

SECRET

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

3/CEO/afp
005750
1 June 1968

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

Subj: Command Chronology for period 1-31 May 1968

Ref: (a) MCO 5750.2A
(b) FMF PacO. 5750.8
(c) DivO 5750.2B

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

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

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

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CMD CHRON

MAY 1968

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

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 May 1968 to 31 May 1968

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PART IORGANIZATIONAL DATA1. DISPATCH

1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) Lt. Col. R. H. THOMPSON
1-31 May 1968

H&S Company

1st Lt. S. A. NELSON
1-13 May 1968
1st Lt. J. K. TAUSSIG
14-31 May 1968
Capt R. C. RICH
1-27 May 1968
1st Lt. S. A. NELSON
28-31 May 1968

Company A

Company B

Capt J. M. BEAUCHAMP
1-31 May 1968

Company C

Capt J. P. CAYNAK
1-31 May 1968

Company D

Capt M. C. HARRINGTON
1-31 May 1968

ATTACHED UNITS

Det, 13th ITT

Sgt R. C. MALSZ
1-31 May 1968

Det, 3rd Plat, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

Sgt D. A. CLINE
1-16 May 1968
Sgt M. D. ALLEN Jr.
17-18 May 1968
Cpl D. G. McFEE
19-31 May 1968

Det, Btry D, 2nd Bn, 11th Mar

1st Lt. R. E. REDLIN
1-18 May 1968
1st Lt. T. A. CURD
19-31 May 1968

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ENCLOSURE (1)

Det, Scout Sniper Plat

Sgt W. R. WILLS
1-31 May 1968

Det, Sentry Dogs 3rd MPBn

Sgt H. C. FORREST
1-31 May 1968

Det, Scout Dogs 3rd MPBn

Sgt C. F. WEST
23-31 May 1968

2. LOCATIONS.

1-31 May 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-)(Rein)
participated in Operation "HOUSTON PHASE II"

1-31 May 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rear) located
at Phu Bai, RVN.

1-31 May 1968 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Forward)
located at coordinates (YD 930073).

3. STAFF OFFICERS.

Executive Officer

Maj. L. A. WUNDERLICH
1-31 May 1968

S-1 Officer/Adjutant

1st Lt. T. E. HOWARD
1-31 May 1968

S-2 Officer

1st Lt. G. L. ALVAREZ

S-3 Officer

Maj. C. E. OAKLEY
1-31 May 1968

S-4 Officer

Capt. E. B. BURROW
1-31 May 1968

S-5 Officer

1st Lt. S. A. NELSON
1-13 May 1968
1st Lt. B. G. WELCH
14-31 May 1968

Medical Officer

1st Lt. R. E. WORLEY (USNR)
1-31 May 1968

Supply Officer

1st Lt. L. MALL
1-31 May 1968

Motor Transport Officer

1st Lt. R. P. STROM
1-31 May 1968

Communications Officer

1st Lt. L. E. FREIDHEIM
1-31 May 1968

Assistant Adjutant/Logal Officer

1st Lt. R. C. YOUNG
1-31 May 1968

Chaplain

Lt. J. F. PHILLIPS (USN)
1-31 May 1968

Air Liaison Officer

Capt. R. T. TAYLOR

4. AVERAGE MONTHLY STRENGTH

<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>USMC</u> <u>ENLISTED</u>	<u>OFFICERS</u>	<u>USN</u> <u>ENLISTED</u>
35	1047	3	50

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PART IINARRATIVE SUMMARY1. PERSONNEL AND ADMINISTRATION

a. Strength. Total strength at the beginning of the month was 38 officers and 1093 enlisted. By 15 May the Battalion's strength was 37 Marine Officers and 1059 Marine Enlisted. By the end of the month the Battalion's strength had changed to 32 Officers and 1008 Enlisted. At this time one officer and 29 enlisted are hospitalized. Joinings during the month totaled one officer and sixty-three enlisted.

b. Discipline, Law, and Legal. There were nine Special Courts-Martial and three Summary Courts-Martial convened during May. This left three Specials and three Summarys to be processed. Six investigations were completed, and three are pending.

c. POW/Detainees. There were twenty detainees processed during May. Nine detainees were classified POW.

d. Morale. Morale and fighting spirit remain excellent.

e. Postal. Postal Service is still at a noteworthy high. Mail is quickly distributed after being received twice daily. Delivery of mail to the field is going smoothly.

f. Awards. Six Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars, and six Navy Commendation Medals were presented to members of this Battalion. Six Bronze Stars, seven Navy Achievements and seven Purple Hearts were forwarded to former members of this command. Numerous recommendations were submitted during the month for heroism and meritorious service.

g. Interior Management. Administrative procedures, as well as the proficiency of the Battalion, continued to improve.

2. ENEMY, WEATHER AND TERRAIN. During this period 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was committed to "OPERATION HOUSTON" Phase II. This portion of the Command Chronology is included in the After Action Report attached hereto as Tab "A".

ENCLOSURE (1)

3. ORGANIZATION AND OPERATIONS.

a. Organization. The organization of the battalion remained substantially the same throughout the month of May. The battalion continued in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II throughout the month from 010001H through 312400H. The following units were OPCON to the Battalion during the month:

- (1) Det, Sentry Dog Teams, 3rd MPBn
- (2) Det, Scout Dog Teams, 3rd MPBn
- (3) Det, Scout Sniper Plat, HqCo, 5th Mar
- (4) Det, Co B, 1st Engr Bn
- (5) Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 010001H through 061400H May 1968.
- (6) Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to Fifth Marines from 010001H through 012400H May 1968.
- (7) 3rd Plat, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines was OPCON to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines from 091400H through 161630H May 1968.
- (8) Elements of First Force Recon Company and Company H, 2nd Battalion, 27th Marines formed a provisional company and were OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines from 291910H May 1968 to 300700H May 1968.

b. Operations.

(1) The Battalion continued to participate in Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II from 1 May 1968 through 31 May 1968. Phase III Operation "HOUSTON" commenced at 010001H June 1968.

(2) The Battalion conducted numerous small unit operations during the month. The following activities were conducted:

(a) Day activities for the month totalled 15 fire team activities; 160 squad activities; 92 platoon activities; and 11 Company Operations.

(b) Night activities for the month totalled 12 fire team activities; 575 squad activities; 42 platoon activities; and 4 Company Operations.

(3) During Phase II, units of the Battalion assisted GVN forces in conducting rice denial operations. Through combined efforts, over 350 tons of rice was stored in secure areas.

(4) Two combined operations were conducted with elements of the Provincial Reconnaissance Unit. One, a Cordon and Search, resulted in the detention of nine civil dependents, purchasers for the VC. The second operation, a night raid supported by blocking forces, produced the following results: Eight VC KIA Confirmed, and 8 AK-47's captured.

c. Supporting Arms.

(1) Air. During this period 31 missions were flown by Marine TAC/AC teams for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, controlling 10 flights of fixed wing and providing valuable aerial observation in support of the Battalion's mission of patrolling, road security, special operations and waterway denial. Other missions completed included 13 visual reconnaissance missions, 19 medevacs, 12 flareships, 6 flights of HUE-1 Gun Ships and 1 Spooky mission.

(2) Artillery. Battery "D", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines was in direct support for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during the month of May. Following an expansion of 1st Battalion, 5th Marines AO, Battery "E", 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines assumed a mission of General Support with Priority of Fires for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. The majority of artillery fire support was in the form of Day and Night Harassing and Interdiction fires, Blocking Fires and S-2 Targets. Reconnaissance inserts and CAP units were also supported by artillery fires from Batteries "D" and "E".

(3) Tanks. Tanks were employed in small unit mechanized patrols south of route # 1 to search for and destroy enemy forces and to determine trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles.

(4) Ontos. Ontos were employed in small unit mechanized patrols south of route # 1 to search for and destroy enemy forces and to determine trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles.

4. TRAINING.

a. The following training was conducted during the month:

- (1) Weapons Safety
- (2) Ambushes
- (3) Patrolling

- (4) Gun drill: 81mm; 60mm; 106mm's; and M-60 MG
- (5) Small Unit Leadership
- (6) Care and Cleaning of Weapons and Equipment
- (7) Mapping and Compass
- (8) Familiarization Firing and Zeroing of Small Arms
- (9) Weapons Inspection

b. During the past month, three courses of instructions were conducted on the battalion level as follows:

(1) Artillery F.O. Procedures. A four-hour course with three hours of application, taught four times to a total of twenty-four Marines.

(2) Communications Procedures and Preventive Maintenance for the AN/PRC 25, 41 and 47. This course of twenty-four hours instruction and application taught over a three-day period was repeated three times and was attended by twenty-four Marines.

(3) Radar PPS-6 Operators. This course of twenty-four hours instruction and application taught over a three-day period, was repeated three times and was attended by eight Marines.

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

d. The Battalion continued to utilize schools provided by higher headquarters. During the month, 28 members of the Battalion attended schools in DaNang and Okinawa.

5. LOGISTICS.

a. Supply. During the past month no major problems occurred in the logistical area. The resupply of companies along route # 1 was greatly assisted by the addition of two 6x6 trucks, which gives the Battalion four 6x6 trucks. Three of the trucks are utilized from the Phu Bai area, and the fourth assists the company which operates in the vicinity

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Company C(-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. J. P. CAYNAK

Det, H&S Company
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm
 S-2 Scout

Company D(-)(Rein) 1st Bn, 5th Mar Capt. M. C. HARRINGTON

Det, H&S Company
 Det, 81mm Mortar Plat
 Det, Mod Plat
 Det, Comm Plat
 FAC Tm
 Kit Carson Tm
 S-2 Scout

The following units were OPCON to the Battalion during Operation "HOUSTON" phase IV:

(1) Company L, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines from 010001H through 081200H July 1968.

