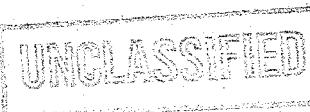


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Declassified by the Director of Central Intelligence
Glossary and Glossaries in accordance with the
provisions of E.O. 13526 (2001, 36 FR 27042 of 12 October 1971).

P.C. Hoffman 3/9/22
Signature/date

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RECLASSIFIED AFTER 10 YEARS



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HEADQUARTERS

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

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3/CEO/jdc

5750

1 May 1968

From: Commanding Officer
 To: Commanding General, 1st Marine Division
 Via: Commanding Officer, 5th Marines
 Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-30 April 1968
 Ref: (a) MC0 5750.2A
 (b) FMF Pac0. 5750.8
 (c) Div0 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 hereby submitted.

R. H. Thompson
 R. H. THOMPSON
 Lieutenant Colonel
 Commanding

DOWN GRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS
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1st Battalion 5th Marines
 1st Marine Division (Rein), FMF

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

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 April 1968 to 30 April 1968

INDEX

- PART I ORGANIZATIONAL DATA
- PART II NARRATIVE SUMMARY
- PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS
- PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

ENCLOSURE (1)

SECRET

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~~DECLASSIFIED~~PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DESIGNATION

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein)	Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON 1-30 April 1968
H&S Company	1st Lt. S. A. NELSON 1-30 April 1968
Company A	Capt. R. C. RICH 1-30 April 1968
Company B	Capt. J. M. BEAUCHAMP 1-30 April 1968
Company C	Capt. J. P. GAYNOR 1-30 April 1968
Company D	Capt. M. C. HARRINGTON 1-30 April 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

DET, Btry D, 2ndBn, 11th Mar	1st Lt. R. K. REDLIN 1-30 April 1968
DET, 1st Plat., Co.B, 1st EngrBn	Cpl. R. L. BURKLE 1-15 April 1968 Sgt. D. A. CLINE 16-30 April 1968
1st Platoon, Co. B, 1st SP Bn.	SSgt. J. R. SHANE 1-30 April 1968
DET, 13th ITR	Sgt. R. C. MALSZ 1-30 April 1968
DET, Scout Sniper Plat. HQ. Co. 5th Marines	Sgt. W. H. WILLS 1-30 April 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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2. LOCATIONS.

1-30 April 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) participated in Operation "HOUSTON".

21-25 April 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) participated in Operation "BAXTER GARDEN".

1-30 April 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear) located at Phu Bai, RVN.

1-30 April 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Forward) located at coordinates (ID 930073).

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer	Maj. P. A. Wilson 1-16 April 1968
	Maj. L. A. WUNDERLICH 17-30 April 1968
S-1 Officer/Adjutant	1st Lt. T. E. Howard 1-30 April 1968
S-2 Officer	1st Lt. G. L. Alvarez
S-3 Officer	Maj. L. A. Wunderlich 1-13 April 1968
	Maj. C. E. Oakley 14-30 April 1968
S-4 Officer	Capt. E. B. Burrow 1-30 April 1968
S-5 Officer	1st Lt. S. A. Nelson 1-30 April 1968
Medical Officer	Lt. R. E. Worley (USNR) 1-30 April 1968
Supply Officer	1st Lt. L. F. Mall 1-30 April 1968
Communications Officer	1st Lt. L. E. Friedheim 1-30 April 1968
Motor Transport Officer	GySgt J. B. Cody 1-11 April 1968
	GySgt P. R. McElroy 12-23 April 1968
	1st Lt. R. D. Strom 24-30 April 1968

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Assistant Adjutant/Legal Officer	1st Lt. D. C. Young 1-30 April 1968
Chaplain	Lt. J. F. Phillips 1-30 April 1968
Air Liaison Officer	Capt. O. E. James 1-14 April 1968 Capt. R. T. Taylor 15-30 April 1968

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>USMC</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
37		1090

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>ENLISTED</u>
3		56

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Strength. Total strength at the beginning of the month was 36 Marine Officers and 1090 Marine Enlisted. By 15 April the strength had changed to 38 officers and 1085 enlisted. By the end of the month the Battalion's strength was 38 officers and 1095 enlisted. At this time there were 0 officers and 62 enlisted hospitalized. Joinings during the month were four officers and 147 enlisted.

b. Discipline, Law and Legal. There were eight Special Courts Martial and five Summary Courts Martial convened during April. This left five Specials and one Summary to be processed. Five investigations were completed, leaving three investigations pending.

c. POW/Detainees. Eleven detainees were processed during April. There were no POW's.

d. Morale. The morale of the officers and men of the Battalion has continued to be notably high. The R&R program is running smoothly and each officer and man benefits from this service.

e. Postal. Postal service has continued at an all time high. Mail is received twice daily and is quickly distributed to each company. Delivery of mail to the field has ceased to be an obstacle. The addition of another postal clerk has alleviated the heavy work load due to the large amount of incoming mail.

f. Awards. There were no awards presented to personnel of this Battalion during April, however, one Bronze Star, one Vietnamese Gallantry Cross, one Certificate of Commendation and five Purple Hearts were forwarded to former members of this Battalion. Numerous recommendations were submitted during the month for meritorious service.

g. Interior Management. The newly initiated casualty reporting procedures, order writing, and normal flow of administrative procedures continued to improve the proficiency of the Battalion's administration. The Battalion was given an administrative inspection by Task Force X-Ray and passed satisfactory with minor discrepancies.

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2. ENEMY, WEATHER AND TERRAIN. During this period 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was committed to Operation "HOUSTON" and "BAXTER GARDEN". This portion of the Command Chronology is included in the After Action Reports attached hereto as Tab "A" and "B" respectively.

3. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS.

a. Organization. The organization of the battalion remained substantially the same throughout the month of April. The Battalion continued in Operation "HOUSTON" throughout the month. From 211400H through 251700H the Battalion (-) (Rein) with Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON participated in Operation "BAXTER GARDEN". The following units were OPCON to the Battalion during the month:

- (1) Det, Scout Dog Team, 3rd MP Bn
- (2) Det, Scout Sniper Plat, Hq Co, 5th Mar
- (3) Det, 1st Plat., Co. B, 1st SP Bn
- (4) Det, Co. B, 1st Engr Bn

Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines 181000H to 211000H April 1968.

Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines 211200H through 302400H.

Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 5th Marines, assuming Bald Eagle responsibilities from 252200H to 291015H April 1968.

Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 5th Marines, assuming Bald Eagle responsibilities from 291030H through 302400H April 1968.

b. Operations.

(1) The Battalion continued to participate in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase I from 1 April 1968, which continued throughout the month terminating on 302400H April 1968. Phase II Operation "HOUSTON" commenced at 010001H May 1968.

(2) The Battalion participated in Operation "BAXTER GARDEN" from 21 April 1968 to 25 April 1968.

(3) The Battalion conducted numerous small unit operations during both named operations. The following activities were conducted:

(a) Day activities for the month totaled 50 fire team activities, 170 squad activities, 50 platoon activities and 17 company operations.

(b) Night activities totalled 344 fire team activities, 124 squad activities, 28 platoon activities, and 0 company operations.

c. Supporting arms.

(1) Air. During this period 40 missions were flown by Marine TAC/AO Teams for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, controlling 12 flights of fixed wing and providing valuable aerial observation in support of the Battalion's missions of patrolling, road security, special operations and waterway denial. Other missions completed included 7 visual reconnaissance missions, 14 medevacs, and 20 flareships.

(2) Artillery. In the month of April, Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. With few exceptions, most missions were fired during the hours of darkness by ground observers. Numerous TOT missions were fired by Battery "D" in conjunction with reinforcing fires from Phu Bai. During this period, numerous on-call fires were registered for prominent bridges and CAP units along Highway #1.

4. TRAINING.

a. The Battalion participated in Operation "HOUSTON" (1-30 April 1968) and in Operation "BAXTER GARDEN" (21-25 April 1968). The following training was conducted:

- (1) Weapons Safety
- (2) Ambushes
- (3) Patrolling
- (4) Fire team and squad tactics
- (5) Gun drill: 81mm; 60mm; 106MM's and M-60 Machine Gun
- (6) Small unit leadership
- (7) Mapping and compass
- (8) NBC training
- (9) Fire control, discipline and distribution
- (10) Fom Firing cal. .45 pistol, M16 rifle, M-60 Machine gun and M-79 Grenade Launcher.
- (11) Weapons inspection

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b. Replacement personnel received five (5) days training at 5th Marines Headquarters prior to being committed to the field.

c. The Battalion continued to utilize schools provided by higher headquarters. During the month, 46 members of the Battalion attended schools in Danang and Okinawa.

5. LOGISTICS.

a. Supply

During the past month, several logistical problems arose and were solved: The first was a water problem, created by the fact that the water in the surrounding rivers is considered non-potable. This problem was eliminated by the placement of lyster bags at key locations throughout the Battalion AO. Lyster bags are replenished twice daily and provide sufficient drinking water to the troops in the field. Another problem was the storage of ammunition in the Phu Bai Vital Area. Because no ammunition could be stored in the billeting areas, an ammunition bunker was built, allowing rapid distribution of ammunition.

Company resupply along Highway #1 was accomplished by the use of two 6 by 6 trucks which made daily runs. Classes I, III and V were furnished to the Companies. The resupply of Hill #230 was accomplished by helicopter every third day. Liaison was made with the Army and their resupply truck was used to resupply Hill #180 daily.

A rotation schedule was established to provide units in the field hot meals on alternate days and clean clothes weekly.

A monthly allocation of selected munitions had been issued to the units in the field.

6. CIVIL AFFAIRS.

a. During this period, a total of 270 people were treated at MedCap. The continuing movements of this battalion did not permit a permanent MedCap site. The MedCaps that were held were at different positions. Now that the battalion will be at it's present location for a period of time, a daily MedCap site will be found at Vinh Vy hamlet, Loc Son Village. Soap was distributed at the MedCaps and same was turned over to CAP 3. The MedCap is not essential to the people of the battalions TAOR, since there are numerous CAP units in the area. However, the MedCap should be used as a sign of friend-

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ship between the Battalion and the Vietnamese people of the area.

b. Volley balls and nets along with candy was given to CAP 3 for the use of the children at the village school. At the present time the S-5 is trying to procure some school kits for distribution to the children of the area.

c. General Walt Scholarships Applications have been given to the Village Chief of Loc Son Village. Project Submittal Forms will be given to the Village Chiefs of Loc Son and Loc Bon villages.

d. Solatium payments were made to a Vietnamese in Thuy Tan Village, whose house was destroyed by probable illumination; to two children who were burned by white phosphorus in Thuy Phu Village; and, to the wife of the man killed in Thuy Phu Village. Small claims forms were filled out by the Vietnamese woman in Loc Dien Village whose trees were destroyed when Company A was clearing fields of fire.

e. Personal Response handbooks were distributed to the companies along with a battalion memo on USMC/Vietnamese civilian relationships.

7. PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS. The Audio Visual Team broadcasted in Thuy Phu Village. Psyops leaflets were given to the S-2, concerning the Chieu Hoi program and rewards for weapons. Also, the Vietnamese Armed Propaganda Team was used in Thuy Phu Village.

8. COMPTROLLERS ACTIVITIES. Total money spent for the month was \$60,291.64 which leaves a balance of \$55,080.38.

9. COMMUNICATIONS.

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines established a Command Post at Cho Bao Vinh. Radio Relay has been utilized for telephone communication to Battalion Rear and Regiment with excellent results. During the entire month unusual frequency interference was experienced with friendly units but was alleviate through frequency reassessments. With the availability of a steady power source, a message center was established in the field to handle operational traffic. Operation "BAXTER GARDEN" commenced with normal operating procedure supplemented by a second Battalion TAC Net for units specifically designated for the operation. Excepting poor trafficability for radio jeeps and hence occasional non-availability of a covered circuit, normal communications prevailed throughout the operation.

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b. Training during the month was highlighted by a profitable 3 day field radio operator school.

10. SIGNIFICANT CASUALTIES INFILCTED OR SUSTAINED; VC CAPTURED:

a. Friendly Casualties (USMC). See Tab "A" and "B" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Reports.

b. Enemy Casualties. See Tab "A" and "B" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Reports.

11. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ORDNANCE CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1968.

a. Weapons captured. See Tab "A" and "B" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Reports.

b. Ordnance captured. See Tab "A" and "B" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Reports.

12. SIGNIFICANT MUNITIONS CAPTURED/FOUND AND DESTROYED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1968. See Tab "A" and "B" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Reports.

13. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY EQUIPMENT CAPTURED DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL 1968. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action report.

14. SIGNIFICANT ENEMY CAVES, TUNNELS, BUILDINGS AND FORTIFICATIONS DESTROYED. See Tab "A" to enclosure (1), Combat After Action Report.

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PART IIISEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. 1-30 April 1968. The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Roin) continued to participate in "OPERATION HOUSTON" (Phase I). See Tab "A" to enclosure (1) Combat After Action Report.
2. 21-25 April 1968. The 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Roin) participated in "OPERATION BAXTER-GARDEN". See Tab "B" to enclosure (1) Combat After Action Report.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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PART IV
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- ✓ Tab "A" Combat After Action Report, "Operation HOUSTON".
✗ Tab "B" Combat After Action Report, "Operation BAXTER-GARDEN".

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ENCLOSURE (1)
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HEADQUARTERS

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

3/CEO/jdc
3480.1A
7 May 1968

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

Subj: Combat After Action Report (Operation HOUSTON Phase I)

Ref: (a) DivO 3480.1A
(b) 5th Marines Operating Order 4-68
(c) 5th Marines Frag Order 20-68
(d) 5th Marines Frag Order 24-68
(e) 5th Marines Frag Order 26-68
(f) 5th Marines Operation Order 5-68

Encl: ✓(1) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D-Day
✓(2) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 3-68
✓(3) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+1
✓(4) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operation Overlay
✓(5) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+2
✓(6) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 30-68
✓(7) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+3
✓(8) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+4
✓(9) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+5
✓(10) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 31-68
✓(11) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+6
✓(12) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+7
✓(13) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+8
✓(14) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 32-68
✓(15) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+9
✓(16) Day Activities and Night Disposition Overlay D+10
✓(17) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+11
✓(18) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 33-68
✓(19) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+12
✓(20) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+13
✓(21) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 34-68
✓(22) Day Movomont and Night Disposition Overlay D+14

Ref A to ENCLOSURE (1)

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- (23) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 35-68
(24) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+15
(25) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+16
(26) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+17
(27) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 36-68
(28) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+18
(29) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+19
(30) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+20
(31) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+21
(32) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+22
(33) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+23
(34) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 37-68
(35) Day and Night Disposition Overlay D+24
(36) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 38-68
(37) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+25
(38) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 39-68
(39) Night Movement Overlay D+26
(40) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+27
(41) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 40-68
(42) Day Movement and Night Disposition D+28
(43) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 41-68
(44) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 42-68
(45) Day Movement, Day Activities and Night Disposition D+29
(46) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+30
(47) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+31
(48) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+32
(49) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 43-68
(50) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+33
(51) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 44-68
(52) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+34
(53) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+35
(54) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 45-68
(55) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+36
(56) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 46-68
(57) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+37
(58) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+38
(59) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+39
(60) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 47-68
(61) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+40
(62) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 48-68
(63) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 49-68
(64) Day Movement and Night Disposition D+41
(65) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 50-68
(66) Day Movement, Day Activities and Night Disposition D+42 Overlay
(67) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 51-68
(68) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 52-68
(69) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 53-68

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- (70) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+43
- (71) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+44
- (72) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+45
- (73) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+46
- (74) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+47
- (75) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+48
- (76) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+49
- (77) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+50
- (78) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+51
- (79) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 61-68
- (80) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+52
- (81) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 62-68
- (82) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+53
- (83) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+54
- (84) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 63-68
- (85) Day Movement and Night Disposition Overlay D+55
- (86) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 64-68
- (87) Medical Supplies Usage Data

1. Name or Identity and/or type operation. Operation "HOUSTON"
(Search and Destroy)

2. Dates of Operation. From 051600H March 1968 to 302400H April 1968.

3. Location. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines participated in Operation "HOUSTON" in the southeast part of Phu Loc District and Thua Thion Province and the northeast corner of Hoa Vang District in Quang Nam Province.

4. Control or Command Headquarters.

5th Marines, 1st Marine Division (-)(Rein) Col. R. D. BOHN

5. Reporting Officer.

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON

6. Task Organization.

1st Battalion, 5th Mar (-)(Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON

1st Battalion, 5th Mar (Rear) Maj. L. A. WUNDERLICH
 HQ Company (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Company A (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Company B (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Company C (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Company D (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar

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H&S Company (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar 1st Lt. S. A. NELSON
 Det, H&S Company (-)
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 FAC P
 Kit Carson Team
 Det, 106mm RR Plat
 Det, Flame Section
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar
 Det, Co.B, 1st Engr Bn
 Det, Hq Co, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)

Company A (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. R. C. RICH
 Company A (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, Co.B, 1st Engr Bn.
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, Hq Co, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)
 Det, H&S Company
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat.
 Det, Med Plat
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Team

Company B (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. J. M. BEAUCHAMP
 Company B (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det, Co.B, 1st Engr Bn.
 Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det, Hq Co, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)
 Det, H&S Company
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat.
 Det, Med Plat.
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Team

Company C (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. J. P. CAYHAN
 Company C (-) 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det Co.B, 1st Engr Bn
 Det Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det Hq Co, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)
 Det H&S Company
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det, Med Plat
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Team

Company D (-) (Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. N. C. HARRINGTON
 Company D (-), 1st Bn, 5th Mar
 Det Co. B, 1st Engr Bn.
 Det Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
 Det Hq Co, 5th Mar (Scout Snipers)

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Det, H&S Company
Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
Det, Med Plat
FAC Tm
Kit Carson Team

Company M(-) (Rein) 3rd Bn, 5th Mar Capt. F. D. PACELLO
Company M(-) 3rd Bn, 5th Mar
Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar (FO Tm)
Det, HqCo, 5th Mar Scout Snipers
Det, H&S Co, 3rd Bn, 5th Mar
Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
Det, Med Plat
FAC Tm
Kit Carson Tm

7. Supporting Forces.

a. Air

(1) During Operation "HOUSTON", fixed wing and helicopter support was provided by the 1st Marine Air Wing.

07Mar68 Pestkiller 1-7 and 1-8 (helicopter's) provided a visual recon for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Benchmark 1-6 (Aerial Observance) ran an arty mission.

19Mar68 Benchmark 2-0 (Aerial observer) worked 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operation.

20Mar68 Scarface 7-1 and 7-2 (Tactical Air Control Attack) controlled flight of A-6's, armed with Daisy-Cutters, on targets coordinates, (ZC 157940) and (ZC 169948) for the purpose of establishing helicopter Landing Zones. Target coverage was 100%/90% being destroyed.

02Apr68 Basketball (Flare Ship) dropped flares from coordinates, (YD 9904) to (YD 9112) for Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Benchmark (Aerial Observer) checked (YD 930074) for Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Negative results.

03Apr68 Fingerprint 152 and Crossbill 087 (Flareships), dropped flares at (YD 913118), (YD 927103), (YD 933085), (YD 968063), (YD 965049) and (YD 949069). Coverage was excellent.

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04Apr68 Cowpoker 22 (Aerial Observer) checked out Nong River and grids (YD 8900) to (YD 8999), (YD 9008) to (YD 9103) and (YD 9602) to (YD 9603). Evidence noted of enemy campsites. At (YD 894014) the aerial observer spotted persons on road but they ducked into treeline as aerial observer flew over. At (YD 9604) South to (YD 9601) (River Sweep) enemy campsites noted. Negative activity. At (YD 967055) ditches noted on west side of River. Basketball 5-22 (Flareship), dropped flares for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

05Apr68 Cowpoker 25 (Aerial Observer) worked with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Crossbill 087 (Flareship), dropped flares in 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Area of Operation.

06Apr68 Scarface 7-1 and 7-2 (Tactical Air Control Attack), controlled airstrike at (YD 899029) (VC storage/supply point). Hellborne 5 and 2 (A-4 Aircraft) dropped MK 81 250lb. low drag GP bombs and MK 77 500lb. fire bomb napalm. 100% target coverage, 100% destroyed. Cowpoker 20 (Aerial Observer) worked for Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Negative results. Basketball 814 (Flareship), dropped flares at (YD 921115) and (YD 931119). Spooky 11 (Flare/Gunship) worked over (YD 929115) and (YD 935115). One (1) secondary explosion. Spooky 12 relieved Spooky 11.

07Apr68 Scarface 9-1 and 9-2 (Tactical Air Control Attack) controlled flight of A-4 Intruders armed with MK 81 250lb. low drag GP bombs against target coordinates (YD 923145). Target coverage 100%/100% bomb damage assessment 100%. Basketball 814 (Flareship) dropped flares from (YD 929112) to (YD 928121). Hellborne 501 was 1st flight, 2nd flight was Hellborne 12, working Grids (YD 923145) Basketball 799 replaced Basketball 814. Spooky (Flare/Gunship) worked grids (YD 920117) and (YD 922115) for Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Cowpoker 16 (Aerial Observer) registered Delta Battery. Cowpoker 2 (Aerial Observer) checked out grid (YD 857098) for Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Negative Results.

08Apr68 Cowpoker 16 (Aerial Observer) registered Delta Battery.

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09Apr68 Cowpoko 21 (Tactical Air Control Attack) ran Lovebug 303 (Flight F-4's) armed with MK 82 500 lb. low drag GP bombs against target (YD 846035). 90%/50% bomb damage assessment. Cowpoko 16 (Aerial Observer) conducted visual recon west of Troui Bridge with negative results.

10Apr68 Cowpoko 21 (Aerial Observer) worked with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines - Negative sightings. Basketball 816 worked with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Scarface 9-1 and 9-2 (Tactical Air Control Attack) ran Hellborne 534, armed with MK 81 250lb. Low drag GP bombs and MK 77 500 lb. Fire bomb Napalm, against target coordinated (YD 942129), (VC in Open). Intruders (A-4 Aircraft) had trouble acquiring target upon Roll-in due to visibility. Scarface 9-1 and 9-2 (Tactical Air Control Attack) returned to run Hellborne 570, Containing ordnance load of MK 81 Snakeeye and MK 77 500lb. Fire Bomb Napalm on VC Village. Five (5) structures destroyed. Bomb damage assessment 95%/75%. Scarface 9-1 and 9-2 then expended their ordnance which consisted of 7.62mm and 2.75 rockets.

11Apr68 Cowpoko 16 (Aerial Observer) observed Grid (YD 942129), site of evening's air strike. Negative sightings. Basketball 4-1 worked with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Crossbill 087 relieved and continued dropping flares.

13Apr68 Cowpoko 12 (Aerial Observer) checked grid (YD 8109). Negative Results. Cowpoko 20 checked (YD 9214) SE to (YD 9412) with negative results.

14Apr68 Cowpoko 21 (Aerial Observer) checked Grid (YD 9214) SE to (YD 9412) with Negative results.

15Apr68 Cowpoko 12 (Aerial Observer) registered Delta Battery and spotted fresh grave sites at (YD 914096) on visual recon for Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at (YD 895085). Negative sightings by basketball while on station.

16Apr68 Cowpoko 20 and 23 (Aerial Observers) conducted visual recon southeast portion of 1st Battalion 5th Marines TAOR.

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17Apr68 Cowpoker 24 (Aerial Observer) conducted visual recon for Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Spotted fresh graves, large groups and foxholes at (YD 8406) to (YD 8603). Cowpoker 23, 12 and 20 worked with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Results - Negative.

18Apr68 Cowpoker 12 (Aerial Observer) conducted visual recon at (YD 9598) to (YD 0502) and (YD 960028) and (YD 965022).

21Apr68 Cowpoker 24 (Aerial Observer) working with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Called artillery on four (4) VC in bunkers. Furbrichos 838 (Flareship) dropped at (YD 908113), (YD 914117), and Troui Bridge.

22Apr68 Cowpoker 24 (Aerial Observer) worked with Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines with Negative results. Cowpoker 12 checked report of one hundred and sixty (160) VC at (YD 895050) and one hundred and sixty (160) VC at (YD 887042) - Negative results. Artillery mission called possible concealment.

23Apr68 Cowpoker 23 (Aerial Observer) conducted general visual recon with negative results. Cowpokers 1-2 and 0-8 also observed. Basketball 816 dropped flares for Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at (YD 967064). Troops in contact.

24Apr68 Cowpoker 12 (Aerial Observer) conducted visual recon for Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Negative results. Basketball 792 dropped flares at (YD 900112) for Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Scarface 9-1, 9-2 and 9-3 worked with Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and Basketball 792 had secondary explosion from Huey (Helicopter) Rockets. Spooky 14 working with Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at (YD 980049).

26Apr68 Cowpoker 16 and 12 (Aerial Observers) negative results on visual recon. Cowpoker 24 spotted possible enemy campsites at (YD 873014).

27Apr68 Basketball 689 dropped flares for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines along Route # 1 throughout entire TAOR.

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26Apr68 Black Tippet, replaced Basketball 689. Two (2) flights of fixed wing (Hellborne 51/52 and Ring-neck 10/11 had bomb damage assessment of 100%/75%. Ordnance consisted of MK 82 Snakeye and MK 77 500lb. fire bomb Napalm. Target coordinates were (XD 878015).

29Apr68 Basketball 814 dropped flares along highway # 1.

30Apr68 Cowpoker 21 controlled Hellborne 514 on target coordinates (XD 875015). MK 82 500lb. low drag GP bombs were dropped. Bomb damage assessment was 80%/50%.

(2) Observation by the Aerial Observer was of considerable help in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

b. Artillery

(1) 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines served in direct support for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(2) During this period, Delta Battery fired 342 missions in support of the infantry units.

(3) With few exceptions, most missions were fired during the hours of darkness by ground observers.

(4) Numerous TOT missions were fired by Delta Battery, in conjunction with reinforcing fires from Phu Bai, all of these TOT's were fired South of the O2 Grid Line.

(5) Delta Battery fired an average of 55 H&I fires nightly on avenues of approach and avenues of egress.

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(6) During this period numerous on call fires were registered for prominent bridges and CAP Units along highway #1.

c. Engineers. Engineer support was provided by Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion. Engineers were employed principally to destroy duds, booby traps and captured enemy ammunition, and to conduct daily mine sweeps of the road networks in the 1st Battalion TAOR.

d. Ontos. Ontos were primarily employed in the defense of bridges assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. On two occasions Ontos were used on Company size Search and Destroy missions. Satisfactory results were achieved by the use of Ontos in both areas of employment.

e. Shore Party (HST). HST's were provided by Company B, 1st Shore Party Battalion. These attachments provided satisfactory support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and medevacs.

8. Intelligence.

a. Estimate of NVA/VC strength, location and disposition in the objective area.

(1) Intelligence reports received from 5th Marines on 6 March 1968 and 28 March 1968 respectively, identified elements of the following enemy units, operating in or in the vicinity of the battalion's area of operation.

(a) Hai Van TAOR (5 March - 27 March 1968)

<u>Confirmed Units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
KhB Dn MF	275	PhuLoc(D)	1Mar68
C110 Co. LF	60	AU1505	1Mar68
<u>Probable Unit</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
C-19 EngrCo NVA	150	AU8694	3Feb68

(b) South East Phu Bai TAOR (28 Mar - 30 Apr 68)

<u>Confirmed Units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt</u> <u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
802 Bn 6th Regt	345	YL8600	23Mar68

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(b) South East Phu Bai TAOR (28 Mar - 30 Apr 68)

<u>Confirmed units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
K4B, 4th Regt	275	YD9200	23	Mar68
K4C, 4th Regt	470	YD9296	23	Mar68
<u>Probable units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>
U/I Plat	35	YD976052	20	Mar68
U/I Plat	35	YD942028	13	Mar68

(c) Enemy units adjacent to 1st Battalion AO.

<u>Confirmed Units</u>	<u>Strength</u>
4th Regt HQ	Unk
C-118 Co.	100
CO4 Bn (NVA)	300
(HMU) Hue Municipal Unit	200

b. Enemy strength and Disposition actually determined during operation.

(1) HAI VAN TAOR

(a) During the course of this battalion's operations within this TAOR only six contacts were recorded. Four were harassment incidents (enemy initiated) and two were sighting (friendly initiated). All contacts encountered except one were with fire team size units. The sole exception consisted of the sighting of a squad size (3 to 10 men) enemy force moving along a high speed trail. During this period no documents were recovered or identification made. Only scant evidence of the enemy's existence was detected by patrols. This evidence consisted of vacated fire team size campsites, fighting holes, observation point sites and temporary harbor shelters. Some were determined to be more than two months old.

(2) Phu Bai TAOR

(a) Based on information derived from POW enemy documents recovered and the nature of enemy contacts

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encountered during this period enemy strength was estimated at a Regiment plus within the TACR. Contacts during this period were highlighted by an enemy initiated attack in force against the Troui River Bridge (YD 949069), Bridges #4 (YD 967063) and #7 (YD 988030) on 310200H March 1968. Subsequent analysis of detail debriefing of the defenders and intensive interrogation of POW PFC NUNG VAN FRAG indicate that the force which attacked Troui bridge consisted of the entire K-2 Bn, (AKA K-4B Bn) heavily reinforced by sapper and B-40 teams and ammunition bearers (coolies). Local VC were utilized as guides.

(b) A total of forty-eight contacts were recorded during this period, thirty five were friendly initiated by ambushes and patrols. Exclusive of the enemy's attack in force on 31 March 1968, the remainder of his initiated contacts were characterized by harassment/sniping incidents of friendly isolated outposts and patrols.

(c) With the onset of the Spring rice harvest in middle April an increase in enemy resupply activity was detected as nightly columns of rice bearers escorted by armed NVA security elements attempted to cross highway #1 in order to reach the fertile rice fields of the Huong Thuy and Phu Vang District lowlands. An increase in ralliers was also recorded. At the close of this reporting period twelve had turned themselves into ARVN authorities and USMC units along highway #1. Those ralliers in the majority were students/youths impressed into service by the NVA during the "TET" occupation by NVA forces of Hue. Since their impressment they reportedly had received military and political training while later assigned to their unit (K10 Bn), they were utilized as rice bearers to resupply NVA units deployed to the south and in the interior Nam Hoa District. This type activity continues at an increasing rate at the close of Phase I of "Operation HOUSTON".

c. NVA/VC MILITARY IDENTIFIED (PHU BAI AO)

(1) Interrogation of enemy POW/CHIEU HOI/DETAINES revealed the following:

(a) PFC NUNG VAN FRAG who was captured by the RVN DV5 on 2Apr68 revealed that he was a member of the K10 Bn, 3rd Co. PFC FRAG, 20 years old stated that the force which attacked the Troui River Bridge consisted of the entire K-2 (Possible AKA K-4B) Battalion heavily reinforced. Three infantry companies of 125 men each, 3 sapper platoons of 40 men each, 3 engineer squads of 15 men each, 1 82mm mortar group of estimated 60 men, a Bn Headquarters of estimated 40 men, 3 guerilla platoons of 20 men each, an undetermined number of coolie laborers. A total strength in force of over 720 men. Weapons reported were AK-47's, SKS, 12 B41's, 36 B-40's, 7 RPD machine guns and 6 60mm mortars in direct support.

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(b) Squad Leader LAN DO VAN who rallied to Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at 030730H Apr 68 with his weapon, an AK-50 with 3 magazines. VAN stated he was a squad leader, K10 Battalion Provincial Main Force Battalion, 2nd Company. The K10 consisted of 4 companies C1, C2, C3 and C4. His platoon consisted of 26 men. Subject's platoon accompanied by 1 platoon each from the K-25 and K-23 (unknown units) Battalions (Main Force) were on a rice resupply mission enroute to YD 942134. VAN defected 022200H Apr 68 vicinity YD 9008. VAN indicated all infantry companies are equipped as follows: 1 B-40 per squad with 6 rounds B-40 ammunition, 1 82mm mortar per Company with 40 rounds per mortar, 1 RPG Machine gun per platoon. Estimated strength of K10 Battalion is 336. VAN indicated that troops carried 400 rounds per man for AK's and 700 rounds per machine gun.

(c) Pvt DO DAU, age 29 who rallied to Phu Bai village chief at 050630H Apr 68 was interrogated and he revealed that he was a member 1st squad, 1st platoon, 1st company of the K10 Battalion. The K10 has 3 infantry companies and 1 support company. Company strength at T/O is 100 men. A platoon has 30 men and a squad has 9-10 men. The support company has 3 B-11 rocket launchers with 40 rounds, 2 82mm mortars. An infantry company has 2-60mm mortars. Squads have 1 B-40 rocket launcher and 1 machine gun each.

