates (BS 752381), moving west. Marines of Company D shouted halt in Vietnamese, the VCS started running in a westerly direction. Co D fired approximately 15 rounds small arms fire at VCS. A squad from Co D pursued VCS but lost contact. While searching area, the squad found a tunnel vicinity coordinates (BS 755381) and heard movement inside. Orders were given in Vietnamese to come out of tunnel. There was no response from inside tunnel. One fragmentation grenade was thrown in tunnel. A search of the tunnel was conducted and one VC KIA confirmed was found.

(23) 261900H The Battalion night defense perimeter and night activities were established in vicinity of Objective A. (See enclosure 2)

B. D-1. 27 February 1967. (See enclosure 3)

(1) 270720H Co B at coordinates (BS 757378) spotted three VC, moving south at coordinates (BS 762378), a distance of approximately 350 meters. VC were dressed in black pajamas with one VC carrying a weapon. Co B fired 50-75 rounds small arms fire at VC. VC fled in a southwesterly direction. Squad searched area with negative results.

(2) 270820H Co B found one pack in abandoned shelter at coordinates (BS 756383), which contained one pair of khaki trousers, one pair black pajamas and one pair of blue shorts. Pack containing clothing was forwarded to the 7th Marines S-2.

(3) 270835H Co C at coordinates (BS 757384) received six rounds of automatic weapons fire from an estimated 1 to 2 VC at coordinates (BS 760386). Fire was received from a northeasterly direction at an estimated distance of 300 meters. Co C returned fire with 50 rounds of small arms fire and three M-79 rounds on suspected VC location. Co C searched area with negative results.

(4) 270900H Co C and Co D crossed the line of departure to secure Battalion Objectives 4 and 7, with Co C on the left, and Co D on the right. The Command Group and the Battalion Reserve followed in trace of Co C.

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- (5) 270915H Co D secured Battalion Objective 7.
- (6) 270930H Co C secured Battalion Objective 4.
- (7) 270945H Co D secured Battalion Objective 8.
- (8) 271000H Co C secured Battalion Objective 5.
- (9) 271045H Co D secured Battalion Objective 9.
- (10) 271055H Co C secured Battalion Objective 6.
- (11) 271155H Co D secured Battalion Objective 10.

(12) 271200H Co C at coordinates (BS 757402), found two bunkers made of logs and heavily packed mud, and freshly dug 75 meter trenchline running north and south. One bunker was 3 feet high, 10 feet long and 10 feet wide and the other bunker was 4 feet high, 8 feet wide. One cave was found and searched with negative results. The bunkers were destroyed by engineers.

(13) 271300H Objective B was secured. All units established in a Battalion defensive perimeter vicinity coordinates (BS 768403).

(14) 271340H Co D at coordinates (BS 758403) received an estimated 60 rounds of small arms fire from 12 VC carrying weapons and dressed in black pajamas at coordinates (BS 761403). Rounds were fired from a distance of 300-400 meters from across a rice paddy into Co D sector of the defensive perimeter at Objective B. Co D returned fire with 200 rounds small arms fire. 18 60mm HB rounds, five 3.5 WP rounds and one LAAW. VC broke contact and fled in an easterly direction. Area was searched by Co D with negative results.

(15) 271355H Co C at coordinates (BS 757404) received approximately 15 to 20 rounds small arms fire from a distance of approximately 500 meters at coordinates (BS 759409). VC were unobserved. Co C returned 20 rounds of small arms fire at suspected VC locations. The area from where the fire was received was out of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines operational area; as a result, area was not searched.

(16) 271425H Co B at coordinates (BS 758402) observed five VC approximately 500 meters away at coordinates (BS 758397) wearing black pajamas, carrying weapons and moving south. Co B fired approximately 10 rounds small arms fire at VC. VC broke contact and started running in a southeasterly direction. Area was searched when Co B moved out in the attack to secure Objective C.

(17) 271510H Co C at coordinates (BS 756404) received approximately 25 rounds automatic carbine fire from across the river at an estimated distance of 400-500 meters in vicinity of coordinates (BS 760409). The number of VC and location from which fire came was unobserved. Co C did not return fire. Fire was received from ARVN operational area, as a result area was not searched.

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(18) 271515H Co B and Co C crossed line of departure to seize and secure Objective C, with Co D on the left, and Co B on the right. Command Group and Co C, Battalion Reserve, followed in trace of Co D.

(19) 271530H Co B at coordinates (BS 760396) received 75 to 100 rounds automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire from an estimated 5 to 10 unobserved VC at coordinates (BS 763396) to (BS 758392). Rounds were fired from an estimated range of 300 meters. Co B returned fire with approximately 300 rounds small arms fire, 12 60mm HE rounds, one 81mm HE round, and 3 3.5 WP rounds. The 60mm FO observed one VC wearing black pajamas in close proximity to one 60mm round when it exploded. The VC broke contact and fled in an undetermined direction. Result of contact; one USMC WIA and one VC KIA (probable). Area was searched with negative results.

(20) 271825H Objective C was secured. Extensive search was made of Objective C for cave and tunnel complexes. The only significant result of the search was one cave found and destroyed.

(21) 271830H H&S Co at coordinates (BS 774397) found one booby trapped ChiCom grenade. Engineers disarmed and destroyed the grenade the following morning.

(22) 271900H The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) night defensive perimeter and night activities were established in vicinity of Objective C. (See enclosure (4)).

C. D+2. 28 February 1967. (See enclosure 5)

(1) 280730H Co C and Co D crossed line of departure. Co C moved toward Battalion Objective 12 and Co D moved toward Objective 13. Command Group and Co B, the Battalion Reserve followed generally in trace of Co C.

(2) 280810H Co C secured Battalion Objective 12.

(3) 280820H Co D secured Battalion Objective 13.

(4) 280830H Co C found a trenchline running north and south along the west side of railroad tracks from coordinates (BS 775406) to (BS 776401). Co C found a reinforced concrete bunker 20 feet long, 10 feet wide and 3 feet deep at coordinates (BS 777399). Bunker was constructed with two feet of concrete. Co C found three bunkers 4 feet long 10 feet wide and 4 feet high made of dirt and bamboo at coordinates (BS 779399). Bunkers were searched and assorted documents were found in the concrete bunker. Engineers destroyed the bunkers and the documents were forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

(5) 280905H Co B found a tunnel 10 feet long 3 feet wide and 4 feet high at coordinates (BS 772396). Tunnel was destroyed by engineers.

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(6) 280945H H&S Co found a tunnel 150 meters long forming a circle 7 feet below ground. Tunnel was 4 feet high and 4 feet wide with 3 lead off tunnels 10 feet long, 3 feet wide and 3 feet high. Entrance to tunnel complex was a hole 3 feet by 3 feet leading down approximately 7 feet. Explosives were flown in from LSA and engineers destroyed the tunnel complex.

(7) 281045H Co D found a blockhouse 15' X 15' X 18' made of 18 inches of reinforced concrete at coordinates (BS 771411). Blockhouse was destroyed by engineers.

(8) 281045H H&S Co found a tunnel complex 280 meters long, 8 to 10 feet underground at coordinates (BS 775404). Tunnel was 4 feet wide and 4 feet high with a lead off tunnel approximately 100 meters long, 4 feet wide and 4 feet high. Explosives were flown in from LSA and engineers destroyed the tunnel complex.

(9) 281220H Co D at coordinates (BS 776416) observed one VC at coordinates (BS 777418) on the northwestern side of the riverbank. VC was changing clothes from black pajamas to brown shorts and short sleeve shirt. Marine shouted across the river for the VC to halt. Seeing the Marines, the VC picked up his clothes and started to run. Marines fired 40 to 60 rounds small arms fire at VC at range of 200 meters. Result of contact; one VC KIA confirmed.

(10) 281430H Co D secured Battalion Objective 15.

(11) 281440H Co C secured Battalion Objective 14.

(12) 281600H Co B Command Group, and Co C arrived at Battalion Objective 15 in vicinity coordinates (BS 790412).

(13) 281610H Co D at coordinates (BS 791409) received 40 to 50 rounds automatic small arms fire from vicinity coordinates (BS 792415), from across river. Estimated to be one VC sniper at a range of 200-300 meters. Co D returned fire with 20 rounds small arms fire, 4 60mm HE rounds, 3 3.5 WP rounds and one M-79 round. Area was searched with negative results. Result of contact; one USMC KIA and one USMC WIA.

(14) 281620H Co B at coordinates (BS 793414), received 8 to 10 rounds small arms fire fired from a distance of approximately 350 meters from one unobserved VC in the vicinity of coordinates (BS 787415). Co B returned fire with 20 to 30 rounds small arms fire and six M-79 rounds in direction of VC location. Area was searched with negative results.

(15) 281800H The Battalion night defense perimeter and night activities were established in vicinity of coordinates BS 790414 between Battalion Objective 14 and 15. (See enclosure 6)

D. D+3. 1 March 1967. (See enclosure 7).

(1) 010730H H&S Co at coordinates (BS 788416) found one 500 pound US bomb. Bomb was destroyed by engineers.

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(2) 010815H Co B at coordinates (BS 724414) received one round of sniper fire from unobserved sniper in vicinity coordinates (BS 798413), fired from an estimated range of 350 meters. Co B returned fire with 20 to 30 rounds small arms fire and 6 M-79 rounds at suspected VC location. Area was searched with negative results.

(3) 010845H The resupply helicopter while landing vicinity coordinates (BS 790414) received 15 to 20 rounds small arms fire from vicinity coordinates (BS 786416). Co D returned 20 to 25 rounds small arms fire. Co B returned 15 to 20 rounds small arms fire. A squad from Co B searched area with negative results. Result of contact; one USMC KIA.

(4) 010915H The med evac helicopter while landing at coordinates (BS 789417) received 10 to 15 rounds automatic small arms fire from unobserved sniper in vicinity of coordinates (BS 785415). Co D returned fire with 50 to 60 rounds small arms fire and two M-79 rounds. The area was searched shortly after the med evac was completed and Co C and Co B crossed the line of departure to secure Objective F. Result of contact; one USMC KIA. Med evac was completed at 0940.

(5) 010940H Co C and Co B crossed line of departure to commence search and destroy operation with Co B on the left and Co C on the right to secure Objectives E and F. Co D moved to secure Battalion Objective 16. The Command Group moved with Co D.

(6) 011000H Co D secured Battalion Objective 16.

(7) 011030H Co B at coordinates (BS 800426) observed one VC running out of tunnel after assault units had passed at coordinates (BS 799426), wearing khaki pajamas. VC attempted to flee south. Co B fired 15 rounds small arms fire and one M-79 round at VC. The VC was wounded and before he fell, he pulled pin on a grenade. The grenade exploded and the VC blew himself up. Tunnel was searched with negative results. Result of contact; one VC KIA confirmed.

(8) 011135H Co C while conducting search and destroy operations from Objective E vicinity of coordinates (BS 800420) to Objective F vicinity of coordinates (BS 807427), received approximately 150 rounds automatic and small arms fire from an estimated 20 to 30 VC dressed in black pajamas. Co C returned fire with 400 rounds small arms fire and 11 M-79 rounds. Co C physically pursued the VC. The area was searched and Co C found 12 VC KIA confirmed, estimate 2 VC KIA probable, apprehended 4 VCC and captured one M-1 rifle, 3 US carbines, one Russian bolt action weapon, two M-26 grenades, one homemade grenade, 14 carbine magazines, 10 clips of 30 caliber ammunition, 3 cartridge belts and one camouflaged helmet. Captured VC, weapons and equipment forwarded to 7th Marines S-2. Co C sustained two USMC casualties, 1 KIA and one KIA.

(9) 011300H Co C and Co B secured Objective D.

(10) 011600H Co C and Co B secured Objective F.

(11) 011900H The Battalion night defensive perimeter and night activities were established in vicinity coordinates (BS 800424) between Objective E and F. (See enclosure 8).

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A. D+4. 2 March 1967. (See enclosure 3)

(1) 020030H Co B sector of the defensive perimeter at coordinates (BS 802424) received two incoming fragmentation grenades from an undetermined direction and from an estimated one VC. Grenade hit approximately 30 meters short of the defensive perimeter and landed about 20 meters apart. No fire was returned. A patrol searched area where grenades were suspected to have been thrown from. The perimeter went into a 100% alert. The search of the area was concluded with negative results.

(2) 020730H The Battalion maintained a patrol base at coordinates (BS 800424) and conducted extensive patrolling of the area throughout the day. (See enclosure 9).

(3) 020900H Patrol activity B-3 at coordinates (BS 789417) observed two VC at coordinates (BS 785416) wearing green clothing, and carrying packs. VC were at a distance of approximately 300 meters and it appeared VC were carrying weapons. Patrol fired 20 rounds small arms fire at VC. VC moved in a westerly direction. An artillery mission was called and 8 105mm M1 rounds were fired. Patrol searched area with negative results.

(4) 020945H Patrol activity D-21 at coordinates (BS 790422) observed a group of about 20 Vietnamese civilians at coordinates (BS 790422) at a distance of approximately 200 meters. As the patrol approached the group of civilians, one civilian began to run, the others, moved in a westerly direction. The patrol shouted halt in Vietnamese. The civilian that was running halted. The VCS was apprehended. VCS was about 18 years old and had no I.D. card. The VCS was forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

(5) 021000H Patrol activity at coordinates (BS 801429) found a booklet containing VC songs, pictures, lighter, whistle and assorted bandages. Items were forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

(6) 021025H Patrol activity G3 found 1 VCS hiding in a cave at coordinates (BS 812425). VCS was about 25 years old, wearing black pajamas and had no I.D. card. VCS forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

(7) 021100H Co D found a 250 pound bomb without markings, bomb was destroyed by engineers.

(8) 021200H The Battalion continued to conduct patrol activities in the operational area in the afternoon. Co D (-)(Rein) departed the patrol base to conduct a company size search and destroy operation. (See enclosure 9)

(9) 021240H Co D while sweeping through hamlet at coordinates (BS 785418) observed 3 VC carrying packs at coordinates (BS 784418). One VC was dressed in black, one in white and one in green trousers. The VC spotted the Marines and began to run in a westerly direction. Co D fired 10 rounds small arms fire and physically pursued the VC. VC wearing the green trousers was captured. This VC carried a well stocked first aid kit. Marines continued to pursue and capture the VC wearing white trousers. This VC was carrying a pack with assorted clothing. Marines continued to pursue 3rd VC with negative results. This VC disappeared in a westerly direction. The 2 VCC, green pack with assorted clothing and well stocked first aid kit were forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

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(10) 021345H Co D at coordinates (BS 773423) received 40 to 50 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 4 VC carrying weapons at coordinates (BS 773422) a distance of approximately 100 meters. The VC broke contact and fled in a westerly direction. While physically pursuing VC, Co D fired 150 rounds small arms fire, three 3.5 rounds, 12 M-79 rounds and 10 60mm HL rounds. Area was searched and Co D found one VC KIA, one M-1 rifle, 100 rounds .30 caliber ammunition, one carbine with 200 rounds .30 caliber ammunition, one M-26 grenade, one ChiCom grenade, one cartridge bolt, assorted 782 gear and two green packs. The wounded VC and all captured equipment forwarded to 7th Marines S-2.