(2) Det, 3rd MPDn (Sentry Dogs) from 010001H through 081200H July 1968.

(3) Det, 3rd MPDn (Scout Dogs) from 010001H through 091158H July 1968.

(4) Det, Hq Co, 5th Marines (Scout Snipers) from 010001H through 091158H July 1968.

7. Supporting Forces

a. Air. 1st MAW provided fixed wing and helicopter support. During this period 9 missions were flown by Marine TACA/AO Teams for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, controlling 1 flight of fixed wing and providing valuable aerial observation in support of the Battalion's mission of patrolling, road security, special operations and waterway denial. Other missions completed included 7 visual reconnaissance missions, 18 Medevacs, 2 flareships, and 4 flights of HUE-1 Gunships.

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~~SECRET~~b. Artillery

(1) Delta Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, was in direct support of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines with Echo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines, in general support with priority of fires to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. A platoon of 155 guns from 1st 155 Gun Battery, 11th Marines also provided support.

(2) Delta Battery fired a total of 54 missions in support of the maneuver elements.

(3) Artillery support for the month was primarily unobserved missions such as S-2 Targets, Blocking Fires and Harassing & Interdiction Fires.

(4) An average of 55 H&I Fires were delivered daily on likely enemy targets.

c. Tanks. Tanks were employed in Direct Support of small unit and platoon size mechanized patrols to search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles. Excellent results were achieved by using tanks to support an infantry assault.

d. Ontos. Ontos were employed in Direct Support of small unit and platoon size mechanized patrols to search for and destroy enemy forces and equipment, and to determine the trafficability of the terrain for tracked vehicles. Excellent results were achieved by using Ontos to support an infantry assault.

e. Engineers. Engineers were employed principally to supervise mine laying, construct bunkers, destroy duds, booby traps and captured enemy ammunition, and to conduct daily mine sweeps of the road networks in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR.

f. Shore Party (HST). HST provided good support in coordinating and effecting helicopter resupply and medevacs.

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8. Intelligence

a. Estimate of NVA/VC strength, location and disposition in the objective area. Intelligence reports received from 5th Marines order of Battle Section on 30 June 1968, identified elements of the following units operating in or near the Battalion's Area of Operation.

(1) Southeast Phu Bai TAOR

<u>Conf. Units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt Loc</u>	<u>Date</u>
K2 NVA	250	ZC 015935	1-9Jul68
K4 MF	200	ZC 0495	1-9Jul68
K4A MF	200	YD 985010	1-9Jul68
K4C NVA	250	YC 9298	1-9Jul68
K5 NVA	250	YC 8993	1-9Jul68
K10 LF	150	YC 853997	1-9Jul68
K15 NVA	350	YC 9299	1-9Jul68
4th NVA Regt Hq	250	ZC 0298	1-9Jul68

(2) Enemy Units adjacent to Battalion's AO

<u>Conf. Units</u>	<u>Est. Strength</u>	<u>Last Rpt Loc</u>	<u>Date</u>
K4B MF	250	ZC 1096	1-9Jul68
C118 LF Co	65	Phu Loc (D)	1-9Jul68

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b. Enemy strength and disposition actually determined during operations.

(1) Based on information derived from POW enemy documents recovered, intelligence reports from higher headquarters and the nature of enemy contacts encountered during this period, enemy strength within the Battalion AO was estimated to be one regiment, and separate supporting units. The enemy had the capability of reinforcing with one regiment (-) within 14 hours.

(2) A total of 19 contacts were recorded during this period, nine were friendly initiated by ambush and patrols. One Anti-Tank mine was discovered and destroyed in place.

c. NVA/VC Unit Identified. During this reporting period, a document taken from a body revealed elements of the D4C Battalion were operating in the Battalion's TAOR.

d. Significant Intelligence Gained. During this reporting period an increase in enemy contacts (probes and harassing friendly positions in the Battalion AO) indicates that the enemy is completing his reorganization.

e. Terrain. (No change).

f. Weather. Throughout this period of the operation, the weather was warm to hot during daylight hours, and mild to cool at night. Sky conditions were partly cloudy during the day with afternoon and evening thunderstorms or rain showers. Mostly clear skies were reported during the nights. Visibility was generally unrestricted, decreasing 1-3 miles in shower activity. Air operations were hampered slightly during this period.

9. Mission. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines provide security for vital bridges along MSR and observation posts in AO. Conduct Search and Destroy operations in AO to fix and destroy the enemy, his weapons, supplies and fortifications. Conduct rice denial operations. Assume Bald Eagle/Sparrowhawk commitment and other missions as directed.

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8. Intelligence.

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

(1) Intelligence reports received from 5th Marines on 23 May 1968, identified elements of the following units, operating in or in the vicinity the Battalion's area of operation.

(a) South East Phu Bai TAOR (1-31 May 1968)

Confirmed Units	Est. Strength	Last Rpt Loc	Date
K-4B Bn NVA	300	ZC 1096	23May68
K-4C Bn NVA	300	YC 8889	23May68
810 Bn MF	300	YD 8403	23May68
C-19 Engr Co NVA	150	Vic S Phu Loc (D)	23May68
C-24 Engr Co NVA	90	Vic S Phu Loc (D)	23May68
C-116 Co LF	75	YD 8420	23May68

(b) Enemy Units adjacent to 1/5 TAOR.

Confirmed Units	Est. Strength
K-4A Bn MF	300
802 Bn NVA	300
804 Bn NVA	380

b. Enemy strength and disposition actually determined during operations.

(1) Phu Bai TAOR

(a) Based on information derived from POW enemy documents recovered and the nature of enemy contacts encountered during this period enemy strength was estimated one Regiment plus Company size separate units within the Battalion's TAOR.

(b) A total of fifty contacts were recorded during this period, thirty two were friendly initiated by ambushes and patrols. The enemy contacts were characterized by harassment/sniping incidents of friendly isolated outposts and patrols. Mining incidents were on an increase in the last 5 days of the reporting period within Company B, AO. Two anti-tank mine and two box mines were detected or detonated. The enemy executed attacks by fire utilizing 82mm and 60mm mortars on five occasions during this reporting period. The enemy effected a major effort during the attack of 10 May 1968 against the Troui Bridge.

(c) The local rice harvest continued throughout this reporting period. The enemy continued his effort to resupply by sending columns of rice bearers by night, escorted by armed NVA security elements, to the lowlands and across highway # 1 to the rice fields of Phu Loc, Huong Thuy and Phu Vang Districts.

c. NVA/VC Unit identified

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

(a) Subject, a rice carrier who rallied to village chief on 010700H May 68 identified his unit as the "Corridor Co," which is subordinate to the K-10 Bn. The company has a strength estimated at 44 men.

(b) DO HUU HUNG, NGUYEN VAN DANH, TRUONG VAN BUI, TRAN NGOC TRUNG, HUYNH VAN CHANH, all riflemen who rallied to Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 040630H May 68 identified their unit as the "Capitol Ranger Co", which is normally assigned a reinforcement mission. The Capitol Ranger Co consists of 150 men, which carry 3 B-40's, 1 B-41 and numerous individual weapons. Other units identified were the K-2, K-4 and K-6 whose locations were unknown to sources.

(c) HUYNH VAN CHANH, a squad leader who rallied to Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 051610H May 68 identified his unit as the "CO AN Co" (Capitol Rangers). Source was formerly a member of VC 1st Defense Platoon which operates regularly in hamlet Thon Vy Da (YD 780235). Location of the CO AN Co is unknown.

(d) TRAN CU, a rice carrier who deserted from the ARVN Paratroopers and rallied to CAG H-3 on 171930H May 68. His unit designation was unknown to source as he claimed he was solely utilized as a rice carrier. Source was forced to act as a rice carrier for hamlet VC organization. Subject identified the following infrastructure as active in his hamlet: LE THANH, DIST COMMITTEE, TRUONG DAT, (VC VILLAGE CHIEF), LE DU, (FEMALE GUERRILLA), TRAN HICH, (AUTONOMOUS CHAIR), LE DOI, (AUTONOMOUS COMMITTEE), LE CHINH, (GUERRILLA), LE DUC (GUERRILLA).

(e) LE THAN TUNG, a squad leader for the "CO BINH Co", 2nd squad. Source indicated the strength of the 2nd squad was 11 men with 10 AK-47's, 1 B-40. His company strength was 39 men, and 4 officers. This particular unit was formerly designated "CO BEE Bn" and "MAICHI Bn". Subject could not specify what the respective units former designation had been. Other units were not identified.

(f) NGUYEN VAN THIET, a rice carrier who rallied to village chief on 091045H May 68 identified his unit as being the "PHAN DOI Co", "BIET DONG Bn" (Transportation Bn), he was in the 2nd squad, 3rd platoon. This unit reportedly was to provide replacements for the K-10 K-4 and other unidentified Battalions. Subject claims no specific knowledge of the location of any units he identified. When he rallied, subject was a member of a enemy resupply party of 40 men. The composition of source's unit was as follows: 2 squads to each platoon; 1 squad had 17 men. The squad leaders are all NVA and are armed with AK-47's. The remainder of men carried no weapons. Each company consists of 4 platoons. An unknown number of companies comprised a battalion whose T/O strength was (150) men. Source's unit has operated with K-10 and K-4 Bn's. K-10 and K-4 elements provided security screen for resupply parties. Point elements comprised a ten man group armed with seven carbines, two AK-47's and one B-40 Rocket Launcher.

(g) LE THAN TUNG, a squad leader for VC unit "CO BINH" (Separate action unit) rallied to village chief on 191030H May 68. Source revealed that a VC assistant District Chief had made a liaison trip from Hue to subject unit "CO BINH" on 9 May 68. The purpose of TUNG's trip was to coordinate Hue VC Cadre participation in NVA planned attack against Hue. Subject indicated that TUNG has contact with at least seven other VC Cadre which subject identified as follows: Dieu, Gai, Lanh, Be, Ti, Mai, and Ong-Sau. Subject had knowledge of at least 5 other armed VC who are currently waiting orders and living in Hue City.