(d) LE DAN a 14 year old civilian conscripted by the VC to carry rice was apprehended by C 1/5 squad ambush at 052230H Apr 68. Subject revealed he was impressed by NVA during "TET" Offensive and forced to carry rice into mountains. Subject was unfamiliar with area of operations and could not give information as to the location of his unit. Subject indicated he accompanied a group of 150 rice carriers, each man carrying 12 kilo of rice with 50 NVA as security. This was subject's first resupply mission. Subject insisted he picked up rice in mountains and was scheduled to make delivery at undetermined location in area of capture (YD 924119).

(e) TRAN PHUC, 15 year old civilian abducted in Mar 68 by VC to carry rice was captured by D 1/5 vicinity (YD 945059). He revealed his unit, the 1st squad, 3rd platoon 2nd company of the 5th Battalion (5th Battalion training unit). The 5th Battalion's composition is 3 companies numbered 1, 2, and 3 respectively. Each company's strength is estimated at 200. A company has 3 platoons with 3 squads each. Squad weapons 5 AK-47, 6 SKS's, 1 B-40 rocket launcher with 15

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rounds. Each platoon had 2 60mm mortars and 2 7.62 light machine guns. Subject had knowledge of K-6 Battalion which was formerly co-located with his parent unit. Subject indicated that the composition of the K-6 is identical to his battalion but that the K-6 is not designated as a training Battalion.

(f) DUONG VENT HONG, age 18; HOANG VAN KINH, age 15; DUONG VIET CHAY, age 15; HOANG CONG CHING, age 18; and LE DINH THUY, age 17 all were captured by Cap unit A3 and subsequently exploited by members of S-2 1/5 and 13 ITT. All revealed that they were members of newly organized Youth Civil Defense Force. This unit was employed as guards for local VC cadre. Later they were sent to the mountains and pressed into service as rice carriers.

(g) Soldier (Rice carrier) NGUYEN NGU, age 25 who rallied to PHU BAI Village Chief 08000H Apr 68 and was exploited by members of S-2, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and 13 ITT revealed his unit as the 2nd squad, 1st Platoon, 3rd Company of the K10 Battalion. 8 men in each squad, 4 AK-47's, 2 SKS's, 1 B-40 with 4 rounds and 1 7.62 LMG. There are three squads in each platoon and three platoons in a company.

(h) DUU KHCI, age 51, NVA rice carrier who rallied to PHU BAI, village chief 200730H Apr 68 and was exploited by members of S-2, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and 13 ITT. Subject revealed he was a member of 1st squad, 1st Platoon, 2nd Company, K-10 Battalion. Composition subject unit, as follows: (3) platoons to company, 3 companies compose K-10 Battalion. Each Company has 1 mortar squad attached, mortar squad consists of (2) 60mm mortars, (3) B-41 rocket launchers, 3 AK-47's each squad. Squad's consist of 9 men. Squad weapons: (3) AK-47, (1) AK-50, (1) 7.62LMG, 1 B-40, 4 SKS. K10 is at 7/10 strength.

(i) Wireman CHE VINH, age 29, who rallied to PHU BAI village chief 201000H Apr 68 was exploited. Subject identified his unit as the 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, Company C. His squad has 11 men with 2 AK-47's, 4 carbines, 5 M-16. There are 3 squads in each platoon and 3 platoons in each company. The 1st platoon is employed as runners, 2nd platoon consists of wiremen and the 3rd platoon is used for radio communications between Battalion.

(j) PFC LI VAN TAM (Soldier and rice carrier) age 27 who rallied to PHU BAI village chief at 220630H Apr 68 was exploited and identified his unit as the K10 Battalion, Company C-2, 1st Platoon. There are 27 men in his platoon,

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75 men per company, and 300 men per battalion. The Battalion has 4 Companies. One of the four companies is a mortar company equipped with 61/82mm Mortars. TACM carried a Thompson sub-MG, other wpns in his platoon consisted of B-40 rocket launchers with 4 rounds per launcher, (3) Sub MG's, (9) AK-47's, (18) SKS semi-auto rifles. The K-10 Battalion is also equipped with B-41 rocket launchers.

(k) PVT TINH VAN BA, rifleman who rallied to C 1/5 on 270630H Apr68 identified his unit as A1 Squad, B1 Platoon, C-2 Company of the K-10 Battalion. The A1 Squad has (6) men with 2 AK-47's, 2 SKS, 1 B-40, and 1 7.62 IMG. There are 3 squads in each platoon, each platoon has 2 60mm mortars. There are 3 platoons in each Company for a total strength of 360 men in the Battalion.

d. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) Order of Battle. The following additional information was obtained concerning units identified in paragraph 7c.

(a) The K-10 Battalion is operating in the assigned AO with mission of gathering resupply of rice and food stores for NVA/VC units located in the vicinity of Neu Mo Tau Mountains (YD 845045) and the enemy units located to the south and southwest of the Troui Bridge (YD 968063). The Battalion moves frequently and displaces its units over a large area when not deployed. When ordered to pick up rice caches the Battalion assembles and deploys in a force large enough to carry out it's assigned mission. Normally 3 companies are committed with one remaining in the rear area. They began their movement during late afternoon from the canopy in order to arrive in the foothill prior to darkness (1830-1900). It is believed that upon moving out of the foothills the units break down to smaller groups of 50-100. Each group has a security element assigned. Prior to attempting a major road crossing, the point element is committed to find any friendly ambushes in their line of march. If no contact is made a runner is dispatched and the main body will deploy across the road and continue their assigned mission. The same procedure is used upon returning. If no contact is made, they sometimes utilize the same route of return.

(b) The 5th Battalion (Training Unit) was reported 6 days march to south/southwest in the mountainous region Nui Diau (ZC 1486), 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TACM. The battalion's mission was to procure rice from Nam Phu Cam (Location Unknown). The 5th Battalion was formerly located with its parent unit the K-6 Battalion.

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(c) The K-6 Battalion whose composition is identical to the 5th Battalion but is not designated as a training unit. It was located with the 5th Battalion at one time in the mountains 6 days march to the south/south west of the TAOR.

(d) The C-30 Company. (Communication Company) had began intensive training for a future attack. Dates 1-17 May 68 or 19 May 68.

(e) The K-25 (MF) and K-23 (MF) Battalion were reported on rice resupply missions. These Battalions were reported at one time employing a platoon each in support of a K-10 Battalion rice mission.

(f) Youth Civil Defense force was moved south into the mountains and members were given the task of rice procurement.

(g) OTHER. Information derived from unrelated sources indicates that one other enemy unit and the K-10 Bn has received ammunition resupply via truck and/or air drop. Truck route #12 from DMZ via float ferry across BEN HOI River, south into RVN. C-30 Company (Communications Company) has received 15 minute warning prior to being hit by B-52 strikes. Source indicated Battalions are given as much as 4 hour notice prior to bombings. Warnings come via radio from Bangkok, Thailand when planes take off. . .

c. Terrain.

(1) HAI VAN PASS (AO)

Route 1 runs from the south to north up to the Lang Co Bridge through the Hai Van Pass. The Pass consists of a mountain belt running parallel with route #1. The mountains are heavily dissected and rugged with slopes ranging from 30 to 40 degrees. Evergreen secondary forests are predominant. Trees range in height from 25-30 meters with some as high as 50 meters. The canopy is continuous and dark green. Tree trunks are straight, commonly 2 to 16 meters apart and unbranched to great heights. Secondary forests consist of smaller trees with a discontinuous canopy and more dense undergrowth. The mountains and piedmont favor the enemy tactically. Irregular terrain and dense vegetation offer excellent concealment, routes of infiltration and defensive positions. The steep rugged, heavily forested mountains seriously hinder overland mobility. Short fields of fire, restrictive observation, and limited LOC and helicopter LZ's.

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(2) PHU BAI (AO)

The Phu Bai (AO) consists of three major terrain features:

(a) The coastal area, lowland and rice fields. These areas are relatively flat. The plains are characterized by canals and irrigation ditches linking numerous streams, deltas, and distributing channels, forming a network of waterways to provide drainage, irrigation, and water transportation. In the coastal plains, wetland rice and some dry crops are the major vegetation, although dune grass and marshes are scattered throughout. Rice fields, flooded to a depth of 6 to 10 inches during the growing season, are drained prior to the harvests in March and August, and are driest in September. Mature rice forms a dense vegetation, including thick hedges between houses. Soil throughout the coastal area and in some inland areas are a sandy silt, poorly suited for construction, except to fill. In the coastal area, observation and fields of fire are generally good but impeded by local irregularities and hedges in built up areas. Air observation is good. In the coastal plains some cover is provided by paddy dikes and occasional sand dunes. Concealment is limited to that available in the built up areas and in the dense, mature rice fields at certain times of the year.

(b) The piedmont area consists of undulating hills which are cut by numerous river valleys. These waterways extend, like fingers, from the western highlands through the piedmont and into the coastal plain. Hills in the piedmont range from 30 to 70 meters in elevation with slopes between 10 and 20 degrees. The piedmont is predominantly secondary, broadleaf forest with some dense evergreen forest. Dense undergrowth is bamboo and palm thickets are very common. There are some grass areas, growing as high as five feet, as well as small cultivated areas of dry crops.

(c) Mountains. (As described Para. c (1)).

(d) Weather. (1) MAI VAN TAG

Throughout the operation the weather was mild/cloudy during daylight hours and mild to cool during night hours, temperature and high humidity readings had adverse affects on movement during daylight hours. Night hours consisted of heavy overcast coupled with scattered precipitation. Illumination although favorable was markedly affected by overcast conditions, and hampered visibility considerably during operations in the mountainous regions. These conditions had an adverse effect on the use of air support, especially during hours of darkness.

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(2) PHU BAI TAOR

Throughout the operation the weather was mild to warm during daylight hours and mild to cool at nights. Temperature and humidity had no adverse effect on movement during daylight hours. The moon was in its last quarters. Illumination was reduced from 37% on 21 April 68 to 06% on 25 April 68. It hampered, to a limited degree, night movement. In general the weather, wind and cloud conditions did not have any adverse effects on operations or the use of air support.

9. MISSION.

a. 5 March 1968 through 27 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines keep route #1 open by establishing holding positions at Lang Co bridge and other key bridges. Establish mobile security on remainder route #1 and supporting bridges and culverts in assigned AO. Provide security for bridge and road repair parties as required; provide security along MSR and reaction forces for the protection of friendly convoys. Conduct patrolling, ambushes, H&I fires and well controlled mining and booby trap operations at or near obvious targets for enemy attack or destruction. Conduct limited offensive operations to destroy threatening enemy forces.

b. 28 March 1968 through 30 April 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines provide security for vital bridges along MSR and observation posts in TAOR. Conduct search and destroy operations in TAOR to fix and destroy the enemy, his weapons, supplies and fortifications. Assume Bald Eagle/ Sparrowhawk commitment and other missions as directed.

10. CONCERN.

1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducts operation to accomplish assigned mission with two companies operating in assigned AO along and adjacent to route #1, to deny enemy access to MSR, provide bridge security; other units conducting limited operations to seek out and destroy the enemy, his weapons, equipment and fortifications in the Battalion AO. Companies along route #1 will conduct saturation ambushes by night, patrols and combat outposts by day.

11. EXCEPTION.

D-Day 5 March 1968 See Enclosure (1)

(1) 050930H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) commenced movement by convoy to Battalion Assembly area at the top of Hai

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(2) 051500H Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines relieved Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Brigade, 101st Airborne Division of responsibility for the Lang Co Bridge, at (AT 085955).

(3) 051600H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines arrived Battalion Assembly Area at (AT 085995) and received 5th Marines Operation Order 4-68. See Reference (b).

(4) 051600H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (--) commenced Operation "HOUSTON" in accordance with 5th Marines Operation Order 4-68.

(5) 051900H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 3-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (2).

D+1 6 March 1968. See enclosure (3).

(1) 061000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines relieved 2nd Battalion, 502nd Brigade, 101st Airborne, and assumed responsibility of the assigned AO. See Reference (b) and Enclosure (4).

(2) 062000H Patrols and ambushes were conducted throughout 1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO; in accordance with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 3-68. See Enclosure (2).

D+2 7 March 1968. See Enclosure (5).

(1) 071000H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, the S-3 Officer and the S-2 Officer departed the Battalion Assembly Area for aerial Recon of the AO and returned at 071100H.

(2) 071900H 1st Platoon, Company D at (AT 918927) observed and fired 100-200 rounds 5.56mm at 3 VC, vicinity (AT 921920). A search of the area revealed blood trails which were followed with negative results.

(3) 072000H Patrols and ambushes were conducted throughout 1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO in accordance with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Operation Order 3-68. See Enclosure (2).

(4) 072000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 30-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (6).

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D+3 8 March 1968. See Enclosure (7).

(1) 081630H Company C, while patrolling through coordinates (AT 915922) and (AT 918921) found spider holes, $\frac{1}{2}$ block of C-4, one block of Chinese TNT, 3 mortar pits, motor packing cases, primer cans, mortar nose caps, Chinese cans (possibly used for demolitions), and a bunker constructed with railroad ties, logs and rocks vicinity (AT 926905).

(2) 082000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO highlighted by Company C Search and destroy Operation to the west of MSR. See Enclosure (6).

D+4 9 March 1968. See Enclosure (8).

(1) On 9 March 1968, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO. Company C continues Search and Destroy to west of MSR.

(2) 091315H 2nd Platoon, Company C at (AT 917913) found possible VC base camp in a cave. The camp was destroyed.

(3) 091400H 3rd Platoon, Company C at (AT 906922) found VC shelter, 20-30 fighting holes and buddy packs, bandages, ponchos, sandals and possible mortar sites. Camp and fortifications were destroyed.

(4) 091530H Squad Outpost from Company A came upon the site of an accident at (AT 936904). Apparently Marine Lowboy rounding turn hit loose gravel causing vehicle to skid. Vehicle went off left side of road moving downhill. Company A Command Post and Battalion Command Post dispatched medical assistance and medevac vehicles brought the casualties to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post where they were medevaced. Results: 1 USMC DAI, and 2 USMC NBCE.

(5) 091830H Established night defensive positions and conducted night activities. See Enclosure (8).

(6) 092305H 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Company A at (AT 905950) observed 13 VC moving towards bridge. Took enemy under fire. Enemy returned 15 rounds small arms fire and broke contact. Area searched at first light with negative results.

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D+5 10 March 1968. See Enclosure (9).

(1) 10 March 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO. Company C terminated Search and Destroy at 101400H. See Enclosure (6).

(2) 100705H One man from Company A at (AT 927923) set off his own booby trapped M-26 grenade. Man was dead on corpsman arrival. Results: 1 USMC DAI. Investigation in progress.

(3) 100900H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post at 100900H for 5th Marines Command Post. Returned at 101630H.

(4) 101800H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 31-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (10).

D+6 11 March 1968. See Enclosure (11).

(1) 11 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO. Company D, relieved by Company C of AO. Company C commenced Search and Destroy to west of MSR at 111300H. See Enclosure (10)

(2) 111300H One man from 3rd Platoon, Company A at (AT 935981) fell and his weapon discharged hitting man in foot. Man was treated for wound between toes. Results: 1 USMC NBCNE. Investigation in progress.

(3) 111353H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at 111300H.

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D+7 12 March 1968. See Enclosure (12).

(1) 12 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continues to conduct patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO.

D+8 13 March 1968. See Enclosure (13).

(1) 13 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continues to conduct patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO.

(2) 131030H 3rd Platoon, Company D at (AT 903915) received 5 rounds small arms fire. Returned fire. Searched area, found spent rounds, one poncho and miscellaneous small items.

(3) 131721H 3rd Platoon, Company B at (AT 929896) observed one VC 75 meters to their east, carrying a weapon. Company B fired 5 rounds small arms fire and received 7-10 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact and fled east. The area was searched with negative results.

(4) 131935H 2nd Platoon, Company B at (AT 922917) found 23 planks (7' x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' x 8"), 2 sledge hammers (12 lb.), 1 hammer, 1 teapot, 3 rice bowls, 1 hand crank bellow, 1 set utilities (USMC ISSUE), numerous spikes, 1 # 10 can with gasoline, 1 pick ax, 1 hoe, 3 campfire sites, 1 tobacco pouch, numerous spikes, and a concealed observation post. Uniform, tools, bellows were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

(5) 132000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 32-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (14).

D+9 14 March 1968. See Enclosure (15).

(1) 14 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to conduct patrols and ambushes in the Battalion AO.

(2) 140855H Two civilians vehicles struck two small pressure detonated mines at (AT 935090). Both vehicles lost a wheel in the explosion. There was no significant damage to the road, no civilian injuries were incurred.

(3) 140925H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and S-3 Officer departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post to tour Company areas and returned at 141045H.

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(4) 141045H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines arrived 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post and departed at 141145H.

D+10 15 March 1968. See Enclosure (16).

(1) 15 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continues to conduct patrols and ambushes in the Battalion AO.

(2) 151600H Company D relieved Company B of AO #1. See Enclosure (14).

(3) 151600H Company B commenced a 3 day Search and Destroy operation west of MSR. See Enclosure (14).

D+11 16 March 1968. See Enclosure (17).

(1) 16 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to conduct patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO.

(2) 160900H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 33-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (18).

D+12 17 March 1968. See Enclosure (19).

(1) 17 March 1968. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued to conduct patrols and ambushes throughout the Battalion AO.

(2) 172300H Received Regimental Frag Order 20-68. See Reference (a).

D+13 18 March 1968. See Enclosure (20).

(1) 181000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group and Company C departed TAOR by trucks for movement to assembly area near Noue Ngot for a Search and Destroy operation. Arrived at the assembly area at 181300H.

(2) 181400H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(3) 181730H Battalion Frag Order 34-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (21).

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D+14 19 March 1968. See Enclosure (22).

(1) 19 March 1968. 190430H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced Search and Destroy Operation in accordance with 5th Marines Frag Order 20-68. See reference (c) and 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 34-68 See Enclosure (21).

(2) 190830H Companies C and M commenced Search and Destroy of Regimental objective area # 39. In accordance with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 34-68. See Enclosure (21).

(3) 190940H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines at (YC 138968) observed 4 VC approximately 100 meters to the north moving through dense vegetation. Marines fired 20-30 rounds small arms fire. Searched area with negative results.

(4) 191100H Company M, 2nd Platoon at (YC 145968) observed 1 VC fleeing from bushes at (YC 146968). Five minutes later an explosion was heard. Searched area with negative results.

(5) 191105H Company C, secured battalion objective A and continued search of Regimental objective #39 and surrounding area. See Enclosure (21).

(6) 191115H Company C at (YC 135968) found one cave 2½ inches in diameter and 9 feet deep. The cave was searched with negative results and destroyed by engineers.

(7) 191345H 3rd Platoon, Company M secured Battalion Objective B. See Enclosure (21).

(8) 191440H Member of Company M at (YC 145968) detonated a Chicom grenade booby trap with pressure release device. The area was searched with negative results. Results: 2 USMC WIAE.

(9) 191700H Completed search of Regimental Objective #37. Commenced movement towards Regimental Objective #301.

(10) 191730H A member of Company H, 2nd Platoon at (YC 143975) detonated one booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Searched area with negative results. Results: 3 USMC WIAE.

(11) 191915H Established night defensive position and conducted night activities. See Enclosure (22).

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(12) 192130H A fire team of Company D at (AT 928921) observed 8-10 VC moving down a trail at (AT 921923). Marines fired 25-30 rounds small arms fire. Called for illumination and 81mm HE and received approximately 7 illumination and 17 HE rounds. Searched the area at first light with negative results.

(13) 192200H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 35-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (23).

D+15 20 March 1968. See Enclosure (24).

(1) 20 March 1968. 200630H Company M at (YC 143970) received ineffective enemy H&I mortar fire sporadically throughout the night from unknown firing positions.

(2) 200820H A member of Company M, 3rd Platoon at (YC 154967) detonated a booby trapped M-26 grenade with trip wire. Searched area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIA.

(3) 201120H Companies M and C reached Regimental Objective #301 and commenced search. Also secured Battalion Objective C and D. See Enclosure (21).

(4) 201630H Completed search of Regimental objective #301 and commenced move to Regimental objective #302. See Enclosure (21).

(5) 201700H Company D (-) terminated Company Search and Destroy mission.

(6) 201800H Company C at (YC 143952) found an enemy camp and footbridge with approximately 6 shelters. Evidence of a cooking fire and documents were found. The shelters and bridge were destroyed. Documents were forwarded to Battalion S-2.

(7) 201830H Established night defensive position and conduct night activities. See Enclosure (24).

D+16 21 March 1968. See Enclosure (25).

(1) 210100H Company B fireteam ambush at (AT 938914) heard movement 30-40 meters to the east. Ambush fired 10-15 rounds of small arms fire and threw 1 M-26 grenade. Searched the area and blood trails were found and followed with negative results.

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- (2) 210600H Company D relieved Company B at (AT 939916), Company B moved to (AT 937065).
- (3) 210600H Company D OPCON to 7th Marines.
- (4) 210915H An Army Engineer Unit (M2C) at (AT 057000) found one (1) 82mm round with trip wire. Round was destroyed in place.
- (5) 211530H Company M, 1st Platoon at (YC 153956) found an estimated 3 weeks old campsite for 40-50 enemy personnel. Searched surrounding area with negative results.
- (6) 211530H Completed search of Regimental Objective #302 and moved to resupply area. See Enclosure (21).
- (7) 211630H 1st Battalion (-) (Rein) received resupply by helicopter.
- (8) 211830H Established night defensive positions and conducted night activities. See Enclosure (25).

D+17 22 March 1968. See Enclosure (26).

- (1) 22 March 1968. 220630H Commenced movement towards Regimental Objective #37. See Enclosure (21).
- (2) 221200H Company M, 2nd Platoon at (AT 935907) received 2 sniper rounds. Returned fire with 15-20 rounds small arms fire. Searched area with negative results. See Enclosure (21).
- (3) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 36-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (27).

D+18 23 March 1968. See Enclosure (28).

- (1) 23 March 1968. 230700H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines commenced move to assembly area, (AT 939917).

- (2) 231000H 3rd Platoon, Company M chopped OPCON to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.
- (3) 231700H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines arrived at Assembly Area and terminated Search and Destroy operation in accordance with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 36-68. See Enclosure (21) Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines chopped to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

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D+19 24 March 1968. See Enclosure (29).

(1) 241200H Company B relieved Company D of Sector 2 responsibility.

(2) 241630H Company D commenced Company (-) Search and Destroy operations in eastern portion of Battalion TAOR.

D+20 25 March 1968. See Enclosure (30).

(1) 25 March 1968. Company A commenced Search and Destroy operations west of MSR.

(2) 251325H An Army dump truck at (AT 936919) received one rocket round from an unknown position. Results: 1 USA WIAE.

D+21 26 March 1968. See Enclosure (31).

(1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducted patrols and ambushes in the Battalion area of operations.

(2) 261435H Squad patrol from Company C apprehended 4 Vietnamese males at (AT 875943). Detainees forwarded to Battalion S-2 for further interrogation.

(3) 262040H Fire Team (+) ambush from Company B at (AT 939900) while setting in night position observed flare tripped by enemy under bridge. A frag grenade was thrown and illumination called for. Began checking out area in front and heard people talking in Vietnamese. Fired 40 rounds small arms fire and enemy fled to south. Area was searched with negative results.

D+22 27 March 1968. See Enclosure (32).

(1) 271745H Companies A and D arrived 5th Marines Command Post at 271745H.

(2) 272210H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post at (AT 941919) received one short 155mm round impacting near Command Post area. Wounded personnel moved to Battalion Aid Station and medevaced. Results: 3 USMC NBCB.

D+23 28 March 1968. See Enclosure (33).

(1) 281600H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines OPCOM to Task Force X-Ray.

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(1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continued OPCON to Task Force X-Ray.

(2) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 37-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (34).

D+24 30 March 1968. See Enclosure (35).

(1) 300001H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from Task Force X-Ray and returned OPCON to 5th Marines continuing to participate in operation "HOUSTON".

(2) 301120H While at 1st Battalion, 5th Marines rear, man from Company D pulled slide of .45 pistol to rear, weapon discharged striking another Marine in wrist. Wounded man sent to Battalion Aid Station for treatment. Results: 1 USMC WMC.

(3) 301030H Company B at (AU 893114) found 5 holes for mortar position, 5 dud rounds and cans containing Chi-Com mortar increments, fighting holes for 30 men and 1 machine gun position. Holes and mortar rounds were destroyed on 31 March 1968. Mortar rounds destroyed in place.

(4) 302300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 38-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (36).

D+25 31 March 1968. See Enclosure (37).

(1) 310230H Company A, bridge security elements at (YD 949069) (YD 967064) came under heavy 82mm mortar fire from enemy positions at (YD 968066) and (YD 949071). The mortar barrage was followed by an intense ground assault from an estimated 150 NVA at each friendly position. Enemy utilized small arms, automatic weapons and B-40 rockets in the attack. The position at (YD 949069) was overrun and the bridge blown. Results: 15 USMC KIA, 31 USMC WIA, 27 USMC WIAME, 1 NCCE, 61 NVA KIA CONFIRMED and 1 POW.

(2) 310705H Company B flank security element at (YD 952068) found 1 booby trapped M-26 grenade. Grenade was marked and destroyed.

(3) 310920H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines arrived Company A's position at (YD 967063).

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(4) 311510H Marine with Company D at (XD 951068) tripped booby-trapped M-26 grenade. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

(5) 311640H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines returned from Company A's position.

(6) 311720H 2nd Platoon, Company C departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Assembly Area as Sparrowhawk for bridge # 3 (XD 926103). Prepare to react to bridge #4 at (XD 949068).

(7) 312300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 39-60 promulgated. See Enclosure (38).

D+26 1 April 1968. See Enclosure (39).

(1) 010030H Company A at (XD 995049) received approximately 10 B-40 rockets. Called for and received artillery fire. Checked area with negative results.

(2) 010340H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed Phu Bai for recon of Hill 180 (XD 856133) and returned at 011215H.

(3) 010920H Bridge 7 at (XD 970057) was attacked by 35 to 40 VC carrying satchel charges. Enemy approached from N.W. fired approximately 1000 rounds small arms, 30 rounds 82mm mortars. Enemy broke contact and fled.

(4) 011730H Light jump CP departed 1st Battalion 5th Marines rear at Phu Bai and arrived at hill 180 (XD 856133) at 011800H.

D+27 2 April 1968. See Enclosure (40).

(1) 020340H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines light jump CP departed Hill 180 (XD 856133) and arrived at 1st Battalion 5th Marines (Rear) at Phu Bai (XD 830114) at 020900H.

(2) 021000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP Group and Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines departed Phu Bai and arrived at the forward CP location (XD 930064) at 021030H.

(3) 021040H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP (XD 930064) and departed at 021055H.

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(4) 021535H Company D Squad Patrol at (YD 905197) found three wounded Vietnamese children who had been playing with a LAAM. LAAM was not from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. The children were medevaced.

(5) 021600H Company D at (YD 967364) interrogated one NVA WIA captured by ARVN troops nearby. It was learned that the POW had participated in the attack on the Truong River Bridge on 1 April. The POW was returned to the ARVN for further processing.

(6) 022015H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines received message from 5th Marines stating that Air Observer had seen an estimated 300 VC/NVA at (YD 909132). Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines fired 13 GOFAMI shells and 7 105mm HE on target. Results were unobserved.

(7) 022137H LP/Ambush from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP at (YD 968077) received 20-30 rounds sniper fire from (YD 967050) from an estimated 3 to 4 VC. Returned 50-60 rounds small arms fire, withdrew to CP due to lack of communications and then called 81mm mission. Coverage was unobserved.

(8) 022130H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 40-60 promulgated. See Enclosure (11).

(9) 022140H Company B LP/Ambush while moving into position at (YD 957050), heard Vietnamese voices, drums and bells and expended 30-40 rounds small arms fire and 1 M-26 grenade. Squad pulled back and called 81mm mission. Area was searched at first light with negative results.

(10) 022300H Company B LP/Ambush at (YD 975052) observed movement and fired 8 M-79 rounds. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(11) 022315H Vietnamese civilians brought two WIA and one KIA Vietnamese civilians to Company C's position at (YD 926103). The wounded personnel were hit by artillery shrapnel from a mission called by a CAG unit and not cleared through 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP. Rounds were fired from an unidentified source, possibly an ARVN artillery battery. An investigation was conducted. Total results: 5 Vietnamese civilians killed and 2 Vietnamese civilians wounded and evaced.

(12) 022330H Company C CP at (YD 926102) heard beating of drums and wailing sounds. Village Chief and PF LP

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stated it was VC. An unobserved artillery mission of 13 rounds 105mm HE was called. Area was searched at first light with negative results.

D+26 3 April 1968. See Enclosure (42)

(1) 030020H Company D at (YD 967061) heard noise and spotted movement at (YD 969060). Fired 1 3.5 rocket and 50 rounds small arms fire. Heard screams and searched area at first light with negative results.

(2) 030730H Chieu Hoi turned himself in to Company C at (YD 926103). Company C S-2 Scout, Village Chief and Chieu Hoi recovered an AK-50 with three magazines that the Chieu Hoi had used. Detainee was forwarded to Battalion S-2 and later forwarded to a Central Intelligence Team.

(3) 030830H 3rd Platoon, Company A, 1st Tank Battalion OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(4) 031330H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 41-68 promulgated. See Reference (43).

(5) 031600H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base (forward) for the 5th Marines Command Post and returned at 031730H.

(6) 032150H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 42-68 promulgated. See Reference (44).

D+29 4 April 1968. See Enclosure (45).

(1) 040937H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post (YD 931073) and returned at 041145H.

(2) 041030H Company D patrol at (YD 957041) observed 1 VC with weapon and bipods at (YD 957039) moving along path. Fired 10-15 rounds small arms fire and searched area with negative results.

(3) 042300H Company C Platoon ambush at (YD 924109) observed 1 VC observing them. Platoon then received 50-60 rounds small arms fire and 2 grenades from two different positions. Returned fire with 250-300 rounds small arms fire, 2 M-26 grenades and 12 rounds 60mm mortar fire. Initial search of area revealed 1 VC/NVA body. At approximately

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050730H two Chieu Hoi's, who turned themselves in to the Village Chief stated that an additional 3 VC/NVA were killed in the ambush and that their bodies had been removed. Results: 4 VC/NVA KIA confirmed, and two Chieu Hoi's turned over to Chieu Hoi Center located in the city of Huo.

D+30 5 April 1968. See Enclosure (46)

(1) 050630H In Company C's AO two Chieu Hoi's turned themselves in to the village chief. Their weapons were left with VC, who knew they were going to turn themselves in. Chieu Hoi's were transferred by Company C to CIT in Phu Bai.

(2) 051130H Two Chieu Hoi's turned themselves in to personnel at OP #1 at (YD 842082). Detainees were forwarded to Phu Bai and placed in custody of 13th ITT.

(3) 051130H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (forward) OP at (YD 931073) for Phu Bai, Companies B, C and D and returned at 051630H.

(4) 051400H Three Chieu Hoi's turned themselves in to Village Chief at (YD 929113). Village Chief turned individuals over to ARVN for disposition.

(5) 051615H 4th Platoon, Company A, 1st AT Bn, in direct support of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, was relieved by 2nd Platoon, Company A, 1st AT Bn.

(6) 052230H Company C Platoon ambush at (YD 924109), while set in ambush position, observed 15-20 VC at (YD 924109). Ambush opened fire with 300-400 rounds small arms fire. Enemy returned fire with semi-automatic weapons and 5 R-26 fragmentation grenades. Ambush called for and received 25 rounds 82mm LG, 69 rounds 82mm illumination, 30 rounds 60mm HE, 75 rounds 60mm illumination, 25 rounds 105mm HE, and 3 rounds 105mm illumination. Results 5 VC/NVA KIA confirmed.

D+31 6 April 1968. See Enclosure (47)

(1) 060730H Patrol from Company C (YD 926112), while searching area of previous night's contact, found blood trails and one VC rice carrier, age 14, now in custody of the ARVN.

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(2) 061010H Unit from Company B while swooping south at (XD 965046) found 2 60mm mortar rounds which were destroyed in place.

(3) 061130H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post (forward) for 5th Marines Command Post and returned at 061630H.

(4) 061730H Company C Platoon corpsman at (XD 930095) treated two personnel from 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines who had been in a jeep wreck. Personnel were sent to Phu Bai for medical examination.