(11) 021515H Co D (-)(Rein) while consolidating the Company at coordinates (BS 774422) and (BS 774417) had one platoon, the covering force in position to cover the other platoon as it crossed the rice paddy. As the platoon attempted to cross the rice paddy, Co D received approximately 500 rounds of automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from vicinity coordinates (BS 771416), (BS 773419), (BS 769423) and (BS 768418) from an estimated well dispersed 10 to 15 VC. VC fired from 4 locations, ranges varying from 300 to 600 meters. The platoon sustained two USMC casualties as it attempted to cross rice paddy. Co D returned fire with 2000 rounds of small arms fire, 15 M-79 rounds, and four 3.5 rounds. An airstrike was called along the railroad track vicinity coordinates (BS 768418) with good target coverage. Artillery was called to screen the area with smoke so casualties could be evacuated from rice paddy. Artillery fired 85 105mm WP rounds. During the smoke screen the casualties were removed from the rice paddy. A helicopter med evac was effected. Co D consolidated its forces and continued on its mission. Result of contact two USMC KIA. It is estimated that there were five probable VC KIA.

(12) 021700H Co D returned to the Battalion patrol base.

(13) 021800H The Battalion defensive perimeter and night activities were organized between objectives E and F. (See enclosure 10).

G. D+4. 3 March 1967. (See enclosure 11).

(1) 030630H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at coordinates (BS 800424) organized into a tactical column for movement to vicinity Nui Dang coordinates (BS 815393) the tactical moved along Highway 1 at coordinates (BS 801393) the tactical column received 40 to 50 rounds automatic and semi-automatic weapons fire from coordinates (BS 796397) to (BS 795394) from ranges varying in distance from 400 to 700 meters. Number of VC were undetermined and unobserved. Co C returned fire with approximately 50 rounds small arms fire. Co B returned fire with approximately 20 rounds of small arms fire and two 3.5 WP rounds. The area was not searched. The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued on its assigned mission to Dui Dang at coordinates (BS 815386).

(2) 030930H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) arrived at Nui Dang vicinity coordinates (BS 815386). Awaiting transportation for extraction from the operational area.

(3) 031800H Operation "DESOLO/DECKHOUSE VI" was terminated.

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11. Results

(a) Personnel

(1) Friendly

KIA 1

DOW 1

WIA 9

WIANE 3

NBCU 7

(2) Enemy

KIA Confirmed 17

KIA Probable 8

VCS Apprehended 4

VC captured 7

VC WIA 1 (counted with VCC)

(b) Equipment and Materials

4 packs containing assorted clothing

1 package assorted documents

2 US rifles M-1

4 US Carbines

1 Russian bolt action rifle

14 carbine magazines

180 rounds .30 caliber ammunition for M-1 rifle

4 cartridge bolts

1 camouflage pig helmet

1 booklet of VC songs

1 VC lighter

1 VC whistle

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1 assorted pack VC bandages

1 well stocked first kit

20 rounds .30 caliber ammunition for carbine

assorted 782 gear

1 wook work kit

(2) Destroyed

1 250 pound bomb (US)

2 500 pound bombs (US)

2 bunkers 3' X 10' X 10'

1 small cave

1 booby trapped ChiCom grenade

1 reinforced concrete bunker 20' X 10' X 3'

3 bunkers 4' X 8' X 4'

1 tunnel 10' X 3' X 4'

1 tunnel complex 50 meters long 4' X 4' three lead off tunnels 10' long 3' X 3'

1 bl ckhouse 15' X 15' X 18'

1 tunnel complex 80 meters long 4' X 4' with lead off tunnel 100 meters long 4' X 4'

3 M-26 grenades

1 VC home made grenade

1 Chicom Grenade

12. Administrative Remarks

4. Supply and Logistics. All resupply was accomplished with the use of helicopters. Resupply was adequate as units submitted timely resupply request as established in the administrative plan. All resupply request were consolidated by HST and were transmitted over the HST Net to the LSA. The troops carried three centeens of water. 6 MCI's were carried by each man and proved adequate for a period of three days.

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B. Maintenance. No difficulties were experienced in maintenance of equipment and weapons. Troops carried ample cleaning equipment to maintain weapons and equipment in a satisfactory operating condition for the duration of operation "DESOLO/DECKHOUSE VI".

C. Treatment and Evacuation of Casualties.

(a) Medical evacuation to the Field Hospital at Nui Dang was rapidly effected. At the hospital temporary treatment could be given and evacuations were available to the USS IWO JIMA LPH-2 and other areas. Emergency cases could be treated expeditiously because of the short flying time to the LSA from the combat area. S-1 and S-4 representatives was located at the medical receiving areas to collect equipment and report medical evacuees to parent unit.

D. Transportation.

(a) Transportation utilized, was provided by 7th Motor Transport Battalion to transfer 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from the combat base to KY HA Air Facility on D-Day and from Quang Nagi to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines combat base on D+5. Transportation provided was adequate and fast.

E. Communications.

(a) Few problems were encountered with communications on Operation "DESOLO/DECKHOUSE VI". The proper use of HST nets facilitated smoother resupply and med evac system. Wire lines were laid when the Battalion entered a night security position. These lines proved to be reliable and allowed the volume of radio traffic to be at a minimum.

(b) Minor problems were encountered with the H-138 handsets which caused radios to become inoperative. Almost all of the difficulty, which was encountered with the H-138 handset, was due to moisture condensation in the transmitter element.

F. Medical Evaluation.

(a) In the field, treatment of casualties was accomplished by 7 corpsmen with each rifle company and by the Battalion Surgeon and 5 corpsmen in the Battalion Aid Station. Evacuation was accomplished by helicopter to the LSA which was used as clearing area. It was found advisable in evacuees of routine classification that the Battalion Surgeon should be consulted when the evacuee is in close proximity to the Battalion Aid Station. Overall, the Battalion experienced no difficulty in evacuation of casualties. Helicopters arrived quickly to evacuate casualties from the operating area. Corpsmen carried additional high usage medical supplies, which avoided a request for resupply.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques.

(a) Wire rudders were used extensively on operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" and proved valuable in locating caves and tunnel complexes.

(b) Two rice bags were carried by all personnel to facilitate bagging of rice caches, should any be found during the operation. No significant rice caches were found, however.

(c) Psychological warfare consisting of leaflet drops and aerial broadcasts were restricted, due to the exfiltration of enemy units and the local populace from the operating area.

14. Commanders Analysis.

(a) All attachments were effected on D-1 which permitted adequate time for planning and briefing.

(b) Operation "DESOTO/DECKHOUSE VI" afforded opportunity to employ combined supporting arms and exercise the Battalion FSC to a greater extent than during recent previous operations.

(c) All missions assigned by higher headquarters were accomplished.

15. Recommendations.

(a) It is recommended that Liaison Officers be exchanged when conducting joint operations with allied forces. Past operations have proved the value of a Liaison Officer particular when allied units are operating close to common boundaries.

(b) It is recommended that equipment such as H-138 handsets and antenna bases be established in the LSA as a float item for direct exchange during operations.

W.C. Warren, Jr.
W. C. WARREN, JR.
By direction

COPY TO: CO, 5th Marines

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CUB LAI, RVN
081800H March 1967

Operation Plan 12-67

- Ref: (a) Mapr Vietnam, AMS Series 17014, Sheets 6740III and 6739IV, (1:50,000)
 (b) BnO 3300.1 Rules of Engagement
 (c) 1stMarDiv Op O 307-66
 (d) BnO 3000.2A SOP for Operations
 (e) III MAF msg 280629Z Dec66
 (f) BnO 2000.11B Communications SOP

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces. Probable forces which may be encountered in KY BICH village are anticipated to be local hamlet guerrillas and VC sympathizers. They would be in groups of two to five, armed mainly with small arms weapons. Enemy activities should be limited to use of booby traps and sniping.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) GVN officials, to include Quang Tin Province and Tam Ky District representatives, Ky Bich village officials, National Police Team, Census/Grievance Team, Public Health Team, PAT Cultural Drama Team, Intelligence Team and Pay-War Team conduct screening, census/grievance, registration of villagers, issue of identification cards and Pay-war operation to reintroduce GVN influence and control in the area.

(2) GVN military units (PF/MP) conduct deliberate search of the objective area to uncover covert, enemy political or economic cause or influence; supervise movement of civilians to and from screening and collection points.

(3) Other forces participating will include Det, 224th Psy Ops Co (USA); Det, JUSPAO, 15th Air Commando Aerial Broadcast Team, and Det, 9th ITF/7th CIT.

(4) 1st MAW provides air support as required.

(5) 7th MT Bn furnish transportation as required.

(6) 11th Marines in general support of 1stMarDiv.

2. MISSION

On 11, 12 and 13 March, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Main) provides security, medical and logistical support necessary to assist GVN officials in the conduct of County Fair 5-12th Bich Ngo Sub-Hamlet (3), Ky Bich village.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operations. Annex B (Concept of Operations).

b. 1stBn, 5th Marines (-)

(1) Provide security for objective area throughout operation.

Tab B

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(2) Ambush, screen and post to coordinate JVN activities in support of Security Team operations on route.

d. Company B (Main)

(1) On order on D-2 proceed overland by foot to establish patrol base vicinity (BT 346155) conduct patrolling/ambushing activities as directed. On D-1 proceed overland to vicinity (BT 345172) establish patrol base and conduct patrolling/ambushing as directed. (See Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex A.

(2) Commencing at H-2 establish cordon vicinity objective area as directed. (See Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B).

(3) Establish OP/Patrol base vicinity (BT 346155) conduct screening patrolling and ambush activities as directed at H-2.

(4) Commencing H-Hour prevent civilian entrance or exit from objective area, except at designated check points, until termination of operation.

(5) Provide security for objective area throughout operation.

(6) On order be prepared to conduct operations as directed.

e. Company Action Company (-)

(1) Commencing at H-2 on D-Day establish cordon vicinity objective area as directed. (See Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B).

(2) Prevent civilian entrance or exit from objective area, except at designated check points, until termination of operation.

(3) Provide security for objective area throughout operation.

(4) On order be prepared to conduct operations as directed.

f. HAZ 72 (C-1) 1st Bn, 3rd Mar

(1) On order on D-Day move by motor convey to vicinity of (BT 340171) to establish command post. (See Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B).

(2) Prepare LB vicinity (BT 345175) to receive logistical supplies for operation.

(3) Erect one General Purpose Tent for use by GVN officials.

(4) Erect one MASH Tent for use as joint command post for the 1st District Chief and CO, 1st Bn, 3rd Mar.

(5) Provide medical personnel in support of JVN medical activities. (Medical Officer)

(6) Provide feedstuffs, beverages and equipment as directed. (Mess Officer)

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- (7) Provide communications support as required. (Comm Officer)
- (8) Provide suitable gifts for children and elders of Sub-Hanlet. (S-3)
- (9) Provide suitable gift for Sub-Hanlet. (S-4/S-5)
- (10) Provide sentage as required. (S-4)
- (11) Provide requisite motor vehicle transportation throughout operation. (S-4)
- (12) Coordinate helicopter requirements throughout operation. (ALO)

2. Det. Hq. 1stBn, 5thMar.

- (1) LSO Team provide coverage as directed by CO, 1stBn, 5thMar.
- (2) Det, 9th LPL/7th CIT conduct interrogation and screening as directed by CO, 1stBn, 5thMar.

3. Det. 1st Plt. Co. 1stBn, 5thMar. Direct Support.

1. In Reserve, Co D(-)

- (1) Be prepared to provide support to County Fair as directed.
- (2) Be prepared to reinforce GORDON forces as directed.
- (3) Be prepared to assume other missions as directed.

3. Coordinating Instructions:

- (1) Unclassified Code Name: County Fair. S-2/3.
- (2) D-Day TBM (11 March for planning purposes)
- (3) H-Hour: TBM (0600 for planning purposes)
- (4) Rules of Engagement as outlined in references (b) will be strictly enforced. All participating personnel will be thoroughly briefed on the pacification atmosphere prevalent in the operational area.
- (5) All personnel will be thoroughly indoctrinated on the background and purpose of County Fair operation. See references (c).
- (6) Unit Commanders will maintain police of trash in vicinity of positions occupied by USMC personnel.
- (7) Reference (d) is applicable.
- (8) Wear helmets and upper body armor.
- (9) Civil Affairs/Psychological Warfare support projects coordinated with CVA officials by S-3. See Annex 2 (Concept of Operation).

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(10) Vietnamese attempting to enter or leave Binh Ngao Sub-Hamlet (3) will be apprehended and turned over to GVN officials.

5. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. See Annex C (Administration and Logistics)

6. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. General

- (1) Reports will be submitted EOB reference (8).
- (2) Termination of operations on order of CO, 1st BN, 5th BR.
- (3) GVN officials maintain operational control of Vietnamese Forces, Binh Nam.
- (4) County Fair is primarily a GVN program. It is of greatest importance that the officials be given all assistance possible to enhance success of operation.

[Signature]
 1. Lt. WILGARDNER
 LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
 Commanding

ANNEXES

- A - Task Organization
- B - Concept of Operation
- C - Administration and Logistics
- D - Distribution List

DISTRIBUTION: Annex I (Distribution)
 to Operation Plan 12-67

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CNO LAM, RVN
081800H March 1967

Annex A: (Task Organization) to Operation Plan 12-67

Time Zone: H

(All attachments effective 1600 0Mar67)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Main)

LIEUT COL HILGARTNER

Company B (Main)

CAPT LYLES

Company B

Det, B4S Co

Det, Med Flt

Det, Comm Flt

TAGP

Det, Secant

FO Tr, Btry D, Bn, 116Mar

Det, ARVN Interpreter Tr

Det, 1st Plt, Co, 116Mar

1STLT BERNAN

Combined Action Company (-)

1STLT MULLINAK

HQS Co (-) (Main)

CAPT MCKAY

Det, Hq, 1st Bn, 116Mar

Det, Control Co

Det, P&C Co

ISO Co

Co D (-) Bn, 116Mar

CAPT GANTY

P. L. Hilgartner
P. L. HILGARTNER
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Assigned, Officer

REPRODUCTION: Annex B (Distribution)
To Operation Plan 12-67

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CHU LAI, RVN
001800H March 1967

Annex B: (Concept of Operation) to Operation Plan 12-67

Time Zone: H

1. MISSION

On 11, 12 and 13 March, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Main) provides security, medical and logistical support necessary to assist GVN officials in the conduct of County Fair in Bich Ngo Sub-Hamlet (3), Ky Bich village.

2. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

(1) County Fair⁵⁻¹¹ is a coordinated series of military, governmental, civic and psychological warfare actions to re-establish GVN control over the populace of Bich Ngo Sub-Hamlet (3). It is designed to flush the Viet Cong from the hamlet in which he is a member or a parasite, while at the same time insuring that the populace is not alienated toward the government. Military actions support a vigorous civic action and pay-war program the purpose of which is to convince the people that the GVN is an effective government, that it is interested in the welfare of the people and that a GVN victory against Viet Cong is both desirable and inevitable.

(2) 1stBn, 5thMar participation in County Fair⁵⁻¹² consist of establishing a GORDON around Bich Ngo Sub-Hamlet (3) to isolate it for three days and provide limited medical and logistical assistance. GVN military police and civil authorities perform the task of collective searching of the hamlet and handling the populace. The major role throughout the County Fair operation must be that of GVN officials since the primary purpose of the operation is to restore the populace's confidence in the GVN structure and to instill sense of trust and loyalty toward duly appointed officials.