(h) PFC NGUYEN DINH LACH, PFC HONG VAN TRUNG, PFC LE VAN DUNG, all riflemen, PHAM PHU NGOC, an infantry squad leader, PFC NGUYEN VAN DUNG, and Pvt NGUYEN TRONG KHANH, rice carriers, indicated they were members of the respective following units: 5th Co, K-4 Bn; 1st Co, K-4 Bn; 1st Co, K-4 Bn; 2nd Co, K-4 Bn; 2nd Co, K-4 Bn; 2nd Co, K-4 Bn. All were captured by Company B, 1st Battalion 5th Marines on 29 May 68. Strength and equipment; 1st and

2nd Co have 90 men each, 5th Co has 150 men, 1st and 2nd Co have unknown number of small arms, 3x B-40's per Co, two 60mm Mortars per Co, 5th Co has 4 82mm Mortars, three 60mm Mortars, six B-40's, three B-41's and unknown number of small arms (SKS and AK-47). Composition of 1st and 2nd Co's as follows: three squads of seven men each, per platoon, three platoons per company, 5th Co has four squads of ten men each platoon, three platoons per company. The composition of the battalion is unknown.

(i) NGUYEN VAN HAM, Pvt, rifleman, and HUU TRUNG, Pvt, B-41 Rocket man revealed they were members of the K-8 Bn, and K-85 Bn respectively. They were captured by Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 291800H May 68. TRUNG stated that he had been in the army since 25 August 67. He stated that the subordination of the unit was as follows: the 9th Regt., K-85 Bn., 5th Co, 2nd platoon, 5th squad. There was only one B-41 in his company, no B-40s. HAM stated that K-8 Bn has an unknown number of men and equipment. 6th Co, had 120 men and unknown equipment. 3rd platoon had 30 men and unknown equipment. 2nd squad had ten men divided into two five-man sections. 1st Section had five men with SKS. 2nd section had five men with two AK-44, two submachineguns and one AR. The 2nd platoon has a fourth squad. First platoon has one 60mm Mortar. Subject indicated he had no knowledge of other companies in the battalion. Sixth Co has four platoons numbered one, two, three, four. Third platoon has three squads numbered one, two, three. Source had no knowledge of other units.

(j) PHAN VAN DONG, PFC assigned to the K-15 Bn, was captured by Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 291300H May 68. He is an assistant radio operator. Strength and equipment of the C-1: the company has 60 men with nine 60mm Mortars, two LMG, nine B-41, eighteen B-40. C-2 company has 70 men with nine 60mm Mortars, one LMG, nine B-41, eighteen B-40. C-3 Company has 200 men with nine 60mm Mortars. Battalion headquarters is comprised of approximately 44 men. The headquarters reportedly utilizes 15 watt hand generator radio. Each company has three platoons numbered one, two, three. Each platoon has three squads numbered 1, 2, 3. There are 6-7 men per squad and most armed with AK-47. Each squad has two B-40 and one B-41.

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d. Significant Intelligence Gained.

(1) Order of Battle. The following additional information was obtained concerning units identified in paragraph 8.c.

(a) The "Corredor Company", a newly formed unit with strength estimated at 44 men was identified by a Chieu Hoi with the mission to provide security for rice resupply mission of the K-10 Bn. It is believed that the Corredor Company is subordinate to the K-10 Bn. When employed, the company provides scouts/reconnaissance personnel for rice carrying groups of 200-300 men. Approximately half of the rice carriers are youth volunteers. Many of the youth volunteers are females. Source asserted that only half of the K-10 carry weapons on rice missions. Rice runs are made nightly and the entire group crosses the highway # 1, at (YD 919112), a trail junction with highway # 1. An alternate crossing is in the vicinity of (YD 932090) (path leading through graveyard). Time of crossing is approximately 2200H everynight. The return crossing is done regularly at 0100H. One platoon from Corredor company normally provides security.

(b) The "Capitol Ranger Company" having an estimated strength of 150 men is 50% NVA and 50% VC. When encountered by elements of this Battalion, the enemy was enroute to resupply another unit with weapons and possible replacements for VC units operating Phu Vang District. This company has worked in conjunction with the K-10 Bn. Other units similarly identified were the K-2, K-4 and K-6 Bn.

(c) The "CO BINH Company" with strength of 4 officers and 39 men of unknown subordination operates in the vicinity of (YD 8502), this unit has mission to establish military government after occupation of area by combat forces. This unit was reported receiving training in mountains. During this training, emphasis reportedly was being placed on street fighting. This unit was last on a rice run to An Nong (hamlet) on 16 May 68. It arrived vicinity this hamlet 2200H. After a 30 minute layover outside hamlet, rice supply was delivered by hamlet residents to waiting resupply column. Return trip to mountain was made same night.

(d) The "BIET BONG Bn" (Transportation Bn) whose location reportedly is: Upper left (YD 8402), Lower right (YD 8501). Mission of unit to provide replacements for K-4, K-10 and other units.

(e) The K-10 Battalion has been reported to have been reinforced with a estimated strength of 500 men. Present location of subordinate units of this Bn, as follows: (YD 970130), (YD 950150), and (YD 935140). This Bn has primary mission of rice procurement within 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR. (For tactic see Operation Houston Phase I report concerning rice mission subparagraph d.(1)(a).

(f) The K-4 Bn has a base area 10-15 kilometers west southwest of Troui Bridge, (YD 967063) in area of DOI LE HILL. The K-4's mission is to collect rice in the Troui River lowlands area. The K-4 has no permanent base camp at present, moving at least every 3-4 days within the canopy.

(g) The K-8 Bn reportedly subordinate to ninth regiment was identified as operating in 1st Battalion 5th Marines TAOR when a member was captured in an attempted rice resupply mission.

(h) The K-85 (new unit unknown AKA) was identified in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR when a member was captured. Mission of the K-85 is reportedly to attack unknown position.

(i) The K-15 Bn (new unit), letter box number 4416FH has an accumulative strength of an estimated 374 men. Unit subordination is unknown and was identified through interrogation of captured POW. The K-15 mission reportedly is to engage reinforcements from Phu Bai base area in event of action in Hue, and further to reinforce VC/NVC units in connection with any Hue/Phu Bai area operation. Secondary mission while in Phu Vang (D) vicinity (YD 8521), is to conduct rice collections, protect rice caches and instruct the people in rice concealment. People have been instructed to bury rice in nylon plastic bags around homes and under beds. This units area of operations vicinity (YD 8521). Base of operations is general area south southwest of Hue in mountains. Logistics and supply of unit is adequate with the exception of food. One and a half cans of rice per day per man are allocated. The morale is low for new men in the unit. These men are mostly students and Catholics. Their morale is reportedly attributed in part to low food supply.

(j) Results of Search and Cordon Operation conducted 11 May 68 vicinity AN NONG I, II and III by Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines units supported by PRUS and AP Teams were as follows:

(1) Nine (9) detainees were apprehended by search force after having discovered canned foods, bandages, rice and a bulk supply of manifold paper-stationary items hidden within homes or its vicinity. Upon interrogation all detainees revealed that these items were purchased by them, on the request of a VC cadre which operates in their respective hamlets. Information derived from field interrogation of these detainees further indicates VC cadre are considerably active in these areas acting in a support role in assisting Main Force NVA/VC forces deployed to the North and South of Highway # 1. Details of this activity are as follows:

a Hamlet VC cadre reportedly plan for and requisition needed supplies for enemy operational units in the following manner:

1 Contact is usually made by a VC hamlet cadre with a member of a local household usually during hours of darkness. A shopping list is provided for items needed which are then purchased on the open market by the local resident.

2 Funding is usually in any one of the three ways: Funds are provided by VC; Partial funds are provided with stipulation that the amount be matched by local residents as part of his tax; no funds are provided and entire expense is borne by local resident.

3 Pick up is usually made during hours of darkness by the same individual within 3-5 days later.

4 Females are used extensively as purchasing agents. In one instance recorded a teenager was also utilized.

b. Hamlet guerrillas operating as "go between" for NVA/VC operational forces normally harbor during daylight hours in the vicinity of their respective hamlets. When conditions are particularly favorable they sometimes stay in the hamlet itself resting at the home of relatives in area. Hamlet guerrillas make extensive use of the banks of the SONG NONG River (VC name "LA NGA") as harbor sites both during day light and hours of darkness.

(2) A team of PRU were attached between 20-28 May 68 to gather information concerning areas of interest within the Battalion TAOR. The following intelligence information was ascertained which proved to be accurate, and resulted in a significant contact by Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 29 May 68 which resulted in 55 confirmed KIA, and 9 POW's, and over 30 weapons captured. The PRUs reported that in Loc Son Village on 22 May 68 two companies of the K-4 Bn moved through the area to Bao Vinh An Hamlet. The route indicated was identified as the "14th National Highway". Their mission was to carry rice. The PRUs also turned names of local guerrillas and VC supporters which were forwarded to CI for further exploitation.

Other information received indicated that the VC moved by boat from Ha Trung Va Hamlet (YD 023112) to Cong Quam Bridge (YD 970105) and normally proceed to the mountains to the southeast. The VC reportedly stay at Hac Hau hamlet (YD 955099) during the day light hours. After dark one platoon size unit moves toward mountains, and follow the general trace from (YD 955099) to (YD 959081) to (YD 935065) then along route 545. PRU information also revealed rice caches at Thon An Nong I (YD 918097) and Xon An Cu (YD 907086). Based on this information a Search and Cordon operation was conducted on 28 May 68 vicinity An Nong I and Xon An Cu by S-2 personnel, PRUs, and Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines elements. Three detainees were apprehended and classified as VC supporters. Later the detainees were released to the custody of village chief. No rice was recovered.

e. Terrain. No Change

f. Weather. Throughout the operation the weather was warm to hot during day light hours and mild to cool at nights. The moon was in its last quarter. Illumination was reduced from 24% on 22 May 68 to 00% on 27 May 68. It hampered, to a limited degree night movement. During 23 May to 31 May there occurred several thunder storms and high winds. Air operations were slightly hampered during this period.