(5) 062200H Company D Listening Post at (XD 949066) was probed, receiving 1 ChiCom grenade. Returned 40 rounds small arms fire and called for and received 81mm mission of continuous illumination for 10 minutes, 4 rounds 81mm HE and 1 round 81mm WP. Results: 2 USMC WIAME and 3 VC/NVA KIA confirmed.

(6) 062230H Company C Platoon Ambush at (XD 928111) observed approximately 150-200 VC moving down trail from southwest to northeast. When enemy entered killing zone, platoon opened fire with 300 rounds small arms fire, 2 Claymore mines, 8 M-26 grenades. Called fire mission of 49 rounds 81mm HE, 1 round 81mm illumination, 47 rounds 60mm HE, 1 round 60mm illumination, and 146 rounds 105mm HE. Another platoon from Company C fired 300 rounds small arms fire, 4 M-79 rounds and threw 2 M-26 grenades in support. Called for and received "Spooky" and fixed wing strikes. "Spooky" was kept on station. Blocking fires were conducted with artillery and fixed wing strikes. Thorough search of area at first light resulted in 21 VC/NVA KIA Confirmed.

D+32 7 April 1968. See Enclosure (40).

(1) 070630H Marine with Company C LP at (XD 926104) while returning to bridge, tripped friendly booby-trap. Called for medevac. Results: 1 USMC KIA and 1 USMC WIAME.

(2) 071140H Marine with Company A, while on search and destroy operation at (XD 858098), fell down a ravine seriously injuring his back. Results: 1 USMC NBCE.

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(3) 071255H An artillery round struck a Vietnamese bunker in which were seven civilians. The round killed six and wounded one. The wounded civilian was brought to Company C CP and medevaced to Phu Bai. Results: 6 Vietnamese civilians KIA and 1 Vietnamese civilian WIA.

(4) 072030H Company C Squad Ambush at (YD 943120) while moving into ambush site, received 8 rounds small arms fire and 1 grenade. Returned fire with 40 rounds small arms fire, 6 M-79 rounds and continued to advance. Area was searched with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIA.

(5) 072040H Company D ambush at (YD 949060) observed 15-20 VC and fired 50-75 rounds small arms fire. Enemy returned 30-40 rounds small arms fire and broke contact. Area was searched at first light with negative results.

(6) 072330H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 43-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (49).

D+33 8 April 1968. See Enclosure (50).

(1) 081310H S-3 Officer departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post (forward) at (YD 931073) and returned at 081530H.

(2) 081630H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 44-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (51).

(3) 081735H Marine with Company D at (YD 947067) wandered into booby-trapped area setting off friendly booby-trap. Medical assistance was given and medevac called. Results: 1 USMC WIA.

(4) 082100H Company C squad ambush at (YD 934117) while moving to ambush site, received 1 incoming dud Chi-Com grenade. Searched area with negative results and continued on mission.

(5) 082215H Company D squad ambush at (YD 947066) observed approximately 20 VC at (YD 947066) with rifles, helmets and packs moving north. Marines sprung ambush firing 250 rounds small arms fire, 20 rounds 60mm HE and 12 rounds 82mm HE. Search of area revealed 1 VC/NVA KIA and 1 VC WIA. POW was forwarded to 5th Marines S-2.

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D+34 9 April 1968. See Enclosure (52).

(1) 091000H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and S-3 Officer departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base and returned at 091430H.

(2) 091635H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base for Company A Command Post and returned at 091725H.

(3) 091915H Company A Squad Ambush at (YD 905048) observed approximately 6 VC walking across open area at (YD 905044). Fired 3 rounds 60mm. VC withdrew. Called 81mm mortar mission of 3 rounds. Searched area with negative results.

(4) 092030H Company C Squad Ambush at (YD 945065), while moving to ambush site, received one incoming grenade. Returned 30 rounds small arms fire and searched area with negative results.

(5) 092325H Company A at (YD 979060) observed 4 VC moving into treeline in a northerly direction at (YD 960059). Fired 4 rounds 60mm and searched area with negative results.

D+35 10 April 1968. See Enclosure (53).

(1) 101010H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Combat Base and returned at 101245H.

(2) 101110H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 45-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (54).

(3) 101335H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines S-3 Officer departed Combat Base for Phu Bai and returned at 101700H.

(4) 101312H Company A Ambush at (YD 905051) observed 4 enemy moving at (YD 988040). Fired .50 caliber spotter round and 2 106mm recoilless rifle rounds. Called for and received 81mm mission of 3 rounds WP and 10 rounds HE and 105mm mission of 3 rounds WP and 12 rounds HE. Area was searched with negative results.

(5) 102000H Company C Fire Team LP at (YD 951068) observed 4 VC approaching their position at (YD 951067). Fired 20 rounds small arms fire. Enemy fled to south. Searched area with negative results.

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(6) 102140H Company A LP at (YD 985050) heard noises in wire at (YD 985050). Fired 20 rounds small arms fire and threw two grenades. Received 1 incoming grenade and returned 50 rounds small arms fire. Area was searched with negative results.

(7) 102200H Company A LP at (YD 975063) observed 15 VC moving toward their position at (YD 975063). Called 11mm mortar mission of 1 WP and 3 illumination rounds. Searched area with negative results.

(8) 102220H Company C Squad ambush at (YD 944127) observed 10 groups of 10-15 VC in each group moving to northwest along waterway. Enemy were last seen moving to hill at (944127). Ambush called for and received artillery and air missions on area where enemy were last seen and on blocking positions. A total of 126 rounds of 105mm HE were fired and 2 fixed wing air strikes with 250-lb bombs and napalm cannisters were conducted. Searched area with negative results.

(9) 102330H Received 5th Marines Frag Order 26-60. See Reference (c).

D+36 11 April 1968. See Enclosure (55)

(1) 111100H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 46-60 was promulgated. See Enclosure (56).

(2) 111625H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post (Forward) at (YD 930073) and departed at 111710H.

(3) 111930H Marine with Company A at (YD 960054), while setting out trip flare on road block, had flare pin catch on concertina wire discharging flare. Results: 1 USMC WIA.

(4) 112000H Company C Squad ambush at (YD 960081) observed 4 VC at (YD 950071) moving toward ambush site. Squad fired 2 rounds small arms fire. VC returned 2 grenades. Ambush returned fire with 350-400 rounds small arms fire, 22-30 rounds M-79, 10 M-26 grenades and swept through area finding blood trails. Results: 1 USMC WIA, 1 USMC WIA, 1 VC KIA confirmed and one AK-47, serial number 9003054, captured.

(5) 112230H Company C, Squad ambush observed undetermined number of VC at (YD 941129) moving from north

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carrying packs and weapons. Squad fired 100 rounds small arms fire, 2 M-79 rounds and called for and received artillery mission of 20 rounds 105mm HE. VC broke contact to north covering their withdrawal with automatic weapons fire. Search of area revealed 1 VC KIA confirmed. Results: 1 USMC WIA and 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(6) 112240H Vehicle was dispatched from Company A to evacuate an emergency medevac to Phu Bai. Vehicle was ambushed at (YD 923107) by a B-40 rocket. A reaction force, sent to ambush site, noticed movement and fired 150 rounds small arms fire and 14 M-79 rounds. Search of area revealed 3 VC KIA confirmed, 2 AK-47's and 1 B-40 rocket launcher. Results: 2 USMC KIA, 3 USMC WIA, 3 VC KIA confirmed and 2 AK-47's, serial numbers 2116973 and 10083111 and 1 B-40 rocket launcher serial number unknown, captured.

D+37 12 April 1968. See Enclosure (57).

(1) 120115H Company A fireteam ambush at (YD 937047) received 12-15 rounds small arms fire from 3-5 VC at (YD 938047). Ambush returned fire with 20 rounds small arms fire and threw 6-10 M-26 grenades. Area was searched with negative results.

(2) 120215H Marine with Company B squad ambush at (YD 909123) left ambush site to investigate suspected movement, wandered into killing zone of another ambush and was shot. Called for and received medevac. Results: 1 USMC KIA.

(3) 120940H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP for Companies A and C and returned at 121200H.

(4) 121445H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP and departed at 121510H.

(5) 122045H Company C fireteam LP at (YD 951060), while proceeding to their position, observed 2 VC approaching from south at (YD 952067). VC threw one grenade. Fireteam returned 2 M-26 grenades and 40 rounds small arms fire. VC broke contact. Searched area with negative results.

(6) 122000H Company A squad ambush at (YD 955064), while moving to ambush site, observed 3 VC moving toward their direction. Patrol fired 10-15 rounds small arms fire and searched area finding 1 VC who died on return to Company C CP. Results: 1 VC KIA confirmed.

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D+30 13 April 1968. See Enclosure (50).

(1) 131415H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and S-3 Officer departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP forward and returned at 131615H.

(2) 131400H Patrol from CAP 3 was proceeding on daylight patrol at (XD 967077) when 4 NVA broke cover and began to run. Patrol fired 75-100 rounds small arms fire. Search of area revealed one enemy bunker, 3 NVA KIA confirmed, 3 AK-47 rifles, serial numbers unknown, 2 cartridge belts and 6 AK-47 magazines. Bunker was destroyed and captured items were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2. Results: 3 NVA KIA confirmed, 1 bunker destroyed, 3 AK-47 rifles, 6 AK-47 magazines and 2 cartridge belts captured.

(3) 132015H Company A ambush at (XD 938049) observed 6 VC moving into position as unit was setting in ambush. Company A fired 75-100 rounds small arms fire. Enemy returned 50-75 rounds small arms fire. Company A then gained fire superiority with 200 rounds small arms fire, 20 M-79 rounds, 5 rounds 81mm illumination, 3 rounds 81mm HE, 4 rounds 105mm illumination, 12 rounds 60mm HE and 13 rounds 60mm illumination. Enemy broke contact. Area was searched with negative results.

(4) 132315H 5 NVA approached Company C squad ambush at (XD 925113) from the southwest. When enemy entered killing zone, ambush set off 2 Claymore mines, fired 900 rounds small arms fire, 10 rounds M-79, 8 rounds 60mm HE, 20 rounds 60mm illumination, 0 rounds 81mm HE and 50 rounds 81mm illumination. The enemy survivors fled in a southwest direction. Area was searched with following results: 3 NVA KIA confirmed, 2 SIK rifles and 1 AK-47, serial numbers unknown, and 2 ChiCom grenades captured. Weapons were forwarded to 5th Marines S-2 and grenades were destroyed.

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D+39 14 April 1968. See Enclosure (59).

(1) 141217H Marine with Company A at (YD 98700495) carrying protective wire to a platoon CP detonated a mine. Called for medevac and swept area with negative results. Results: 1 USMC WIA.

(2) 141310H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP and departed at 141445H.

(3) 141400H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 47-68 was promulgated. See Enclosure (60).

(4) 141505H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP to visit Companies A and C and returned at 141640H.

(5) 142015H Company A Fire Team Ambush at (YD 985048) observed 3-5 VC at (YD 978049). Ambush fired 150-200 rounds small arms fire 2 M-79 rounds, 13 rounds 60mm illumination and 4 rounds 82mm illumination. Enemy fled in northwest direction. Area was searched with negative results.

(6) 142130H Company D fire Team LP at (YD 951067) observed 5 VC with weapons at (YD 950066). Called fire mission consisting of 7 rounds 60mm HE, 10 rounds 60mm illumination and 10 rounds 82mm illumination. Reaction force surveyed area with negative results.

D+40 15 April 1968. See Enclosure (61).

(1) 151145H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 48-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (62).

(2) 151900H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 49-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (63).

D+41 16 April 1968. See Enclosure (64).

(1) 160035H Company C Squad Ambush at (YD 902111) while proceeding to ambush site heard VC talking at (YD 901-103). Ambush fired 1000-1100 rounds small arms fire, called fire mission consisting of 18 rounds 60mm illumination, 2 rounds 105mm illumination and swept area. Enemy broke contact and fled to the south. Results: 2 VC KIA confirmed.

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(2) 160245H Company D Squad Ambush at (YD 953073) observed 15-20 NVA wearing packs, uniforms and berets at (YD 953072). Ambush initiated fire with a Claymore followed by 20 rounds small arms fire. NVA fled south. Searched area with negative results.

(3) 160020H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed forward CP and returned at 161030H.

(4) 161400H Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP and departed at 161430H.

(5) 162025H Company D Squad COP at (YD 927103) received 10 rounds small arms fire from (YD 926104). Returned 30-75 rounds small arms fire and called for and received 81mm mission consisting of 3 rounds illumination and 6 rounds HE. Searched area with negative results.

(6) 162030H Company D Squad Ambush at (YD 924132) received 5 rounds small arms fire from (YD 926137). Returned 30-50 rounds small arms fire and called for and received 5 rounds 81mm illumination. Search of area disclosed a boated scorpion, drag marks and blood trails.

(7) 162325H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 50-60 promulgated. See Enclosure (65).

D+42 17 April 1968. See Enclosure (66).

(1) 171100H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 51-60 promulgated. See Enclosure (67).

(2) 171645H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 52-60 promulgated. See Enclosure (68).

(3) 171900H Company D platoon apprehended 4 suspected VC at (YD 962002). Detainees were brought to Battalion S-2 and later released as innocent civilians to District Headquarters.

(4) 172030H Company D, Squad ambush at (YD 927103) received 20-30 rounds small arms fire from an undetermined number of enemy at (YD 930116), (YD 925102), (YD 918107), and (YD 930118). Returned fire with 120 rounds 5.56 and 6 rounds 60mm mortar fire. Enemy broke contact. Checked out area with negative results.

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(5) 172310H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 53-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (69).

(6) 172310H Company B, Squad ambush, while set in at (XD 904107), observed 5 Viet Cong at (XD 907110). Ambush fired 150 rounds small arms fire and 10 M-79 rounds. Enemy broke contact and fled. Checked area with negative results.

(7) 172345H Company D, Squad ambush at (XD 948066) spotted 25 VC with rifles and packs at (XD 945069) moving from North to South. Fired 10 rounds 81mm HE, 15 rounds 60mm HE, and 3 rounds 60mm illumination. Searched area at first light with negative results.

D+43 10 April 1968. See Enclosure (70).

(1) 180837H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward Combat Base for Phu Bai and returned at 181300H.

(2) 181000H Regimental Operation Order 5-68 promulgated. See Reference (f).

(3) 181945H Company D, Platoon ambush at (XD 965056) while moving to night position, received enemy small arms and 10-12 rounds of mortar fire from (XD 964053). Fire was returned with 12 rounds 60mm mortar and 11 rounds 81mm mortar fire. Deployed to envelope enemy position. Checked area and found 1 VC KIA. Results 1 USMC WIAE and 1 VC KIA confirmed.

(4) 182010H Company A CP at (XD 968048) observed what appeared to be mortar flashes at (XD 982042). Company A fired 6 rounds 60mm mortar and 5 rounds 81mm Mortar fire at suspected enemy position. Enemy fire ceased.

D+44 19 April 1968. See Enclosure (71).

(1) 190835H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP to visit bridges and returned at 191115H.

(2) 191215H While Company D was clearing area to lay defensive wire at (XD 948066), men detonated enemy booby trap. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.

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(3) 191320H Company B, platoon patrol at (YD 953043) sighted 7 NVA/VC at (YD 953043) moving from south to north. Unit set up hasty ambush and fired approximately 500 rounds small arms and 15 M-79 rounds. Enemy fled and platoon pursued. Called artillery mission, 81mm mortar and 60mm mortar missions. Checked out area with following results: 4 NVA KIA, captured 2 AK-47, 2 SKS-56, (Serial number unknown) 2 ChiCom grenades, 1 M1 demolitions bag, 5 rounds small arms ammunition, and first aid equipment. Grenades destroyed and weapons forwarded to Battalion S-2.

D+45 20 April 1968. See Enclosure (72).

(1) 202035H Company C platoon at (YD 919104) while enroute to (YD 950930) observed 75 to 100 VC at (YD 914094) moving northeast. Opened fire with 100-150 rounds small arms and throw grenades, called for and received 81mm mortars and 105mm fire mission. Checked area with negative results.

(2) 202100H Company A platoon at (YD 979053) heard movement 75 meters in front of wire and received approximately 5 rounds of small arms fire from (YD 979054). Returned fire with approximately 30 rounds small arms, 10 rounds M-79, 4 rounds 60mm illumination. Enemy fled to north. Checked area with negative results.

(3) 202230H Company A at (YD 968061) received 3 rounds small arms fire from enemy position at (YD 969060). Returned fire with 5 rounds small arms fire, 2 rounds 60mm illumination, 4 rounds 81mm illumination. Enemy ceased fire and fled.

(4) 202200H Company C man was throwing depth charge in river at (YD 927103) and charge exploded in hand. Results: 1 USMC DAT.

D+46 21 April 1968. See Enclosure (73).

(1) 211100H Company B return OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(2) 211200H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines became OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to participate in operation "BAXTER-GARDEN".

(3) 211400H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (--) (Rein) commenced Operation "BAXTER-GARDEN" in accordance with 5th Marines Frag Order 26-68.

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(4) 211400H Company D while on search and destroy found bag of ammo, spent cartridges, ID card and letters in roof of house at (YD 954030). No Vietnamese in area. Equipment forwarded to Battalion S-2.

(5) 212015H Company D while setting in night position at (YD 955034) received 4 incoming satchel charges from undetermined number of enemy. Returned fire with 11 rounds M-79 Gofram and threw 9 M-33 grenades. Called for and received artillery mission. Results: 3 USMC WIAE.

(6) 202145H Company C ambush at (YD 905103) observed 8-10 enemy moving in tree line at (YD 906114). Ambush fired 60mm and 82mm mortars, and small arms. Man - covered and regained contact briefly. Enemy broke contact and fled to south. Searched area with negative results.

(7) 212305H Company D, Squad patrol received 3 incoming mortar rounds at (YD 964063) from unknown enemy position.

D+47 22 April 1968. See Enclosure (74).

(1) 222010H Company C unit at (YD 923106) while enroute to ambush site received approximately 10 rounds of automatic rifle fire. Returned fire with approximately 20 rounds small arms fire. Searched area with negative results.

(2) 222050H Company A LF at (YD 964063) received one incoming grenade. LF fired 4 rounds small arms fire and returned to Command Post, due to brush fire started by grenade.

D+48 23 April 1968. See Enclosure (75).

(1) 232010H Company A platoon placed claymore mine under helmet in window of school at (YD 965063). Unit with drew out of school to observe area. Enemy threw explosive device in room and set off claymore. Platoon received 30 rounds automatic rifle fire at (YD 967061), checked out area and received two more small arms rounds. Searched area with negative results.

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(2) 232040H Two Company A units moving into position at (YD 966061) and (YD 969602) were fired upon by about 20 enemy. Enemy was using semi-automatic and automatic weapons. Both teams returned fire with approximately 200 rounds of small arms and withdrew to friendly lines. Fired 35 rounds of M-79, 800 rounds small arms and threw 12 mixed grenades of M-33 and M-26 type, 6 rounds 81mm mortar HE, 10 rounds 60mm illumination. Area searched at first light with negative results.

D449 24 April 1968. See enclosure (76).

(1) 242025H Company A platoon ambush at (YD 985048) fired 250 rounds small arms, four M-79 rounds, 4 rounds 60mm mortar illumination at enemy at (YD 981048). Enemy fled to North.

(2) 242036H Company C ambush at (YD 903115) fired 100-150 rounds small arms on 4 VC at (YD 903115) called Gunship fire mission and observed secondary explosion. At 2205H movement was again observed. Fired 50-75 rounds small arms and called 60mm mortar mission. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(3) 242300H Company A unit at (YD 985049) received 7 enemy grenades and approximately 1000 rounds small arms fire from approximately 15 enemy at (YD 981048) and 10 enemy at (YD 986053). Returned fire with 1100 rounds small arms, 40 rounds M-79, 110 rounds .50 caliber, 15 illumination, 2 WP and 6 HE rounds 105mm; 1 WP, 9 HE 81mm mortar, 4 HE and 36 rounds illumination 60mm mortar. Searched area at first light with negative results.

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D+50 25 April 1968 (See Enclosure 77).

(1) 250200H Company C ambush at (YD 922108) observed 5-10 VC moving down trail at same coordinates. Initiated ambush by firing 220 rounds small arms, 1 Claymore mine, and threw three M-26 grenades. One man received slight injury from friendly grenade and 2 more men received minor concussion from Claymore. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(2) 251700H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group completed movement to forward CP.

(3) 251835H Company D completed movement to Phu Bai vital area.

D+51 26 April 1968 See Enclosure (78).

(1) 260516H Company C unit at (YD 926103) heard movement (YD 921109) through AN/PPS 6 Radar unit. Fired 35 60mm mortar HE rounds. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(2) 260830H Frag Order 61-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (79).

(3) 260855H Battalion Commander departed for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines rear area.

(4) 261330H Company C search team found 1 tunnel with six air vents at (YD 908110). Blew tunnel in 3 locations. Used approximately 20 lbs. C4.

(5) 261330H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, Battalion Commander returned from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines rear area.

(6) 261535H Company C unit at (YD 906085) saw Vietnamese male dressed in black run into bunker. Search team checked area with negative results.

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D+52 27 April 1968 See Enclosure (80)

(1) 270645H Company C squad security at 926104 received 1 NVA who turned himself over to them. Man also turned in an AK-47. Results: 1 Detainee and 1 AK-47.

(2) 270820H Commanding Officer, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines departed 1st Battalion forward assembly area and returned at 271040H.

(3) 271055H Commanding Officer departed 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward assembly area at 271055H. Returned at 271515H.

(4) 271300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 62-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (81).

(5) 272205H Company C, squad ambush at (YD 905112) observed movement of estimated 15-20 VC at (YD 905113). The squad sprung the ambush firing approximately 250 rounds small arms fire, 400 rounds 7.62 machine gun fire, 12 rounds M-79. Ambush made a search of the area finding 1 VC KIA and 1 shattered stock of an AK-47.

D+53 28 April 1968. See Enclosure (82).

(1) 283500H Company A unit was returning to Company CP when it made contact with an estimated 5 VC at (YD 945045). Enemy fired 100-150 rounds small arms fire and threw 2 grenades. Friendly unit returned fire with approximately 1000 rounds small arms fire, 10 M-79 rounds, 6 60mm mortar rounds of illumination, 1 M-26 grenade, 25 artillery illumination rounds, 7 air flares. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(2) 280545H Company C, squad patrol saw VC installing booby trap on trail. Point-man fired 5 rounds small arms fire. VC fled into village.

(3) 281955H Company C squad ambush became disoriented and proceeded to retrace their path. They were caught in

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friendly ambush also from Company C. Both units opened fire. Results: 1 USMC DAI, 2 USMC NDC.

D+54 29 April 1968. See Enclosure (3).

(1) 291015H Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped back to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(2) 291030H Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped OPCON to 5th Marines to assume Bald Eagle commitment.

(3) 292045H Company B, squad ambush at (YD 921114) while set in ambush site observed 3 NVA. Squad initiated ambush by firing 150 rounds small arms and 150 rounds 7.62 linked. Checked out area and found 1 NVA confirmed and 1 AK-47 rifle and 3 magazines for AK-47 and 1 Chi-Com grenade.

(4) 292100H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 63-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (4).

(5) 292205H Company B platoon patrol base at (YD 942072) was fired upon by estimated 20 VC at (YD 941071). Platoon returned fire with small arms automatic rifle fire and 12 rounds M-79. Enemy fled to the southwest. Checked out area at first light with negative results.

D+55 30 April 1968. See Enclosure (5)

(1) 301300H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 64-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (6).

(2) 301300H Commanding Officer 1st Battalion, 5th Marines ~~left forward assembly area at 301300H and returned at 301450H.~~

(3) 302145H Company B, squad ambush at (YD 922102) while set in ambush site observed 5 VC at (YD 922103) gathering rice. Ambush fired 150-200 rounds small arms fire, 1 M-79 round and set off Claymore. At first light the area was checked. Found blood pools and trails which were followed with negative results.

(4) 302400H Operation "HOUSTON" Phase I terminated.

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12. RESULTS.a. Friendly Casualties:

KIA	29
WIA	30
WIA/NE	31
MIA	0
HDC	23
DAI	03
DOW	02

b. Friendly Equipment Losses. None.c. Enemy Casualties.

KIA:	NVA	99	VC	39	TOTAL	138
DETAINES:	IC	12	CD	01	TOTAL	13
POW:		01			TOTAL	01
CHIEU HOI		02			TOTAL	02

d. Captured Ordnance.

- 1 - B-40 Rocket Launcher
- 1 - AK-50
- 6 - AK-47
- 4 - SKS
- 1 - 9mm Pistol
- 1 - Bolt Action Rifle 30.06 (Eddystone Springfield M1917)

e. Captured/Destroyed Munitions.

- 15 - Satchel Charges
- 1/2 - Block C-4
- 1 - Block Chinese TNT
- 2 1/2 - Block TNT
- 1 - ChiCom Frag Grenade
- 6 - M-26 Frag Grenade
- 5 - 82mm Mortar rounds
- 1 - ChiCom 82mm Mortar Increment
- 1 - 3.5 Rocket Round
- 2 - 60mm Mortar Rounds

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In addition an unknown quantity of the following munitions were captured/destroyed:

5.56mm Rounds
145 Cal Rounds
7.62mm Rounds
130 Cal Rounds
.50 Cal Rounds

f. Captured Equipment.

1 - Hand Generator
1 - Sledge Hammer
Miscellaneous Medical supplies.
Miscellaneous 702 gear.
Miscellaneous documents.

g. CAVE/TUNNEL COMPLEXES DESTROYED. (Structures, Fighting Holes, Fortified Positions, dwelling etc.)

(1) HAI VAN PASS (AO)

3 mortar pits with evidence of mortar packing cases primer cans and mortar nose caps; numerous blockades on trail. (AT 922911)

5 Bunkers

Cave 24" in diameter 9' deep-destroyed. (ZC 135968)

50 fighting holes (ZC 153963)

(2) PHU LOC (AO)

Tunnel 2' by 2' entrance branching off in two directions. Openning 4 feet deep.

13. ADMINISTRATION MATTERS.

a. Supply.

(1) A logistical point forward was established with the battalion command group. Liaison was made with FLC at DaNang, and supplies were obtained from there. No problems were encountered to impair the logistical mission of this Battalion.

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(2) A daily administrative run was established between the forward elements of the battalion, and the Battalion rear located at Phu Bai.

(3) During this operation, the battalion field mess was established and two hot meals per day were served to H&S (>). When operational commitments would allow, a hot meal was served to the rifle companies.

b. Maintenance. Cleaning equipment for crew served weapons was carried by all units. Weapons were cleaned and inspected on a daily basis. No maintenance problems were encountered with weapons or equipment during the operation.

c. TREATMENT OF CASUALTIES AND EVACUATION AND HOSPITALIZATION.

During Operation "HOUSTON", a forward BAS was located at Hai Ban Pass. Personnel included one doctor and three to five corpsmen. The BAS was set up in the Bocch of the First LAM Battalion, A Battery, and shared with their medical personnel. Medical supplies included those initially brought by truck and trailer from the rear BAS in Phu Bai. Resupply was obtained in DaNang due to its proximity and available transportation. Med-evacs were supplied by helicopters to the landing zone at the LAM site, by administrative truck runs to Phu Bai, and by supply truck runs to DaNang. Routine sick call was held daily as well as emergency treatment of casualties. A striking increase in the incidence of venereal disease, primarily gonorrhoea, was noted while in this area.

The six day field operation included the normal complement of company corpsmen assigned to platoons and company command groups and one doctor and one corpsman assigned to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Group. Medical supplies included those items carried in unit one shoulder packs. No additional supplies were available due to the operation location in the mountainous regions.

Problems encountered included sprains and bruises from fall while climbing or descending rugged terrain carrying heavy packs and weapons. A few injuries were incurred as a result of booby traps, but there were otherwise no enemy-inflicted casualties due to lack of contact. A few heat casualties occurred but were treated with salt, water, and rest in the field.

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Med-evacs in the field were accomplished without difficulty in the lower regions, but required the use of sling-litter supports for aerial evacuation in the higher elevations where landing zones were not available.

Because of the dispersion of troops in the field, the medical officer was able to see and treat very few of the casualties except those that occurred near the area of the CP group. Movement to and from platoon areas where injuries occurred required several hours in the mountainous regions, and the proper solution was med-evac from the field rather than attempting movement and treatment in the field.

Numerous cases of diarrhea developed at the close of the operation, and it was noted that many of the troops had not used halazone in their drinking water.

d. Transportation. Wheeled vehicles were the primary means of transportation during the operation.

e. Communications. Prior to commencing the Operation an extensive brief was given by the regimental staff followed by a visual Recon. The radio nets were successfully established upon arrival at the Battalion CP in Hai Van Pass. Immediately a trunk line was installed to the A Battery Lamp Switch-board allowing positive telephone communications to the DaNang area. On 6 March a MRC-62 radio relay circuit was established to allow telephone communications to the Phu Bai area and higher and adjacent units. Considerable interference was experienced on the Battalion TAC, Company B TAC, and Radio relay. This was eliminated to a satisfactory degree by the use of alternate frequencies. The use of a light-weight field expedient antenna was extremely successful with Company A. When moving through steep, dense terrain on 21 March a radio retransmission site was established, with good results, at CAP 6, to enable the Battalion Rear to maintain communications with the operating units. A new Battalion CP was established at Cho Bao Vinh. A TRC-27 radio relay circuit was established to allow telephone communications to higher and adjacent units as well as the entire Phu Bai area. Again considerable friendly radio interference was experienced but alleviated by frequency reassignment. Upon availability of a steady power source a message center, was established to receive and send operational traffic into Regiment. Training of field radio operators was conducted with Company A, 106RR Platoon and a 3 day class for representatives from the entire Battalion. At the termination of Phase I of Operation "HOUSTON" good communications existed throughout the battalion, both internally and externally. Especially noteworthy was the excellent training accomplished.

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f. Medical Evaluation.

(1) Each Corpsman carried sufficient medical supplies to provide adequate treatment of the wounded until medical evacuation could be effected.

(2) Medical Supplies Usage Data: See Enclosure (87).

14. Special Equipment and Techniques: (NONE)

15. Commandor Analysis: 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was committed to Operation "HOUSTON" with the mission of providing security along Route # 1 and for certain key bridges and installations, and for interdicting enemy movement in the vicinity of Route # 1. The battalion operated in two areas during the Operation; from 05 March 1968 until 28 March 1968 in the Hai Van TAOR, and from 28 March 1968 until 30 April 1968 in the Phu Bai TAOR.

The Hai Van TAOR was characterized by heavily canopied, sparsely populated mountainous terrain. Little contact was made in this TAOR, despite numerous patrols and larger operations. Flak vests proved a definite hindrance on long range activities, particularly when speed and mobility were essential.

In contrast, the Phu Bai TAOR is a heavily populated lowland of rice fields and waterways. Contacts were frequently made with the enemy, usually at night. In addition to the requirement to provide security for six bridges, two of which are major bridges, the battalion was required: to establish two outposts southwest of Phu Bai; to provide one platoon as a screen south of Phu Bai; to maintain a Forward CP in the field and a Rear CP in Phu Bai; to retain the capability to provide a reaction force for the support of any friendly unit or installation, in the TAOR including seven CAPS and the Phu Bai Vital Area; to provide a Company as Bald Eagle, on order; and to furnish units for Regimental Operations.

Any concept of operations selected to meet these diverse missions, with the limited resources of a battalion, had to embrace the principles of economy of force and mass. In addition, experience emphasized the importance of the offensive when the Truoi Bridge was destroyed by the enemy on the first night after the battalion assumed responsibility for the TAOR.

The concept evolved during Phase I of Operation "HOUSTON" provides strong fortifications manned by reinforced squads at each of the six bridges. Thus two platoons are tied down

(52)

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to fixed positions. The OP's and forward CP are manned by personnel from H&S Company. The remaining forces are free to operate at depth, both within the TAOR and beyond, in the Regimental Area of Operation. This is essential.

Units operating at depth react to intelligence to block infiltration routes and hamper the enemy's capability to mass. The success of this method is illustrated by the fact that of forty-eight contacts experienced in the Phu Bai TAOR since 1 April 1968, thirty-five were friendly-initiated. No attack against a bridge or friendly unit has been successful, and numerous Chiou Hois have reported that major units have been stymied in their attempts to pass through the TAOR.

The minimum force capable of meeting the requirements for fixed defensive and mobile offensive operations in the Phu Bai TAOR is three rifle companies. With the addition of a fourth company, deep operations in the Regimental Area of Operations can be conducted. This combination of operations is considered essential to the security of the TAOR.