(3) Appendix 1 is a diagram depicting the steps through which the populace is taken and the type of activities and facilities to which they are exposed during the County Fair Operation. Appendix 2 sets forth the time frame for the sequence of events.

b. Collection and Assembly. The collection and assembly of civilians is handled by GVN military police and civil authorities. The civilian populace will be relocated temporarily in an area adjacent to the site of the search (BF 339171).

c. Civic Action and Pay-War. These efforts are focused around a series of activities designed to gain the villagers trust and cooperation. Facilities will be established and food provided (one meal each day consisting of rice and soup) to compensate for the inconveniences caused by requiring the villagers to wait in assembly areas to undergo administrative processing. During processing by GVN officials, the populace will be subjected to intensive Pay-war indoctrination consisting of taped messages from National officials, speeches from local officials, propaganda films, news reels, leaflets, newspapers, magazines and pledge of allegiance cards. Civic action supplies will be made available to the District Chief for distribution, to include:

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- a. Clothing
- b. Soap
- c. Woodworking kits
- d. Mason Kits
- e. Rice and Bulgar wheat
- f. School Kits

The operation will be concluded by a presentation of flag pole and Vietnamese flag to the hamlet, a gift from the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(c) Searching and Identification. Qualified CPT administrators process assembled villagers in Binh Ho (B). Administrative items accomplished at this stage are:

- 1. Census/grievance taking
- 2. Issuance of ID cards
- 3. Initial interrogation to determine background and location of family members.

VO suspects are retained for further questioning by qualified ARVN interrogators, assisted as required by 7th CTF personnel and equipment.

(d) Medical/Dental. The Medical Officer and Company will comprise the team which provides medical assistance in conjunction with VR medical personnel. The team will administer first aid and treat minor wounds and superficial injuries. The Dental Team will distribute tooth brushes and demonstrate proper dental hygiene. Dental treatments and examinations will be conducted with emphasis on the children. ARVN Public Health Team will be available to survey the general health and sanitation conditions that exists in the hamlet.

(e) Entertainment. Music, feature movies, cartoons and VN Cultural-Drama Team will entertain the villagers to break the routine of administrative processing. A volleyball and net will be presented to the villagers and its utilization will be encouraged.

P. L. HILGARD
P. L. HILGARD

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

Appendix:

- 1 - Layout of Admin Area
- 2 - Sequence of Events
- 3 - Operations Overlay

DISTRIBUTION: Annex D (Distribution)
to Operation Plan 12-67

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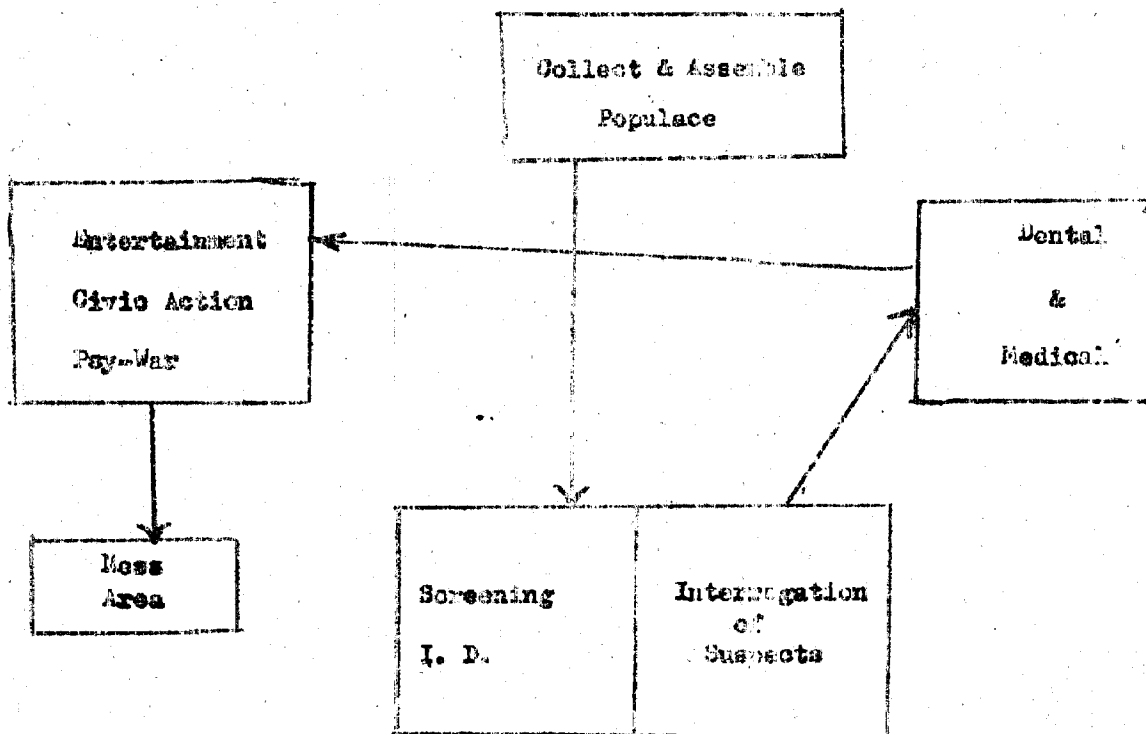
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CHU LAI, RVN
081800H March 1967

Appendix 1 (Layout of Admin Area) to Annex B (Concept of Operation) Operation Plan 12-67.

Time Zone: H

1. Diagram depicting layout of administrative area for County Fair 5-12.



Cordon

P. L. Heilcarner
P. L. HEILCARNER
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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to Operation Plan 12-67

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B-1-1

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Reg. Station, 5th Marine
CHU LAY, RVN
051600H March 1967

Appendix 2 (Sequence of Events) to Annex B (Concept of Operation) for Operation I

Time Zone: H

1200H
091700H Mar: Co 2 departs Locn. Station and conduct sweep to vicinity of
110400H Mar: According with report for County Fair site.
110600H Mar: COMBAT established at County Fair site.
110630H Mar: 1st Bn, 5th Mar advance Command group departs for County Fair site.
110730H Mar: Command post and screening area established at County Fair site.
110800H Mar: US Personnel, Police, medics, etc., depart for County Fair site.
110830H
111200H Mar: Population checked for family certificates.
Thorough search of suspect dwellings.
Conduct MDCAP.

NOON MEAL (Fed in-place)

111400H
111800H Mar: Complete MDCAP.
Registration of personnel as applicable.

EVENING MEAL (Individual's home)

111930H Mar: Population reassembled.

111930H
112230H Mar: Discussion of RD plan for 1967.
Explanation of CAS and purpose of Allied troops in Vietnam.
Talks to Civil Corps.
Culture dinner show and movies.

120800H
121200H Mar: Reassemble populace.
Recheck family registration certificates.
Issue commodities to populace.

121400H
121600H Mar: Ping Ceremony.
Continue grievances of populace discussed.
Populace released.

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121600H

121900H Mar: EVENING MEAL (Individuals homes)

121900H

122030H Mar: Culture Drama show and movies.

130700H Mar: Complete MEDCAP and DENTAL treatments.
Clean up of camp site.

131200H Mar: 1stBn, 5thMar rear command group disestablished County Fair area.

P. L. Hilgartner
P. L. HILGARTNER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

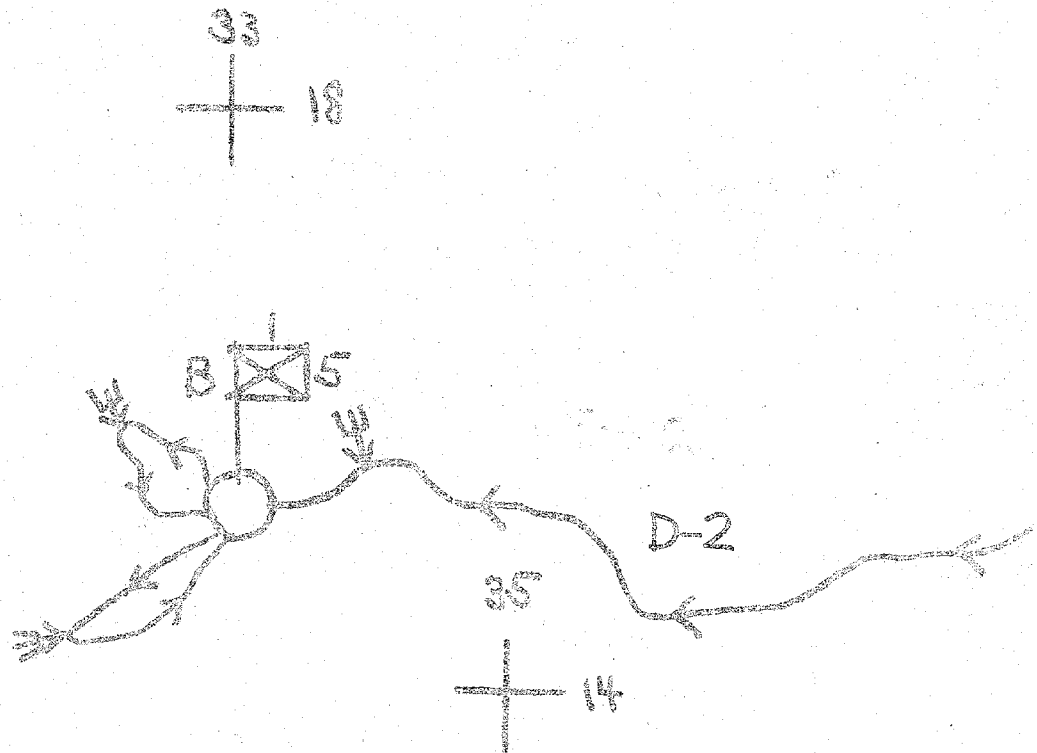
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CHU LAI, RVN
061800H March 1967

Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B (Concept of Operation) to Operation Plan 12-67



P. L. Hilgartner
P. L. HILGARTNER
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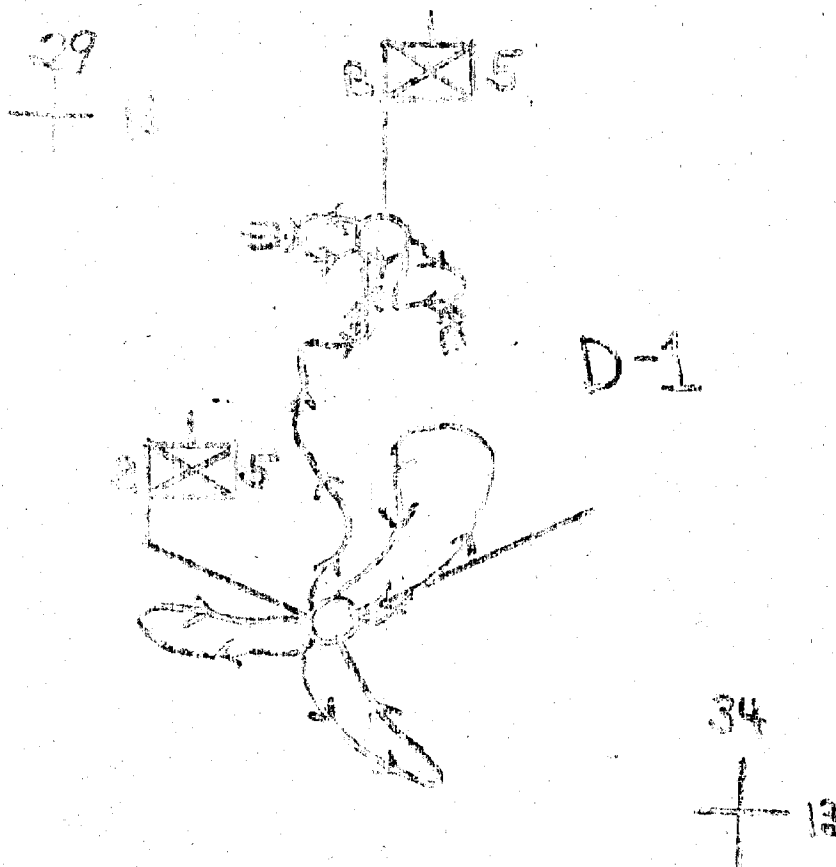
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1st Battalion, 5th Marine
CHU LAI, RVN
081800H March 1967

Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B (Concept of Operation) to Operation Plan



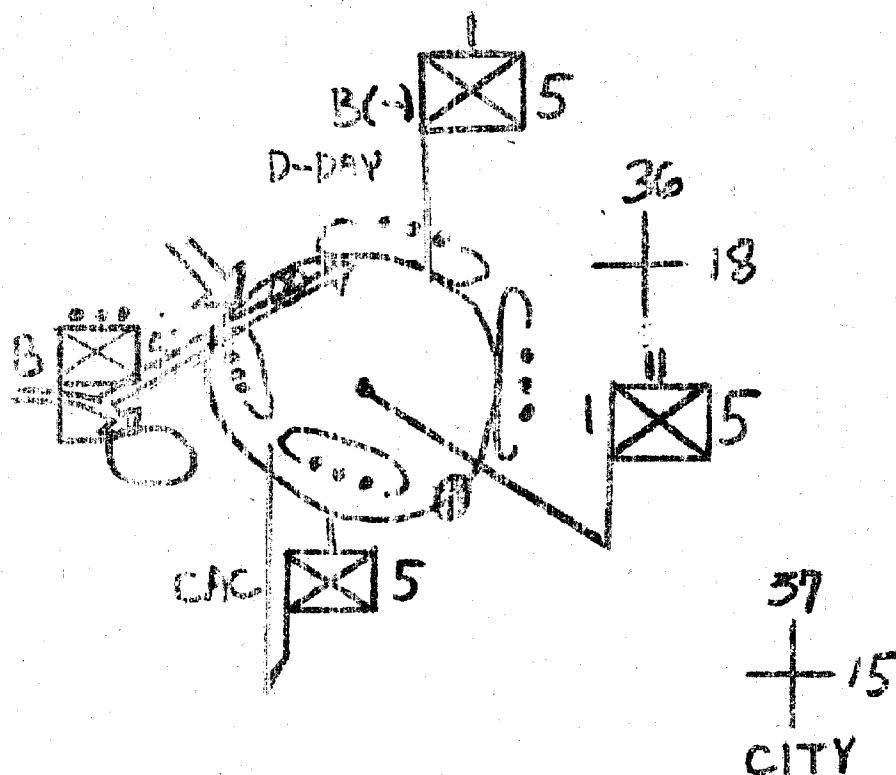
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CHU IAN, ROT
031800Z March 1967

Appendix 3 (Operation Overlay) to Annex B (Concept of Operation) To Operation Plan 12-67.



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1stBn, 5th Marines
CHU LAI, RVN

Annex C: (Administration and Logistics) to Operation Plan 12-67.

Time Zone: H

1. Generala. Supply Source: The following is a list of items to be provided by this Battalion.

(1) Source of supply is H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

- (a) One GP tent w/accessories
- (b) One hand amplifier
- (c) 1 bag cement, 1 bag gravel, 1 bag sand for placing flag pole
- (d) 1 Pson tent
- (e) 1 Flag pole
- (f) Stoves/Cradles (5)
- (g) Burners/Stacks (3)
- (h) Brushes (3)
- (i) GI cans (3)
- (j) Gasoline (55 gal. drum)
- (k) Pump (1) for stoves
- (l) Pots #5 w/covers (8)
- (m) Brushes, hand (2)
- (n) Ladles (2)
- (o) Coleman lantern (4)

(2) Source of food supply will be H&S messhall

(a) The following is a list of food to be provided by Mess Officer:

- 1. Rice
- 2. Pen Soap
- 3. Coffee
- 4. Salt & Pepper

(3) The following is a list of commodities to be distributed:

- (a) Clothing
- (b) Soap
- (c) School kits
- (d) Wood working kits
- (e) Volleyball and Volleyball nets

b. Prescribed Load

- (1) 6 meals MCI's per man
- (2) Basic allowance of ammunition

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C-1

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2. Medical Evacuation

- a. Normal medical and evacuation procedures for USMC personnel.
- b. Medical support for GVN operations to be provided by GVN and/or U. S. and administered as part of MEDCAP.