9. Mission. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines provides 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. Concept. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines conducts operation to accomplish assigned mission with companies operating in assigned areas of operation along and adjacent to route # 1, to deny enemy access to MSR and to provide bridge security. Units conduct limited deep operations to seek out and destroy the enemy, his weapons, equipment and fortifications in the Battalion and Regimental AO. Units conduct saturation ambushes and combat patrols by night, patrols and offensive operations by day.

11. EXECUTION.D-Day 1 May 1968.

(1) 010001H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (-) (Rein) commenced Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II.

(2) 010700H 5th Marines Frag Order 32-68 received. (See Reference b).

(3) 010800H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 65-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (1).

(4) 010830H A Viet Cong turned himself in to Cap 3-2-1 under the Chieu Hoi program. He brought an AK-47 rifle with him.

(5) 012000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 66-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (2).

(6) 012055H Company C, squad ambush at (YD 923092) spotted 9 VC in 2 groups of 3 and 6. Ambush opened fire with M-79 rounds and small arms fire. Called 81mm mission of 4 rounds HE and 2 rounds 60mm HE. Checked area at first light with negative results.

(7) 012220H Company C, squad ambush at (YD 912094) was fired upon by 3 VC. Ambush returned small arms fire and 60M-79 rounds. Enemy fled to south. Results: 2 USMC WIAE.

(8) 012245H Company B, squad ambush at (YD 930091) observed enemy moving in direction of CAP 3-2-2. Called artillery mission, used illumination to search area with negative results.

D+1 2 May 1968.

(1) 020115H Company B, squad bridge security at (YD 914118) received 200 rounds small arms fire, 8xB-41 rockets and 15x60mm mortar rounds. Returned fire with 40 rounds 60mm HE and 5000 rounds small arms fire. Called artillery mission. Checked area at first light, negative results.

(2) 021355H Company D platoon combat patrol at (YD 902022) received approximately 10 rounds small arms fire from 2 NVA. Returned small arms fire and called artillery mission. Enemy fled area.

(3) 022230H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 67-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (3)

(4) 022345H Point-man of Company B, squad ambush, walked into enemy machine gun position, while moving to set in night position. Point shot and killed 2 enemy. An estimated 25 enemy opened fire from the flank. Enemy fired 2000 rounds small arms fire. The squad returned 3000 rounds small arms fire, 42MM-79 rounds, 21 frag grenades and 81 artillery HE rounds. A reaction force was sent out. Friendly casualties taken to company CP. An ambush was set up at site of 2 enemy bodies. Checked out area at first light. Results: 2 USMC KIA and 2 VC KIA and 1 Chi-Com drum-fed machine gun captured (RPD).

D+2 3 May 1968.

(1) 031625H Company B, patrol found about 10 booby traps at (YD 903037). Returned without incident.

(2) 031710H Results of Company C, cordon and search operations vicinity of Phu Bai I and VI. Recovered 4,200 lbs. rice (All turned over to village chief). Recovered 1 82mm mortar round and 1 RPG-7 round vicinity (YD 899111) excellent condition. Discovered 3 holes 5x3x3 vicinity (YD 897107) with estimated 50 to 70 mortar safety pins per hole. Discovered 1 hole 5x4 same area rigged with detonation cord. Appeared to have been used to blow duds. S-2, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines: The aforementioned holes probably those utilized, recent mortar attack Phu Bai vital area.

D+3 4 May 1968.

(1) 041025H Company A spotted 4 VC, with packs, moving in a northerly direction, vicinity of (YD 800050). Took enemy under immediate fire. Fired 100 rounds small arms fire, 9 rounds 60mm HE and 6 rounds 105mm HE. Enemy fled to south in heavy underbrush. Searched immediate area with negative results.

(2) 041300H Company A at (YD 876054) received 100 to 150 rounds small arms and 8 to 10x B-40 rocket rounds from estimated 20 VC to the south. Returned 200 rounds M-60 machine gun fire, 150 rounds M-16, 9x105mm HE rounds and 2x105mm WP rounds. The enemy broke contact at this time. Searched area with negative results.

(3) 041445H Company D saw 3 VC come out of the canopy, pursued by fire, killing one VC and pursuing the other 2 physically. Results: 1 VC KIA, and 1 SKS rifle captured.

(4) 042145H Company D received incoming artillery at (YD 942045) from Phu Bai. 4 rounds detonated and 2 were dud rounds. Asked for immediate check fire, will locate duds for crater analysis at first light.

D+4 5 May 1968.

(1) 050135H Company B, received approximately 6x155mm artillery rounds from the north. Called for check fire, found Phu Bai was in check fire already and Beachnut Delta was not firing. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Beachnut 22 investigating.

(2) 050400H Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines estimated 14 VC entered market place at coordinates (YD 974064). VC entered the home of an ARVN Sergeant assassinated him. Villagers indicated 4 of the VC were women; armed with AK-47's, 1xM-16, 1x.45 caliber pistol and 1xSKS. CAP H-8 sent a patrol into the area and returned with negative results.

(3) 050800H Company B reported 2 artillery rounds landed close to their platoon on bridge security at coordinates (YD 904116). The rounds were estimated to be 155mm from Phu Bai area. Sent a patrol to investigate impact area for evidence. Area to be searched by crater analysis team.

(4) 051145H A farmer turned in 1xSKS rifle to S-2, which he reported he found near his home. S-2 paid farmer 1,000 piasters as a reward. The SKS rifle serial number is 113003696. The farmer then led a patrol from Bridge #4 to vicinity of coordinates (YD 944068) and pointed out a cartridge belt with 60 rounds 7.62 short and a bamboo ring used for camouflage.

(5) 052300H Company A outpost spotted movement at (YD-899078). Estimated 15 VC moving in Northeast direction and disappeared into the brush, observed for 15 seconds. No friendly units in the immediate area. Friendly unit in path of enemy notified.

(6) 052300H Received 5th Marines Frag Order 35-68. See Reference (c).

D+5 06 May 1968.

(1) 061000H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 68-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (4).

(2) 061400H Chopped Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(3) 062325H Company B, squad ambush at (YD 922116) observed 12 VC approaching from North at (YD 922117). Sprung ambush firing small arms and using 6 grenades. Called for and received artillery mission of 38x105mm HE and 16x105mm illumination rounds. Enemy fired 10 rounds small arms fire and throw 4 frag grenades. Results: 9 USMC WIAE and 2 VC KIA, 1xAK-47, and 1 SRS rifle captured.

D+6 07 May 1968.

(1) 071130H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 69-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (5)

(2) 071145H Company A while searching hamlet at (YD 937062) found 2x B-40 rocket rounds. Marine tripped booby trap. Results: 1 USMC WIAE.

(3) 071955H Company C, squad ambush, with Armed Propaganda Team, encountered 3 NVA enroute to ambush site. Ambush opened fire with small arms, killing the 3 NVA. 1xAK-47, 1xM-1 carbine, 4 lbs. of C-4, blasting caps and 782 gear were captured.

(4) 072105H Company C, squad ambush received sniper fire from (YD 975075). Returned fire with small arms, called for and received 60mm mission of 3 rounds. Checked area at first light with negative results.

D+7 8 May 1968.

(1) 081005H Company A on a company operation found 3 rocket sites at (YD 837057) and 3 covered positions. Made sketches of general area, before destroying them. All the bunkers found were well constructed and approximately 3 ft. to 5 ft. away from rocket sites.

(2) 081520H point-man of Company C patrol detonated a booby trap on trail at coordinates (YD 975067). Results: 1 USMC WIAE.

(3) 082255H - Company B unit at Bridge # 4 spotted movement 400 meters west trying to cross Highway # 1 from south to north. Opened fire with small arms and fired an 81mm mission. Negative results.

D+8 9 May 1968.

(1) 092030H - Company D observed 1 VC moving north. On contact the enemy fled east, pursued enemy physically, fired 3x60mm HE rounds, and 7x105mm HE rounds, lost contact.

(2) 092100H - Company B squad at (YD 920105) ambushed approximately 10 enemy. On contact enemy fired 15-20 rounds small arms, returned fire with approximately 600 rounds small arms; 24xM-79; 2x72 LAAW's; 1xClaymore; 13x81mm HE and 84 illumination. Results: Negative.

D+9 10 May 1968.

(1) 100350H - Company C position at Bridge # 5 coordinates (YD 967063) received an attack by fire, including 40-60x 81mm Mortar rounds and approximately 1500 rounds small arms from an estimated enemy company. A second enemy company was reported in the area but was not encountered. Enemy fire generally received from the west and northwest for approximately 3 hours. Returned fire with 1700 rounds small arms; 50xM-79; 4x106; 290x81mm HE; 110x81mm illumination; 44x105mm illumination; 348x105mm HE; 52x155mm HE. A flareship was in support for approximately 3 hours. 3 platoons were maneuvered to contact the enemy and prevent withdrawal, but resulted in negative contact. Results: 1 USMC WIAE; 2 VC KIA; 2xChiCom concussion grenades and 2xcartridge belts captured. 1 round of 81mm mortar (Lot no. MA-1-32) hit bridge causing slight damage.

(2) 100305H - Company C sentry dog was accidentally shot by an ARVN sentry. Results: Dog evac.

D+10 11 May 1968.

(1) 110700H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 70-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (6).