16. Recommendations. That no less than three rifle companies be available in the field for operations in the Phu Bai TAOR, and that whenever possible, four companies be assigned

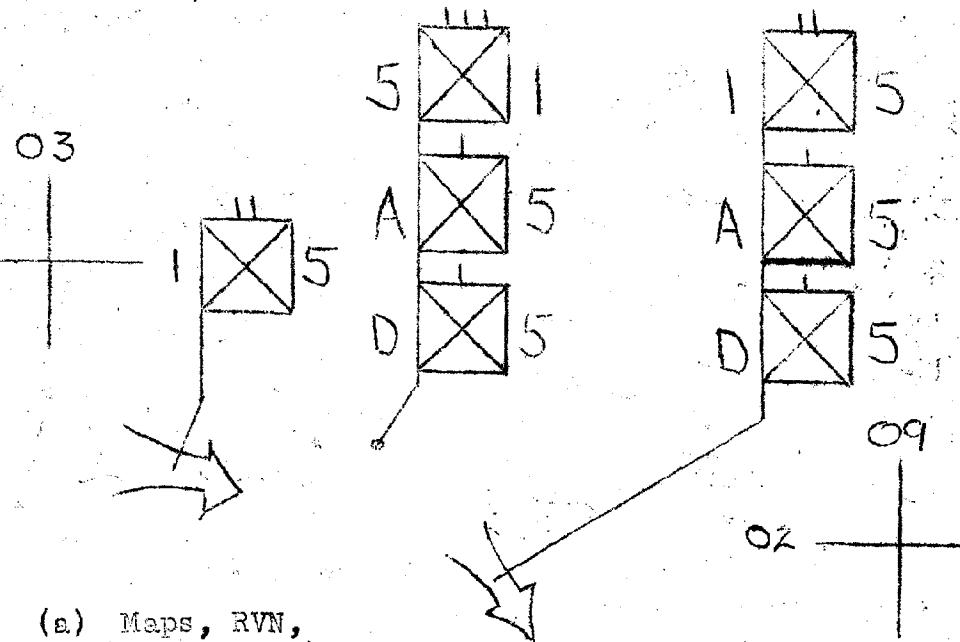
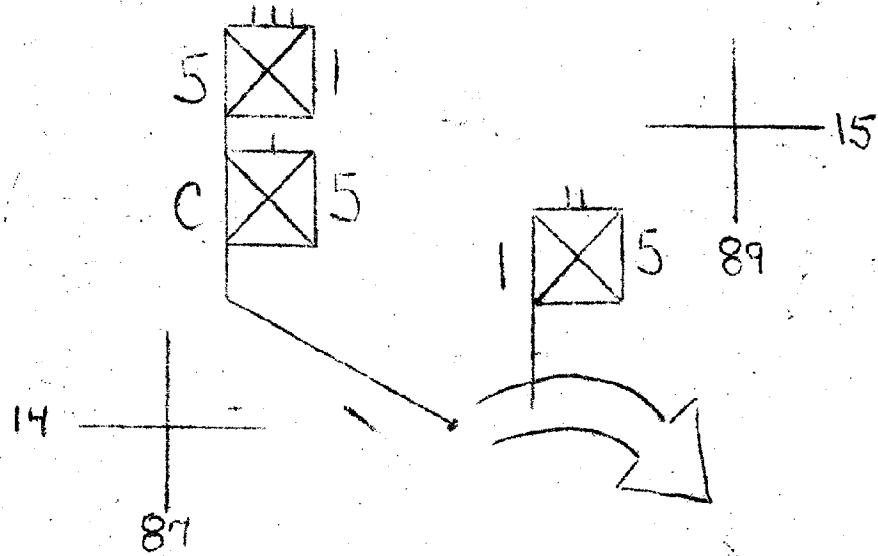
R. H. Thompson
R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

(53)

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Ref (a) Maps, RVN, 1:25,000
 Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III
 Day movement D-Day



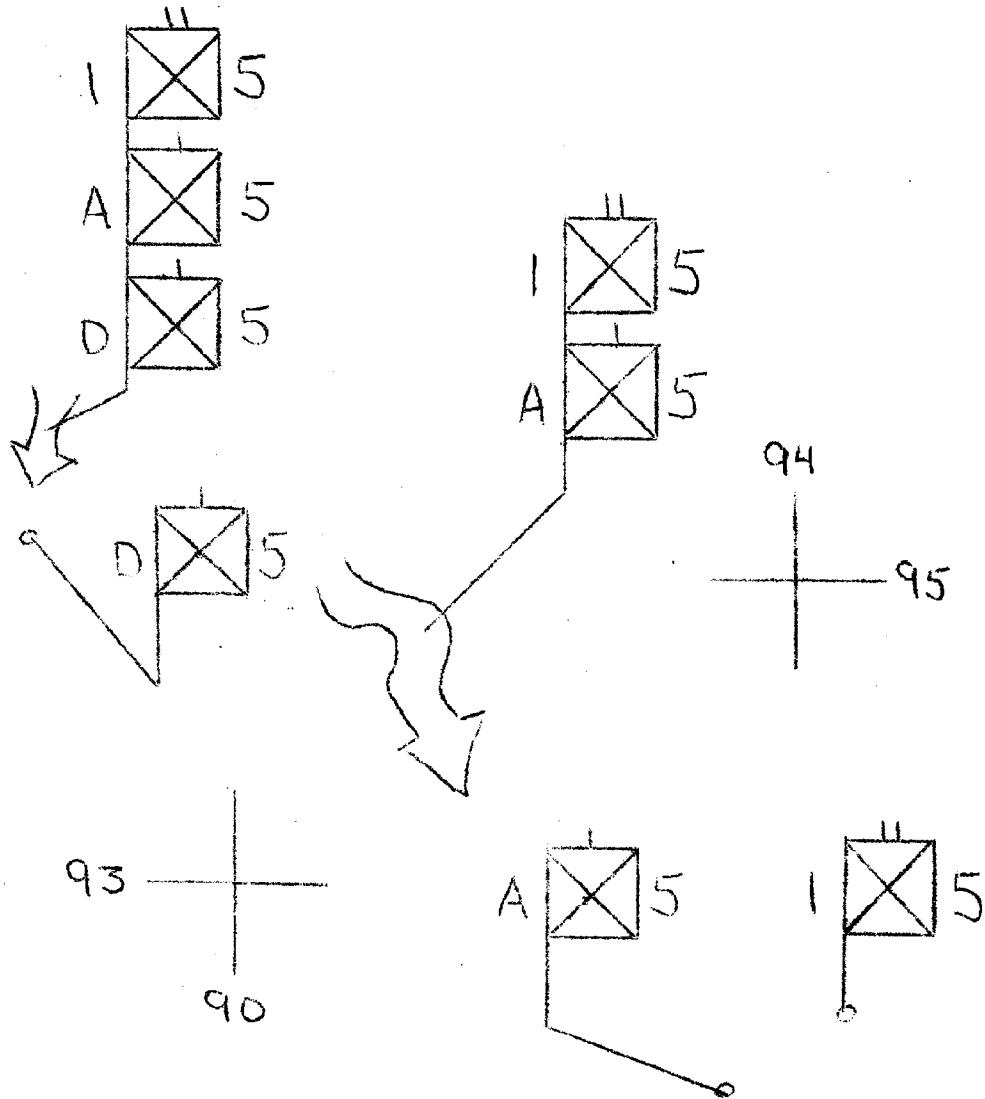
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 Sheets 6541 I and IV

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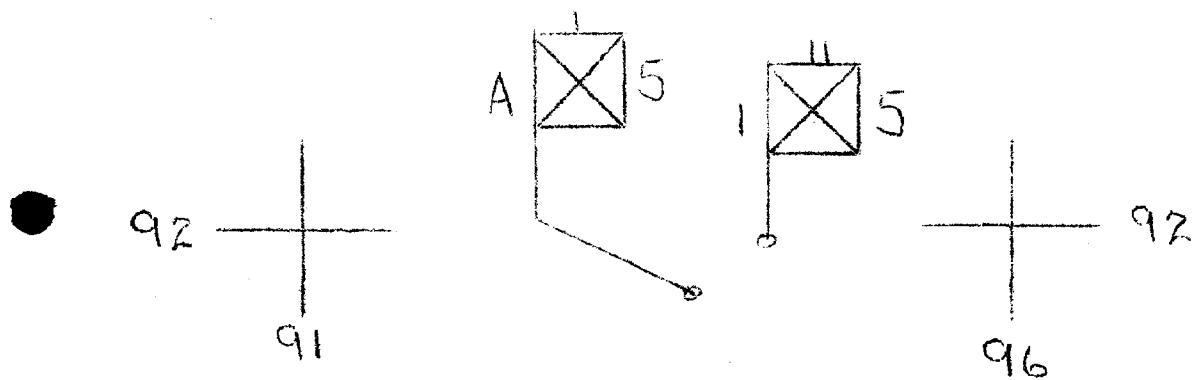
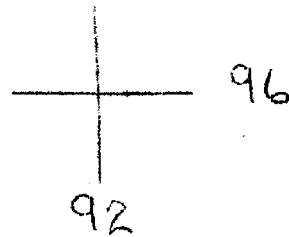
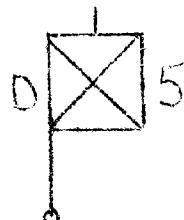
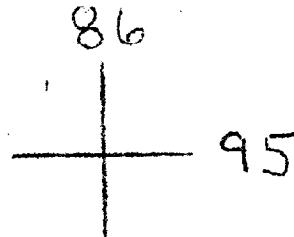
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Series L7014, Sheets 6541 III
and 6541 IV
Day movement D-Day



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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN, 1:50,000
Series L7014, Sheets 6541 III and
6541 IV
Night disposition D-Day



CONFIDENTIAL

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van RVN
051900H March 1968

Operation Order 3-68 (Operation Houston)

Ref: (a) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, 6541 II, 6541 III, 6541 IV, 6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.a. Enemy. See current ISUMS and PERINTREPS.b. Friendly.

(1) 5th Marines (-)(Rein) conducts Operation "HOUSTON" in Regimental TAOR.

(2) 7th Marine Regiment conducts operations to the south.

(3) 2nd Battalion, 3rd Regiment participates in Operation "HOUSTON" in the AO to the North of Battalion AO.

(4) Delta Btry 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines direct support.

(5) 1st Marine Air Wing provides fixed wing and Rotary support upon request.

(6) CAP Units and PF units provide limited Road and Bridge Security.

(7) 35th Engr Battalion provides minesweep through Battalion AO first light daily.

2. MISSION. Keep route 1 open by establishing holding positions at Long Co Bridge and other key bridges. Establish mobile security on remainder route 1 and supporting bridges and culverts in assigned AO. Provide security along MSR and reaction forces for the protection of friendly convoys. Conduct patrolling, ambushes, H&I fires and well controlled mining and booby trap operations at or near obvious targets for enemy attack or destruction. Conduct limited offensive operations to destroy threatening enemy forces.ENCLOSURE (2)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

3. EXECUTION.a. Concept.

(1) 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducts operations to accomplish assigned mission with two companies operating in assigned AO's along and adjacent to route 1 to deny the enemy access to MSR and one company conducting limited operations to seek out and destroy the enemy, his weapons, equipment and fortifications in the Battalion AO. Companies along route 1 will conduct saturation ambushes by night and patrols and combat outposts by day.

b. Company A.

(1) Conduct saturation ambushes by night in assigned AO.

(2) Conduct daylight patrols and outposts by day within assigned AO to deny the enemy positions from which they can interdict route 1. Therby providing security for friendly forces using MSR and working along same.

(3) Be prepared to provide reaction force to relieve friendly forces in AO.

(4) Be prepared to assume mission of Companies D or C.

c. Company D.

(1) Conduct saturation ambushes by night in assigned AO.

(2) Conduct daylight patrols and outposts by day within assigned AO to deny the enemy positions from which they can interdict route 1.

(3) Be prepared to provide reaction forces to relieve friendly forces in AO.

(4) Be prepared to assume mission of Companies A or C.

(5) Section 106's and flames attached conduct maximum cross training. Secondary utilize to supplement in performance of assigned mission.

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d. Company C.

(1) Conduct limited operations as assigned to East and West of route 1 in AO.

(2) Be prepared to assume missions assigned companies A or D.

e. 81mm Platoon.

(1) General Support.

(2) Two sections near Lang Co Bridge vicinity
(AT 886955).

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) See attached overlay.

(2) React immediately to any enemy attempt to interdict MSR.

(3) Report immediately and enemy activity within assigned AO and any damage to MSR.

(4) Report all Landing Zones within AO.

(5) Utilize well controlled booby traps along MSR at bridges and culverts and fresh dirt areas unable to be covered directly. Also utilize VT Fuzed artillery same area.

(6) Utilize trip flares and claymores in killing zones.

(7) Stress covert entry to ambush sites.

(8) Make maximum utilization of camouflage techniques day and night.

(9) Thruct Points: State 9793; Grain 8692.

(10) Submit night activities and day activities for following day no later than 1400 daily.

(11) Be alert for booby traps.

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4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- a. Spot reports as soon as possible.
- b. Ensure correctness and prompt submission of Zulu reports.
- c. Strength reports by 2000 daily. List attachments separately.
- d. Resupply requests to S-4. Routine resupply by 1800. Emergency any time.
- e. Movements by chopper submitted through 1-4 until arrival EST. When holo not feasible contact S-4 for vehicles.
- f. Supervise use of halizonc.
- g. Position reports of patrols on the hour.
- h. Ref # Tango 16
Ref Time 1600

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS.

- a. Battalion Command Post (AT 940917).
- b. Carry and utilize RC 292's as required.
- c. Admin traffic--utilize Battalion secondary tac 2.
- d. Battalion radio instructions.
- e. Utilize messengers as practicable.
- f. Carry effective edition of KAC-Q series authentication and numeral code.

R. H. THOMPSON
Major USMC
Commanding

Annex A: Operation Overlay

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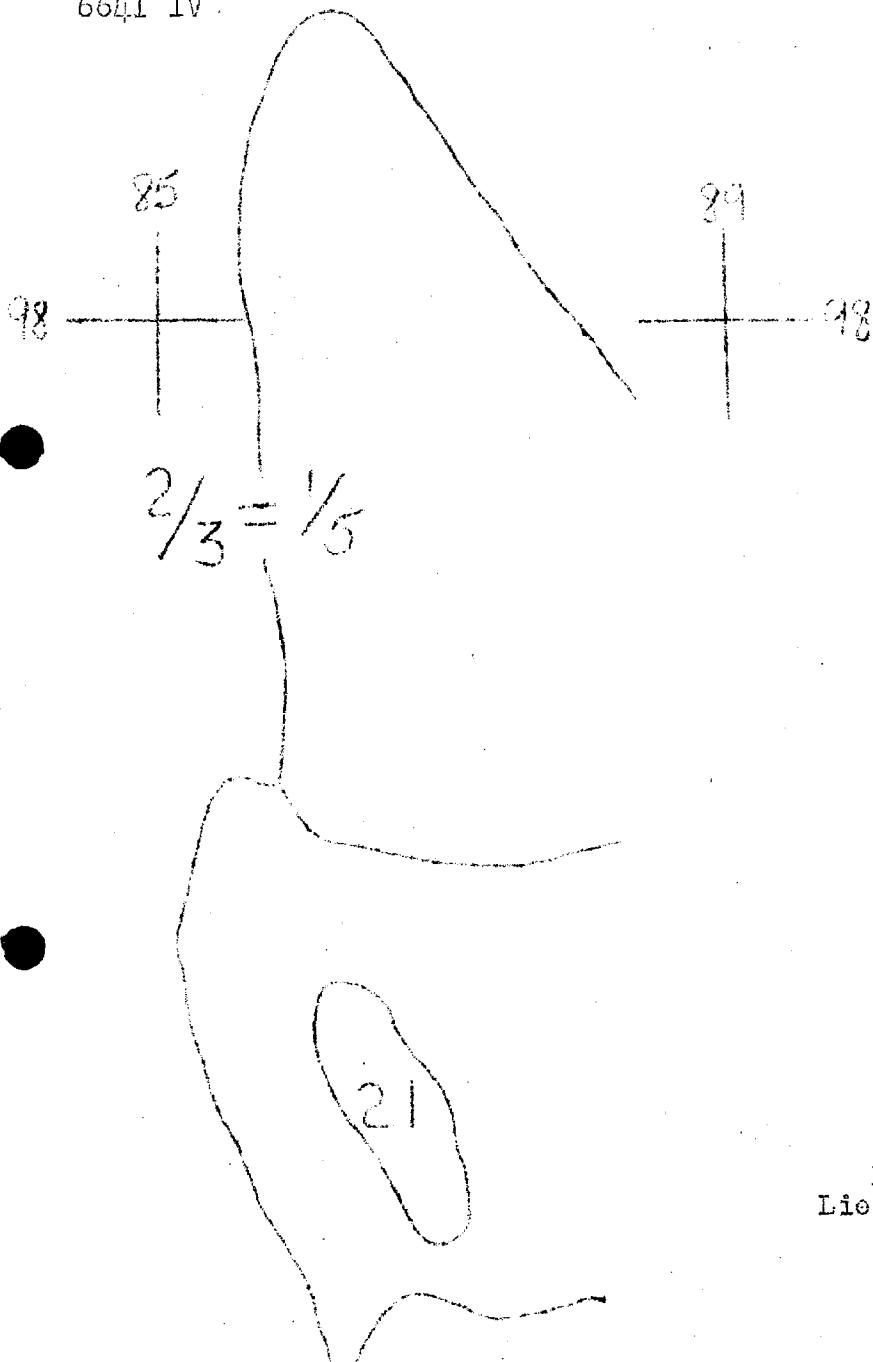
R. H. Thompson
L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major, USMC
S-3

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ANNEX A:

Operation Overlay to Operation
Order 3-68

Ref: (a) Maps: RVN 1:50,000

Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, II, III, IV,
6641 IV.1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van RVN
5 March 1968

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

OFFICIAL

S. A. Wunderlich
Major, USMC
S-3

1

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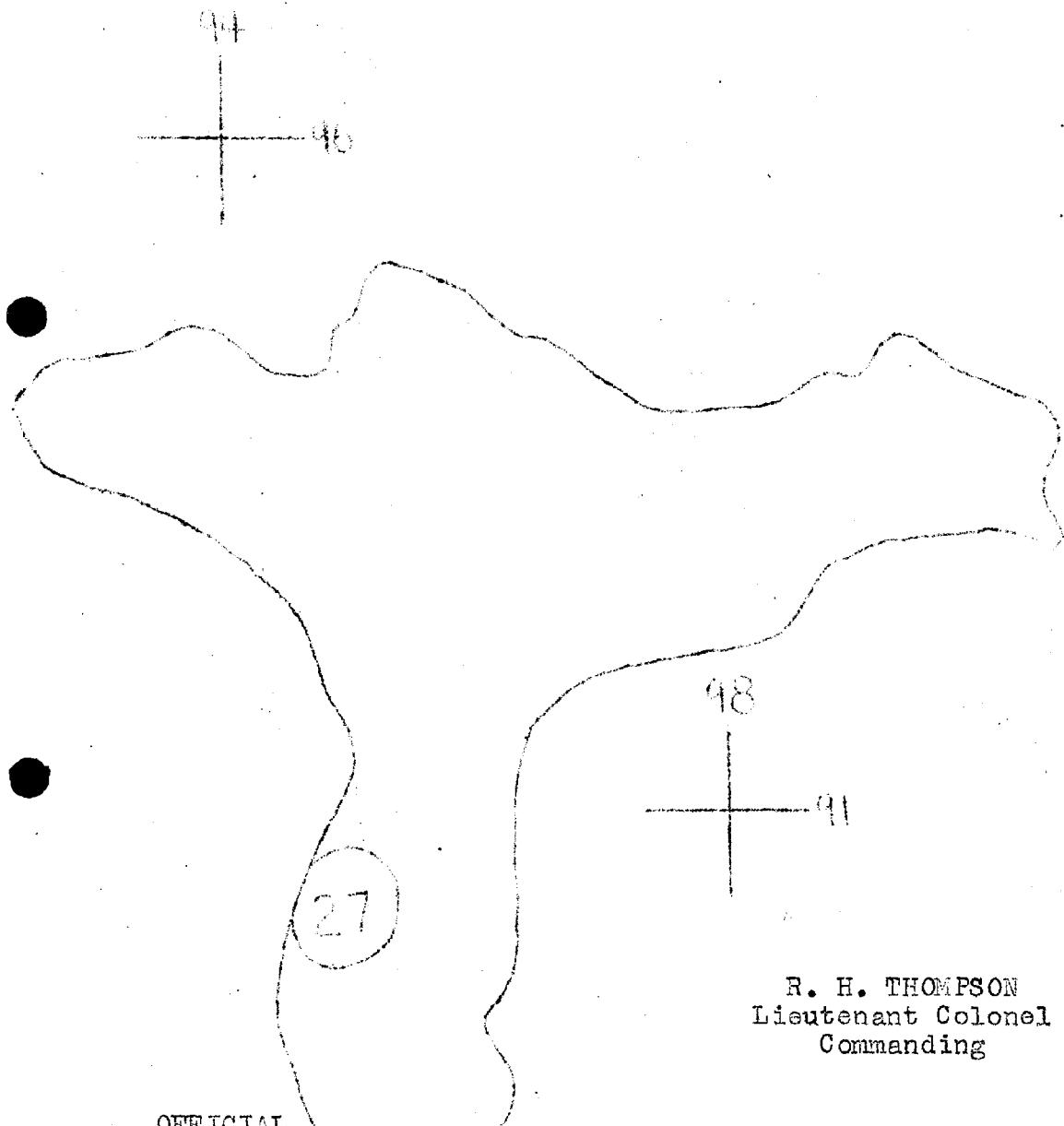
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REF ID: A6541

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van
05 Mar 1968

Operation Overlay to Operation Order 3-68

Maps: RVN; 1:50,000, Series 57014, Sheets 6541 I, II, III,
IV, and 6641 IV



R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

OFFICIAL

L. A. Wunderlich
L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major, USMC
S-3

2

ENCLOSURE (2)
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1st Battalion, 5th Mars
Hai Van
05 Mar 1968Operation Overlay to Operation 3-68
Maps: RVM; 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, II, III, IV,
6641 IV

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R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

90

OFFICIALENCLOSURE (2)
SECRETL.A. WUNDERLICH
Major, USMC
S-3

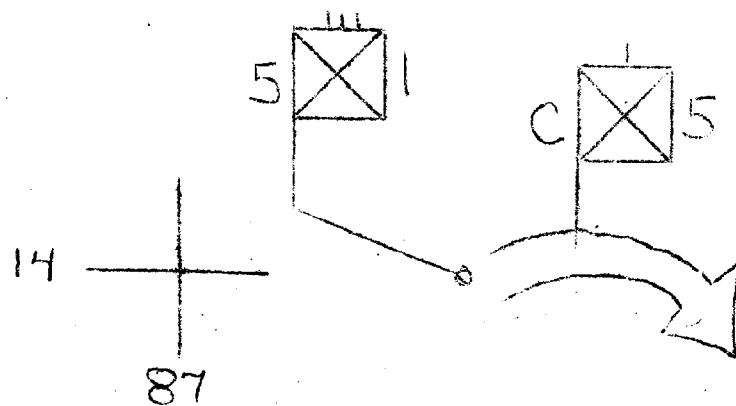
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Series L8020, Sheet 6641 III N
Day movement D+1

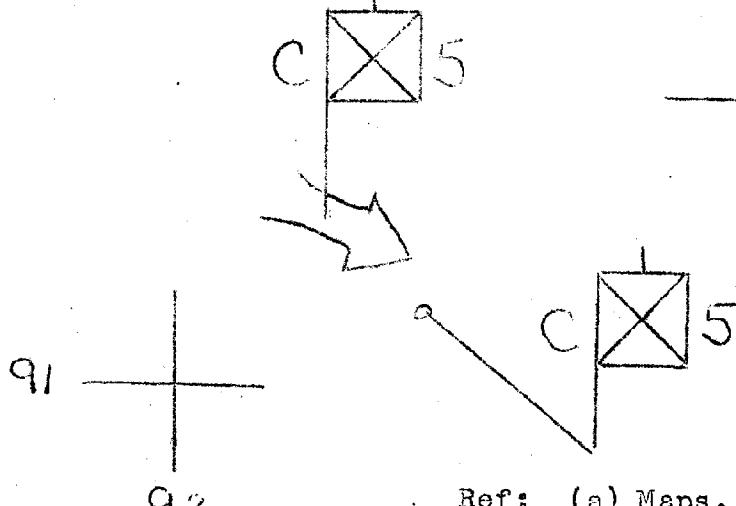
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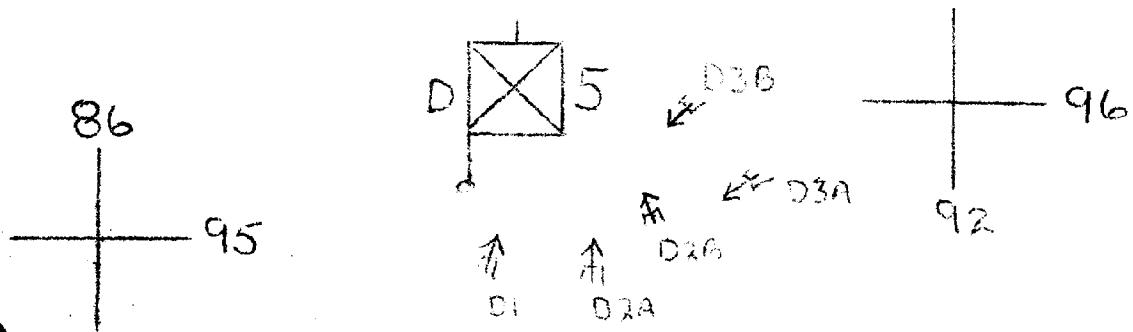
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Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I and
6541 IV
Day movement D+1

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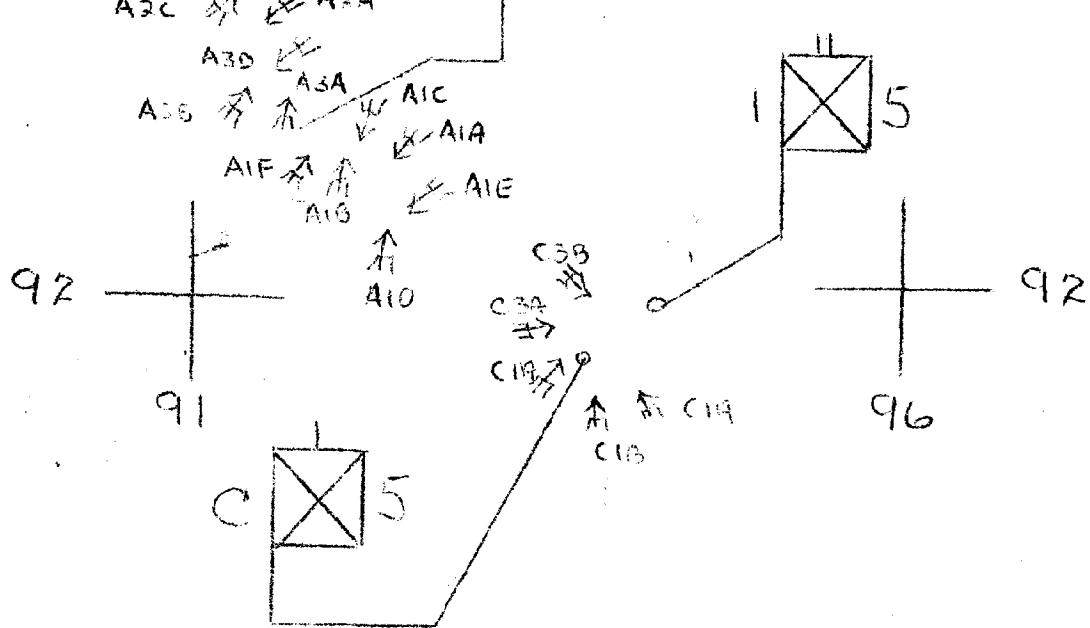
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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:50,000
 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I and
 6541 IV
 Night disposition D+1



Ref: (a) Maps, RVN
 1:50,000; Series L7014,
 Sheets 6541 I and 6541 IV
 Night disposition D+1



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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
1st Battalion 5th Marines AO

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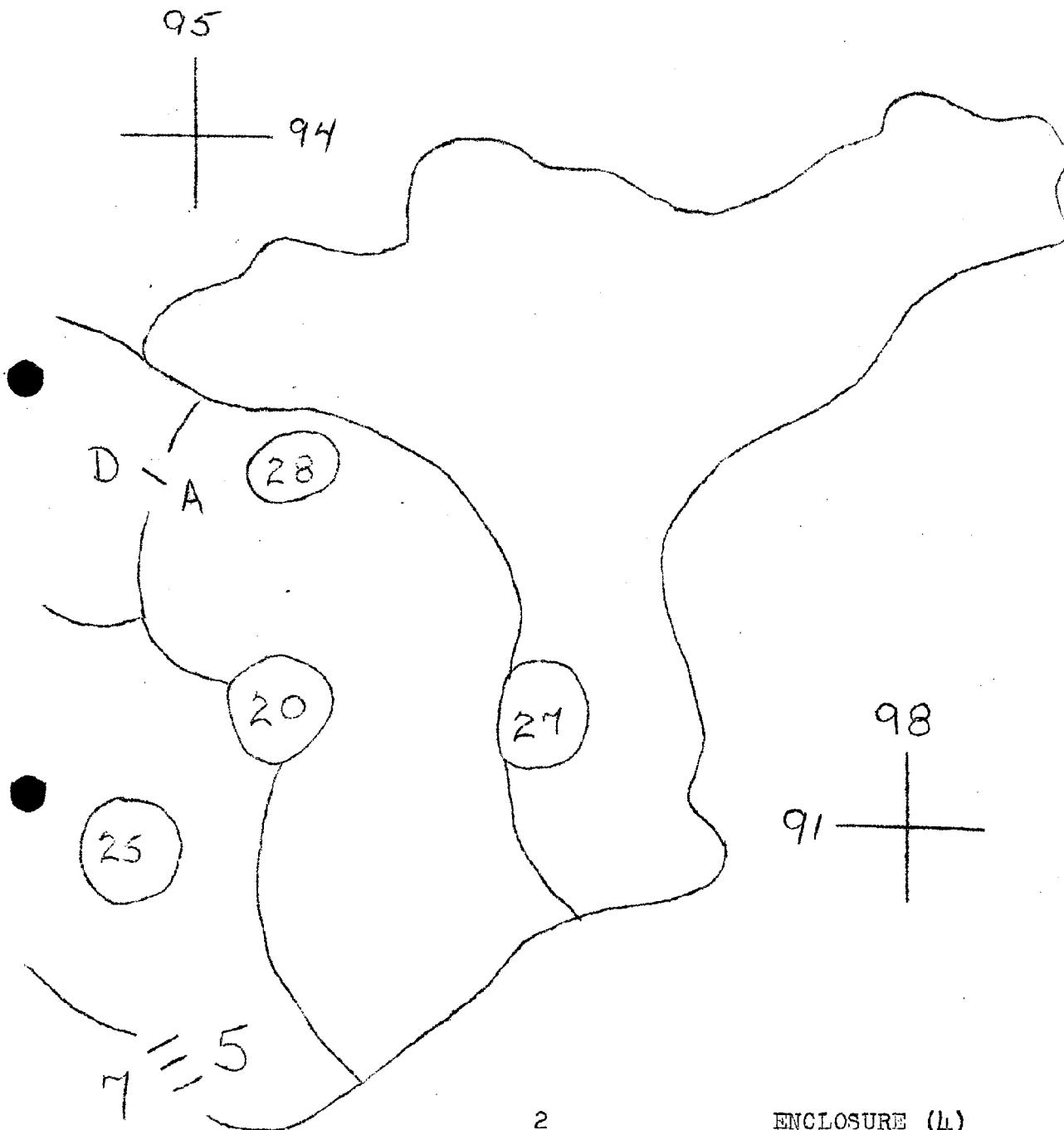
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO

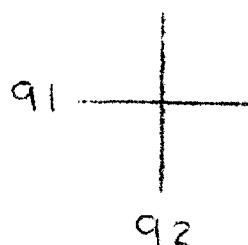
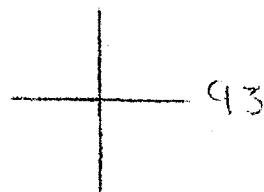


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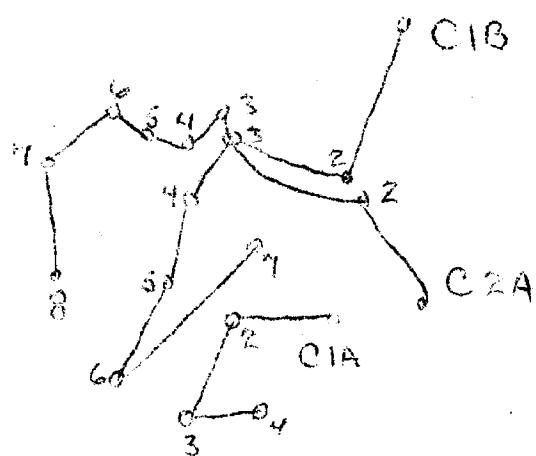
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Maps, RVN; 1:25,000; Series
L8020, Sheets 6541 III N
Day movement D+2

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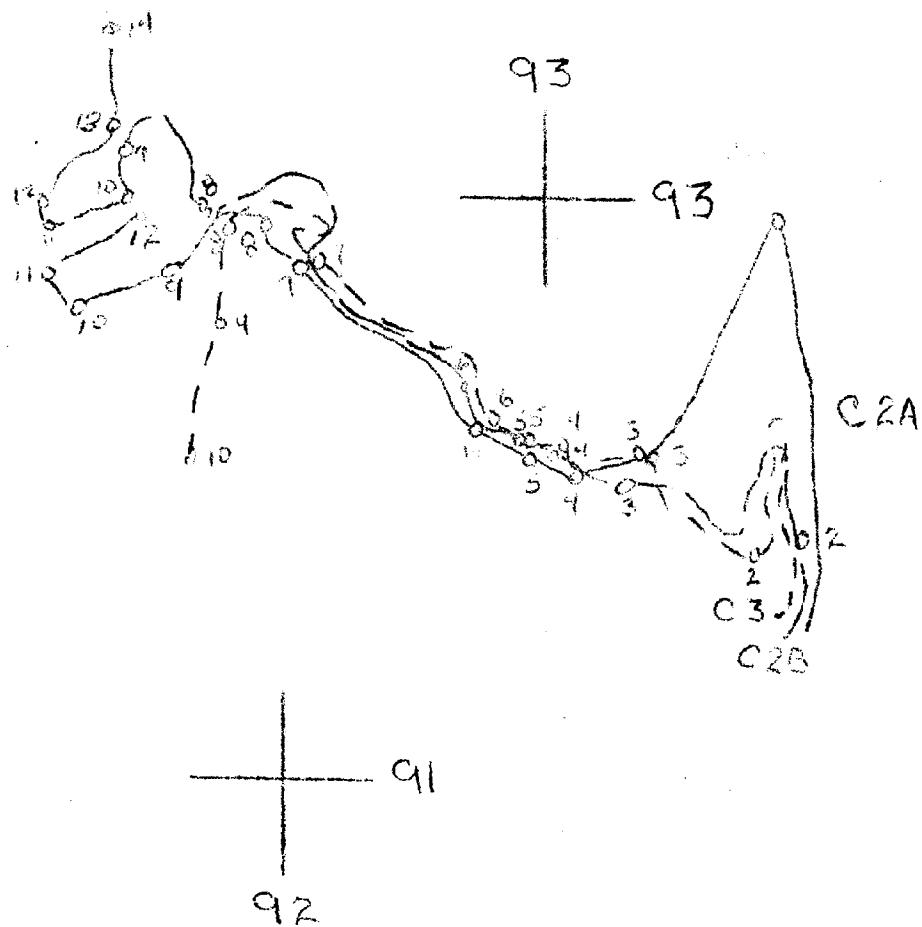


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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+2

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    A1C --> A1G2
    A1C2 --> A1C2
    A1C2 --> A1G2
    A1G2 --> A1G3
    A1G2 --> A2C0
    A1G2 --> A2A2
    A2C0 --> A1A1
    A1G3 --> A3B
    A1G3 --> A3D
    A3D --> A3A
    A3D --> A3C
    A2A2 --> A3F
    A2A2 --> A3E
    A3F --> A3H
    A3H --> A3G
    A3H --> A3I
    A3G --> A2B
    A2B --> A2C2
    A2B --> A2C3
    A2C2 --> A2C3
  
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SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+2

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D3A ↗
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D3C

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D1A ↗
D1B ↗
D1C ↗
D1D

.4

ENCLOSURE (5)
SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van RVN
7 March 1968

Frag Order 30-68 (Operation HOUSTON)

Ref: (a) Operation Order 3-68 (Operation HOUSTON)
(b) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, 6541 II, 6541 III, 6541 IV, 6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION.a. Enemy. See current ISUMS and PERINTREPS.b. Friendly. No change except for Engineers and HST attached.

c. No Change.