3. Messing. Messing support for GVN, operations will be as indicated in 1, a., (1) of this annex. Vietnamese nationals will prepare rice furnished by USMC. One cook or messman will be provided by participating H&S Co. to supervise the operation of mess equipment.


P. L. HILGARTNER
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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To Operation Plan 12-67

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1st Battalion, 5th Marine
GRU LAI, RVN
001800H March 1967

Annex D (Distribution List) to Operation Plan 12-67

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CG, 1st Mar	10
CG, 1st Lt	10
CG, 1st Bn, 1st Mar	2
1st Bn, 1st Mar	2

[Signature]
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 Commanding

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

3/WCM/rap
14Mar67

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 5th Marine (ATTN: S-3)
Subj: County Fair 5-12
Encl: (1) Summarized Report of County Fair 5-12

1. The following report is the final or wrap up report for subject county fair:

A. Noon meal was served to 450 people on 11Mar67 and to 600 people on 12Mar67.

B. The Culture Drama Team presented entertainment throughout the day on 11Mar67. A flag pole was erected in preparation for ceremonies scheduled for sub-hamlet. A PF honor guard was formed for participation in the ceremonies scheduled for 121200H. Devote 6 and Dislodge 6 visited the site of the county fair and participated in ceremonies on 12Mar, which consisted of presentation of a South Vietnamese flag to the District Chief as a gift for the people of Bach-Ngo Sub-Hamlet (3). After the presentation, a flag raising ceremony was conducted. Speeches were made by Devote 6 and the Local Vietnamese Officials. Devote 6 initiated gift giving. The remainder of the gifts were given through the District Chief to the hamlet officials. Total commodities distributed were:

- (1) 3000 lbs Bulgar wheat
- (2) 3900 lbs corn
- (3) 600 lbs rice
- (4) 102 gal salad oil
- (5) 3 Boxes clothing
- (6) 4 carpenter kits
- (7) 3 Messenry kits.

C. MedCaps and Dent Caps were conducted throughout the County Fair. The total personnel treated were as follows:

- (1) MedCap
 - (1) 152 Women
 - (2) 72 men
 - (3) 101 Children
- (2) DentCap
 - (1) 43 Children
 - (2) 34 men
 - (3) 64 Women

There were a total of 76 extractions.

TAB C

2. Speeches were presented by Village and District information Chief. A tape recording of a speech by Premier Ky was also presented. The Culture Drama Team was utilized with numerous presentation and movies were shown. The RD program plans for 1967 were discussed. The purpose of allied troops in Vietnam are explained. 2000 psy-war leaflets and 700 newspapers were distributed to the people.

3. County Fair 5-12 was carried out effectively in that the populace became cognizant to the fact that the GVN and allied forces will protect the people from the VC. Four families were so impressed with the County Fair that they requested to be relocated to the foothill of Ky Bich Refuges Area vicinity 600RD (BT 336175). The four families were relocated 13 March 1967.

4. Commander's Analysis.

County Fair 5-12 achieved success in the accomplishment of the mission. The people were very attentive to all the speeches delivered, and displayed active response with shouts of "Go Away VC" to a few of the speeches. The aims of the South Vietnamese Government were explained to the people and the South Vietnamese Flag was raised, which contributed to the overall effectiveness of the operation. GVN officials were pleased with the operation and felt that Devote 6's visit added a great deal to the significance of the flag ceremony. The village chief was especially grateful and indicated that his people look forward to additional county fairs in the future.

W. C. WARREN, JR.
By direction

Summarized Report of County Fair (5-12)

A. County Fair 5-12

- (1) 110600H commenced/terminated 130930H
- (2) Bich Ngo Sub-hamlet (3), Ky Bich Village coord BT 353172
- (3) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)

Company B (Rein)

Det, H&S Co

Det, Med Plt

Det, Comm Plt

TACF

S-2 Scout

FO Tn, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11th Marines

Det, 1st Plt Co C, 1st AFBnCombined Action Company (-)H&S Co (-)(Rein)

Det, HqBn, 1st MarBtr

Det, Dental Co

Det, 9th ITT/7th CIT

ISO Team

Co D(-) Bn Reserve

Other Forces:

GVN Officials

Quang Tin Province/Tam Ky District Representatives.

Ky Bich Village officials

National Police team

Consensus/Grievance team

Public Health team

PAT Cultural Drama team

VN Intelligence team/Pay-war team

Det, 224th Psy Ops Co (USA)Det, JUSPAC, 15th Air Commando Aerial Broadcast Team

- (4) The objective of County Fair 5-12 is to enhance the prestige and control by the Vietnamese Government over the populace located in this area, and to demonstrate the Vietnamese Government's concern for the welfare of the Vietnamese people.
- (5) None
- (6) 514
- (7) 1 detainee Ref apt. rep. 111315H
1 VC KIA probable Ref: Spt. rep. 111420H
2 VC KIA confirmed Ref: Spt. rep. 120930H
- (8) No significant indication of an organized VC infrastructure has been established. Screening revealed 10 civilians possible VC to be watched by village chief. Screening and interrogation produced names of 20 VC followers, names of 10 VC active from the Bich Ngo (3) area, and names of 10 VC from Bich Ngo (3) who are presently in North Vietnam.
- (9) Rundown of events:
On 11 March:
 - (1) People assembled at 0830
 - (2) MedCap treated 160 persons
 - (a) 63 women
 - (b) 40 men
 - (c) 57 children

DentCap treated 78 persons and had 44 extractions.

- (a) 34 women
- (b) 19 men
- (c) 25 children

- (3) Cultural Drama team entertained throughout day.
- (4) Noon meal served to 450 persons.
- (5) Flagpoles erected.
- (6) Volleyball and net set up and donated to people.
- (7) People gathered for speeches by village information chief and District information Chief, and tape recording of speech by Premier Ky.
- (8) People went home at 1730 and returned at 1930 for movies. 600 persons came for movies, which were both psy-war and entertaining. Populace dispersed at 2130.
- (9) Screening and checking of civilians continued all day and 300 persons were screened 11 March.

On 12 March:

- (1) People reassembled at 0830.
- (2) PF's formed honor guard for arrival of Devote 6.
- (3) People gathered together and told of Devote 6 arrival.
- (4) Devote 6 and Disledge 6 briefed by District Chief.
- (5) Devote 6 presented So. VN Flag to District Chief. Flag raising ceremony.
- (6) Devote 6 and other VIP's initiate gift giving.
- (7) Devote 6 and Disledge 6 briefed by Cottage 6.
- (8) Departure of VIP's.
- (9) Noon meal served to 600 persons.
- (10) Remainder of gifts given out through village chief to hamlets.
Commodities given out:
 - (a) 3000 lbs bulgar wheat
 - (b) 3000 lbs corn
 - (c) 600 lbs rice
 - (d) 102 gallons salad oil
 - (e) 3 boxes clothing
 - (f) 4 carpenter kits
 - (g) 3 masonry kits
- (11) MedCap treated 165 persons
 - (a) 89 women
 - (b) 32 men
 - (c) 44 children
 DentCap treated 55 persons - 32 extractions.
 - (a) 26 women
 - (b) 14 men
 - (c) 15 children
- (12) People returned to homes at 1700 with gifts.
- (13) 214 additional persons screened.

13 March:

- (1) Departure of Hamlet Officials who expressed thanks for County Fair.
- (2) Police of County Fair site.
- (3) DentCap treated stragglers: 4 women, 1 man, 3 children.
- (4) Assisted 4 families move personnel belongings from Bich Ngo (3) to foothills of Ky Bich Refugee area vicinity coord BT 336175.

(10) Passed out 2000 psy-war leaflets and 700 newspapers. Showed movies for 2 hours.

(11) None

(12) Total MedCap - 325

(a) 152 women

(b) 72 men

(c) 101 children

Total DentCap - 141

(a) 43 children

(b) 34 men

(c) 64 women

(d) 76 extractions

Form Order 13-67

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
CHU LAI, RVN
111600H March 1967

Ref: (a) Maps: Vietnam AMS L7014, (1:50,000), sheets 6639IV, 6640II, 6740III,
and 6739IV
(b) BnO 3000.2A SOP for Operations
(c) BnO 3300.1 Rules of Engagement
(d) BnO 2000.1A Communications SOP

091-67

Task Organization - Annex A (Task Organization)

Copy 3 of 89 copies.

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces

(1) The 14th and 706th LF Companies are confirmed units, and reported to be operating in the objective area. The largest weapons reported to be used by these units are the 81mm mortar, 60mm mortar and the .50 caliber machine gun. Additionally, there is an estimated nine guerrillas in each of the following hamlets; Phu Duc, Ton Haa and Thon Mai. These guerrillas are used as lookouts firing three shots when USMC forces approach. Unconfirmed units in this area are the 221st Battalion, the 57th Battalion and the 76th Main Force Company.

b. Friendly Forces

- (1) 5thMar continues defense of assigned TAOR.
- (2) 3rdBn, 5thMar continues defense within TAOR.
- (3) Artillery.
 - (a) 2ndBn (-), 11thMar. Direct Support 5thMar.
 - (b) 4thBn (-)(Rein), 11thMar. General Support/Reinforcing.
- (4) Air. 1stMAW provides helicopter and fixed wing support as requested.

c. Attachments and Detachments. Annex A (Task Organization)

2. MISSION

Commencing H-Hour on D-Day, 1stBn, 5thMar(-) conducts search and destroy operations in objective area for a period of about 5 days to locate and destroy local force VC, capture weapons, prisoners, uncover harbor sites and storage areas, and to employ psychological warfare operations to the maximum extent possible.

3. EXECUTION

- (a) Concept of operation. Annex B (Operation Overlay)
- (b) Company G (-)(Rein)

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Tab D

(1) On order, on D-1 commence foot movement to vicinity coord (BT 336121) establish patrol base 2. On order commence extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity of objective area (D). (See Annex B (Operation Overlay))

(2) On order, establish patrol base 3.

(3) On order, commence extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity objective area (E).

(4) On order, establish additional patrol base as directed and conduct extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity of objective areas as designated.

(5) Be prepared to assume other missions as directed.

c. Company D (-)(Rein)

(1) On order, on D-Day commence foot movement to vicinity coord (BT 363088). Establish patrol base 4. On order commence extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity objective area (G). (See Annex B (Operation Overlay))

(2) On order, establish additional patrol bases as directed and conduct extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity of objective areas as designated.

(3) Be prepared to assume other missions as directed.

d. Company B (-)(Rein)

(1) On order, on D-Day detach one plt to proceed overland conducting search and clear operations in route to Battalion Combat Base vicinity coord (BT 396143).

(2) On order, on D-Day commence foot movement to vicinity coord (BT 315143). Establish patrol base 1. On order, commence extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity of objective areas A, B, and C.

(3) On order establish additional patrol bases as directed and conduct extensive small unit search and destroy operations in vicinity of objective areas as designated.

(4) Provide security for the Battalion Command Group.

(5) Provide one Platoon for Battalion Reserve.

(6) Be prepared to assume other missions as directed.

e. 81st Mortar Plt (-) General Support.

f. H&S Co (-)(Rein)

(1) On order, on D-1 establish squad CP with voice relay capabilities at coord (BT 358130).

(2) Be prepared to assume other missions as directed.

g. Battalion Reserve

(1) 2nd Plt Co B (Rein)

(a) Prepare to assume mission of attacking companies.

(b) Prepare to assume other missions as directed.

3. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) H-Hour: TBA (1200 for planning purposes)
- (2) D-Day: TBA (13 March 1967 for planning purposes)
- (3) References (b), (c) and (d) apply.
- (4) Riot control agents used only on order CO, 1stBn, 5thMar.
- (5) Rice destruction only on order CO, 1stBn, 5thMar.
- (6) Attachments effective on order.
- (7) Request psychological warfare assistance from this Headquarters.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

(a) Administration. No change

(b) Logistics.

- (1) Carry 6 MCI per individual.
- (2) Carry BA ammunition.
- (3) Carry rope for stream crossing.
- (4) Submit resupply request prior to 1000 on day before resupply is desired.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

(a) Command.

- (1) Battalion Command Group will be with Company B (-)(Rein) initially.
- (2) Reports to be submitted as follows:
 - (a) Hourly progress reports.
 - (b) Spot reports as occurring.
- (3) Termination of operation on order CO, 1stBn, 5thMar.

(b) Communications/Electronics

- (1) See reference (d).


P. L. HARTZNER

LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
Commanding

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Iraq Order 13-67

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
 CAMP FAI, RVN
 110000Z March 1967

Annex A (Task Organization)

1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)

LTCOL BULLMARTNER

H&S Co (-)(Rein)

CAPT MCKAY

H&S Co (-)

Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Det, Sub Unit #2, HqBn, 1stMarDiv

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, Co B, 1stMugBn

Kit Carson

Co C (-)(Rein)

CAPT CASWELL

Co C (-)

FO Tn, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sgt Co B, 1stMugBn

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, HqCo, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tn, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tn

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Co D (-)(Rein)

CAPT CARRY

FO Tn, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sgt, Co B, 1stMugBn

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, HqCo, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

Det, Slim Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Team

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Co B (-)(Bn)

CAPT LYLES

Co B (-)

FO Bn, Btry B, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sgt, Co B, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Co B, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Bn, Slim Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Team

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Slim Mortar Plt (-)