(2) 112000H - Company B, squad ambush at (YD 910122) opened fire on estimated 6 VC. Enemy returned approximately 10-15 rounds small arms fire. Squad assaulted enemy position. Enemy fled to north. Called 81mm and artillery mission on enemy routes of egress consisting of 3x81mm illumination, and 6x105mm WP rounds. Checked out area with negative results.

(3) 112309H Company B, squad ambush at (YD 941126) observed 8 VC at (YD 941128). Fired small arms and M-79 rounds. Enemy fled. Called 81mm and artillery illumination mission consisting of 9x105mm illumination; and 30x81mm illumination rounds. Checked out area with negative results.

D+11 12 May 1968.

(1) No contacts on this date.

D+12 13 May 1968.

(1) 130235H Company D, squad ambush at (YD 949049) opened fire on 3 VC/NVA. Enemy returned fire with small arms fire and 1 ChiCom grenade. Enemy fled to southwest. Checked out area with negative results.

(2) 131700H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 71-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (7)

(3) 131955H Company D, squad ambush at (YD 928024) observed 4 VC moving into the killing zone. Ambush opened fire with small arms killing 1 VC. Enemy fled. Fired artillery mission of 16x105mm HE and 2x105mm WP rounds on enemy routes of egress. Checked area with following results: 1 VC KIA; 1 AK-47 (Ser # 10083113) and documents.

(4) 132030H Company C, squad ambush at (YD 981073) observed 3 VC leave a boat and enter a house at (YD 981073). Ambush opened fire with small arms. Results: 1 VC KIA.

D+13 14 May 1968.

(1) No contacts on this date.

D+14 15 May 1968.

(1) 151840H Company A, squad patrol at (YD 903093) engaged 20 VC. Enemy returned small arms and threw 2 grenades. Friendly fire included small arms; 5x105mm WP; 70x105mm HE; 11x105mm Illumination; 3x81mm Illumination; 57x81mm HE. A Huey gunship and a flareship were also used in support. Results: 2 USMC KIA; 1 VC KIA and 1 AK-47 and 3 magazines captured.

(2) 152045H Company D, squad ambush made contact with 3 NVA at (YD 915069). Ambush fired small arms. Enemy fled. Called artillery mission of 12 rounds HE on enemy routes of egress. Checked area with negative results.

D+15 16 May 1968.

(1) 160845H Company B, platoon patrol at (YD 894025) received approximately 150 rounds small arms fire from 5 VC. Returned fire with small arms fire; M-79 rounds and 8x60mm mortar rounds. Checked area with negative results.

(2) 161600H 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 72-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (8)

(3) 161630H 3rd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped from 2nd Battalion to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

D+16 17 May 1968.

(1) 172005H Company C, squad ambush at (YD 982076) observed 5 boats moving north on river showing lights. Called 105mm artillery illumination and VT mission on boats. Checked area at first light with negative results.

D+17 18 May 1968.

(1) 182030H Company B, listening post at (ZD 081986) observed 4 VC with weapons at (ZD 082987). Called fire mission of 4x60mm illumination; 9x60mm HE rounds. Checked area at first light with negative results.

D+18 19 May 1968.

(1) 192100H Company B, squad ambush at (ZD 075977) observed movement and lights to their southwest. Fired 8x81mm HE. Lights disappeared. Checked area at first light with negative results.

D+19 20 May 1968.

(1) 200307H Company A, squad ambush at (YD 917107) observed 6 VC moving to their position. Ambush opened fire at 50 meters with small arms. One man's rifle jammed due to ruptured cartridge. Enemy returned fire with small arms and fled in southwest direction. Fired 18x60mm HE; 3x60mm illumination; 10x81mm HE; 12x81mm illumination; 5x105mm illumination. Results: 1 USMC KIA; 1 USMC WIAE and 1 VC KIA. While searching area at first light found one VC hiding in bunker and detained him. VC reclassified as Hoi Chan.

(2) 200830H Minesweep team sweeping road at (YD 081986) found 1 20 lb. box mine in road. Mine was blown in place.

(3) 202205H Company A, squad ambush at (YD 900088) observed 25 VC moving in wedge followed by 100 VC. First group of enemy allowed to pass; ambush was sprung on larger group by firing 400M-60 machine gun rounds; 600x5.56mm; 7xM-26 grenades; 48xM-79 rounds. Enemy returned fire with 600 rounds small arms and 10 frag grenades. Supporting arms fired 52x105HE; 1x105mm WP; 14x105mm illumination; 59x81mm HE. Results: 2 USMC WIAE and 3 VC KIA.

D+20 21 May 1968.

(1) 210215H Company D, platoon ambush at (YD 875035) observed 40-50 VC/NVA moving to their position. Initiated ambush firing small arms and claymores. Enemy broke contact. Checked out area at first light with following results: 5 USMC WIAE; 4 NVA KIA; 7 VC KIA; 2 carbines, 1 AK-47, 1 SES-44, 1 pistol, 4 cartridge belts, two packs containing medical supplies and demolitions captured.

(2) 210220H Company A, bridge security at (YD 913117) received 60-80 rounds 82mm B-40 rocket rounds and 150 rounds small arms fire from estimated 30 NVA/VC at (YD 908118), (YD 912116) and (YD 914114). Fired counter-mortar fire of 24x81mm HE rounds and 600 rounds small arms fire. Enemy broke contact. No damage to bridge or friendly casualties incurred. Checked area at first light with negative results.

(3) 210630H Company D, squad searching area of earlier contact observed one VC. Fired 3 rounds and pursued enemy. Enemy returned fire. Results: 3 USMC WIAE.

(4) 210730H Company D, platoon search at (YD 939051) observed 2 VC walking across ridge line at (YD 927083). Fired artillery mission of 14x105mm HE and 2x105mm WP rounds. Results: 2 VC KIA.

D+21 22 May 1968.

(1) 221545H - Commanding Officer, 5th Marines visited 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward CP location at 221545H and departed at 221610H.

(2) 221630H - Company D, Platoon OP at (YD 937050) observed 40 VC at (YD 934024). Called artillery fire mission of 16x105mm HE; 16x105mm HE VT; 16x105 CoFram; 1x105mm WP. Results: 5 VC KIA.

(3) 221715H - Company D, squad patrol at (YD 937050) was fired upon by 4 VC at (YD 937032) with 20 rounds automatic s/a fire. Ret'd fire with 50 rounds of 5.56mm and pursued enemy who fled area. Negative results.

D+22 23 May 1968.

(1) 231000H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Frag Order 73-68 promulgated. See Enclosure (9).

(2) 231230H - Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Chopped to 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(3) 231600H - Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines chopped back to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(4) 232015H - Company C, OP at (YD 988039) heard movement and fired 20 rounds 5.56mm and threw 1 grenade. Two Marines who ran to site of firing were hit by fragments of grenade. Results 1 WIAE and 1 WIANE.

(5) 232030H - Company C, OP at (YD 988039) observed 4 VC at (YD 988033). Called for and received 6x81mm HE and 4x81mm ILLUM. Checked out area at first light with negative results.

D+23 24 May 1968.

(1) 242040H - Company D, Squad ambush at (YD 950050) observed 15-20 enemy at (YD 955055) moving SW to NE. Enemy was out of killing range, called for and received 81mm mission of 22x81mm HE. Enemy immediately reversed direction of march 2 squad ambushes set up on trail the enemy was using. During positioning of troops, enemy initiated action, with ChiComs, S/A fire, and automatic weapons, also observed 30-50 enemy 300-400 meters to the east. Enemy attempted to flank ambush unit. Enemy fire consisted of s/a, automatic weapons, ChiComs, and B-40 Rockets. Returned fire with 5xM33; 15xM-79; 700x5.56mm;

500x7.62mm; 4x81mm HE; 80x81mm Illum; 92x105mm HE; 79x105mm Illum; and Spooky Gun Ship mission. Results: 2 USMC KIA 4 USMC WIAE; 1 USMC WIAE; 10 VC KIA Confirmed; 3xAK-47's; 1xSKS; 1xB-40 Rocket; 10xChiCom Grenades; 4x1½ lb. blocks satchel charges; Several packs containing clothes; 10xAK-47 magazines and numerous items of 702 gear.

D+24 25 May 1968.

(1) 252103H - Company B squad ambush at (ZC 092988) received 3 rounds of unknown type. Rounds exploded approximately 50-75 meters from ambush site. All friendly units disclaimed firing into that area. Rounds could have been enemy registration rounds.

D+25 26 May 1968.

(1) 260310H - 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward Command Post at (YD 929073) received approximately 30 rounds 60mm Mortars. All rounds landed outside perimeter. Returned 70x81mm HE and 114x105mm HE. Enemy fire ceased approximately 260325H. Negative results.

(2) 260625H - Company B, Squad activity at (YD 089903) received 25x60mm Motor rounds. Called for and received Artillery mission consisting of 18x105mm HE. Enemy fire came from two positions (ZC 094981) and (ZC 099980). Searched out both positions. One (1) was a well fortified position with trenches the other was a hasty position. Comm wire was found. Squad leader pulled wire and set off booby trap believed to be 105 round. Results 3 USMC WIAE.

(3) 261745H - Company B squad at (ZC 010005) while moving to night ambush site received 15 rounds sniper fire from 1-3 enemy. Returned fire with 200 rounds 5.56mm. Enemy broke contact. Results 1 USMC WIAE.

D+26 27 May 1968.

(1) 271920H - Company B, Squad ambush observed movement that appeared to be two enemy camouflaging equipment. Called for and received artillery mission consisting of 12x105mm HE. Searched area at first light with negative results.

D+27 28 May 1968.

(1) 280830H - 1 Vietnamese male riding water buffalo prior to mine sweep detonated a 20lb. pressure mine at (ZD 072011) on route # 1. Road is still passible. Results: 1 Vietnamese male WIAE.