2. MISSION. Conduct reconnaissance in force of an undetermined duration in area of operations to the west of MSR to:

a. Locate and destroy the enemy, capture and/or destroy his equipment, weapons supplies and fortifications.

b. Establish company patrol base and conduct day and night patrols therefrom.

c. At preselected sites utilize demolitions to complete helo landing sites partially cleared by air ordnance.

d. Develop landing sites at other positions as practical and record exact locations.

e. Be prepared, on order, to move to another location to the west of position designated in paragraph 3.

f. Be prepared to move to area vicinity Delta Company Command Post on order and assume mission that unit.

3. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS.

a. See reference (a).

ENCLOSURE (6)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- b. Attached Overlay (Battalion AO).
- c. Coordinate movement through Company A's and Company D's AO with unit concerned.
- d. Make maximum utilization of supporting arms.
- e. Be prepared to utilize sling for medevacs as required.
- f. Submit proposed route of movement no later than one (1) hour prior to departure time.
- g. Time and Date of Departure 8 March 1968.
- h. Emphasize development of EPI's.
- i. Company Patrol Base vicinity (AT 922909).

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.

- a. Carry maximum demolitions materials.
- b. Unit of ammunitions per man.
- c. Emergency resupply as required.
- d. Carry sufficient MCI's for two days.
- e. Be prepared to receive resupply by holo D+2.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS.

No change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Major USMC
Commanding

ANNEX A: Operations Overlay

OFFICIAL


L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major USMC
S-3

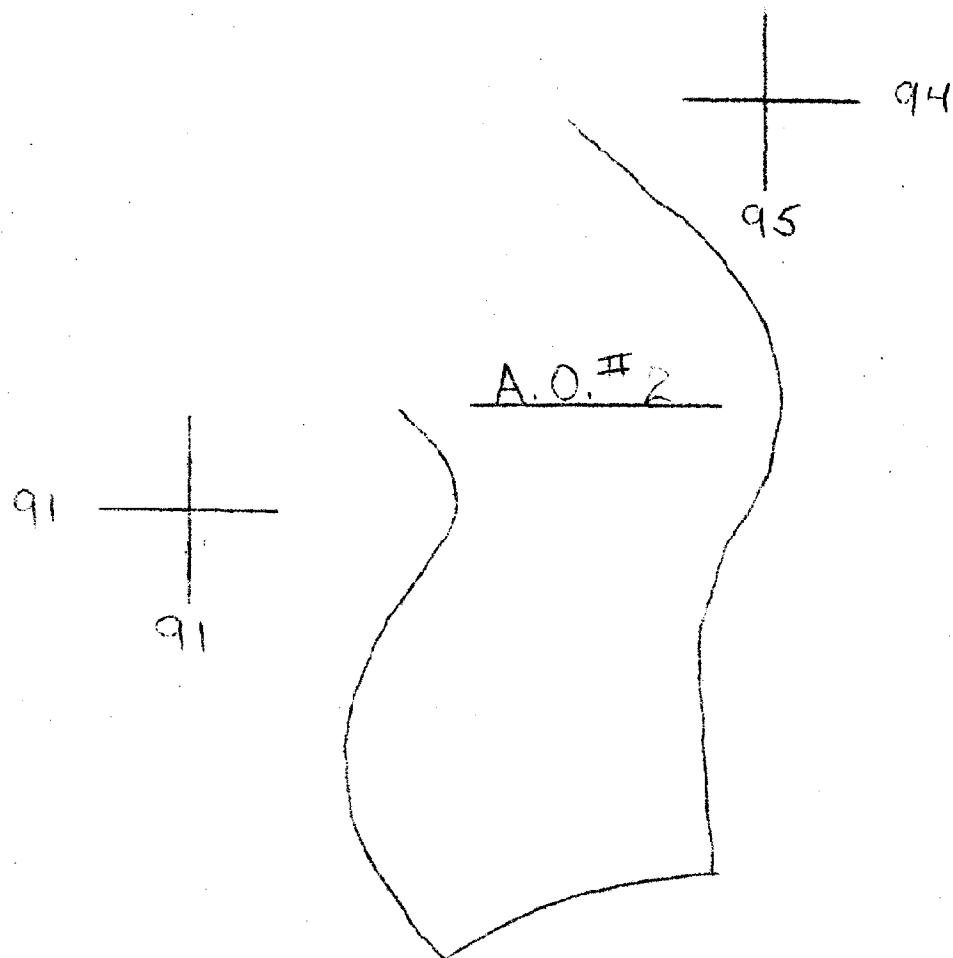
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van
7 March 1968

ANNEX A:

Operation Overlay to Frag Order 30-68

Ref: (a) Maps: RVN; 1:50,000 Series L701b, Sheets 6541 I, II, III, IV, and 6641 IV

OFFICIAL*S. A. DeJardins*

L. A. WILDEMAN
Major, USMC
S-3

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

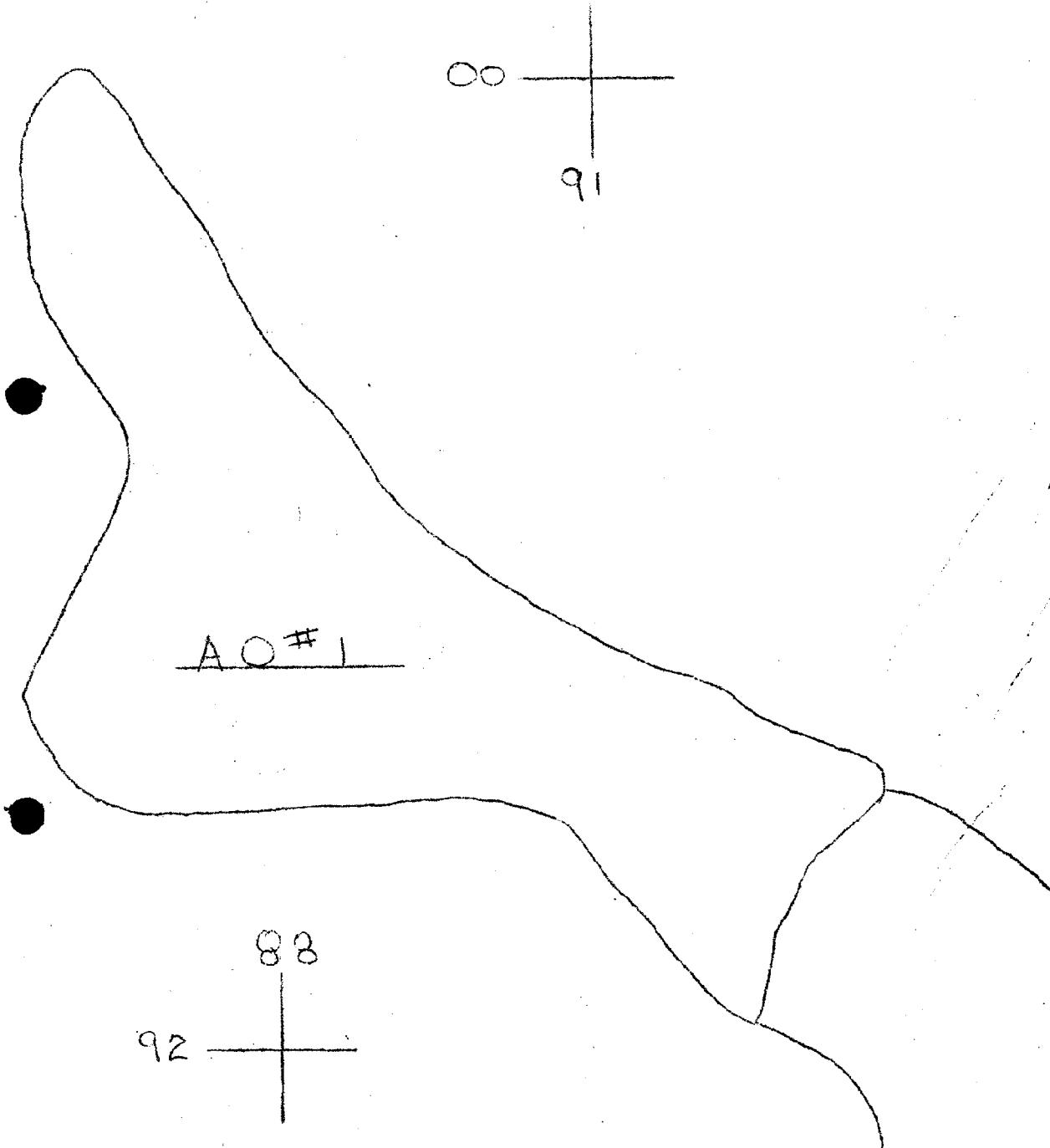
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ENCLOSURE (6)
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ANNEX A:

Operation Overlay to Frag Order 30-68

Maps: RVN; 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6641 I, II, III, IV,
6641 IV

OFFICIAL

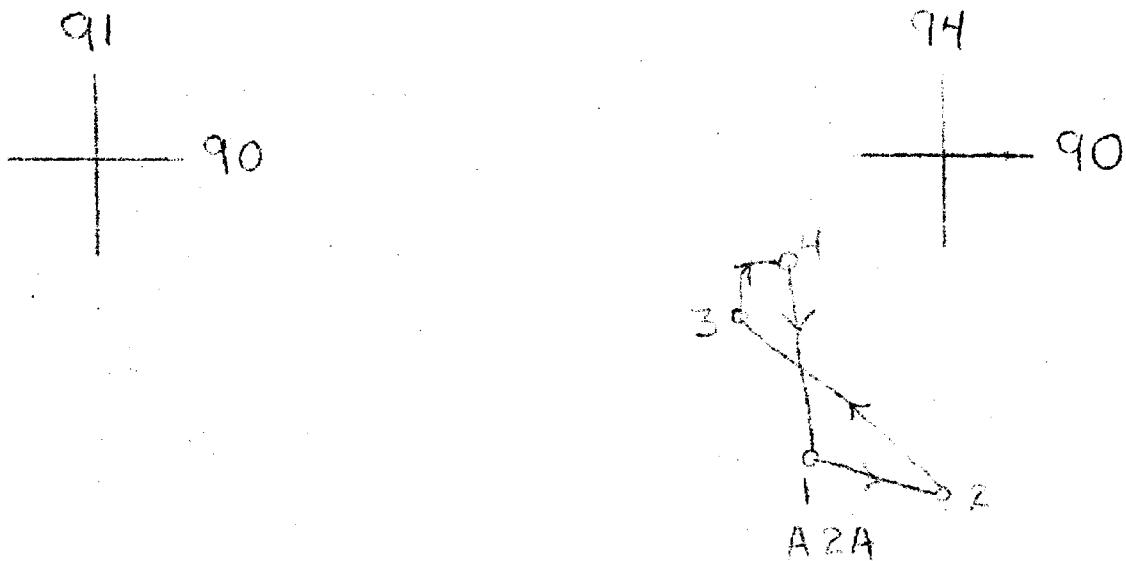
*S. A. W. Daniel*L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major, USMC
S-3R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

2

ENCLOSURE (6)
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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+3

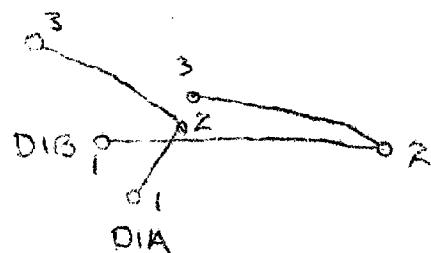
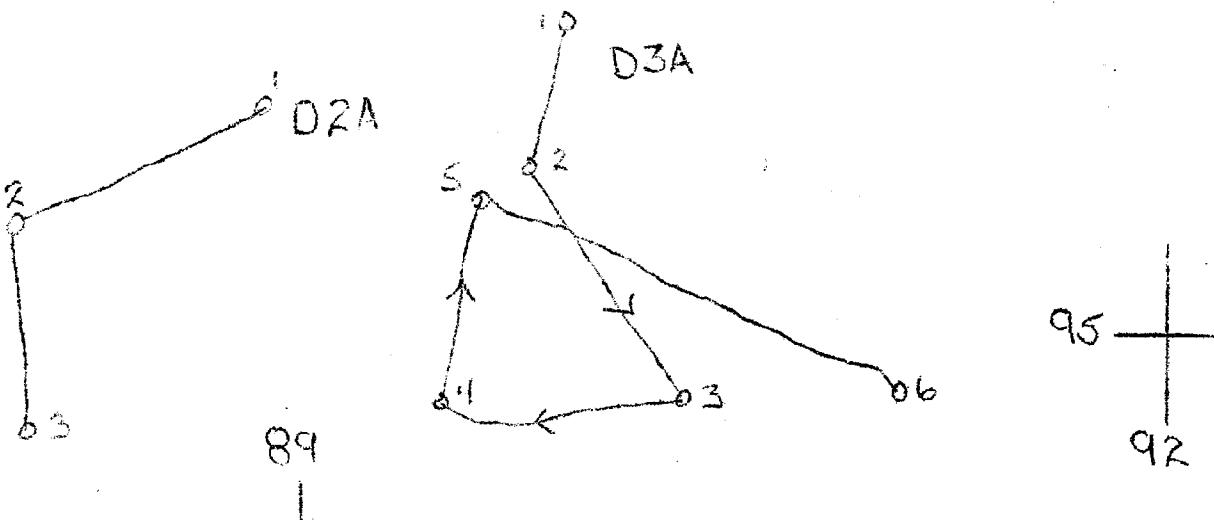


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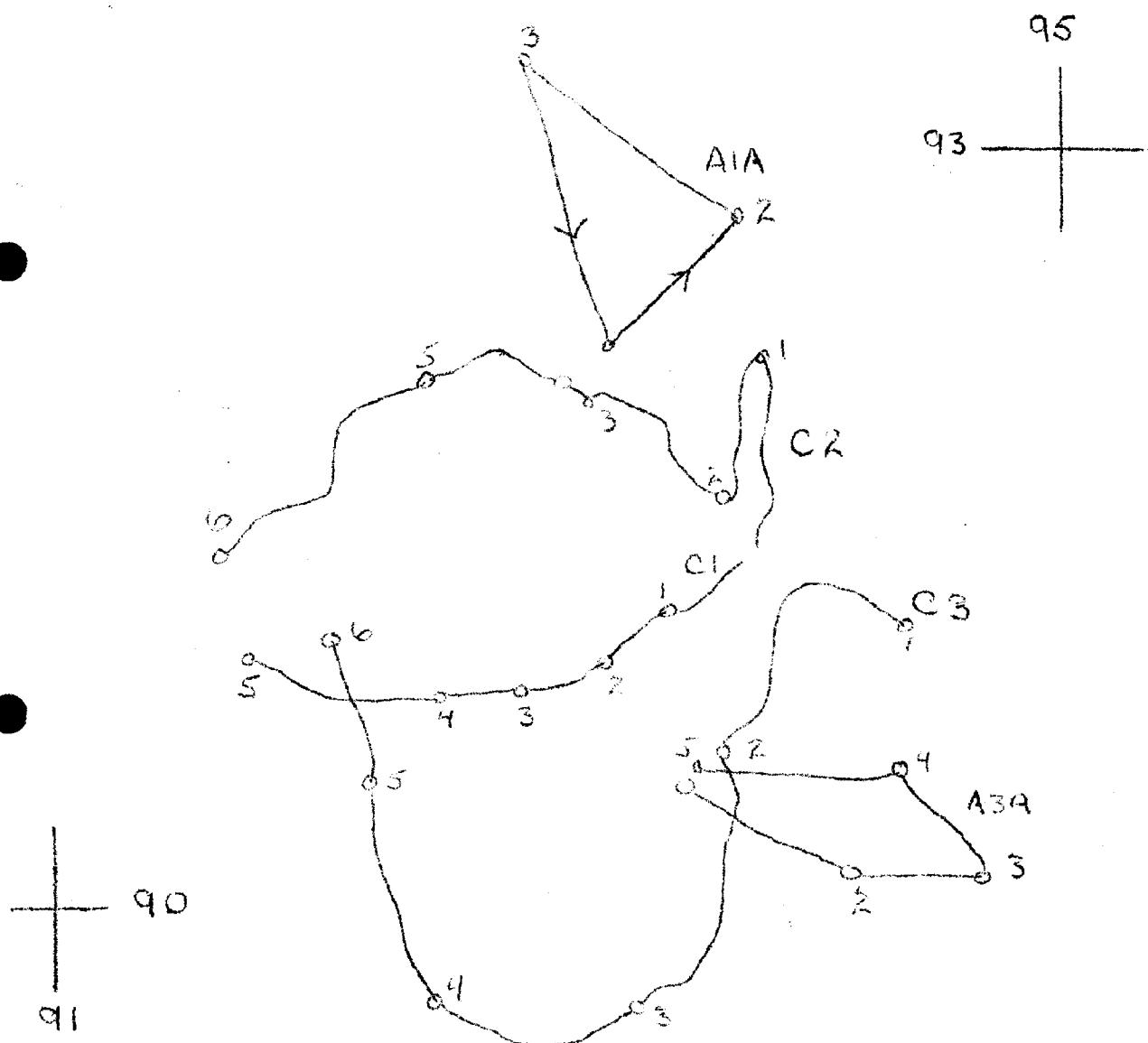
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+3



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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+3



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ENCLOSURE (7)
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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN, 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+3

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A1B2
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A1A1
A1C2
95
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C2A
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90

92 A2B
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A2D

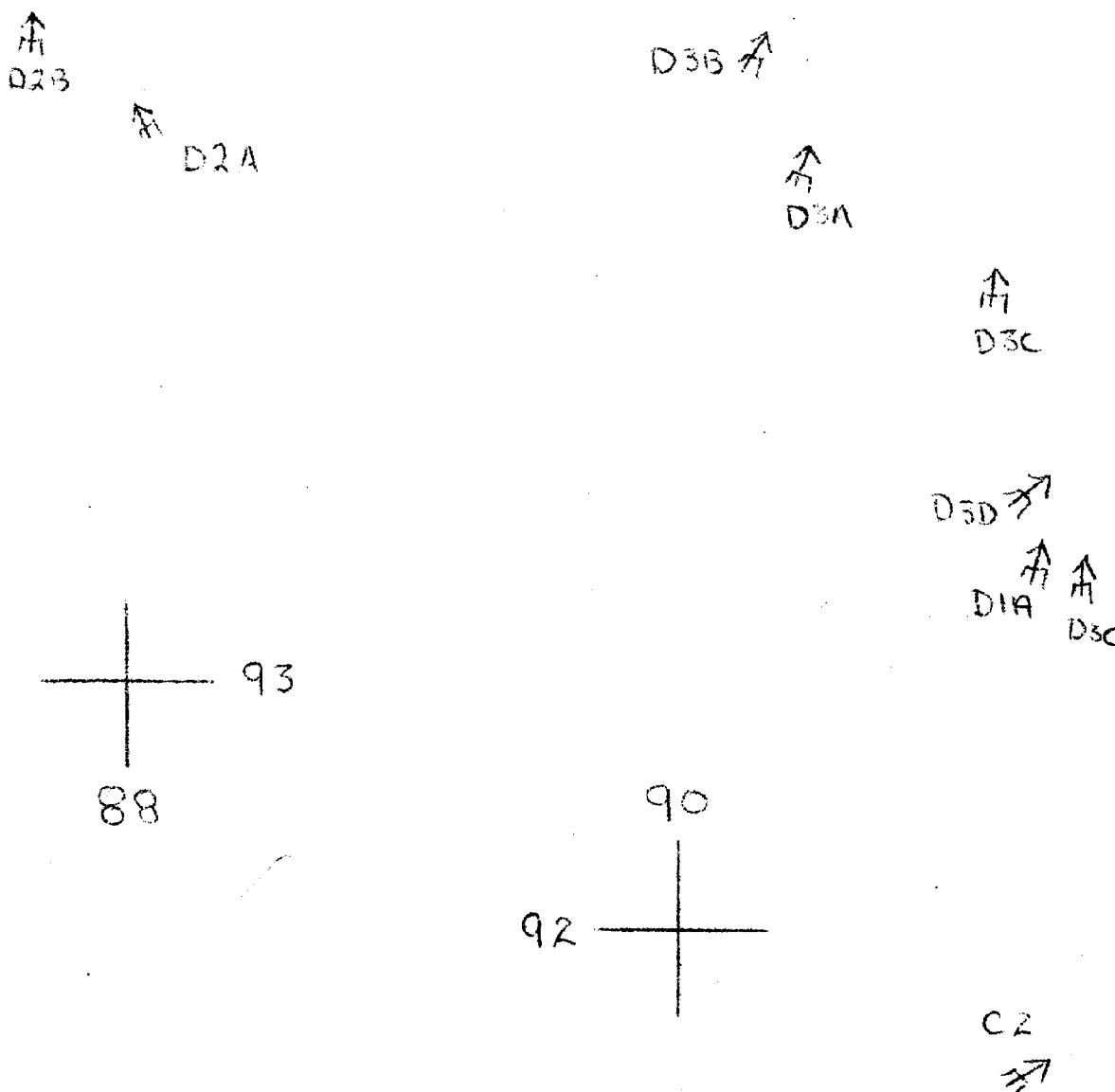
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4

ENCLOSURE (7)
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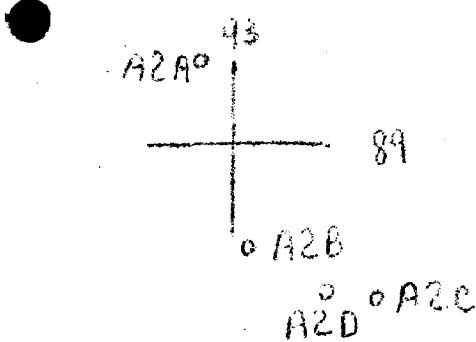
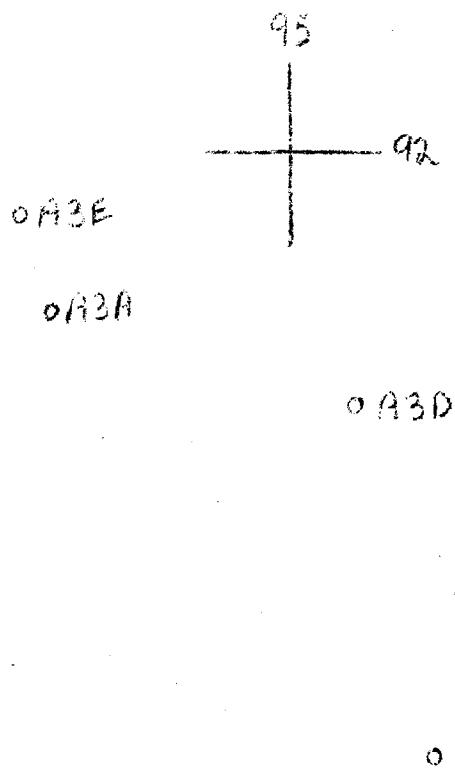
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Night disposition



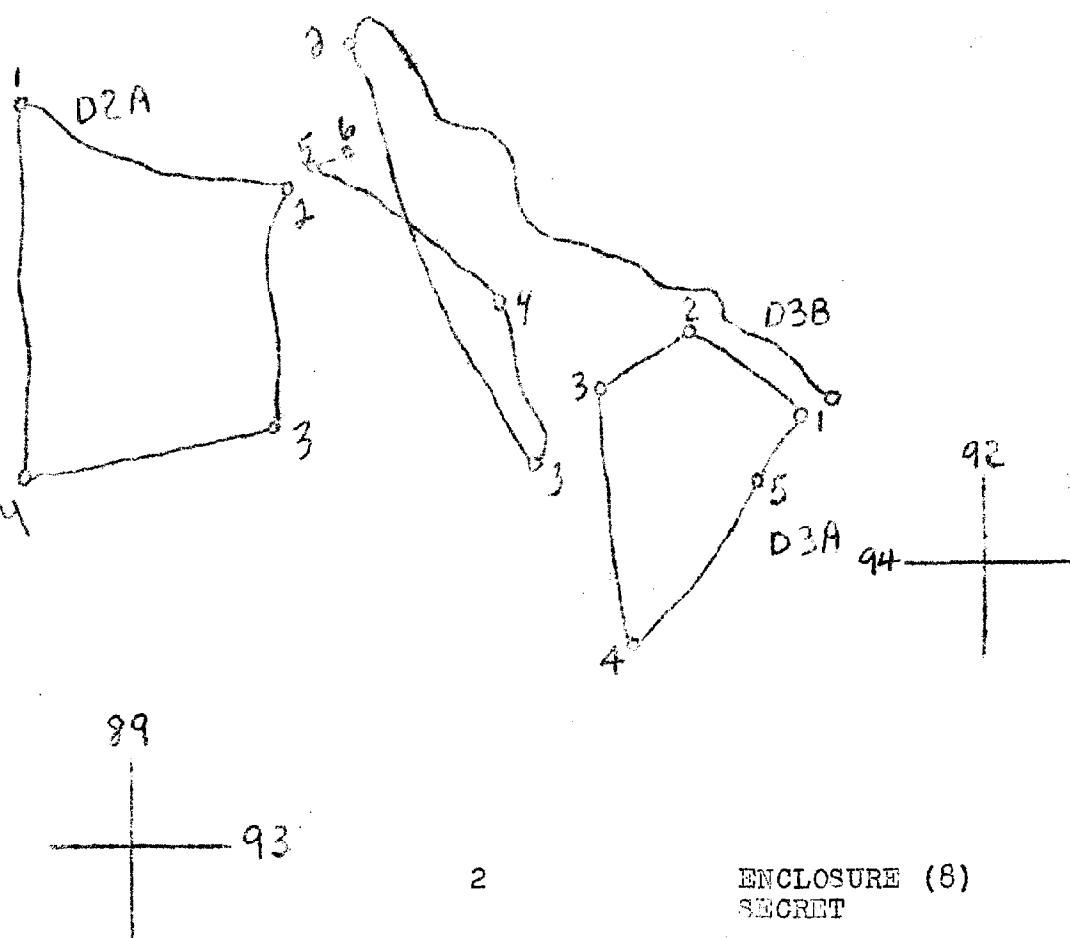
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Day movement D+4



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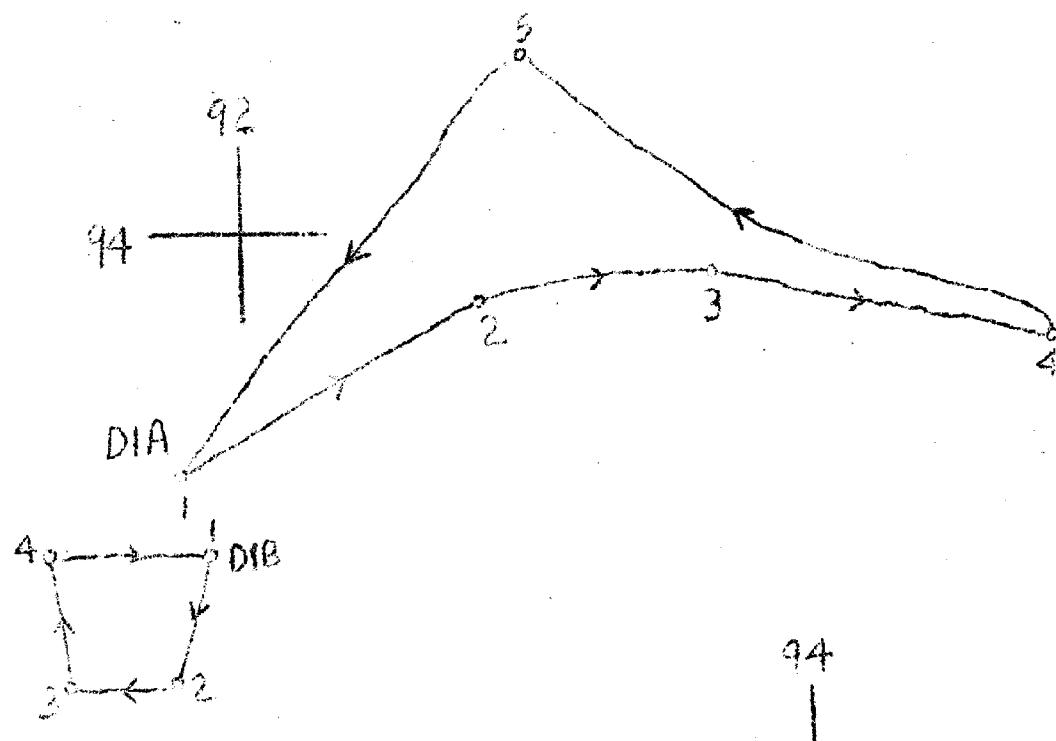
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Day movement D+4