CYRIL LINDEN

[Signature]
P. L. HILGEMER

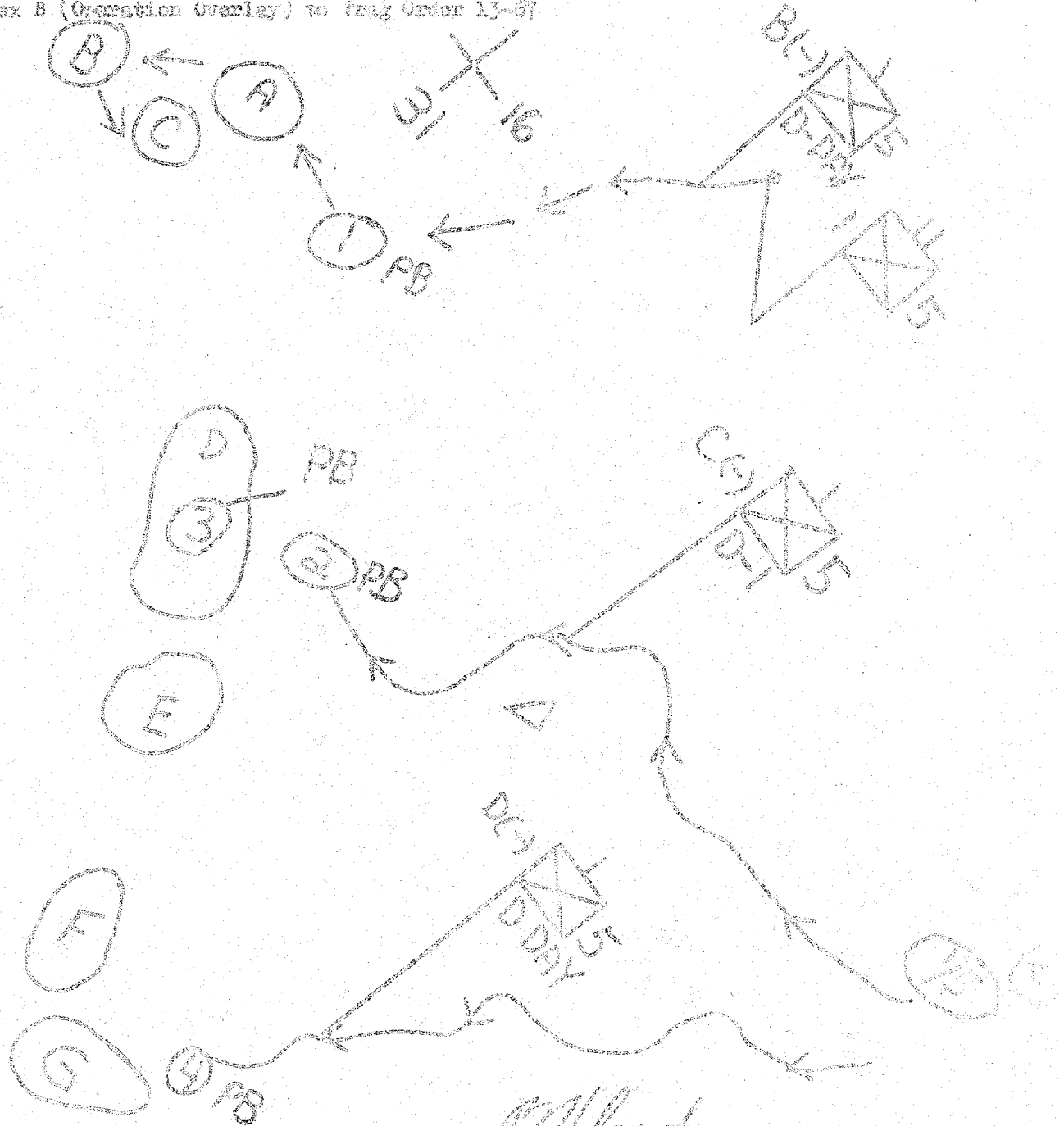
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Annex B (Operation Overlay) to Reg Order 13-67



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 to Reg Order 13-67

1st Battalion, 1st Marine
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Annex C (Distribution List) to Frag Order 13-67

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CG, MAC B6	2
CG, HAS Co	1
CG, Co B	2
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CG, Co D	2
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 LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U. S. Marine Corps
 Commanding

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 Frag Order 13-67

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

3/KNM/daa
3480
Ser. No.
27Mar67

0108-67

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

Copy 37 of 56 copies.

Subj: After Action Report Operation "TIPPECANOE"

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1
(b) 1stBn, 5thMar Frag Order 13-67
(c) Maps: Vietnam AMS L7014, 1:50,000, Sheets 6639I, 6640II, 6740III, 6739IV

Encl: (1) Operation Overlay D-1
(2) Operation Overlay D-Day
(3) Night Activities and Disposition Overlay D-Day
(4) Operation Overlay D+1
(5) Night Activities and Disposition Overlay D+1
(6) Operation Overlay D+2
(7) Night Activities and Disposition Overlay D+2
(8) Operation Overlay D+3
(9) Night Activities and Disposition Overlay D+3
(10) Operation Overlay D+4
(11) Night Activities and Disposition D+4
(12) Operation Overlay D+5

1. CODE NAME AND TYPE OF OPERATION.

Operation "TIPPECANOE" (Search and Destroy)

2. DATES OF OPERATION.

131200H to 181200H March 1967

3. LOCATION. Vicinity of the northwestern area of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR and adjacent to the RAOR, in the LY TIN and TAM KY Districts, TAM KY Province Republic of Vietnam, on map sheets AMS 7014, 1:50,000 sheets 6639I, 6640II, 6740III, 6739IV.

4. COMMAND HEADQUARTERS.

CO, 1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)
CO, B(-), 1stBn, 5thMar
CO, C(-), 1stBn, 5thMar
CO, D(-), 1stBn, 5thMar

LTCOL P. L. HILGARTNER
CAPT H. G. LYLES
CAPT R. J. GASWELL
CAPT J. J. CARTY

DOWN-CLASSIFIED AT 2 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

UNCLASSIFIED

TAB E

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5. (TASK ORGANIZATION).

1stBn, 5thMar (-)(Rein)

H&S Co (-)(Rein)

H&S Co (-)

Det, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Det, Sub Unit #2, HqBn, 1stMarDiv

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, Co B, 1stEngrBn

Kit Carson

ARVN Ln

Co B (-)(Rein)

Co B(-)

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stEngrBn

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, HqCo, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Co C (-)(Rein)

Co C(-)

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stEngrBn

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

UNCOL P. L. HILGARTNER

CAPT MCKAY (Acting)

CAPT LYLES

CAPT CASWELL

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED
 UNCLASSIFIED

Det, HqCo, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

Det, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Kit Carson Scout

Co D(-)(Rein)

CAPT CARTY

Co D(-)

FO Tm, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11thMar

Sqd, Co B, 1stIngr Bn

Det, Co B, 1stSPBn

Det, HqCo, 5thMar

Det, H&S Co, 1stBn, 5thMar

Det, Comm Plt

Det, Med Plt

FO Tm, 81mm Mortar Plt

S-2 Scout

FAC Tm

Det, ARVN Interpreter

Kit Carson Scout

81mm Mortar Plt (-)

GYSGT LISEMBY

6. SUPPORTING F.C.

A. Air Support

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(1) Helicopters. Helicopters were used throughout the operation for medical evacuations and resupply missions.

(2) Fixed Wing. On D+1 six fixed wing aircraft expended 16 250 pound bombs, 7 Napalm bombs, 6 500 pound bombs and 160 2.75 rockets at an estimated 25-30 VC, vicinity coordinates (BT 327107). The fixed wing aircraft were on target from 0915H to 0950H. Four enemy positions were destroyed and blood trails were found by the assault elements of the company. On D+4 two fixed wing aircraft were on station, but were not utilized due to close proximity of friendly troops to the target area.

(3) Aerial Observer. AO's were requested on a daily basis, but not always on station at the time requested due to aircraft availability. The Ol-C aircraft was a valuable asset to the ground commander during the operation.

(4) General. The nature of enemy targets within the objective area precluded the continuous use of fixed wing aircraft. Having air support on call proved to be the most practicable method for utilization of aircraft.

B. Artillery Support. Artillery support was provided by Battery L, 4th Battalion, 11th Marines in general support. Artillery was used to best advantage on D-Day by Company C. Five missions were fired with 108, 155 rounds expended. Coverage of the targets was uniformly good. Blood trails were found.

H&I's were fired extensively by artillery and organic weapons. H&I's were fired at known VC activities, harbor sites, infiltration and escape routes located during the day. A total of 57 81mm rounds, 53 105mm rounds and 53 155mm rounds were expended. On call illumination and HE missions were planned to support tactical maneuvers and night activities.

7. INTELLIGENCE.

A. Estimate of Enemy Situation, Strength and 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>
14th LF Co	BT 3211	90	Unknown
706th LF Co	BT 3113	80	Unknown

(2) The operational objective was to locate and destroy the VC units in the objective area.

B. VC strength and Situation Actually Found as the Operation was Conducted

Light contact was maintained as the operation was conducted. Contacts were characterized by the enemy initiating the action with heavy automatic and semi-automatic small arms fire from well concealed positions at maximum ranges, withdrawing promptly to avoid continuing contact.

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C. VC Units Identified.

D. Significant Intelligence.

(1) Information obtained from initial interrogation of detainees and the discovery of silhouette targets, vicinity of coordinates BT 3210, indicated that this area is being used as a training site by the 14th LF Co. This company, commanded by CONG, was said to be armed with one 60mm mortar, one machine gun and a undetermined amount of individual weapons.

(2) The Vietnamese populace screened revealed that a large VC unit travels this valley regularly. These units when moving are well dispersed, avoid main trails, and conceal weapons in bundles of wood to avoid detection.

E. Terrain.

(1) Critical Terrain.

- (a) Hill 302 NUI YA
- (b) Hill 68

(2) The terrain in the immediate objective area is composed of narrow strips of paddy land bounded by thickly brush covered hills.

(3) Obstacles. None

(4) Avenues of Approach. Trails in the operational area were from good to excellent for foot troops. A suitable route for tracked vehicle movement into the operational area was established.

(5) Cross Country Movement. No difficulty was encountered by infantry units and during the dry season little difficulty can be expected for tracked vehicle movement in operational area.

8. MISSION.

Commencing H-Hour on D-Day the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducts coordinated search and destroy operations in the objective area to locate and destroy local force VC.

9. CONCEPT OF OPERATION.

To move 3 companies and a Command Group via 3 routes into the operational area and conduct coordinated search and destroy operations.

(a) D-1

(1) Company B and the Command Group were pre-positioned and in the final stages of "wrapping up" County Fair 5-12, in vicinity of Bich Ngo 3 at coordinates (BT 343170). Company C moved overland from 1st Battalion's 5th Marines Combat Base into position vicinity Patrol Base 2 coordinates (BT 337124). Radio Relay was established vicinity coordinates (BT 358130).

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(b) D-Day

(1) On D-Day Company A moved from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base into position vicinity Patrol Base 4 coordinates (BT 366090). Company B and Command Group commenced movement from vicinity coordinates (BT 343170) to Patrol Base 1 vicinity coordinates (BT 317143). When all units were in the operational area, the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced coordinated search and destroy operations.

10 EXECUTION

(a) D-1. 12 March 1967. (See Enclosure 1))

(1) 121200H Company C commenced movement by foot from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base at coordinates (BT 397145) to Patrol Base 2 vicinity coordinates (BT 368121).

(2) 121600H Radio Relay was established in vicinity coordinates (BT 358130).

(3) 121830H Company C arrived at Patrol Base 2 and established perimeter and night activities. (See Enclosure 1)

(b) D-Day. 13 March 1967. (See Enclosure 2))

(1) 130810H 501 (Sqd S&D) at coordinates (BT 325115) received approximately 50 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 5 unobserved VC vicinity coordinates (BT 320112). Sniper fire was received from the southeast at a range of 300-400 meters. Patrol returned 200 rounds small arms fire and 5 M-79 rounds. Artillery was called and 12 155mm HE rounds were fired at suspected VC locations. Patrol 501 sustained six casualties. VC broke contact and fled in an unknown direction. Company C moved to join the patrol and searched the area with negative results. Result of contact: 1 USMC DOW, 3 USMC WLE and 2 USMC WLINE.

(2) 130930H Company D commenced movement by foot from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base at coordinates (BT 397145) to Patrol Base 4 vicinity coordinates (BT 363088).

(3) 130930H Company B and Command Group commenced movement by foot from vicinity coordinates (BT 343170) to establish Patrol Base 1 in vicinity coordinates (BT 315143).

(4) 131130H Lead elements of Company C at coordinates (BT 321113) observed one VC, in thick brush, at coordinates (BT 321112) wearing green clothing, carrying a pack. It appeared VC was carrying a weapon. VC spotted Marines and started running. He disposed of his equipment while withdrawing. Marines pursued physically and fired 10 rounds small arms fire which killed VC. Area was searched and Company C found one homemade pack which contained assorted clothing and assorted military equipment. All items forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. Result of contact: One VC KIA confirmed.

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(5) 131245H Company B at Patrol Base 1. Patrol Base 1 did not provide adequate observation for controlling the operation. The Commanding Officer established Patrol Base 1 Alpha at coordinates (BT 312139).

(6) 131300H Company B found one ChiCom grenade wrapped in wax paper at coordinates (BT 312157). The grenade was destroyed by engineers.

(7) 131305H Company B while moving from coordinates (BT 313145) toward Patrol Base 1 Alpha at coordinates (BT 315143) received approximately 10 to 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 2 to 3 unobserved VC vicinity coordinates (BT 305148), a distance of approximately 600 meters. Company B suppressed VC fire with 50 rounds small arms fire and 5 3.5 WP rounds and continued movement toward Patrol Base 1 Alpha with the mission of providing security for the Command Group.

(8) 131330H Company B while moving to Patrol Base 1 Alpha vicinity coordinates (BT 312138) executed a Recon by fire vicinity coordinates (BT 312139) and triggered a VC ambush consisting of an estimated 15 VC. VC fired approximately 150-200 rounds small arms fire from well concealed and well dispersed positions in vicinity coordinates (BT 307140) and (BT 308145) (Objective A). Company B returned 150 rounds of small arms fire and 15 60mm HE rounds and moved to secure Objective A. Area was searched with negative results.

(9) 131345H Company C at coordinates (BT 327109) received one round of sniper fire from a hut at coordinates (BT 328108), a distance of approximately 150 meters. Company C returned 20 rounds small arms fire, assaulted hut and observed two VC males attempting to flee from the hut. One VC was wearing black shirt and blue shorts, the other VC was wearing a checkered shirt and green shorts. One VC was killed and the other VC fell as if hit. The VC that appeared to be hit got up and started running. Marines pursued physically, but lost contact with fleeing VC due to thick brush. Area was searched and Marines found one Marine Corps towel and one pair of utility type trousers in hut where VC had been hiding. Result of contact: One VC KIA confirmed and one VC WIA probable.

(10) 131430H Company B at coordinates (BT 321136) apprehended two male Vietnamese detainees, about 50 years of age. The Kit Carson questioned the detainees and determined that the detainees had information concerning the operational area. One detainee had a notebook containing a list of supplies he had given the VC. The two detainees and the notebook were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(11) 131440H Company C at coordinates (BT 329110) received 500-700 rounds .30 caliber and 10 to 15 rounds .50 caliber semi-automatic fire from an unobserved number of VC from an estimated distance of 300 meters, in vicinity of coordinates (BT 328108). Company C returned 1000 rounds small arms fire. Artillery mission was called and 67 155mm HE and WP rounds were fired in vicinity coordinates (BT 326105). Company C searched area and found blood trails which were followed with negative results. Result of contact: One USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIAE, 1 USMC WIAE, 5 VC KIA probable and 5 VC WIA probable.

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(12) 131605H Patrol 5B2 (Plt S&D) at coordinates (BT 303141) received approximately 350 rounds semi/automatic small arms fire from an estimated 15 to 20 unobserved VC vicinity coordinates (BT 303141) at a range of approximately 500 meters. Patrol returned 400 rounds small arms fire, 20 M-79 rounds and 4 LAWs, and assaulted the VC position. VC broke contact and fled in an undetermined direction. Area was searched with negative results. Result of contact: 2 USMC WLA.

(13) 131500H Patrol 5B2 (Plt S&D) at coordinates (BT 300143) spotted one VC at coordinates (BT 300144) wearing green type utilities and carrying an M-1 rifle. Patrol 5B2 fired approximately 10 rounds small arms fire and VC fell in a brushy area as if hit. Area was searched and 2 60mm mortar cannisters and a blood trail was found. Blood trail was followed with negative results. Cannisters were destroyed by S-2. Result of contact: One VC WLA probable.

(14) 131755H Co D at coordinates (BT 348087) received 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 2 VC at coordinates (BT 346087) at a range of 200 meters. VC were not observed due to heavy under brush. Co D returned 20 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Most likely route or withdrawal was in a westerly direction. Area was searched with negative result. Result of contact: One USMC KIA.