(2) 281115H - Company D, squad patrol while on trail at (YD 865031) received approximately 10-20 rounds small arms fire from 3 VC/NVA, wearing green uniforms at (YD 864030). Called for and received 8x105mm HE; 2 flights of fixed wing with napalm. Unable to search area due to distance. Negative results.

(3) 282300H - 1 Vietnamese civilian was hit by backblast of Claymore detonated by PF at Bridge # 3. Moved to Alpha Mod. Results: 1 Vietnamese civilian WIAE.

D+28 29 May 1968.

(1) 290615H - Company C squad at (YD 954052) observed large group of enemy at (YD 945052). Fired artillery mission and enemy broke contact. Gunships and A0 requested. Two (2) tanks dispatched with Company D in an attempt to close with the enemy. Estimated NVA Company encountered in Grid square (YD 9506). Additional troops committed, friendly disposition as follows: 2nd Plat Company D (YD 936058), 1st Plat Company C (YD 955055), 1st Plat Company D with tanks (YD 953055), CAP 3-2-8 (YD 958062), 3rd Plat Company D (YD 955064), and 13th ARVN Railroad Security Plat at (YD 960055). One squad Company C set up blocking force at (YD 954052). Enemy center of mass at (YD 961062). Fixed wing and artillery used against enemy position. At 1500H 3rd Plat Company B and 3rd Plat Company D conducted attack to southeast against moderate to heavy resistance. Moderate contact continued to dusk. Condition of battle area indicates a detailed search to determine the full damage sustained by the enemy. Search will be conducted by Company D during the next few days until completed. Cumulative Results: 5 USMC KIA; 9 USMC WIAE; 55 NVA KIA; 9 NVA POW/Detainees; Captured 17 AK-47; 9 SKS; 1 M-16; 1 RPD ChiCom MG; 3 Chi-Com Gas Masks;

parts of radio, radio headset, Misc web equipment; 2x82mm Mortar sites; medical supplies, numerous documents, and two mortar sights for 82mm Mortar.

D+29 30 May 1968.

(1) 300830H - Mine sweep found 2 Anti-Tank mines at (ZD 073010), one on each side of road. Destroyed mines in place.

(2) 302055H - Company D Platoon ambush observed 4-7 enemy at (YD 950051) moving north. Fired 81mm mission of 15x81mm HE and 8x81mm Illum. Illum showed approximately 15-20 more enemy at (YD 950045). Possibly a rice collection party. Fired 105mm mission on grids (YD 944041) and (YD 927027) consisting of 30x105mm VT and 24x105mm quick. Searched area at first light with negative results.

D+30 31 May 1968.

(1) 310715H - A Cheui Hoi turned himself into PF's at (YD 913117). Also turned in one (1) .45 Pistol.

(2) 311840H - Villiage chief reported to Company B that a platoon of VC were in villiage at (ZD 075996). Platoon from Company B was sent to search villiage. Called for and received 12x105mm HE Quick. Searched area with negative results.

(3) 312108H - LP from Company D, 1st Battalion Command Post at (YD 932071) heard movement at (YD 932070). Threw rock in direction of movement. Approximately 3-4 enemy returned 5 rounds of s/a fire. LP returned 15x5.56mm. Called for and received 6x81mm Illum and 20x60mm HE. Searched area at first light with negative results.

(4) 312045H - Company A squad ambush at (YD 900091) while setting up claymore in ambush site detonated blasting cap. Results; 3 USMC KIAE.

12. Results.a. Friendly Casualties:

KIA 10
 WIAE 28
 WIANE 24
 NBC 16
 DOW 03

b. Friendly Equipment Losses. (None)c. Enemy Casualties:

KIA	NVA 76	VC 26	TOTAL 102
DETAINEES	IC 04	CD 05	TOTAL 09
POW	09		TOTAL 09
CHIEU HOI	06		TOTAL 06

d. Captured Ordnance:

1 B-40 Rocket Launcher
 28 AK-47
 20 SKS
 02 IMG CHICOM DRUM
 01 M-16
 01 CHICOM 9mm PISTOL
 03 CARBINE (1 M-2 & 2 M-1)

e. Captured/Destroyed Munitions:

09 82mm RDS
 21 B-40 RDS
 04 B-41 RDS
 19 CHICOM GRENADES
 06 M-26
 02 HOME MADE VC CONCUSSION GRENADES
 29 BLASTING CAPS
 07 LBS C-4
 01 SATCHEL CHARGE

f. Captured Equipment:

02 82mm Mortar sights
 01 82mm Mortar swab
 01 Components to ChiCom Radio
 01 Radio Headset
 01 Telephone w/butterfly screw
 16 AK-47 Magazines
 04 M-16 Magazines
 03 3 Part ChiCom Gas Mask
 12 Cloth type Gas Mask
 03 NVA Flashlights
 Miscellaneous Medical Supplies
 Miscellaneous 782 Gear

g. Captured Food Stores:

4380 Pounds of rice

h. Captured Documents:

Screening of documents recovered by Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 131955H at (YD 928024) and taken from NVA KIA revealed the following:

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

1. Self-critique report of NGUYEN VAN PHUONG (NVA).
2. Personal letter about family and health from NGUYEN VAN YU.
3. List of names of NVA soldiers, unit unknown.
4. Youth revolution party introduction card of NGUYEN VAN YU, signed by NGUYEN VAN TRIEU.
5. Letter of recommendation for NGUYEN VAN PHUONG, unit unknown, for promotion to corporal, signed by NGUYEN HONG, chapter party unit K4C.

Screening of document recovered by 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 152130H at (YD 903095) revealed the following:

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

1. Propaganda.
2. News report on 30Mar68: at 0845 guerrilla forces shot down an airplane with K-44 rifle at CIO THUY. It is also disclosed that 12 enemy troops were killed and 6 wounded.
3. RVN ID cards of LUONG SINH, LUONG DOI, LUONG CHINH.

4. Photos
5. Letter from NGUYEN NUNG SAU to NGAU requesting a rice supply for his unit because they have none and the situation is critical, undated.
6. Slip of paper about the monies used for rice, tobacco, candy, milk with the total of 1580 \$.
7. Biography of PHAM VAN DUC.

Screening of documents recovered by Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 242230H at (YD 950050) revealed the following:

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

1. Letter to G 411 agency introduces comrade NGUYEN DUY DINH.
2. Log book indicating groups of names, indicating village and hamlet guerrillas, cadre transported, assorted notes concerning hamlets unit activities and actions, passwords, farmers associations (Documents forwarded to 1st Division, official readout concerning locations, units, and activities described, have not been returned).
3. Assorted personal letters.

Screening of documents recovered by Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on 290615H at (YD 954054) revealed the following:

SUMMARY OF DOCUMENTS

1. Communications log record.
2. Table of equipment concerning weapons for unknown size unit.
3. Assorted personal letters.
4. Personal Diary.
5. Sick Call Record.

All documents recorded were submitted to higher headquarters for fuller exploitation.

- (i) Cave/Tunnel Complexes Destroyed. (Structures, Fighting Holes, Fortified Positions, Dwellings etc.)

3 mortar sites YD 897107

11 Fighting Holes ZD 018010

13. Administrative Matters.

a. Supply. Resupply of food and water was accomplished by wheeled vehicle except in a few cases for which air was used. All resupplies obtained during this operation have originated either from the Phu Loc LSA or Phu Bai. An administrative run has been established with Bravo Company CP located at the Phu Loc LSA. No serious problems have occurred during this operation to impair the logistical support to the battalion.

b. Maintenance. No maintenance problems were encountered with weapons or equipment during the operation.

c. Treatment of Casualties and Evacuation and Hospitalization. During Operation "HOUSTON" Phase II medical capabilities included the complement of company corpsmen, the forward BAS at the battalion jump CP, and the rear BAS in Phu Bai. Casualties in the field were treated and evacuated by helicopter for hospitalization. Some minor casualties and several cases of heat exhaustion were evacuated through the forward BAS to the rear BAS for appropriate treatment and disposition. It is noted that the number of heat casualties markedly increased during the month of May.

A minor diarrhea epidemic occurred on 24 May which involved 60 people in the forward CP and battalion rear areas. Symptoms were self-limiting and cleared rapidly with treatment. The Preventive Medicine Unit inspected the battalion rear mess hall and determined the infection to be caused by *Clostridium Perfringens* (Contamination of Food). It is noted that this infection is carried by dust, and the medical recommendation for relocation of the helicopter landing zone adjacent to the mess hall still stand.

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

e. Communications. Normal established communications were successfully maintained at both Phu Bai Rear and Bao Vinh CP. The installation of a generator, PU-239, at the latter location considerably improved the light and power capability. Training during the month included 24 field radio operators and 8 radar, PPS-6, operators.

f. Medical Evaluation. Medical treatment has been provided in a satisfactory manner during this period.

14. Special Equipment and Techniques. (None).

15. Commanders Analysis:

a. During Phase II of Operation "HOUSTON", 1st Battalion remained in the Phu Bai AO with the primary mission of keeping National Route # 1 open. On 16 May, the Phu Bai AO was expanded to the south to include Phu Loc District Headquarters, adding 11 kilometers of road to the 18 kilometers previously included. Because of the expansion, it was necessary to assign all four companies to road and bridge security missions. Each company retained operational flexibility within its AO through use of swing platoons which operated continuously in the field, resupplied by helicopter, boat or vehicle. The present disposition of forces permits the temporary employment of one company outside the Battalion AO. Such employment eliminates internal flexibility and requires the assumption of a posture of limited offensive and static defensive operations localized around National Route # 1, bridges, and other vital positions.

b. In addition to the mission of keeping Highway # 1 open, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines had the mission of preventing enemy movement through the AO. In order to accomplish this with the forces available it was necessary to define the major routes used by the enemy for rice resupply and tactical troop movement, and concentrate the operational effort against these routes. With the aid of experience and information gained from intelligence agencies, POW's and Hoi Chan, three major routes were targeted and successfully interdicted by patrols, ambushes and artillery. Of the one-hundred and two enemy killed during Phase II, ninety-one were killed along one of these three routes. All nine POW's were captured on one of these routes.

c. The enemy's efforts during Phase II were directed at rice resupply. Rice denial operations were conducted in conjunction with Vietnamese forces and officials to concentrate the processed rice crop in areas under GVN control. Such operations were found to be most successful when controlled by GVN officials, and supported by Marines. Armed Propaganda Teams were useful in preparing the people

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for Rice Denial Operations and in following up such operations to determine their effects on the attitudes of the people.