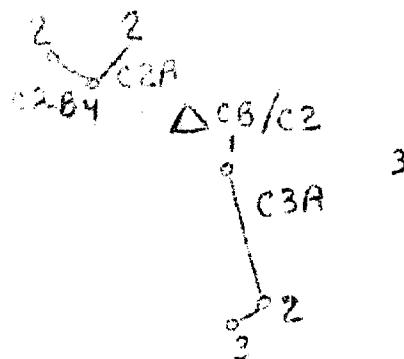
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+4

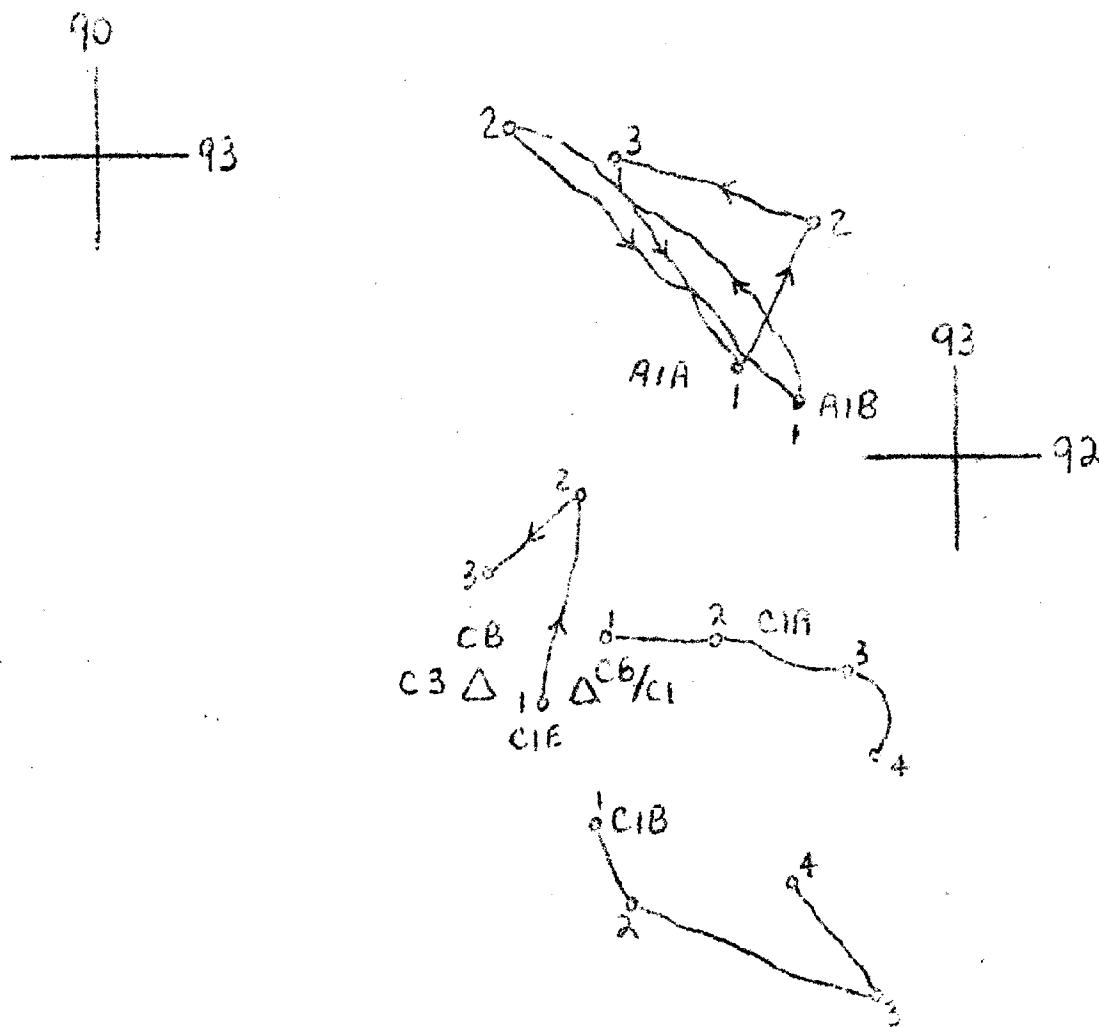


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Day movement D+4



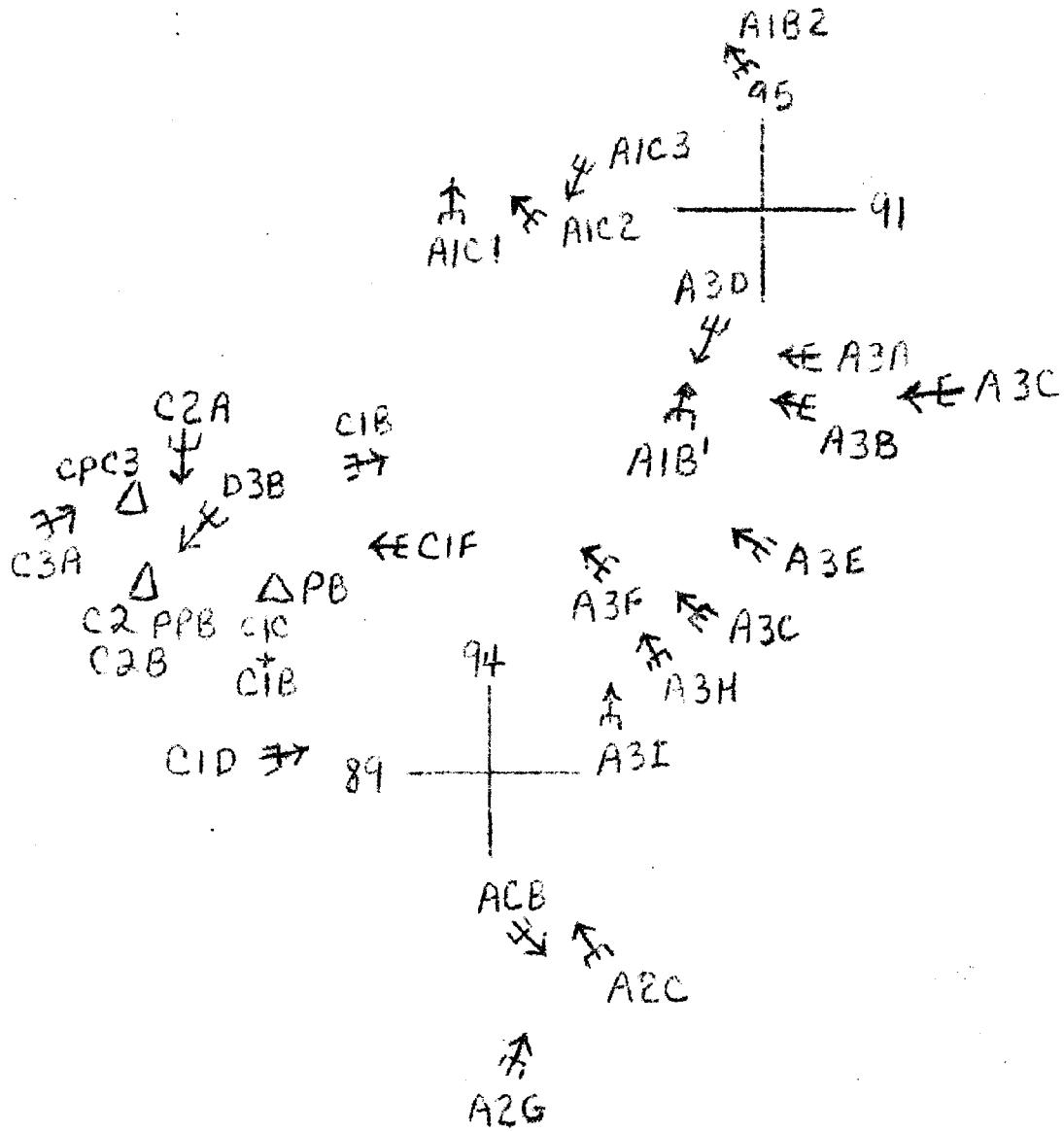
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ENCLOSURE (8)
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+4



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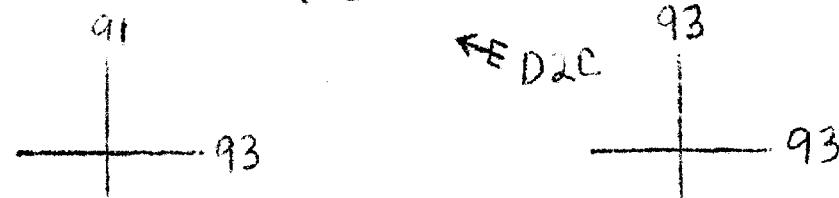
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Night disposition D+4

↑ D2A

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↖ D3A

↖ D3B



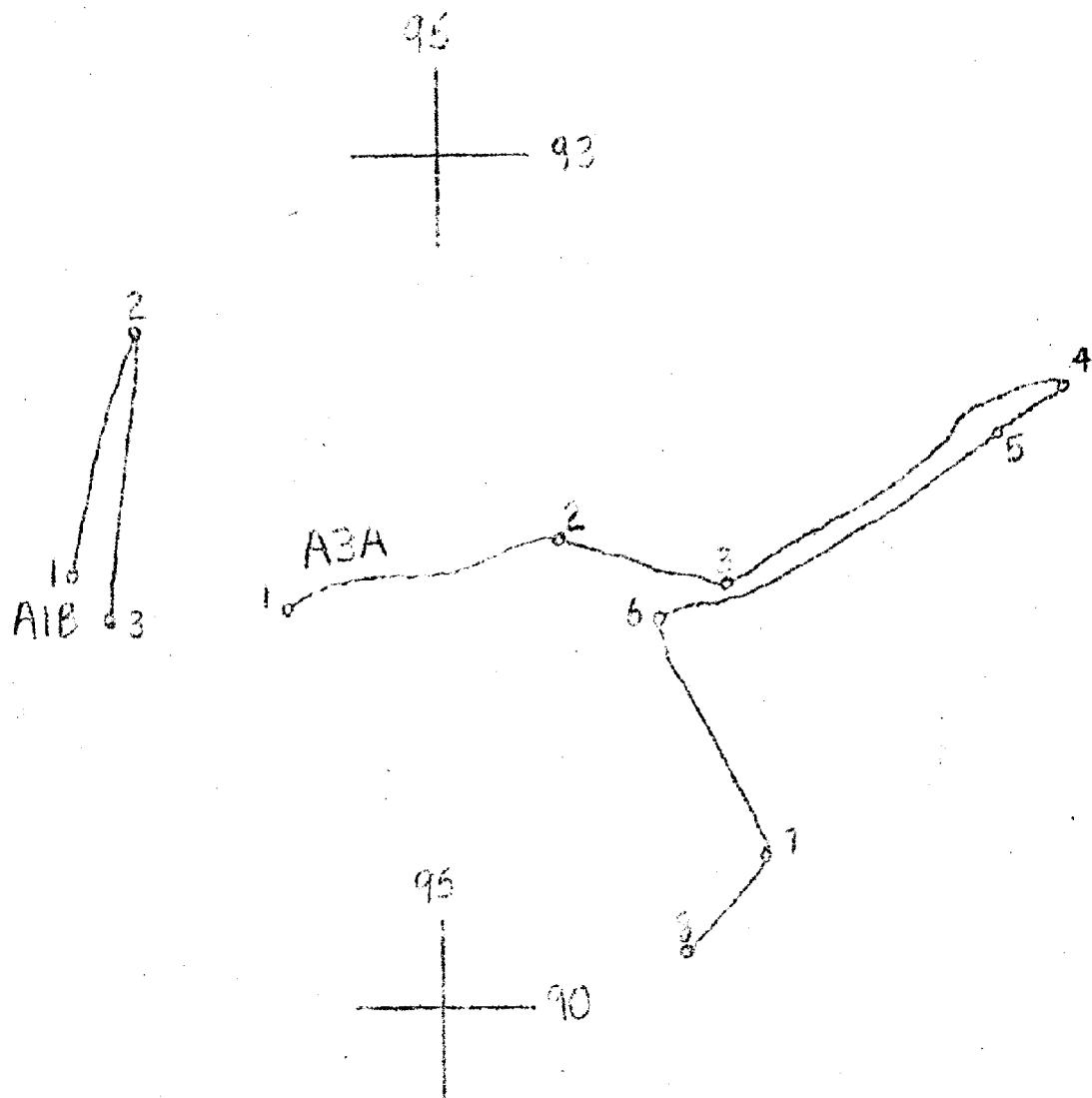
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Day movement D+5



A2A

A2B

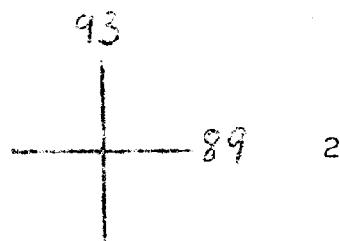
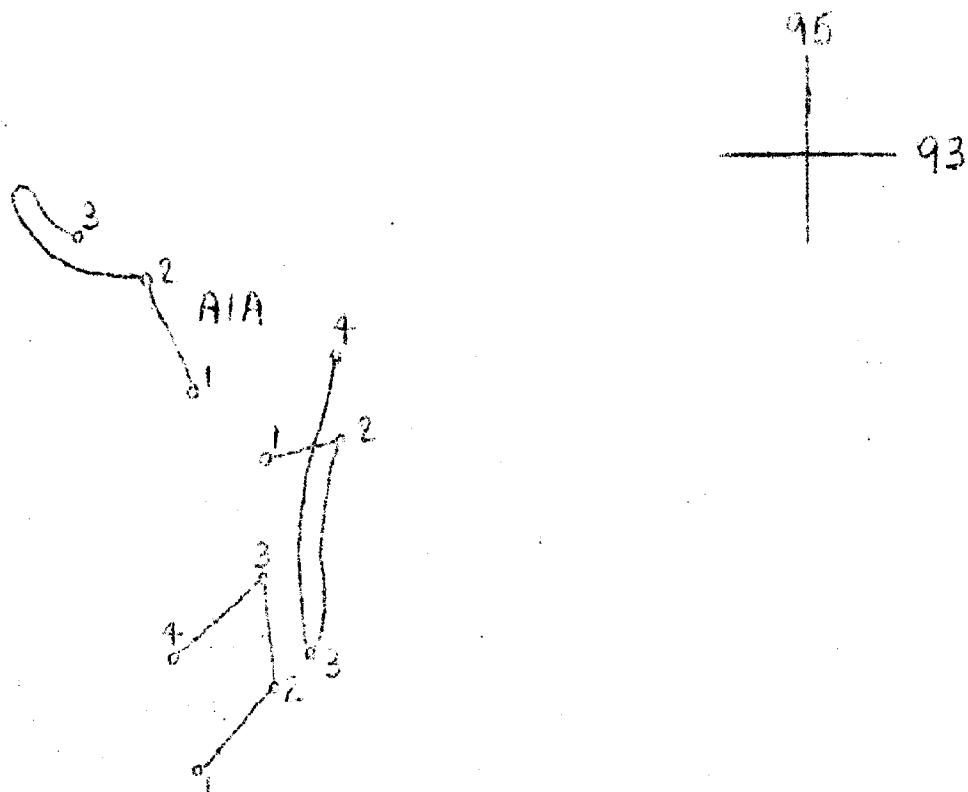
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ENCLOSURE (9)
SECRET

A2C

SECRET

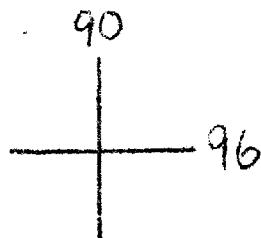
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+5



ENCLOSURE (9)
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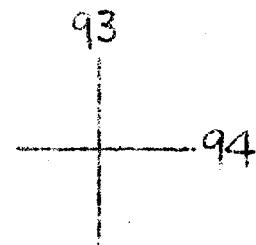
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+5



~~← D2A~~ ~~← D3B~~
~~← D3A~~

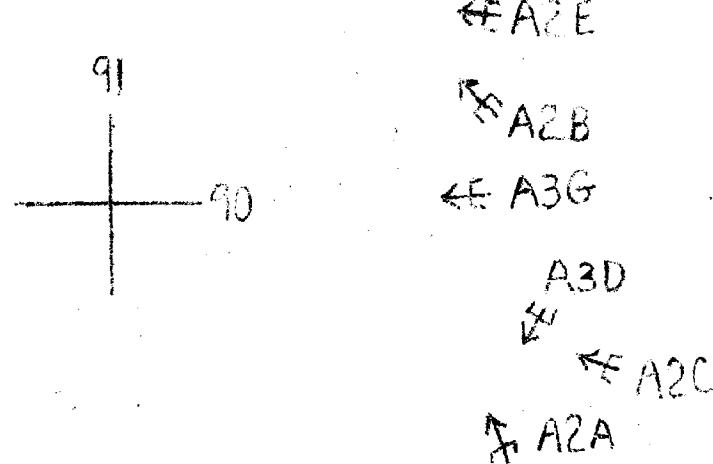
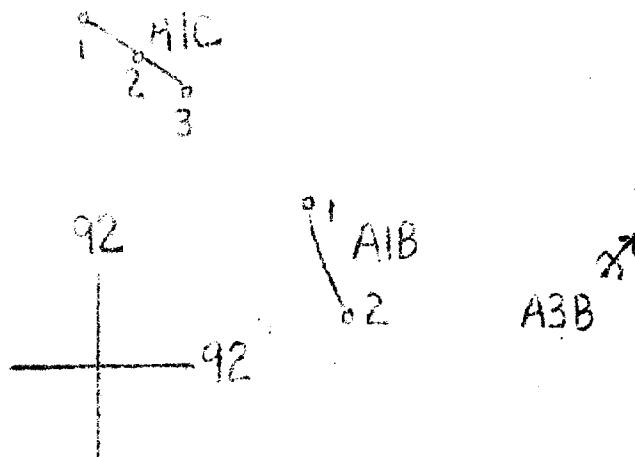
~~← D3C~~



~~← D1B~~
~~← D1A~~
↑
D1C ↑ A1A
D1D 1a
2 3

SECRET

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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+5

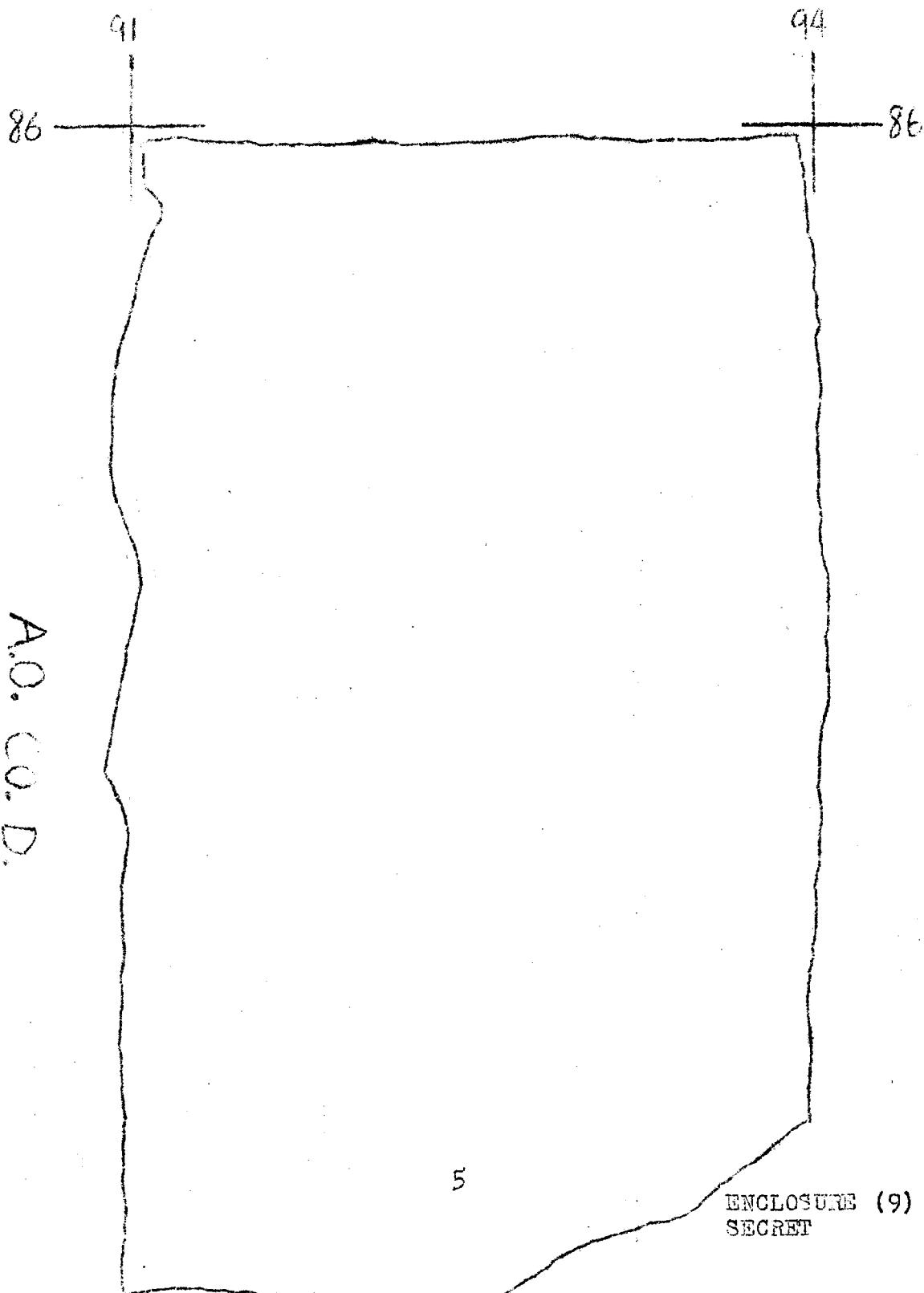


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ENCLOSURE (9)
SECRET

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Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N



CONFIDENTIAL

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van
10 March 1968

Frag Order 31-68 (Operation HOUSTON)

Ref: (a) Operation Order 3-68 (Operation HOUSTON)
(b) Maps: RNV 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I,
6541 II, 6541 III, 6541 IV, 6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy. See current ISUMS and PERINTREPS.
- b. Friendly. No Change.
- c. HST Team and Engineer team attached.

2. MISSION. Conduct Search and Destroy operation for a duration of about three days in area assigned (See Overlay) to:

- a. Locate and destroy or capture the enemy, his weapons and equipment, supply caches and fortifications.
- b. Establish company patrol bases as appropriate and conduct activities therefrom.
- c. Report location of trails and helo landing sites.

3. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS

- a. See reference (a).
- b. Attached overlay.
- c. Coordinate movement through other unit AO's.
- d. Make maximum utilization of supporting arms.
- e. Submit proposed route(s) of movement by 111000H March.
- f. Time and date of departure 111200H March.
- g. Company C will be relieved of present mission commencing at 110800H.
- h. Emphasize development of EEI's.

ENCLOSURE (10)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

- a. Unit of ammo per man.
- b. Emergency resupply as required.
- c. Three days MCI's per man.
- d. Carry nylon stretchers.
- e. Be prepared to make medevacs by sling if required.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No Change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Major USMC
Commanding

Annex A: Operations Overlay

OFFICIAL

Sawdust

L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major USMC
S-3

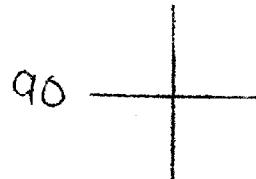
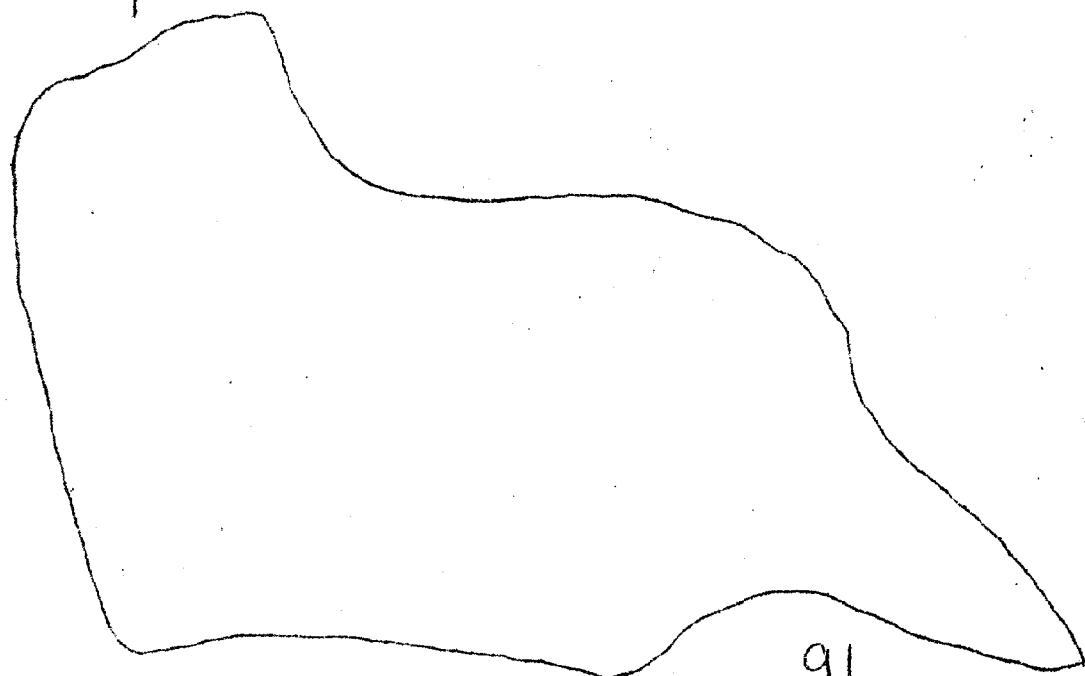
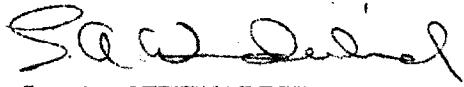
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ANNEX A:

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van
10 March 1968Operation Overlay to Frag Order 31-68
Ref: (a) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, II,
III, IV, and 6641 IV

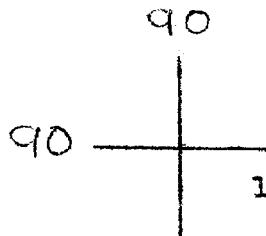
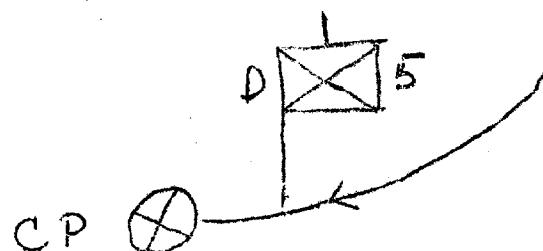
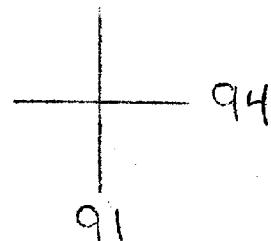
86

96

OFFICIAL
L. A. WUNDMLICH
Major, USMC
S-3R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
CommandingENCLOSURE (10)
SECRET

SECRET

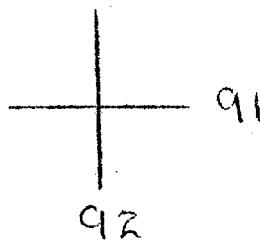
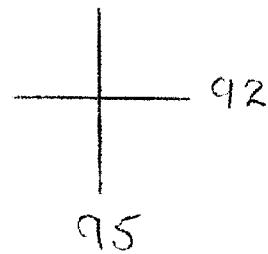
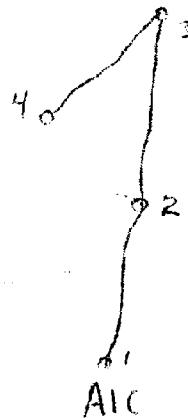
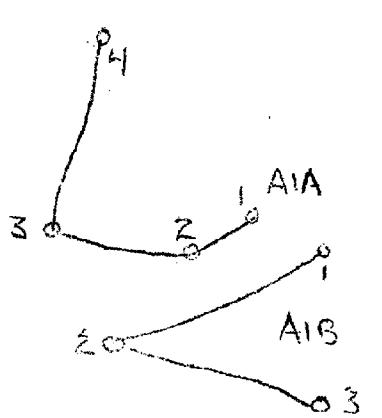
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+6



ENCLOSURE (11)
SECRET

SECRET

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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+6



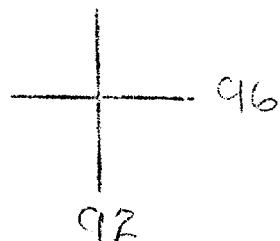
△
A2B

A2 A
△
A20
○
A2A
○

ENCLOSURE (11)
SECRET

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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+6



△
CIA

△
CP

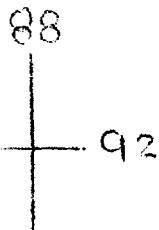
↗
C2

↗
C2A

△
C1C

↗
C1G

↗
C3A



↗
D1

↗
D2

3

ENCLOSURE (11)
SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; L:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+6

A
C36

Q3 —
95

A1A1 A A1C
A1A2 ← A1C
A1C2 A1C3
A1B2 A1B2 ← A3A
A3D A3C
A3A A3B
A3H

— 90 ← A3G
A3I A3H
Q2

A2C
A

A2B

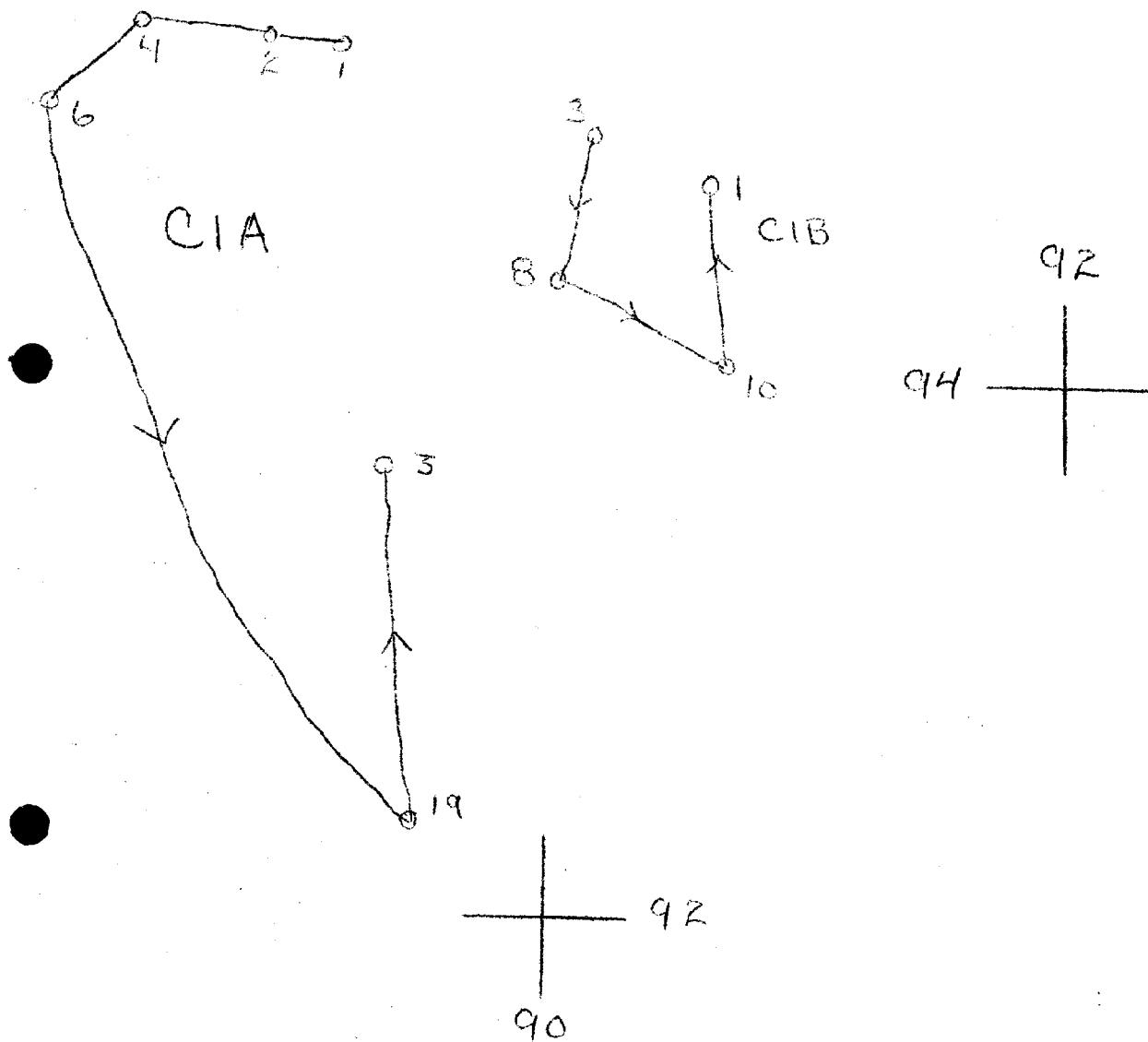
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A2A A