(15) 131900H All companies established night defensive perimeters and night activities. Command Group was with Co B. (See Enclosure (3))

C. D-1. 14 March 1967. (See Enclosure (4))

(1) 140700H All units moved to effect a linkup with Co C. Co C established a squad blocking force and conducted search and destroy patrol activities. (See Enclosure (4))

(2) 140730H Patrol 5C1 (Sgt S&D) at coordinates (BT 328109), while moving to establish a blocking position vicinity coordinates (BT 320104), received 15-20 rounds automatic small arms fire from an estimated 1-2 VC at coordinates (BT 327103) a distance of approximately 150 meters. Patrol returned 100 rounds small arms fire and 15 M-79 rounds. Patrol assaulted VC positions and searched area with negative results.

(3) 140830H Patrol 5C2 (Plt S&D) at coordinates (BT 330109) received 200 rounds semi/automatic small arms fire from an estimated 10 to 20 unobserved VC located at coordinates (BT 327107), a distance of approximately 500 meters. Patrol returned 300 rounds small arms fire, 20 M-79 rounds, 9 60mm HE rounds, and 2 3.5 WP rounds. A UH-1E on station strafed suspected VC locations. An air strike was called utilizing an A-1. Aircraft expended 16 250 pound bombs, 7 napalm bombs, 6 500 pound bombs, and 160 2.75 rockets on suspected VC locations. VC broke contact and fled in an unknown direction. A platoon searched area and found 20 freshly dug fighting holes, a pair of blood stained tan shorts and blood trails leading south and southwest. Blood trails were followed and area was searched with negative results. M-60 machine gun links and expended casings were found in one of the fighting holes, with numerous .30 caliber casings for M-1 and carbines, laying around in the other fighting holes. Result of contact: 4 VC KIA probable, and 5 VC WLA probable.

(4) 141015H Lead elements of Co B, while moving along a trail, found one booby trapped ChiCom grenade at coordinates (BT 328118). A trip wire was attached to the grenade which ran across the trail. ChiCom grenade was destroyed by engineers.

(5) 141040H Co D at coordinates (BT 346086) received 10 rounds automatic weapons fire from an unobserved VC sniper located in heavy brush at an estimated range of 200 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 348066). Co D returned 50 rounds small arms fire and physically pursued VC. VC broke contact and fled in an undetermined direction. Area was searched with negative results. Result of contact: 2 USMC WLA.

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(6) 141130H Co B at coordinates (BT 330115) file moving with Command Group in a tactical column, to effect. Co C received 3 rounds of small arms fire from one VC sniper from a distance of 500 to 600 meters at coordinates (BT 322114). No fire was returned. No search was made to locate the VC sniper.

(7) 141223H Co D at coordinates (BT 345087) spotted one VC carrying a weapon, type unknown, wearing green type utilities running up a hill at coordinates (BT 345089) a distance of 200 meters. The VC had apparently sighted the Marines and was trying to flee in a northerly direction. Co D fired 20 rounds small arms fire and physically pursued VC. It appeared VC fell as if hit when Co D initially opened fire. Co D lost sight of the fleeing VC. Co D searched the area and found a notebook containing propaganda material, and two National Liberation Front Flag Cards, that the VC had dropped in his haste to get away. Notebook and Flag Cards forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. Result of contact: One VC WIA probable.

(8) 141310H Scout sniper team attached to Patrol 502 (Plt S&D) at coordinates (BT 321103) observed one VC wearing black pajamas and carrying a weapon moving east along a treeline in vicinity coordinates (BT 322108) at an estimated range of 600 meters. Scout sniper fired one round small arms fire at VC. VC fell behind rice paddy dyke and no further movement was observed. A fire team searched area where VC was last sighted with negative results. Result of contact: One VC WIA probable.

(9) 141630H Patrol 5B1 (Sgt S&D OP) at coordinates (BT 313111) found 3 booby traps, a 155mm round, a 105mm round and a 60mm round. The 155mm and 105mm rounds were buried about one inch under the ground, with a hole dug beside the rounds 1 1/2 feet deep, 2 feet wide and 2 feet long with a trip wire running across the top of the hole. The 60mm round was standing fuse up in a hole 1 1/2 feet deep, 2 feet wide and 2 feet long, with a C ration can over the fuse of the round. There were no visible wires attached. All the holes were covered with C ration boxes. Engineers destroyed the booby traps the following day.

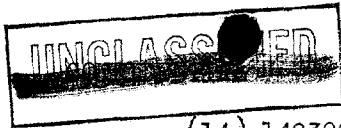
(10) 141635H All units linked up at coordinates (BT 327106) and established a Battalion perimeter.

(11) 141830H The perimeter area was searched and found numerous caves and tunnels, which were reported and destroyed the following day. Units found 3 M-14 magazines loaded with 20 rounds 7.62mm wrapped in banana leaves, one gray uniform and five bamboo sillouttee targets. Items forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(12) 141900 The Battalion night defensive perimeter and night activities were established. (See Enclosure (5))

(13) 141930H Co D perimeter at coordinates (BT 327108) received approximately 30 rounds small arms fire and 2 M-79 rounds from an unobserved and undetermined number of VC, from an estimated range of 150 to 300 meters at coordinates (BT 325105). Co C fired one claymore mine at suspected VC locations. VC broke contact and fled in unknown direction. The perimeter was alerted. A fire team from Co C was dispatched to search the area. Area searched with negative results.

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(14) 142300H Company B received approximately 100 rounds small arms fire, 3 hand grenades, and two heavier detonations, possibly 60mm mortar rounds, from an estimated range of 200-600 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 333105). Origin of the heavy weapons fire was not determined. Fire was received from an estimated 5 to 10 unobserved VC. Company B did not return fire. The following morning one M-26 grenade was found and destroyed by engineers. It appeared that the grenade had been thrown into the perimeter the previous night. The pin on the grenade was partially pulled. A few minutes after the VC fire subsided Company C noticed a burning sensation of the eyes and running of the nose; which indicated the use of a chemical agent. Perimeter was alerted and troops were ordered to put on field protective masks. The agent drifted from southwest to northeast across the defensive perimeter. Sectors held by Company C, Company D and the Command Group received a dose of the agent. The agent was persistent for approximately 10 minutes. Dose rate was light. Probable method of dissemination was accomplished with two chemical burning type munitions, employed approximately 200 meters upwind of the target area. All units accounted for all chemical grenades. The area was searched for possible evidence which would have indicated what method was used to disseminate the agent. Search was conducted with negative results.

D. D+2. 15 March 1967. (See Enclosure (6))

(1) 150700H During the morning, all units conducted extensive search and destroy activities south of Objective D in vicinity grid squares (BT 3210), (BT 3310), (BT 3209), (BT 3309).

(2) 150900H Scout Sniper team attached with patrol 5C1 in blocking position at coordinates (BT 321103) observed 5 to 7 VC, moving northwest, wearing black pajamas and carrying weapons at a range of approximately 700 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 324112). Scout Sniper team fired one round small arms fire at VC. One VC fell as if hit, the other VC picked up wounded VC and moved into heavy brush. The area was not searched. Result of contact: One VC WIA probable.

(3) 150930H Patrol 5D2 (Plt S&D) at coordinates (BT 333098) received 3 rounds small arms fire from one unobserved VC at coordinates (BT 333096) from a distance of approximately 200 meters. No fire was returned. A fire team searched area for VC sniper with negative results.

(4) 151000H Company C while in vicinity coordinates (BT 327105) found numerous caves and fighting holes. Company C filled up the fighting holes and engineers destroyed five caves with average size; 5 feet wide, 4 feet high and 8 feet long.

(5) 151025H Patrol 5D2 (Sqd S&D) at coordinates (BT 338100) received approximately 10 rounds automatic carbine fire from one VC sniper at coordinates (BT 339102). No fire was returned, and a fire team was dispatched to search the area. Fire team found 2 khaki hammocks and one haversack. Items forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.



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(6) 151100H Co. [redacted] perimeter in vicinity coordinates (BT 330105). Grenade with the fuse pulled, numerous fighting hole (which appeared to be freshly dug) and five tunnels, size averaging 7 feet deep, 4 feet wide and 3 feet high. ChiCom grenade and tunnels were destroyed by engineers. The fighting holes were filled by Company B.

(7) 151150H Patrol 5D2 (platoon S&D) at coordinates (BT 336103) received approximately 10-20 rounds small arms fire from an estimated 3 unobserved VC at coordinates (BT 337105) at an estimated range of 200 meters. Patrol returned 50 rounds small arms fire and one 3.5 WP round. The area was searched and the patrol apprehended 5 detainees, 3 females and 2 males. Initial questioning revealed that all 5 detainees had information concerning VC activities in the operational area. One female was suspected of being a VC nurse. The 5 detainees were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(8) 151300H A helicopter resupply was requested. Resupply was completed at 1430H.

(9) 151430H All units commenced movement to conduct S&D operations in the vicinity of Objectives A, B and C. The Command Group moved with Company C. OP was established in vicinity coordinates (BT 315111). (See Enclosure (6))

(10) 151700H Company C at coordinates (BT 325123) received one round sniper fire from a distance of approximately 300-400 meters. Company C moved toward area of VC sniper fire and received an additional 100-150 rounds semi-automatic small arms fire from an estimated 4 VC in vicinity coordinates (BT 324123). Company C returned approximately 500 rounds small arms fire, 35 M-79 rounds, 25 60mm HE rounds, and 19 3.5 WP rounds. VC broke contact and fled in unknown direction. Company C searched the area and apprehended one old Vietnamese male, when interrogated he revealed that 4 VC with weapons had been in the area, but was unable to determine what direction the VC had fled. Vietnamese male was released.

(11) 151710H Scout sniper team attached to Company D at coordinates (BT 320115) observed 2 VC dressed in black pajamas. One VC was carrying a weapon. Scout sniper team fired one round at VC carrying weapon, VC fell and appeared to be hit. The other VC helped the wounded VC into heavy brush. Area was searched with negative results. Result of contact: One VC WIA probable.

(12) 151815H Company D at coordinates (BT 310212) received 20 rounds semi-automatic small arms fire from 2 VC at a range of 250 meters in vicinity coordinates (BT 312212), VC were dressed in black clothing and were carrying carbines. Company D returned 100 rounds small arms fire, 2 M-79 rounds and 3 3.5 WP rounds. VC broke contact and fled in a northwesterly direction. Company D physically pursued VC, but lost contact. Area was searched with negative results.

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(13) 151930H Company [redacted] one VC male age 30, wearing white shirt and black shorts (BT 303136). The Kit Carson identified the VC as Phan [redacted] village chief of Ky Tra. VC was forwarded to 5th Marines S-1.

(14) 151945H Patrol D21 (sqd OP) established in vicinity coordinates (BT 315110).

(15) 152000H Companies established night defensive perimeters and night activities. Command Group was with Company C. (See Enclosure (7)).

E. D+3. 16 March 1967 (See Enclosure (8)).

(1) 160730H The Battalion commenced S&D operations with one company in the assault, one company in blocking positions and one company in reserve.

(2) 160830H All blocking forces in position. Company B established OP in vicinity coordinates (BT 312144).

(3) 160900H Company D at coordinates (BT 294143) found one dead VC dressed in red shirt and grey trousers. VC was searched, and had no I.D. card or weapon, VC appeared to be about 30 years of age. It appeared VC was killed by 81 H&I fires which had been fired in the area the previous night. Local Vietnamese were questioned to determine identity of dead VC with negative results.

(4) 160900H Patrol 5D21 (sqd CP) at coordinates (BT 312110) found 50 anti-helicopter bamboo stakes averaging in size from 10 feet to 12 feet in length covering top of the hill. Also found, were 5 booby trapped 105mm HE rounds, 20 lbs of explosives, one 155mm HE round not booby trapped, and one booby trapped 60mm mortar round. Engineers destroyed anti-helicopter bamboo stakes, booby traps and explosives.

(5) 160930H Patrol 5D21 was extracted from coordinates (BT 312110) by helicopter and returned to the Command Group location at coordinates (BT 304137).

(6) 160950H Leaflet drop was conducted in the vicinity of Objective A, B and C.

(7) 161000H The helicopter which landed in vicinity coordinates (BT 304137) to extract Commanding Officer, 5th Marines received approximately 10 to 15 rounds small arms fire from an estimated one unobserved VC sniper, from an undetermined location. Company C dispatched a squad to search area of suspected VC location. Area was searched with negative results.

(8) 161200H Company D and Company B effected a linkup at coordinates (BT 308145).

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(9) 161230H Command Group moved to linkup with Company D and Company B at coordinates (BT 308145). Co [redacted] position at coordinates (BT 304137).

(10) 161330H Company B and Company [redacted] conducted search and destroy patrols in vicinity of Objectives A, B and C. Company C moved into position to assault Objective Y the following morning.

(11) 161350H Company C with one platoon of Company B attached commenced movement from coordinates (BT 304137) to a position at checkpoint White, in vicinity coordinates (BT 316100).

(12) 161400H Company C at coordinates (BT 299137) received 20 to 30 rounds small arms fire, from an estimated 4 VC in vicinity coordinates (BT 297136) a range of approximately 200 meters. Company C projected 2 CS grenades in the vicinity of VC locations and returned 30 rounds small arms fire. 81mm mortar mission was called, 6 HE rounds, and 2 WP rounds were fired at VC location. Company C assaulted and searched area and found one VC KIA confirmed, and one VC Mess Kit. While searching the area Company C received an additional 30 to 40 rounds small arms sniper fire. Company C suppressed fire by returning 100 rounds small arms fire, 2 3.5 WP rounds, 3 M79 rounds, 3 60mm mortar HE rounds and 10 81mm mortar rounds. Company C continued to search area with negative results. Dead VC was searched and no I.D. card or documents found. VC was about 20 years of age and wore black pajamas. Questioning of Vietnamese civilians in the area identified the dead VC as supply man for VC activities in the area. Mess Kit was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. Result of contact: One VC KIA confirmed.

(13) 161755H Marine from Company C at coordinates (BT 297103) tripped a concussion type booby trap. Booby trap had a trip wire attached. Result of incident: 1 USMC WIAE.

(14) 161815H Co C at coordinates (BT 298102) received incoming stray rounds apparently fired from LY TRA Outpost, no fire was returned. Result of incident: 1 USMC WIAE.

(15) 162025H The Battalion Established night defensive perimeter and night activities. Co C arrived at LY TRA Outpost and spent the night inside the PF compound. Co C established no night activities. (See Enclosure (9)).

F. D+4. 17 March 1967. (See Enclosure (10)).

(1) 170400H Patrol 5D3 (Plt S&D) departed from ambush site vicinity coordinates (BT 328132) with VCC that had been interrogated by 5th Marines and returned to 1stBn, 5thMar Command Post the previous day. The VCC had agreed to guide a patrol to 5 caves where patrol would find approximately 15-20 VC with weapons and rice cache. Patrol searched caves with negative results and returned to Co D.

(2) 170700H Co B and Co D conducted search and destroy patrols. Co C assaulted and secured Objective Y and continued to conduct S&D operations to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base. Command Group was with Co B and Co D.

(3) 170745H Co B perimeter at coordinates (BT 310145) received 3 rounds small arms fire from the southwest, at an estimated range of 400 to 500 meters at coordinates (BT 305140). The sniper was unobserved. No fire was returned. Patrol 5B2 was dispatched to search area. Area was searched with negative results.

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(3) 171000H Company C at coordinates (BT 326104) received 3 rounds small arms fire from one unobserved sniper at coordinates (BT 327107). Company C returned 30 rounds small arms fire and searched area with negative results. AO on station reported sightings of 4 VC at coordinates (BT 329119) and 7 to 10 VC at coordinates (BT 335112). Company C reacted on this information, and the company was maneuvered to block and search out areas where AO had sighted VC. AO marked VC locations with smoke. Locations marked were in proximity to friendly units. It appeared that AO sighting had been Marines moving in the area. Company C did receive 10 rounds automatic carbine fire from an unobserved VC in vicinity coordinates (BT 328104), no fire was returned. Area was searched with negative results.