16. Recommendations. (None).

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

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
1 May 1968

Frag Order 65-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000; Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No Change.

2. MISSION No Change.

3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continues mission in TAOR.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. OPCON to 5th Marines.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in assigned AO.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in assigned AO. Be prepared to conduct operations in support of Company D. (See Operations Overlay)

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Commencing at first light on 1 May 1968 assemble and move to conduct offensive operations in SOA. (See Operations Overlay). Find, fix and destroy enemy forces located in SOA. On order, return to present AO and resume normal operations. Duration of operation, approximately 72 hours.

f. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. OPCON to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (1)

g. H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Be prepared to furnish a battalion command group for the field, an X-Ray command group for 1st Battalion, 5th Marines forward, and a rear command group for 1st Battalion 5th Marines Rear.

h. Coordinating Instructions. Company D, coordinate and maintain constant communications with Recon insert "Lunchmeat"

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. No change.

b. "Lunchmeat" frequency M-396.

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

ANNEX:

✓A Operations Overlay

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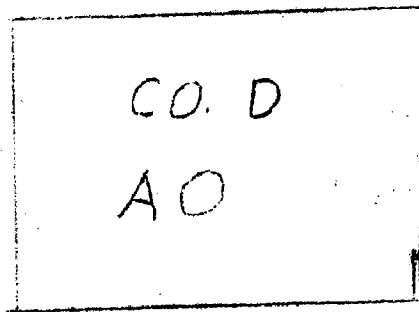
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
1 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 65-68

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

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(3)

ENCLOSURE (1)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
1 May 1968

Frag Order 66-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000; Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No change.

2. MISSION No change.

3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Continue present mission.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) At 020001H chop from 5th Marines to 1st Battalion 5th Marines, remain Bald Eagle.

(2) At 020800H move by vehicle to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Forward CP and conduct operations in AO, (See Operations Overlay) until 021600H.

(3) At 021600H relieved of Bald Eagle commitment. Assume screening mission in AO. (See Operation Overlay).

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue present mission.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Continue present mission.

(2) At 021600H assume Bald Eagle commitment. Meet transportation in vicinity of bridge #3 for movement to vital area.

(3) Starting at 030800H and each succeeding day conduct cordon and search activities in coordination with Armed Propaganda Team in area to be designated.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (2)

~~SECRET~~
g. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No Change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No Change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:

/A Operations Overlay

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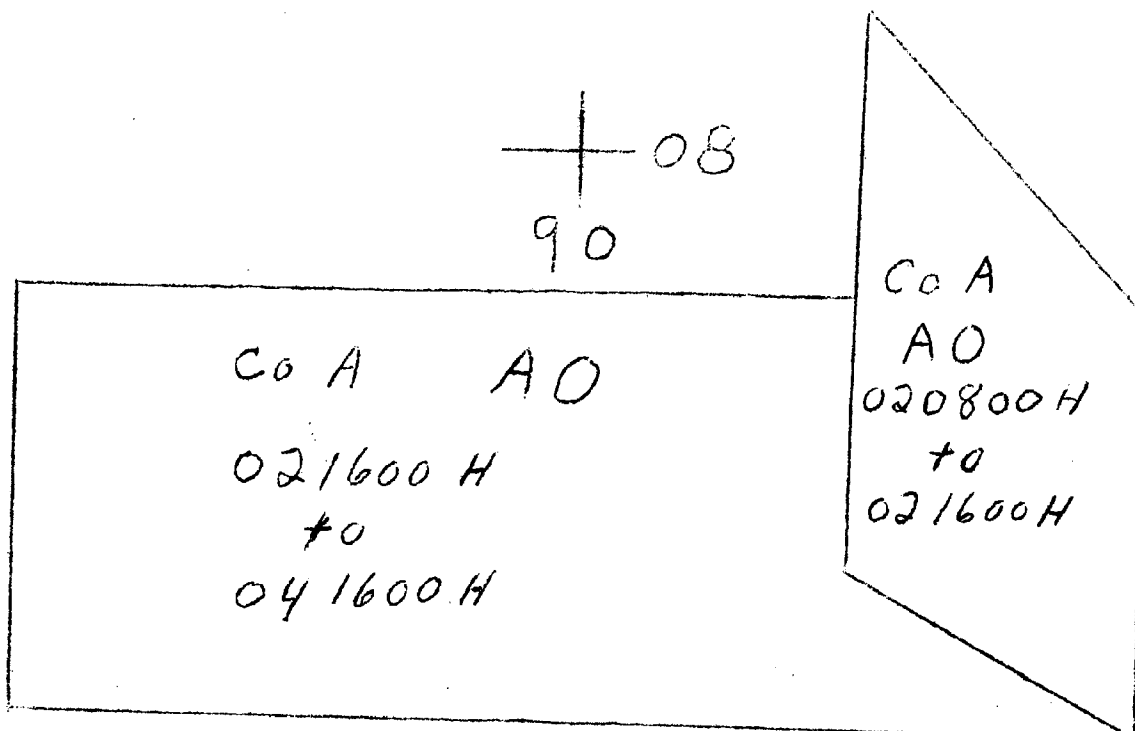
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ENCLOSURE (2)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
1 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 66-68

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



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ENCLOSURE (2)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
2 May 1968

Frag Order 67-68

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

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION. No change.
2. MISSION. No change.
3. EXECUTION

a. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Conduct a Cordon and Search of Phu Bai (3) from 031000H until 031430H. (See Operations Overlay)

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No change.
5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:
JA Operation Overlay

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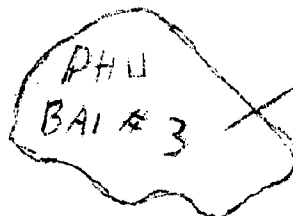
(1)

ENCLOSURE (3)

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
2 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 67-68

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



Co C AO
031000 H
031430 H



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(2)

ENCLOSURE (3)

- ~~SECRET~~
4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No Change.
 5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No Change.

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Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

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JA Operations Overlay

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ENCLOSURE (4)
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
6 May 1968

Frag Order 68-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,
6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION. No change.

2. MISSION. No change.

3. EXECUTION.

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continue present mission.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Conduct operations to destroy the enemy and to deny his presence in and passage through SOA.

(2) Be prepared to react to all CAP's and bridges in the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines TAOR and to the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines CP at Bao Vinh Fire Support base.

(3) On order conduct deep operations to find, fix and destroy the enemy, to spoil his efforts to mass for attack against installations in the Phu Bai TAOR and to prevent infiltration into the Phu Bai TAOR.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Continue mission in assigned AO to provide security for bridges #2, 3 and 4, Highway #1 and all friendly units and installations in AO.

(2) Continue operations to destroy the enemy and to deny his presence in and passage through AO.

(3) Be prepared to react to CAKS 3-1-3, 3-2-1, 3-2-2 and Bridge # 5.

(4) Continue to improve defenses around bridges #2, 3 and 4.

ENCLOSURE (1).

(1)

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Effective 060120H May 1968 assume responsibility for security of AO, including Highway # 1, Bridges # 5, 6 and 7, and all friendly units and installations. (See Operations Overlay)

(2) Conduct operations to destroy the enemy and to deny his presence in and passage through the AO.

(3) Be prepared to react to Bridge # 4 and CAP's 3-2-3 and 3-2-8.

(4) Continue to improve defenses around Bridges # 5, 6 and 7.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Remain Phu Bai as Bald Eagle. Maintain a messenger in 5th Marines COC and be prepared to comply with the SOP for Bald Eagle, Bn0 003000.3.

f. Company M, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Relinquish control of AO and Bridges # 5, 6 and 7 to Company C at 061200H.

(2) Chop from OPCON 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines at 061400H.

g. Coordinating instructions.

(1) Coordinate daylight operations and night time activities with adjacent units.

(2) Maintain close and continuous liaison with CAP units in AO.