SECRET

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Day movement D+7

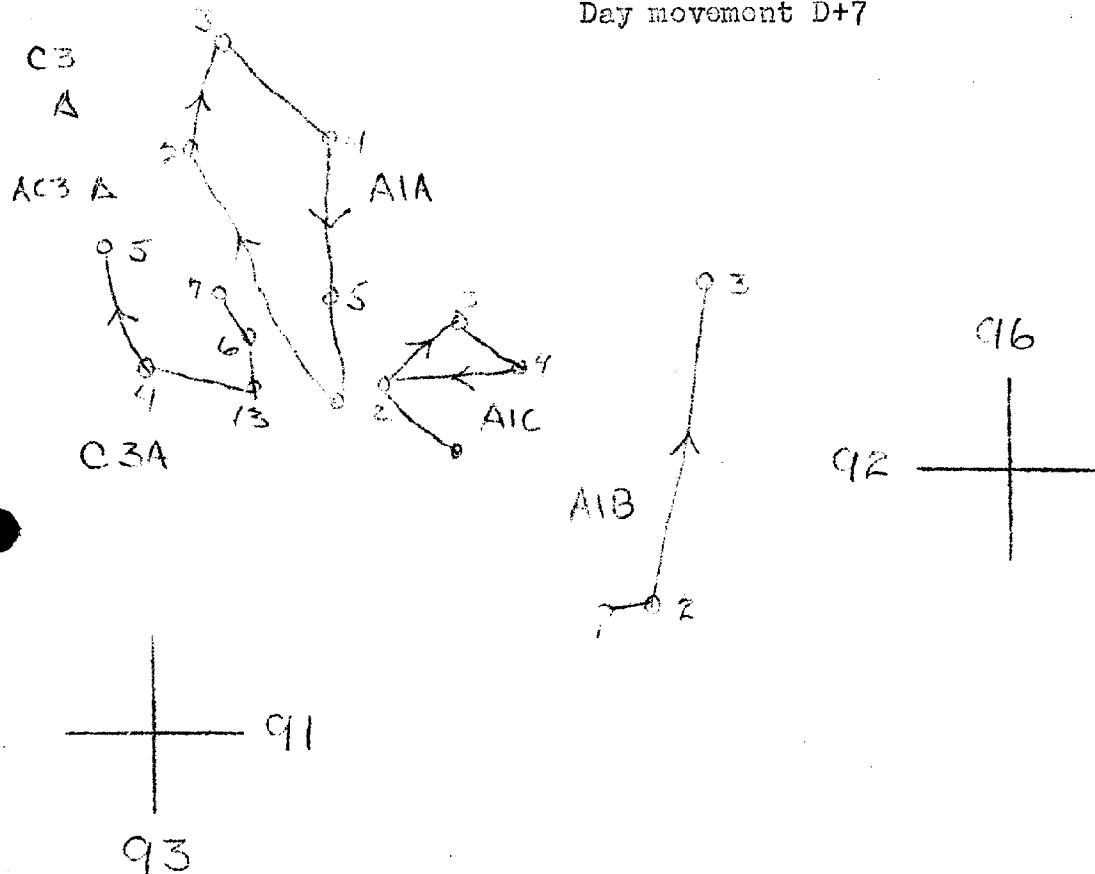


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ENCLOSURE (12)
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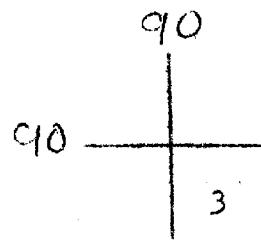
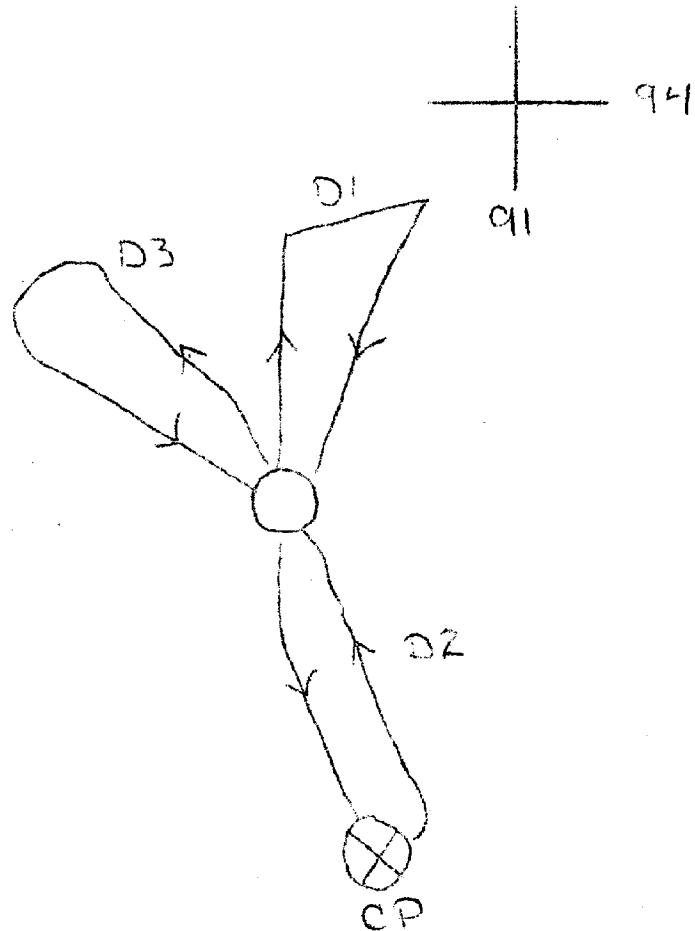
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 Day movement D+7



SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+7



ENCLOSURE (12)
SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+7

△
C1C

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C1B

↗
C2

↗ C2A

— + 94
89

↗ C2B

↙
C3

↓

↗ C3A
↙ C3B

↗ D3

89
91

↙ D2
↗ O1

4

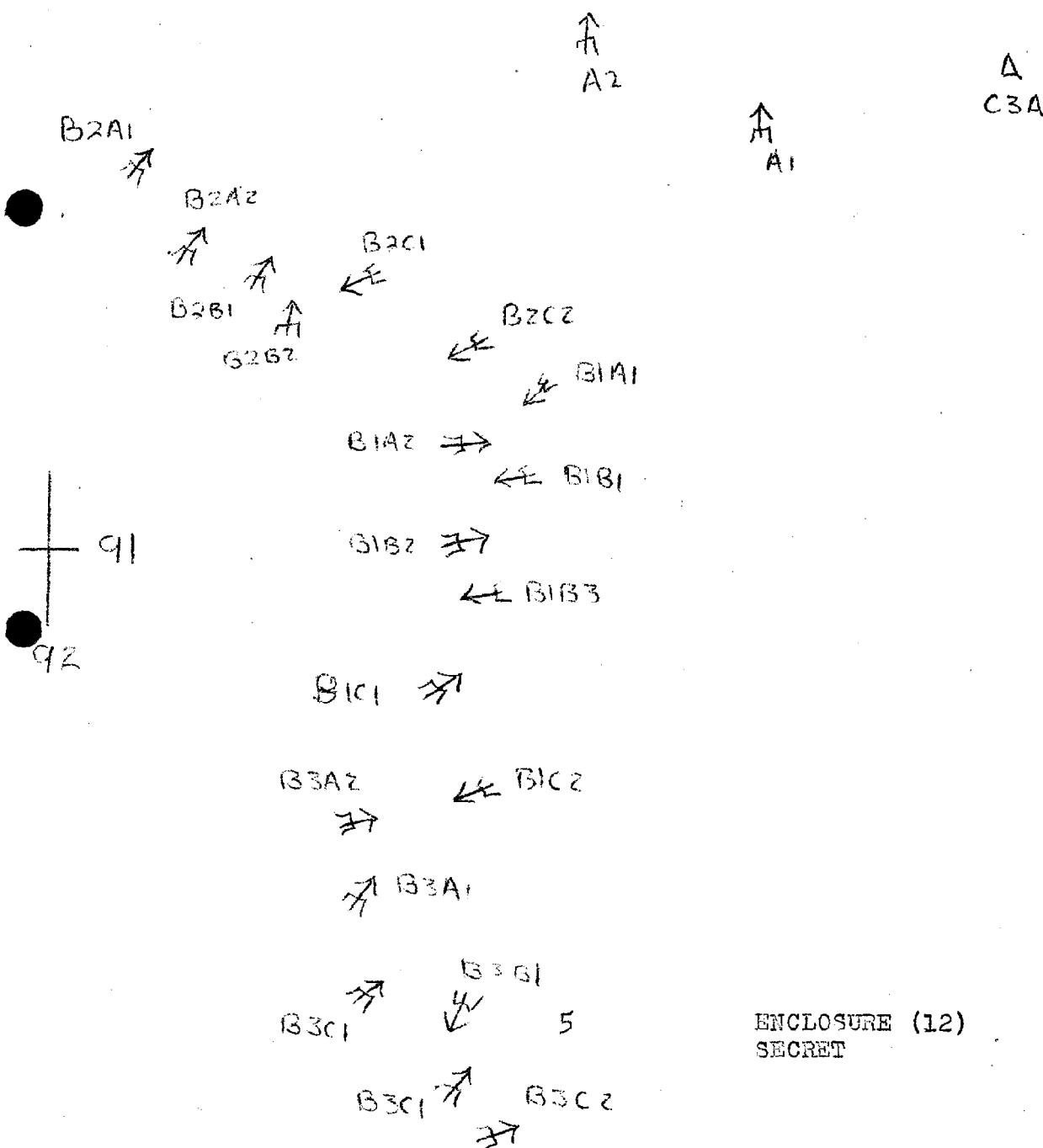
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SECRET

94

94

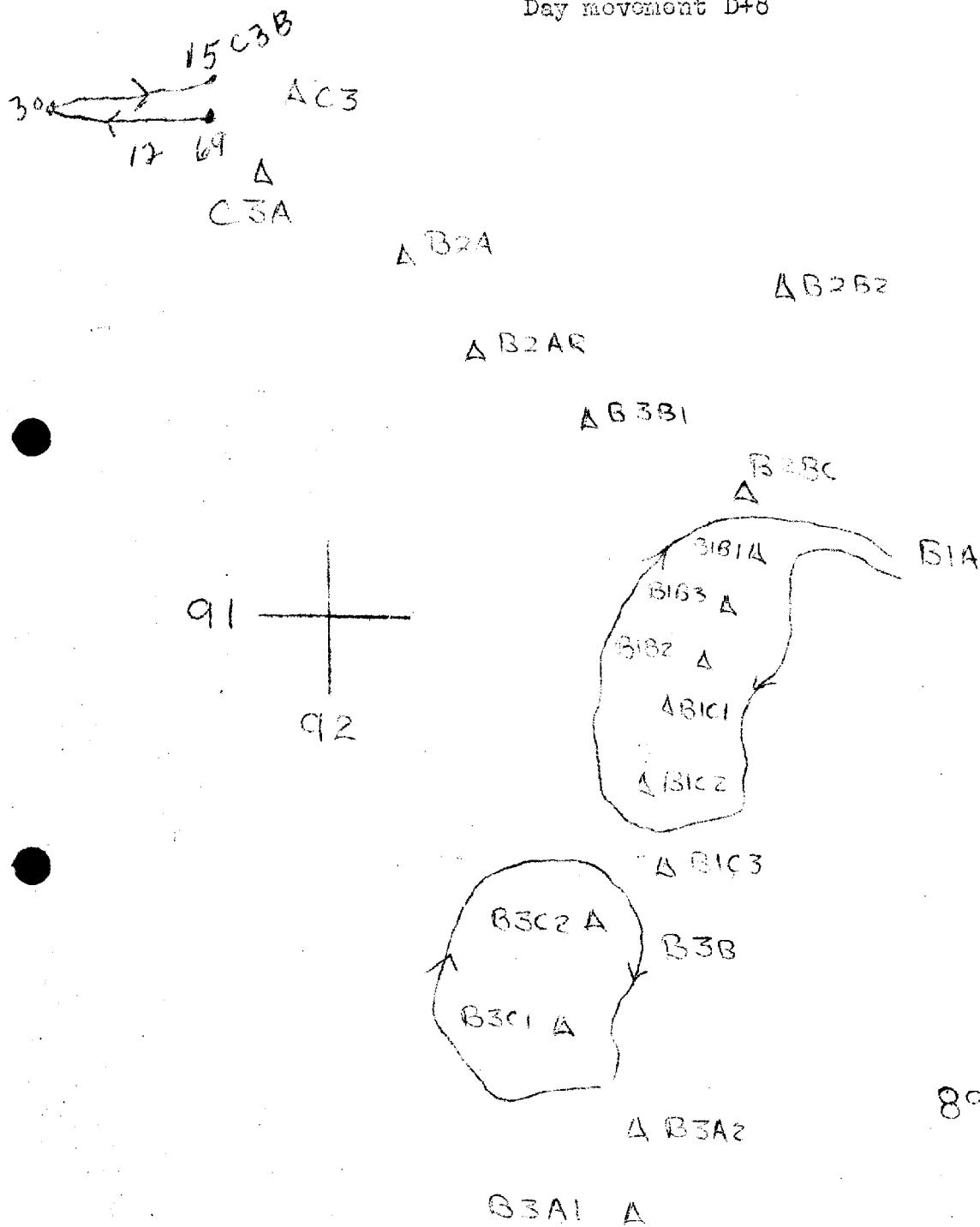
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 Night disposition D+7



ENCLOSURE (12)
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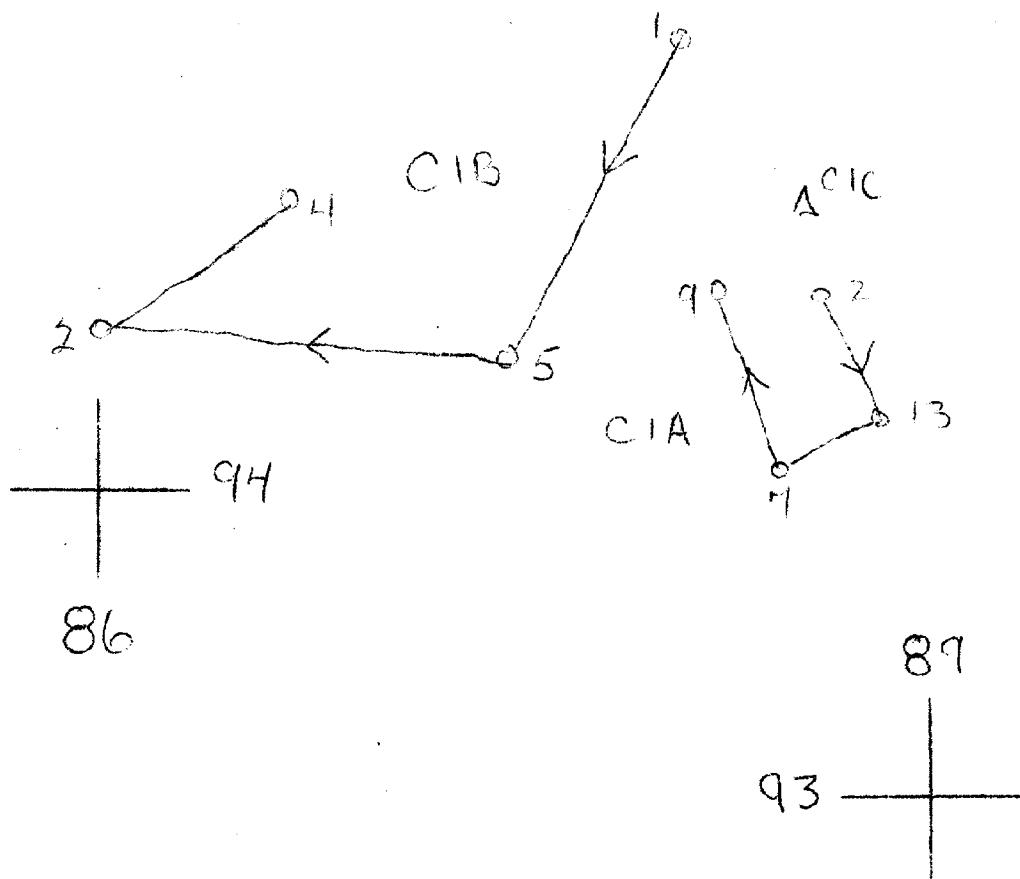
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 Day movement D+8



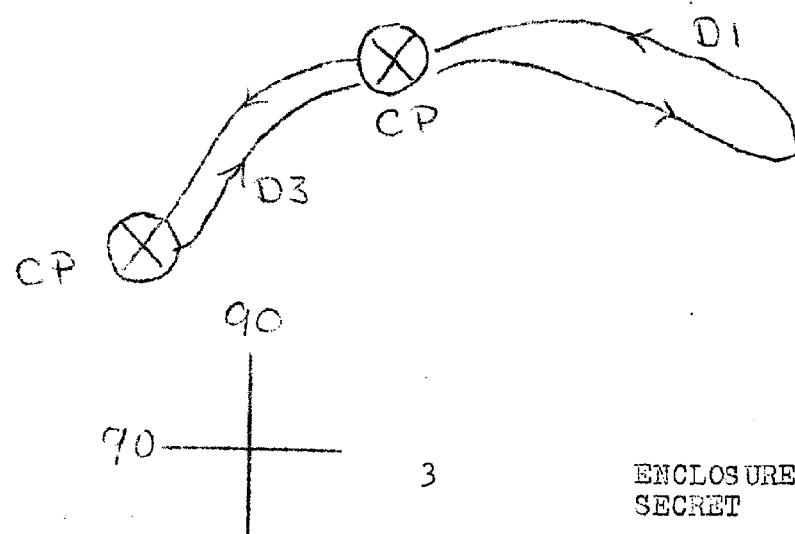
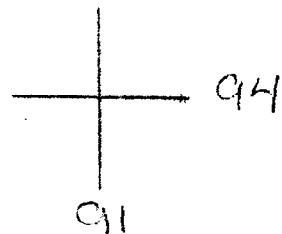
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Series L6020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+8



SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+8



SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+8

96
88

← C1C
↑ C1B

↑ C2

C2B

← C2A

94
90

4

ENCLOSURE (13)
SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+8

↑ C3
↑ C30
↑ C3A

← C3C

— 93
|
94

↗ C2A

↗ C2B

↗ C2C
↗ C2D
↗ B1
↗ B1
↗ B1
↗ B1

↗ B1

↗ B1

↗ C3

91

— 89

↗ C63
↗ C3

5

↗ C63
↗ C3

ENCLOSURE (13)
SECRET

CONFIDENTIAL

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van RVN
14 March 1968

Frag Order 32-68 (Operation HOUSTON)

Ref: (a) Operation Order 3-68 (Operation HOUSTON)
(b) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, 6541 II, 6541 III, 6541 IV, 6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. Recent intelligence indicates enemy base camp west of MSR vicinity (AT 8789) and possibility of increased efforts against highway during the next 3 to 5 days.

b. Friendly. No Change.

c. Detachments Company A OPCON 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

2. MISSION. No Change

3. EXECUTION. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducts multiple activities along route 1, day and night while one company conducts a search and destroy operation in the southern portion of the battalion AO (See Overlay).

b. Company D.

(1) Upon completion of Present Search and Destroy operation be prepared to be trucked to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines area commencing 150900H.

(2) Commencing at 151300H relieve Company B of present mission in AO (See reference (a)).

(3) Conduct reconnaissance combat patrols in area to west of MSR within capability.

c. Company B.

(1) Upon relief by Company D commence Search and Destroy operation in southern portion of the Battalion AO (See Overlay) of a duration of two to three days.

ENCLOSURE (14)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

(2) Locate and destroy or capture the enemy his weapons and equipment, supply caches and fortifications.

(3) Be prepared to assume mission of other 1st Battalion, 5th Marine units on order.

(4) Establish company patrol bases as appropriate and conduct activities therefrom.

(5) Report locations of trails and helo landing sites.

d. Company C.

(1) Continue present mission.

(2) Conduct unit training as practical.

e. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Reference (a).

(2) Operation Overlay (attached).

(3) Units coordinate closely with adjacent units

(4) Make maximum utilization of proposed routes minimum of one hour prior to departure of unit.

f. All units emphasize development of EEI's.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Company B.

(1) 3 days MCI's per man.

(2) Unit of ~~ammo~~ per man.

(3) Carry nylon stretchers.

b. No Change.

ENCLOSURE (14)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

No Change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Major USMC
Commanding

✓ANNEX A: Operation Overlay

OFFICIAL
L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major USMC
S-3

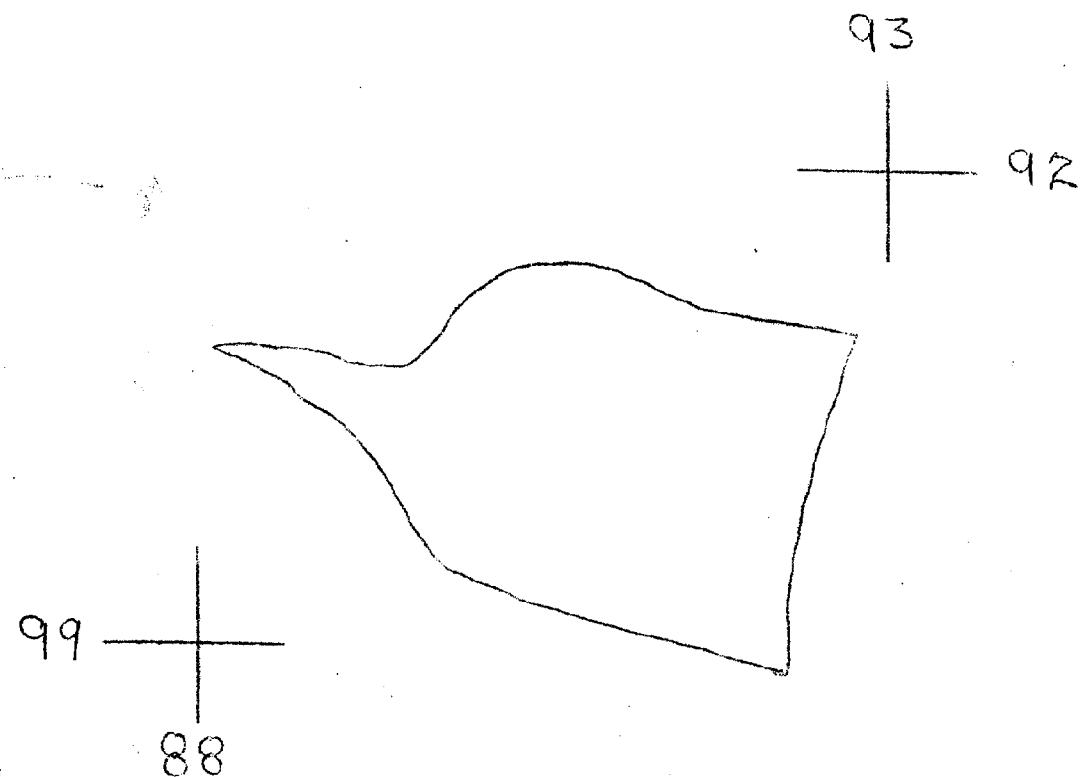
ENCLOSURE (14)
CONFIDENTIAL

SECRET

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van
14 March 1968

ANNEX A:

Operation Overlay to Frag Order 32-68

Ref: (a) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I, II,
III, IV, 6641 IV

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

OFFICIAL

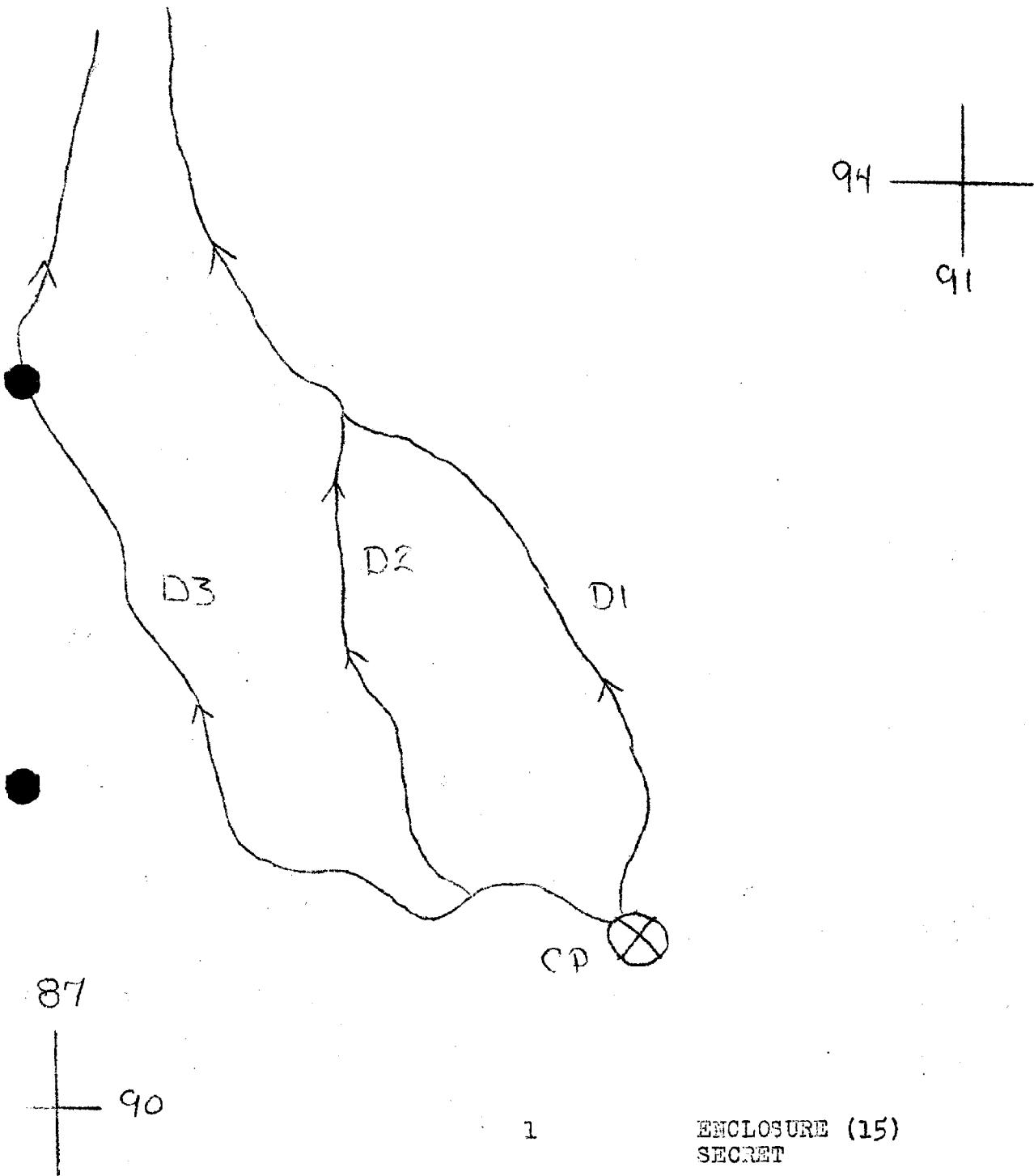


L. A. WULFFELICH
Major USMC
S-3

ENCLOSURE (14)
SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN; 1:25,000
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+9

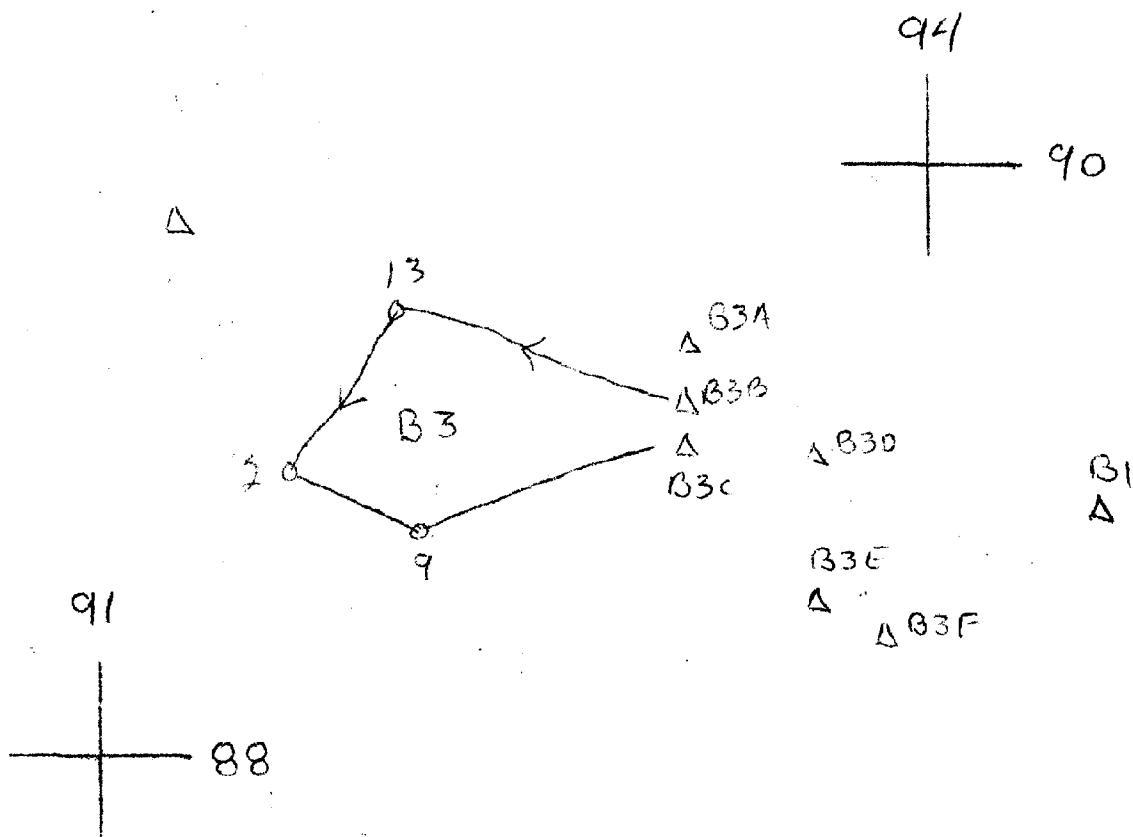


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ENCLOSURE (15)
SECRET

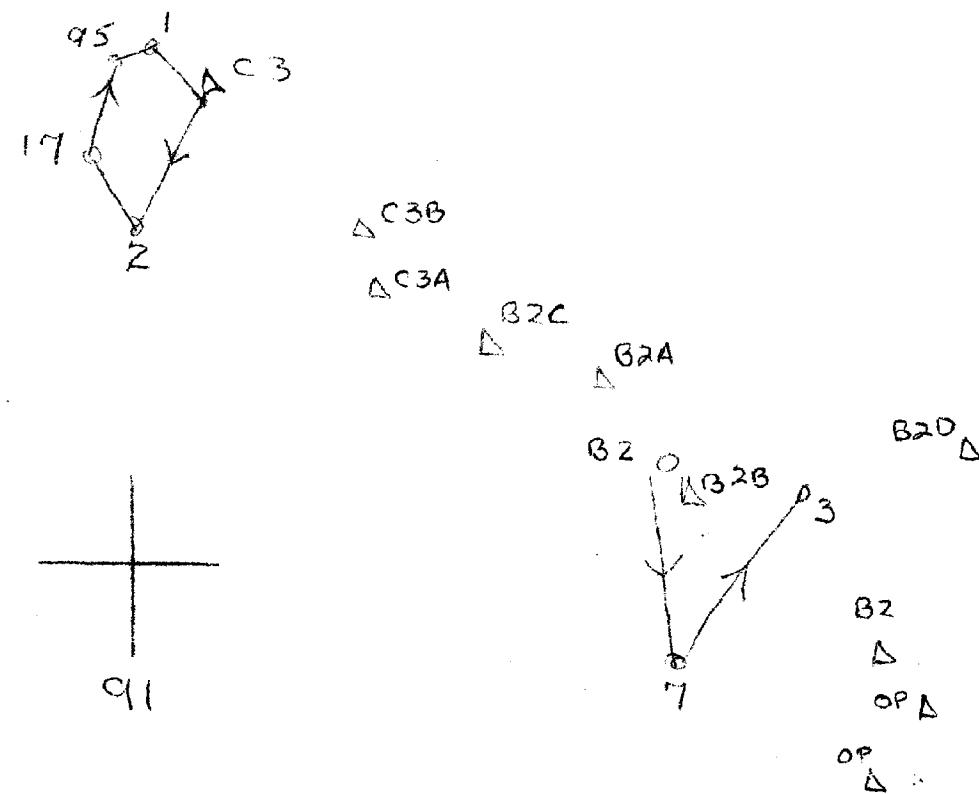
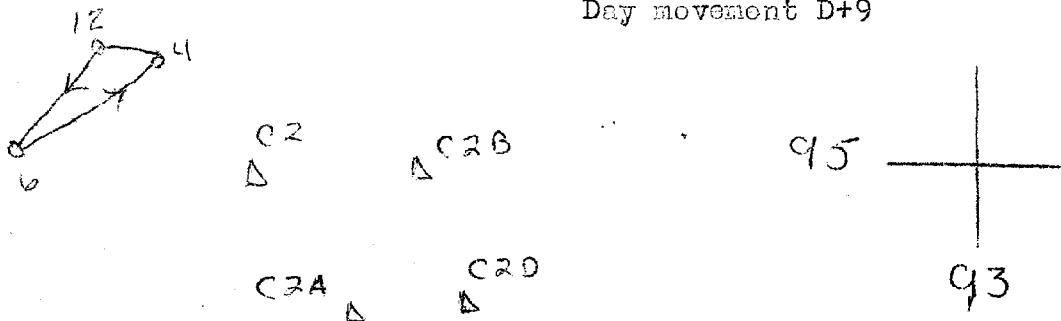
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Series L6020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+9