(4) 171115H Company D at coordinates (BT 308124) observed 2 VC wearing black clothing and packs in vicinity coordinates (BT 308122). Company D fired 200 rounds small arms fire at VC. As VC were taken under fire, they fled into heavy brush. Fire team was dispatched to search area. Contact was regained, VC were observed running up a hill approximately 400 meters away. An 81mm mortar mission was called and 8 81mm mortar HE rounds were fired with good target coverage. Area was searched with negative results. Result of contact: One VC KIA probable and one VC WIA probable.

(5) 171115H Company D at coordinates (BT 299136) received 3 rounds small arms fire from one unobserved sniper, at coordinates (BT 299138). Company D returned 25 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled in an unknown direction. Company D searched area with negative results. Result of contact: One USMC WIAE.

(6) 171200H Company B, Company D and Command Group commenced movement out of operational area from coordinates (BT 307145) to coordinates (BT 331208).

(7) 171300H Company C at coordinates (BT 363125) extracted Radio Relay Team at coordinates (BT 358130) and continued to conduct S&D operations to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(8) 171430H Company D in vicinity of checkpoint Orange at coordinates (BT 333172) was detached from tactical column and established Patrol Base vicinity coordinates (BT 344168). Company B and Command Group continued on to Highway #1 at coordinates (BT 331208).

(9) 171515H Company B and Command Group arrived at coordinates (BT 331208) and boarded trucks and moved by motor convey to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(10) 171530H Company C arrived at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(11) 171545H Company B and Command Group arrived at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

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(12)-172000H Co. patrol base and night activities
(See Enclosure (11))

G. D+5. 18 March 1967. (See Enclosure (12))

(1) 180630H Company D commenced search and destroy operations from coordinates (BT 344168) to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(2) 180705H Company D received 10 rounds small arms fire from unobserved sniper at coordinates (BT 352163). Company D returned 50 rounds small arms fire and 5 60mm mortar HE rounds. Area was searched with negative results.

(3) 180930H Company D while conducting search and destroy operations at coordinates (BT 375153) observed Popular Forces patrol moving westerly down a trail in vicinity (BT 376153) a distance of approximately 100 meters. Company D and Popular Forces patrol halted, the Company Commander of Company D talked with Lt VINH, Officer in charge of PF patrol. Lt VINH was recognized by the Company Commander as one of the officers of the LY TIN District. Lt VINH said, "LY TIN had granted him permission to be in the area. PF's were dressed in green utilities with red and blue handkerchiefs around their necks and armed with American weapons; Carbines, M-1's, and BAR's. The Popular Forces patrol stayed at coordinates (BT 376153) and Company D continued search and destroy operations. Neither unit was aware that the other unit was in the area.

(4) 180945H Company D at coordinates (BT 387153) found one 155mm HE round. Round was destroyed by engineers.

(5) 181030H Company D arrived at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base.

(6) 181200H Operation "TIPPECANOE" was terminated.

11. RESULTS.

(a) Personnel

(1) Friendly

KIA	2
DOW	1
WIAF	13
WIANE	2
NBCE	2

(2) Enemy

KIA Confirmed	4
KIA Probable	10
WIA Probable	17
VCC	1
Detainees	7

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(b) Captured

- 1 homemade pack cover
- 1 notebook containing supplies turned over to VC.
- 1 notebook containing propaganda material.
- 2 National Liberation Front Flag Cards.
- 3 M-14 magazines, with 60 rounds 7.62mm
- 1 grey uniform.
- 5 bamboo silhouette targets.
- 1 haversack.
- 2 khaki hammocks.
- 1 VC mess kit.

(c) Destroyed

- 3 ChiCom grenades (one booby trapped)
- 2 60mm mortar cannisters
- 5 caves, size 5X4X8
- 5 caves, size 7X4X3
- 50 anti-helicopter bamboo stakes, 10-12 feet long
- 5 booby trapped 105mm HE rounds
- 20 lbs explosives
- 2 155mm HE rounds
- 1 booby trapped 60mm mortar round

12. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS(a) Supply and Logistics.

(1) During Operation "TIPPECANOE" an LSA was established in the vicinity of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base and was controlled by personnel from Company B, 1st SP Battalion. Through the employment of the Helicopter Support Teams attached to the company, all resupply requests were processed through the HST net to the LSA. No difficulties were experienced with resupply.

(2) All medical evacuations were effected through the HST. The only difficulty experienced with medical evacuations was on D-Day, it took more than 35 minutes to effect an emergency medical evacuation.

(3) Initially, all personnel carried one MCI and three canteens. Six MCI's were sufficient for a three day period.

(b) Maintenance.

(1) Ample cleaning equipment was carried by all personnel to maintain weapons and equipment in a satisfactory working condition throughout the operation.

(c) Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation and Hospitalization.

(1) Initial treatment of casualties was accomplished by company corpsmen. All medical evacuations were effected through the HST. Casualties were evacuated to Det, 1st Medical Battalion, CHS LZ.

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(d) Transportation.

The only transportation available on D+4 to transport Company B and the Command Group to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base. Transportation was provided by 7th Motor Transport Battalion. Transportation was timely and rapid.

(e) Communications.

(1) Initially, difficulty was encountered in maintaining contact with units located in the southern portion of the operating area and with Regimental Headquarters. The basic problem appeared to be the operating terrain. Numerous "dead spots" were encountered throughout the area. An RC-292 antenna was utilized at night and this alleviated the situation.

(2) What was considered to be an excessive volume of radio traffic was maintained throughout the operation. A portion of the traffic was created due to improper functioning of the Regimental TAC Net, which resulted in Regimental traffic being passed through the Battalion Net.

(f) Medical Evacuation.

(1) Sufficient medical supplies were carried to the field to support the operation. Except for one instance on D-Day medical evacuation was timely.

13. Special Equipment and Techniques.

(a) A Scout Dog Team was requested and received on D+4. The dog proved valuable for searching caves and tunnels.

(b) Scout Sniper Teams attached to the companies excelled in proficiency. Scout Sniper Teams accounted for two VC KIA probable. VC were wounded at an estimated range of 500 to 600 meters.

(c) Chemical agents were used effectively throughout the operation to search caves and tunnels. The use of chemical agents was directly responsible for one VC KIA confirmed.

(d) The Kit Carsons were employed during the operations with success. They were employed as translators and identified one VC as a village chief.

14. Commanders Analysis.

(a) A build-up in the operational area had occurred during the past month. This was verified by the number and size of enemy operations and questioning of civilians and detainees. In view of this information, extensive small unit operations were conducted throughout the operational area to insure maximum simultaneous coverage, and to keep the VC off balance and on the move.

(b) The communication problems which were encountered were recognized and considered solvable within local assets. The operation re-emphasized the requirement for planning alternate means of communications.

(c) The assigned mission for the operation was accomplished.

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CONFIDENTIAL15. Recommendations.

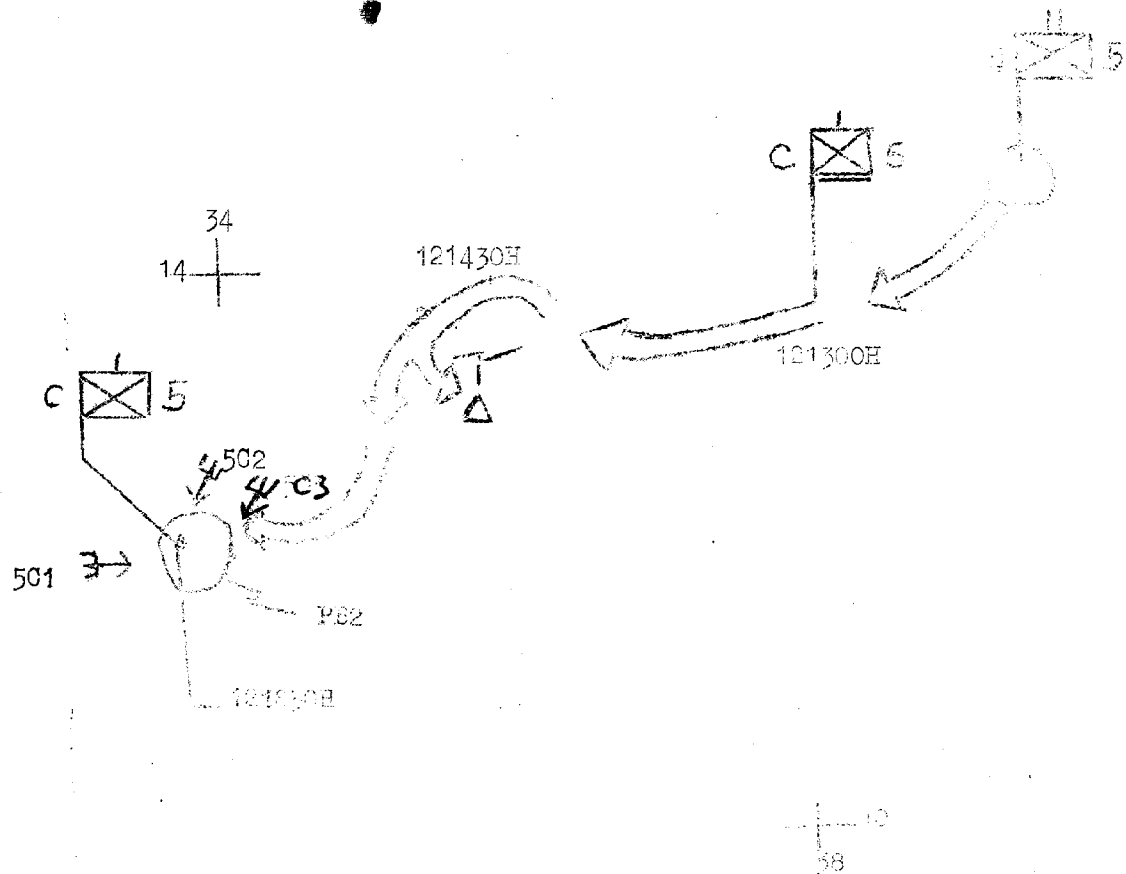
(a) It is recommended that no new be made of existing procedures for effecting liaison and coordination with local ARVN Officials covering operations of Popular Forces, Revolutionary Development Forces and Regional Forces. Frequently Marine and Local Forces have chance meeting, without having prior knowledge that the other unit is operating in the area. Mistaken identity might occur which may result in contact between two friendly units.

(b) It is recommended that the Kit Carson Scouts be queried for possible intelligence during operations. The Kit Carson may have valuable information which he may considered unimportant or he may assume the information is already common knowledge.

McIntire
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OPERATION [REDACTED] 1



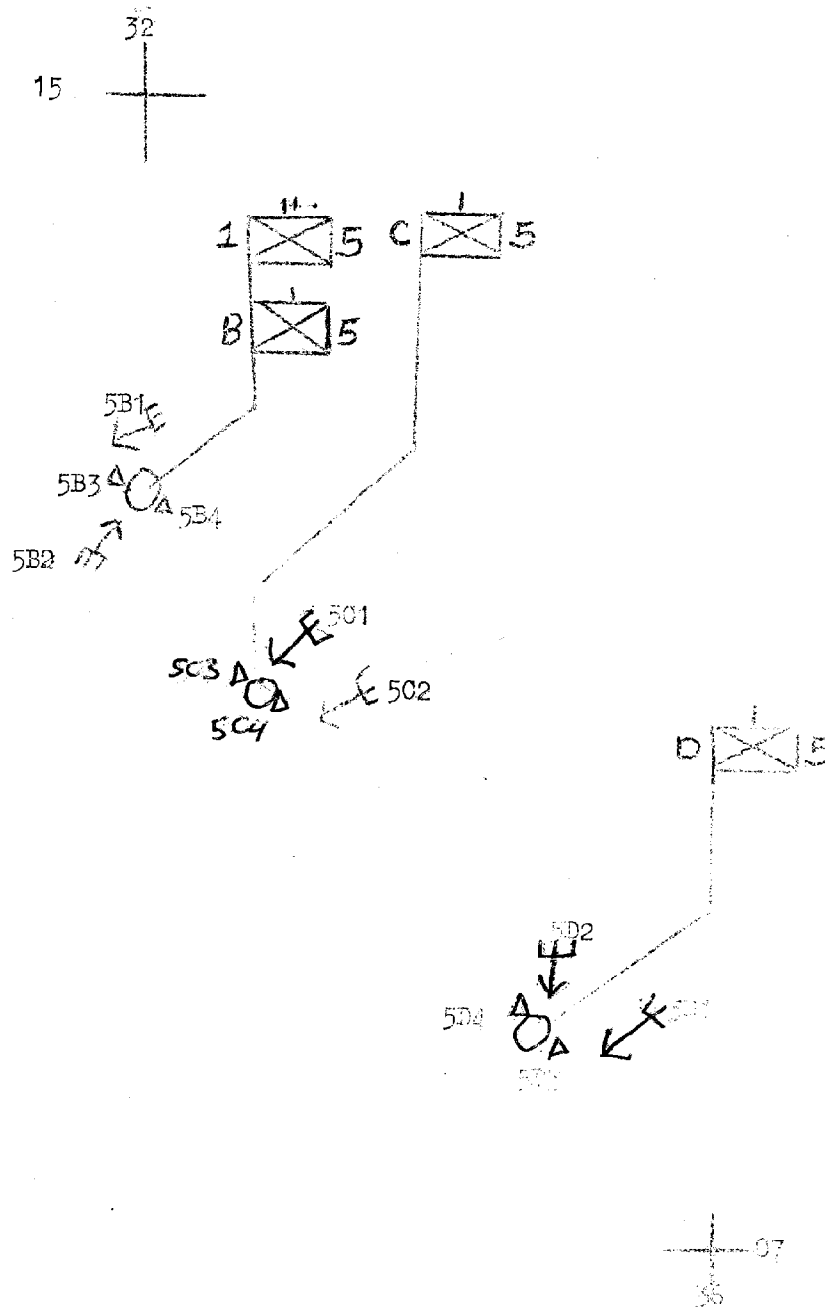
ENCLOSURE (1)

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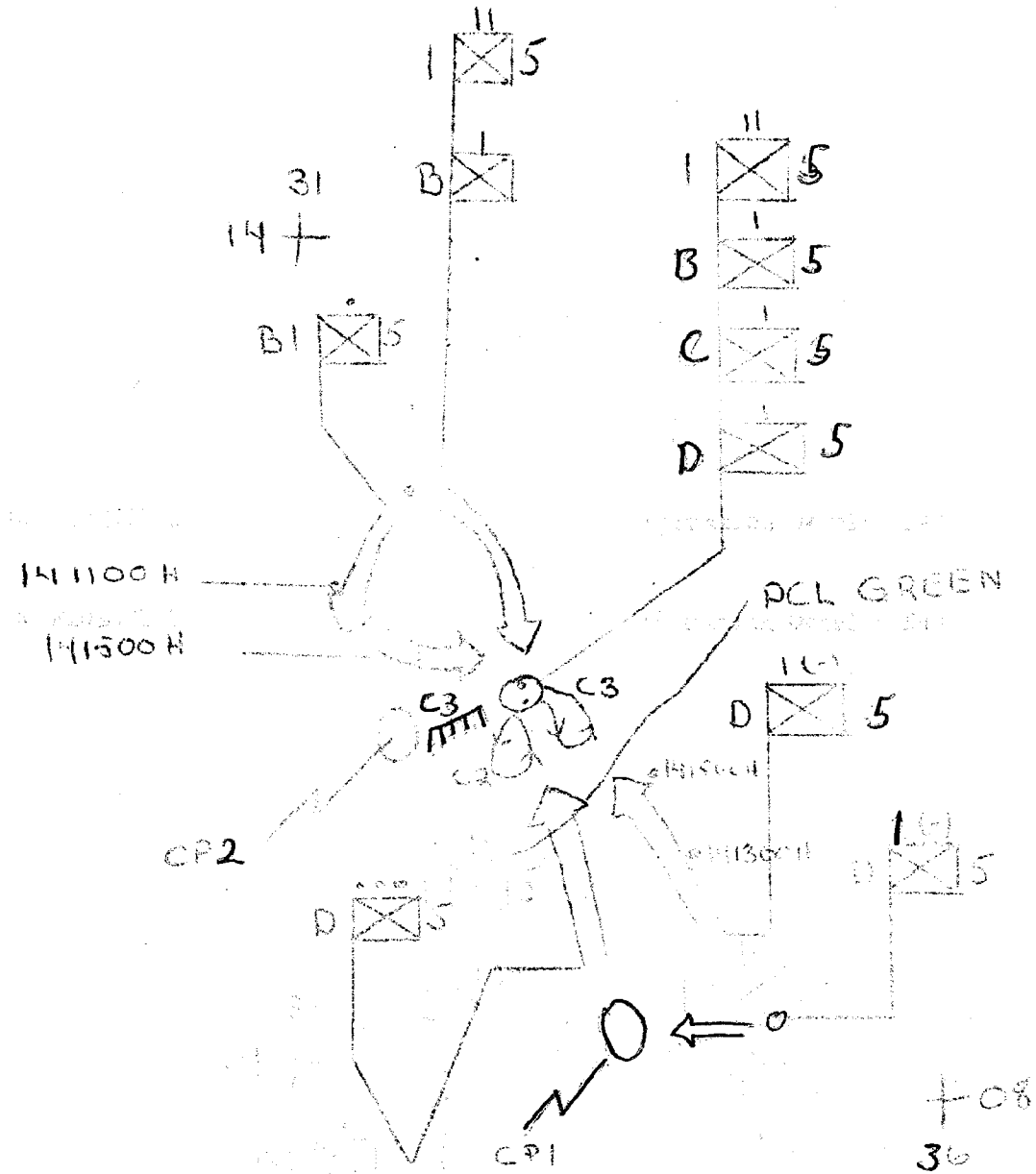
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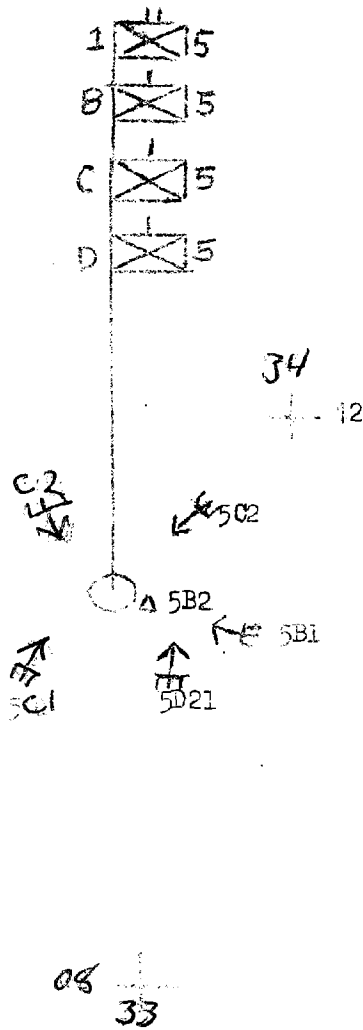


ENCLOSURE (3)

Operational Overlay D-1



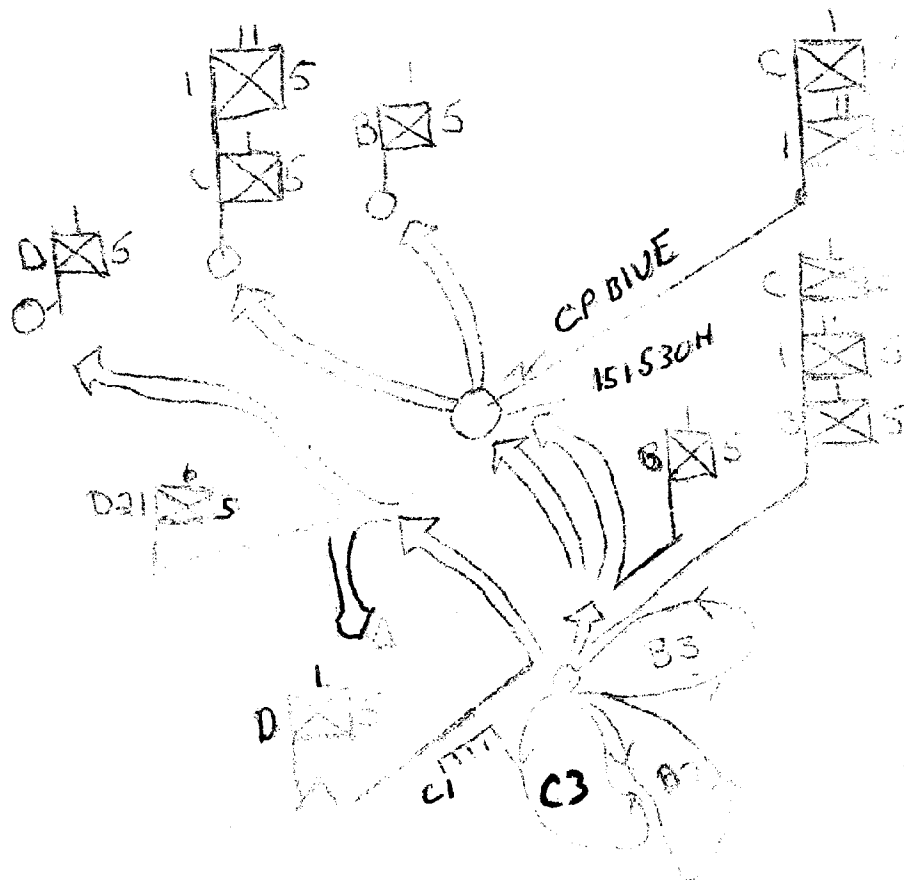
NIGHT ACTIVITIES... PLAY D+A



ATTACHED (5)

OPERATION CVA

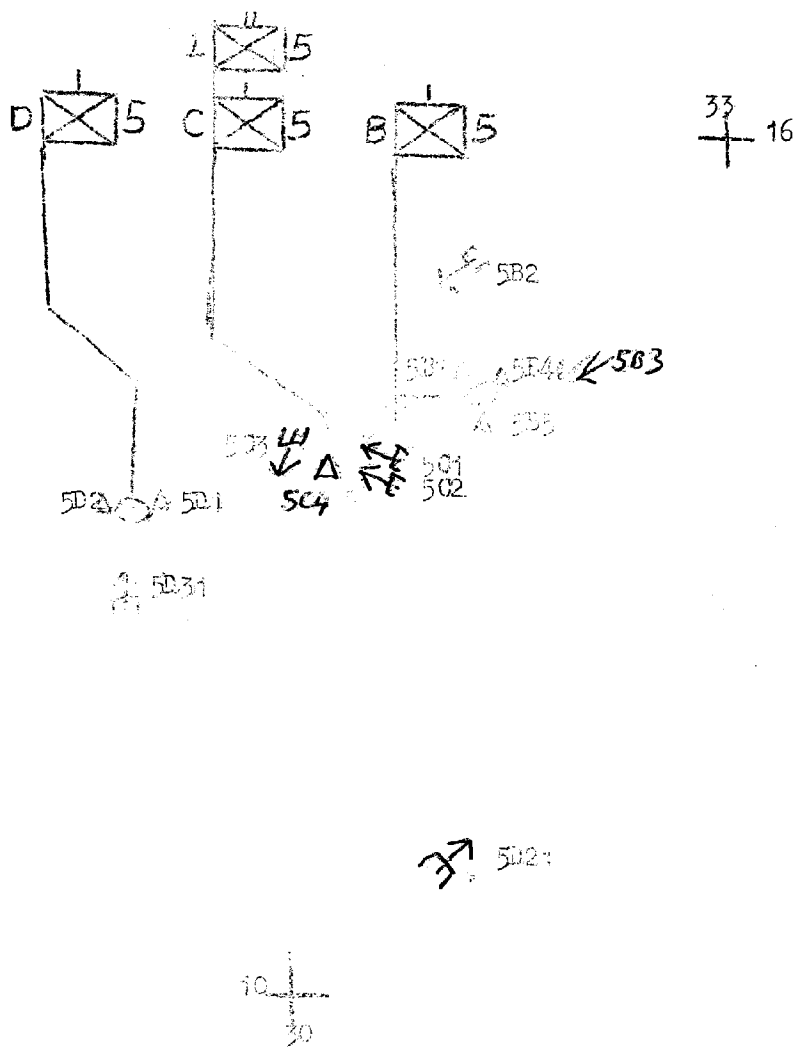
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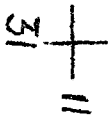
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ENCLOSURE (6)

NIGHT ACTIVITIES AND DISPOSITION OVERLAY D+2



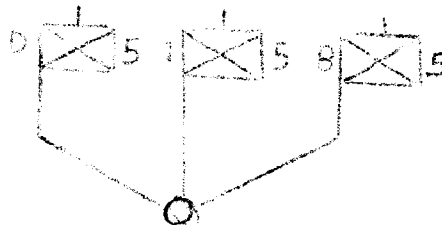
ENCLOSURE (7)



NIGHT ACTIVITY

OVERLAY D+3

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16



SD2

SD3

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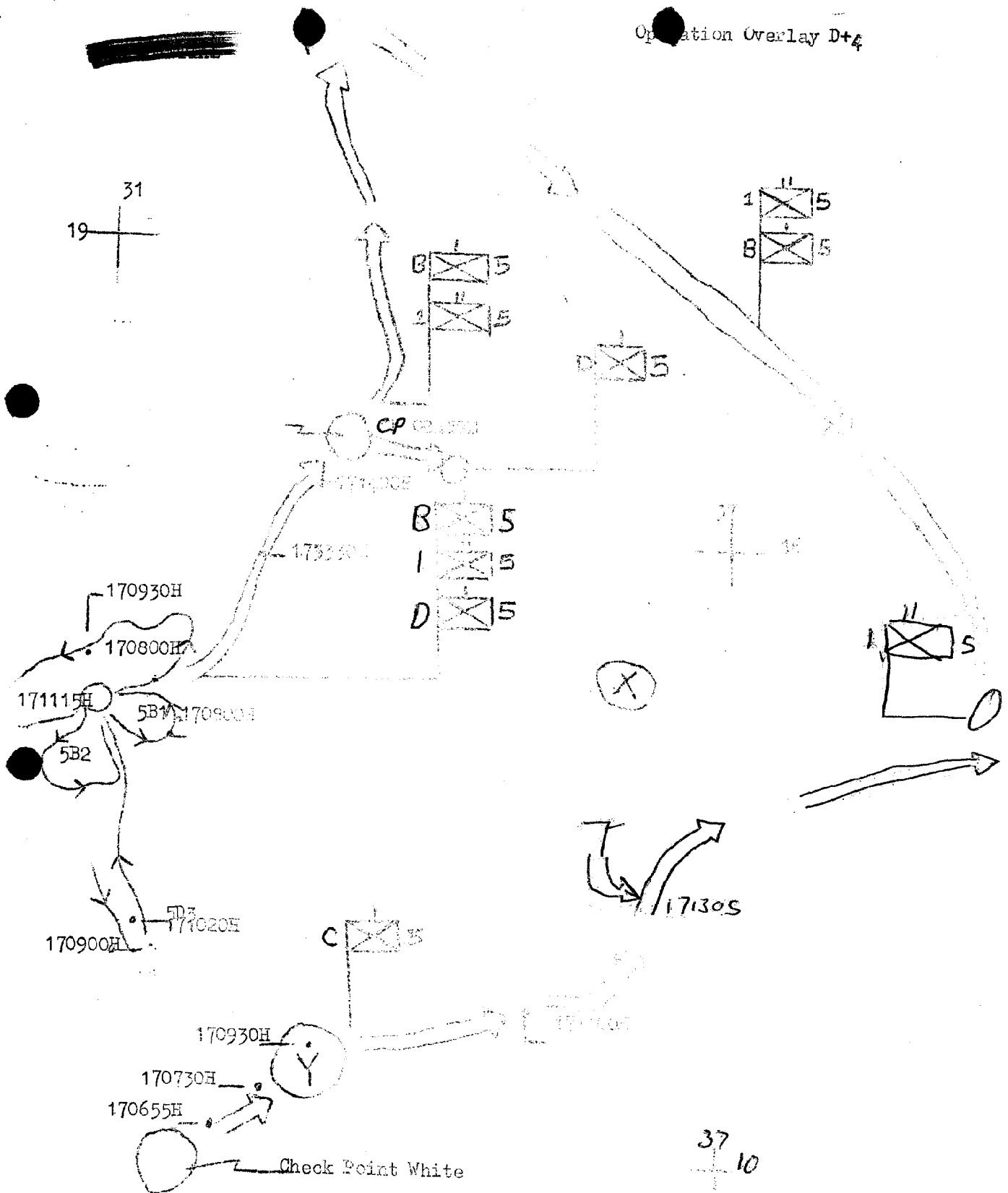
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See page 10

21-10-1 (A)

Operation Overlay D+4



NIGHT ACTIVITIES AND DISPOSITION OVERLAY D+4

35
+ 19

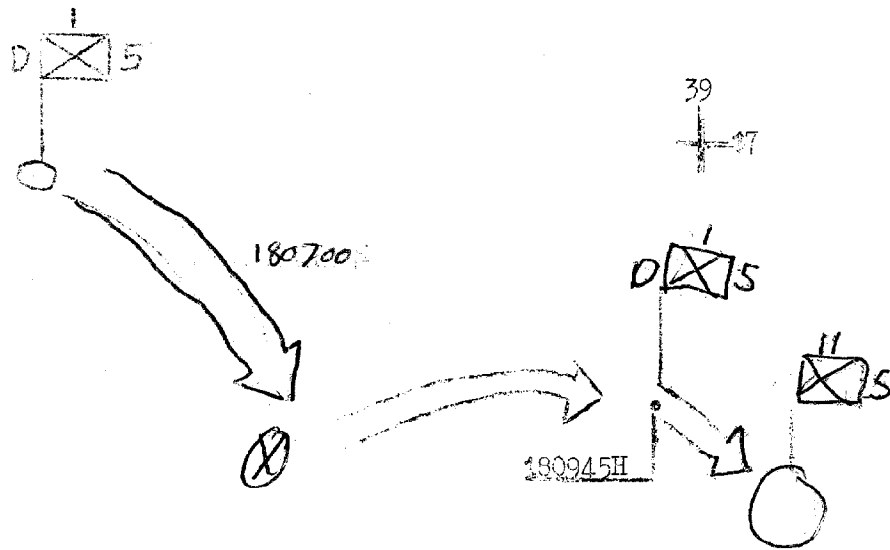
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D1A
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5D3
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14
34

INTERCOMING FILE

OPET



13
36

ENCLOSURE