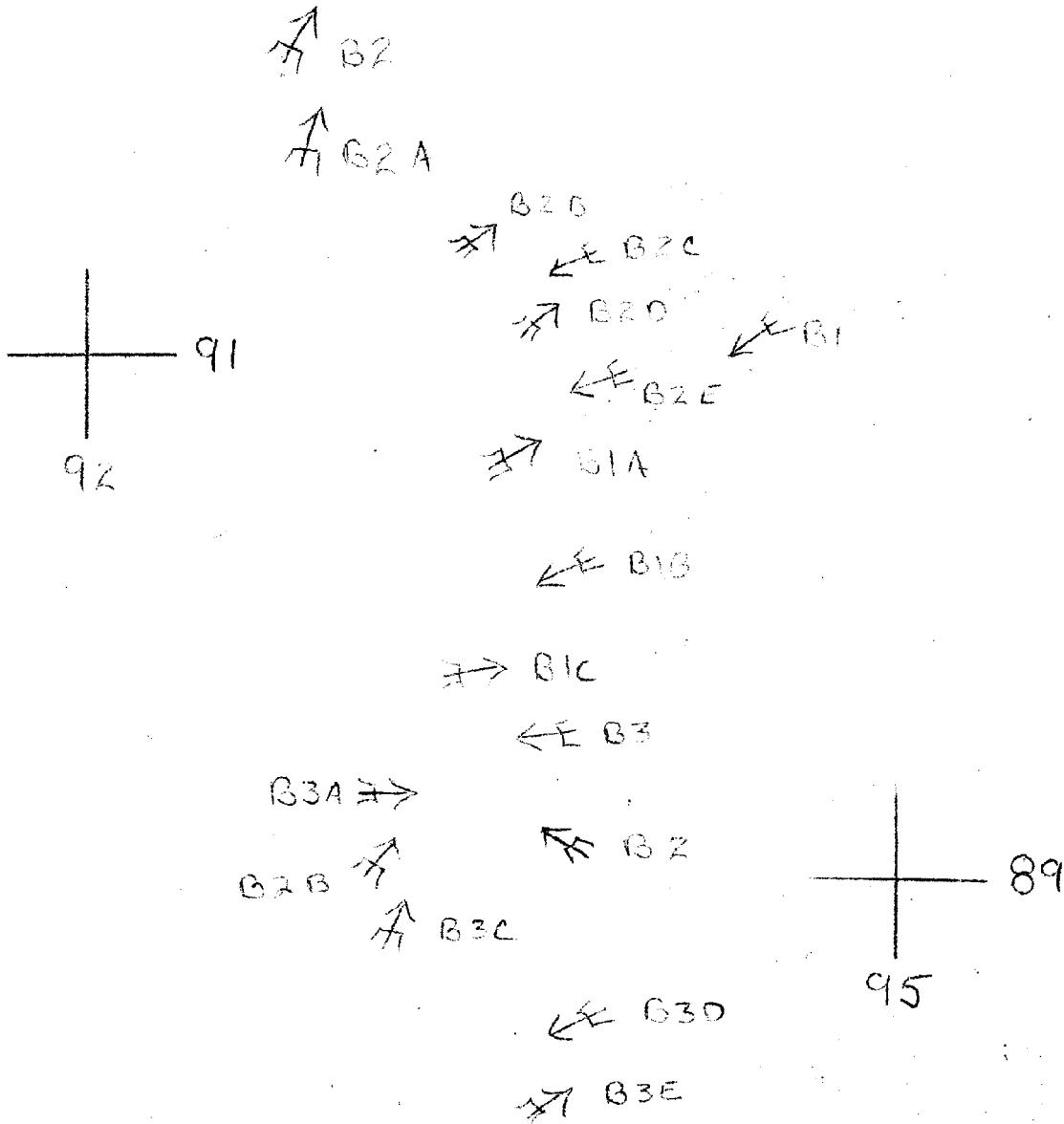
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 Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
 Day movement D+9



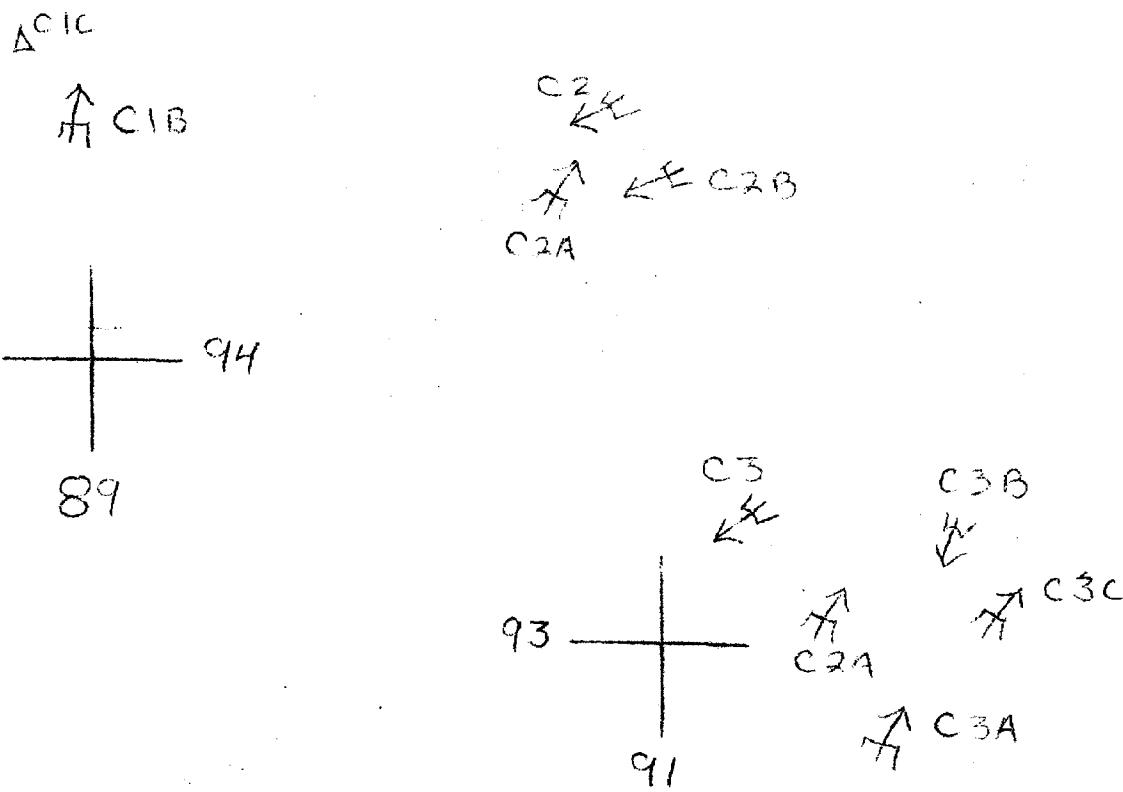
SECRET

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Series L6020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+9



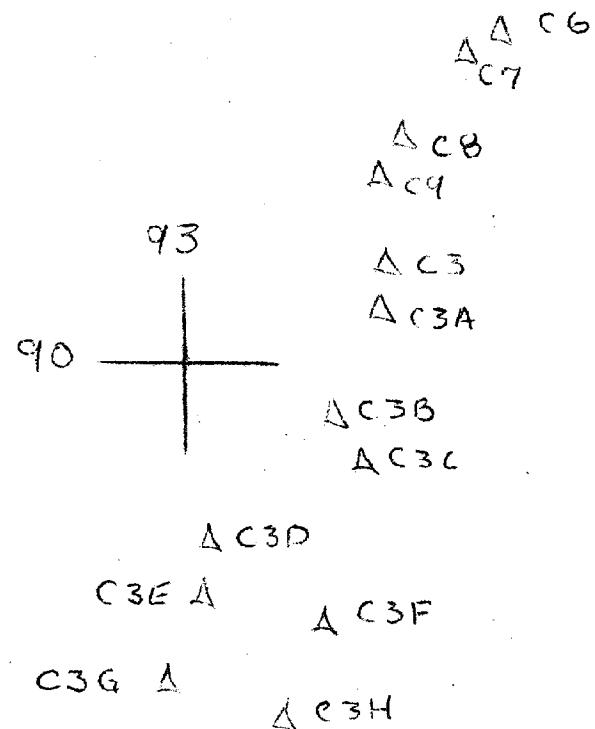
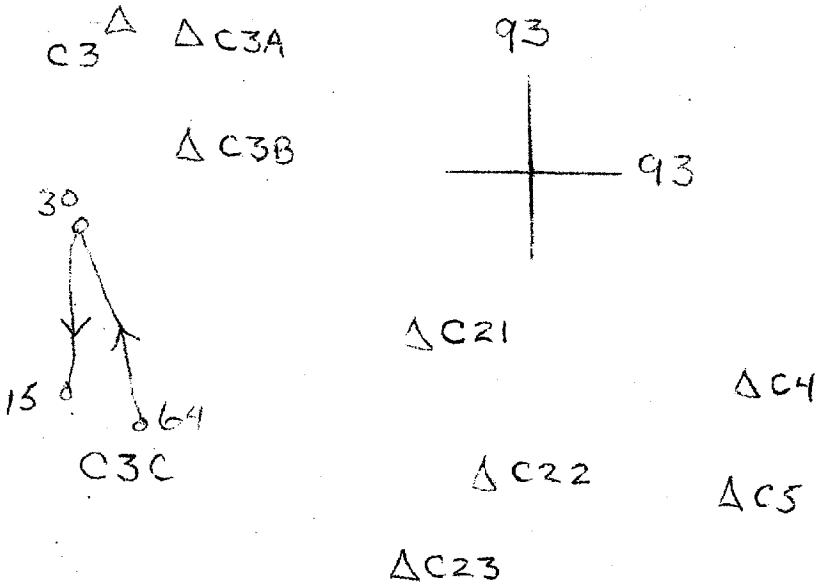
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+9



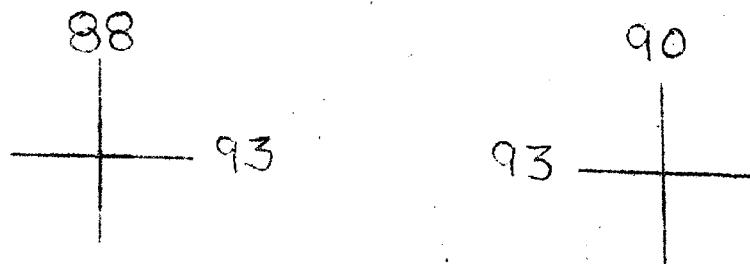
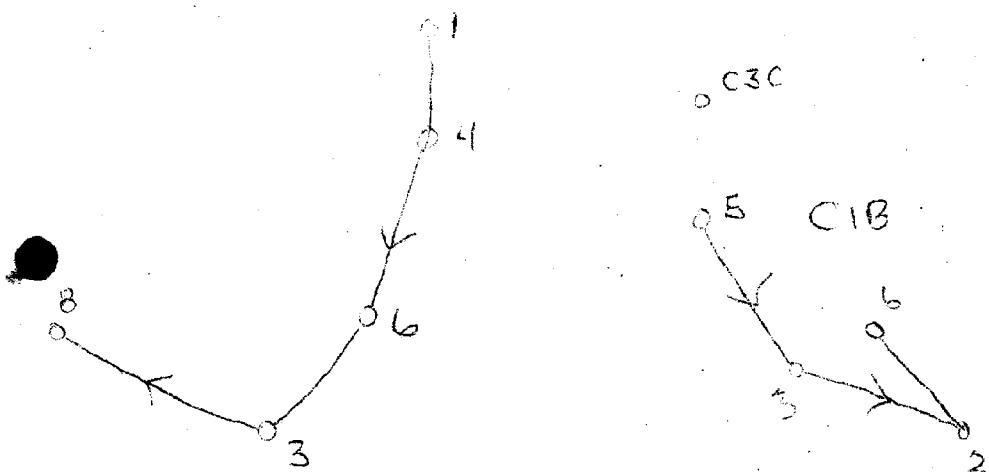
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Day Activities D+10



SECRET

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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day Activities D+10

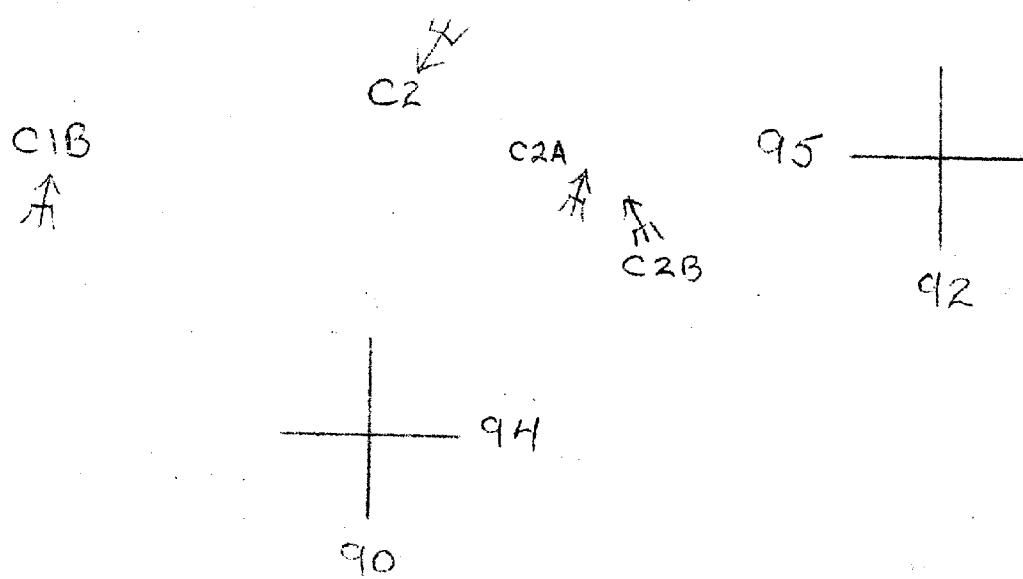


2

ENCLOSURE (16)
SECRET

SECRET

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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition 7+10



3.

ENCLOSURE (16)
SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps RVN; 1:25,000;
 Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
 Night disposition D+10

91

92

93

C3

C3B

C3A

B2E A

B2D A

B2C A

B2A A

B3A A

16

B

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B1

B1A

B1B

B1C

B1D

B1E

B1F

E → DIC

A D1

A D1E

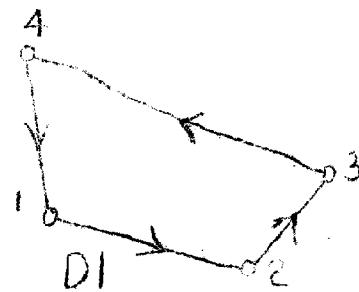
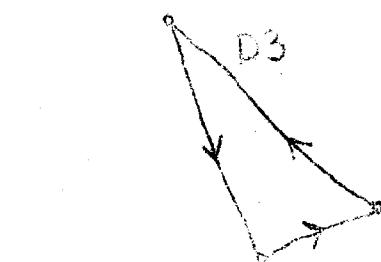
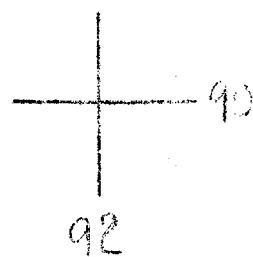
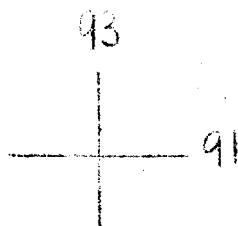
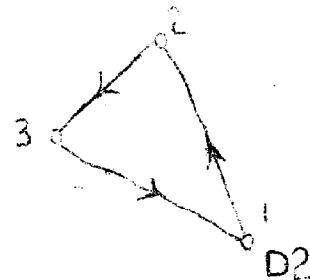
A B1

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ENCLOSURE (16)
 SECRET

SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020 6541 III N
Day movement D411



SECRET

Ref: (a) Maps RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L6020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+11

90
+----- 95

OP
ΔC2
CP
ΔC2A

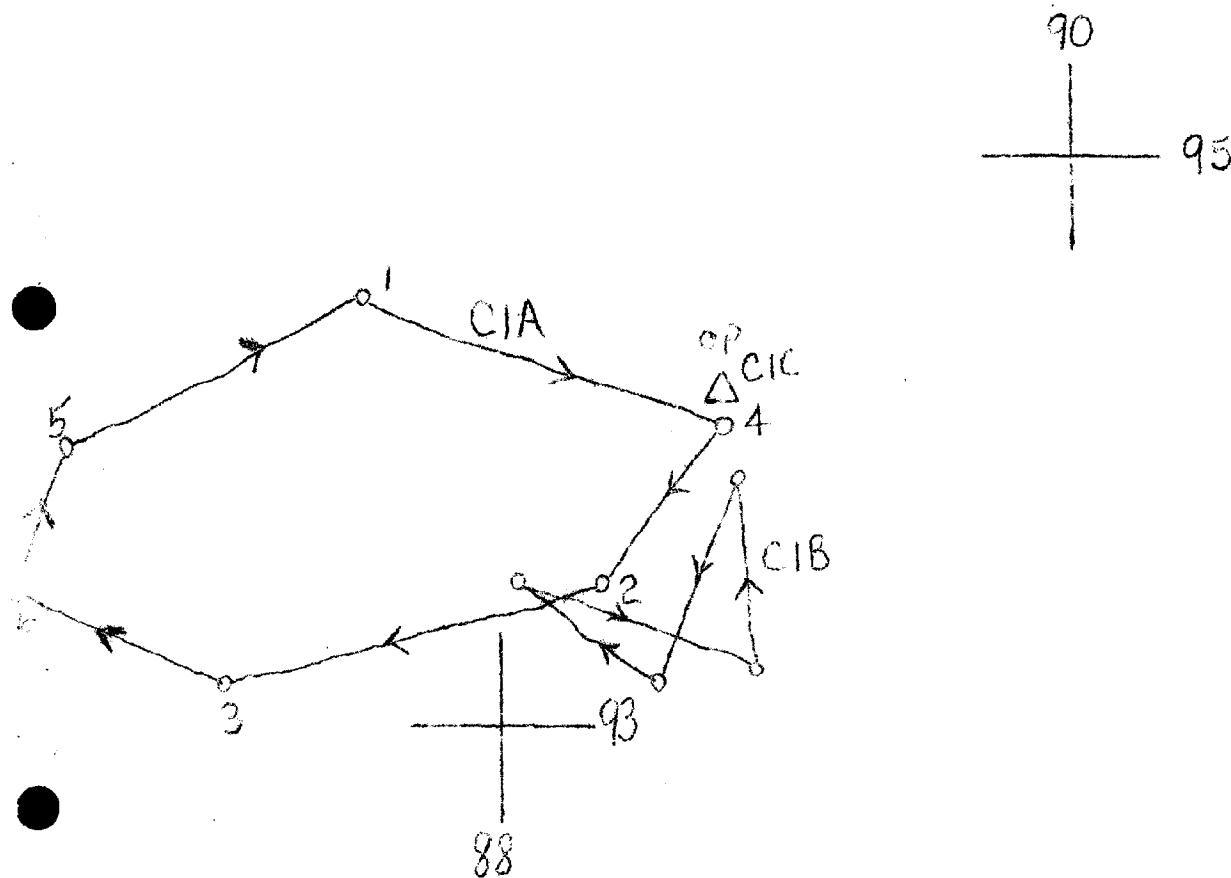
CP ΔC3B
ΔC2B

ΔC3A

93
+----- 93

SECRET

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Day movement D+11

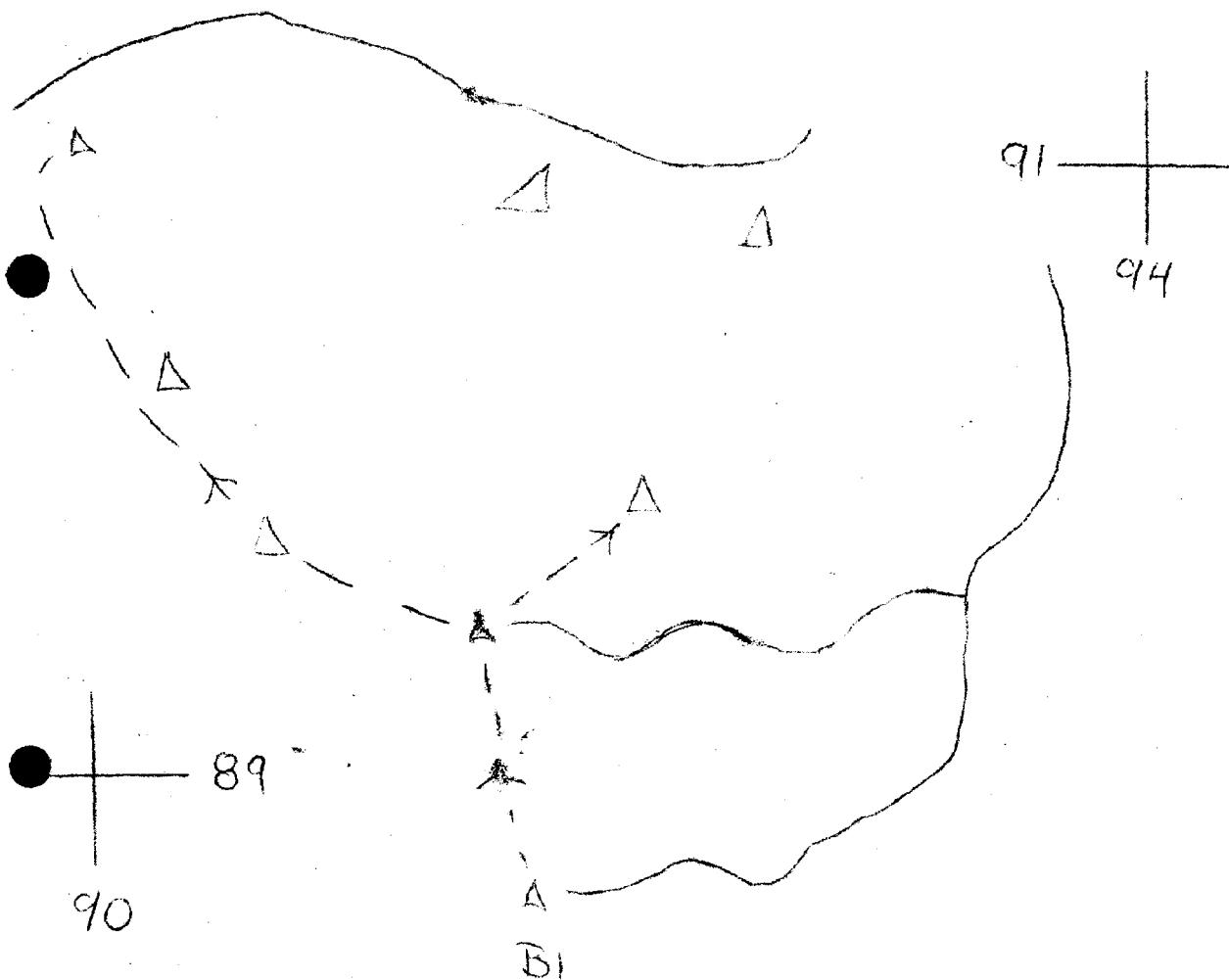


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ENCLOSURE (17)
S C R E T

S. CRET

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Series L0020, Sheet 6541 III N
Day movement D+11

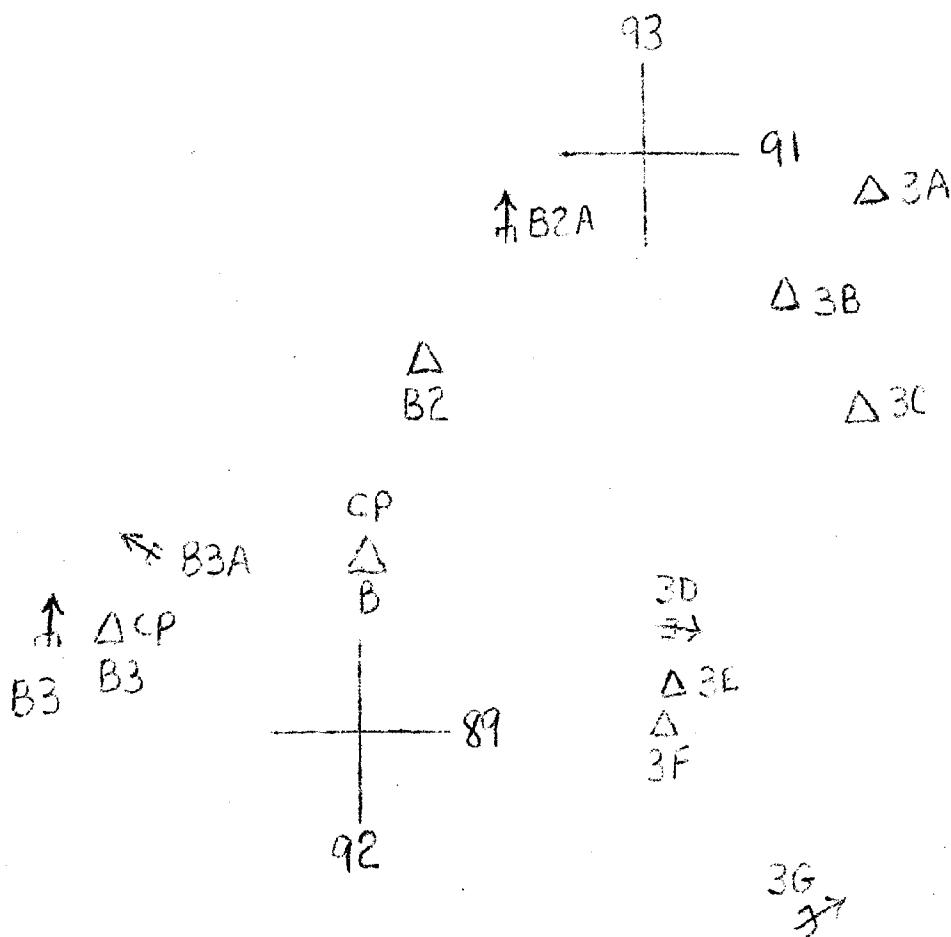


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ENCLOSURE (17)
SEC RET

SECRET

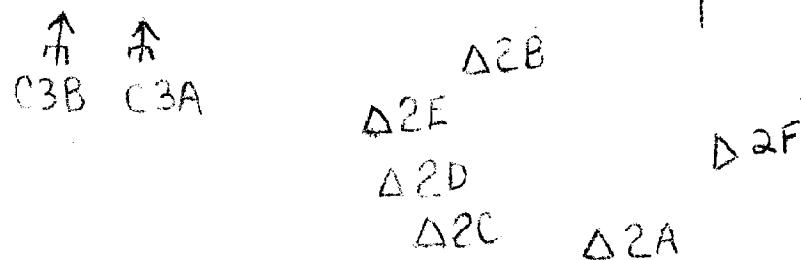
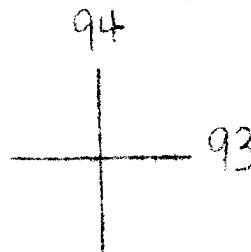
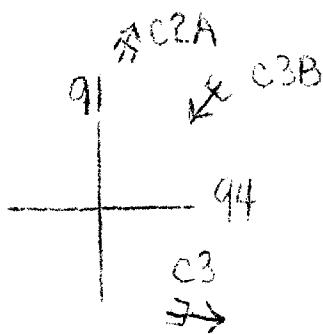
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Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+11



SECRET

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Series L6021, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+11

↑
C3



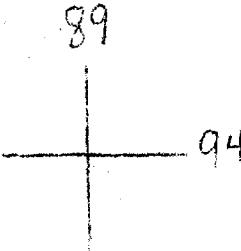
SECRET

Ref: (a) Map s RVN; 1:25,000;
Series L8020, Sheet 6541 III N
Night disposition D+11

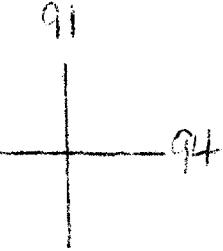
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Hai Van RVN
17 March 1968

Frag Order 33-68

Ref: (a) Operation Order 3-68
(b) Maps: RVN 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I,
6541 II, 6541 III, 6541 IV, 6641 IV1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy. See current ISUMS and PERINTREPS.
- b. Friendly. No Change.
- c. Company A chopped from OPCON 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines

2. MISSION. No Change.3. EXECUTION.a. Company A.

(1) Upon return from OPCON 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to relieve Company C of present mission in A0# 2 at about 180900H (See Operations Overlay).

b. Company B.

(1) Upon return and completion of Search and Destroy mission effect unit resupply and 1st and 2nd echelon maintenance of organic equipment.

(2) Conduct unit training in Battalion Assembly Area as practical.

(3) Be prepared to assume mission of Company D at about 190800H.

c. Company C.

(1) Continue present mission.

(2) Be prepared be relieved by Company A at about 181200H.

(3) Be prepared to assume other missions on order.

ENCLOSURE (13)
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d. Company D.

- (1) Continue present mission.
- (2) Be prepared to be relieved by Company B Establish outpost vicinity Hill 336 (AT 963929) and coordinate attack in area west of a line from (AT 942948) to (AT 962914) to fix and destroy/capture the enemy, his weapons, equipment, supply caches and fortifications.
- (4) Establish outpost vicinity hill 1192 and conduct activities therefrom.
 - (a) Establish company patrols and bases.
 - (b) Conduct small unit patrolling activities.
 - (c) Conduct training when practical.
- (5) Be prepared to assume other activities or missions on order.

e. Coordinating Instructions.

- (1) Reference (a).
- (2) Operation Overlay (Attached).
- (3) Coordinate with adjacent units.
- (4) Development of EEI's emphasized.
- (5) Overlay of patrol routes to be submitted one hour prior to unit departure.
- (6) Positions report every hour 10 minutes before the hour on all moving units.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS.a. Company C and D.

- (1) Three days MCI's per man.
- (2) Basic allowance ammo per man.

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(3) Corpsman carry nylon stretchers.

(4) 2½ lbs. C-4 per man (Company C only).

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No Change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Major USMC
Commanding

✓ANNEX A: Operation Overlay

OFFICIAL

S. A. Wunderlich

L. A. WUNDERLICH
Major USMC
S-3