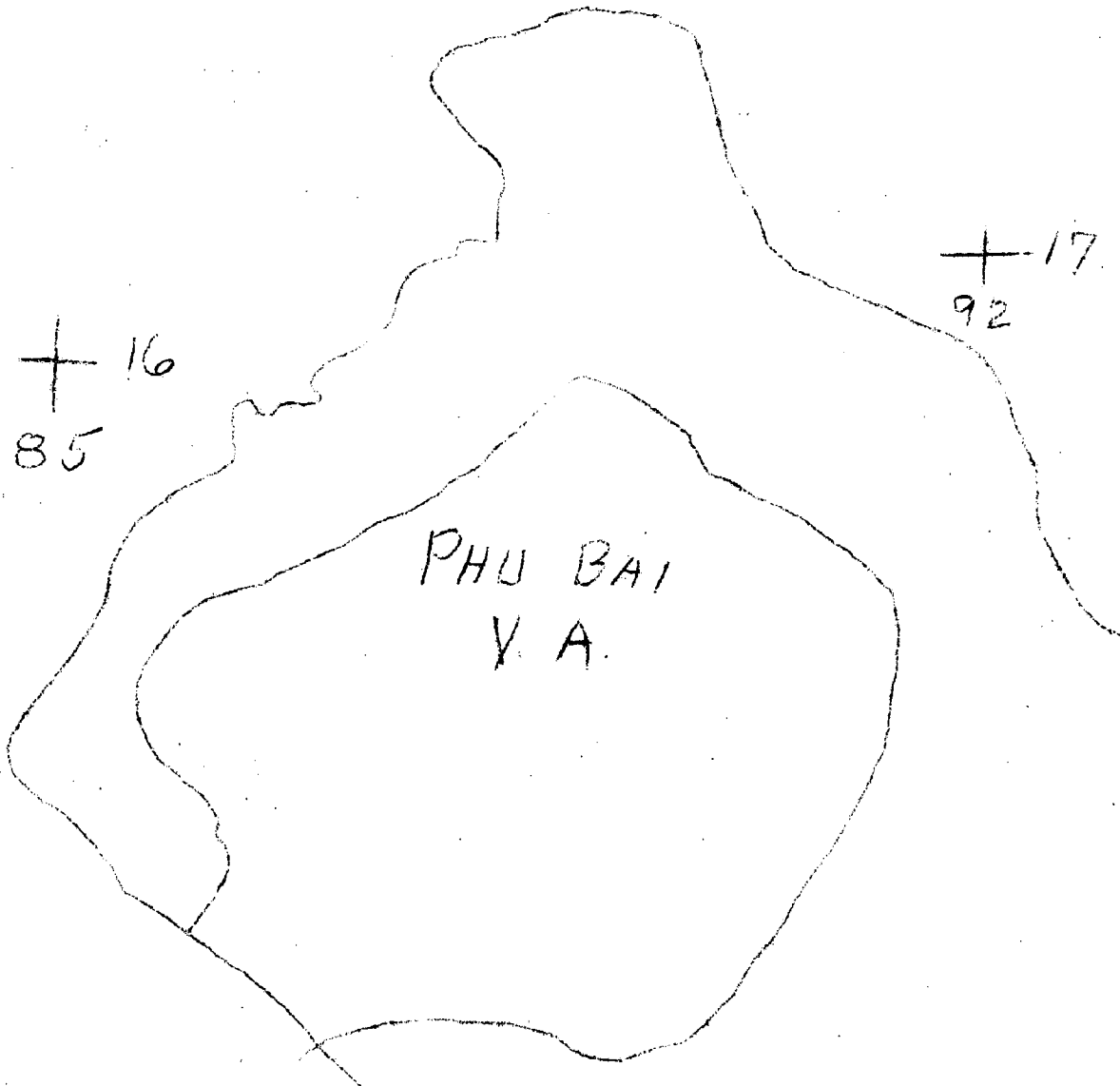
(3) Report planned operations and activity locations by 2000 daily, for the following day and night.

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
6 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 68-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN: 1:50,000, Series L7011, Sheets 6541 I-IV



(4)

ENCLOSURE (4)
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SECRET

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
6 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 68-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheets I-IV

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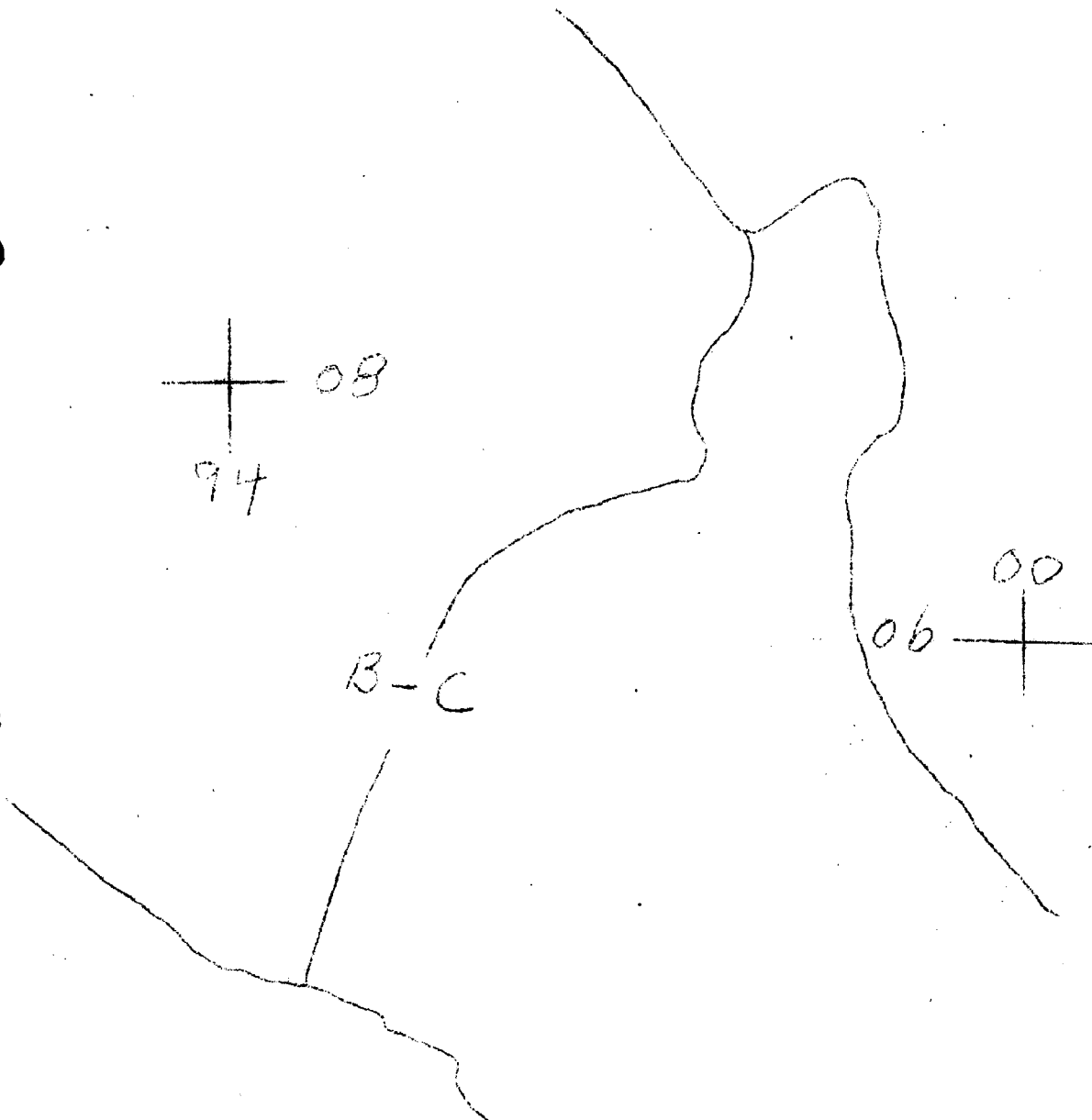
ENCLOSURE (4)
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
6 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operations Overlay) to
Frag Order 68-68

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



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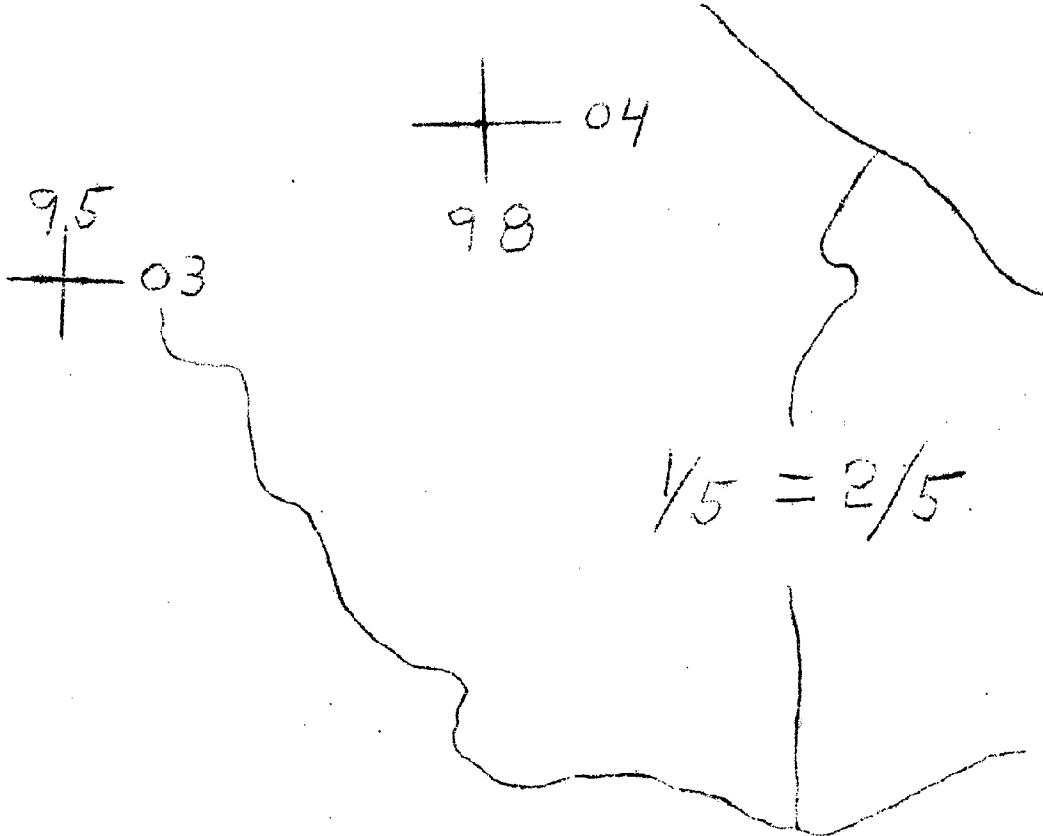
ENCLOSURE (4)
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
6 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operations Overlay) to
Frag Order 68-68

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



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Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

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(7)

ENCLOSURE (4)
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
7 May 1968

Frag Order 69-68

Ref : (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,
6641 IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. From 7 April to date, sightings of a rocket launcher site located at (YD 836061) have been reported. The increase of enemy activity in the 5th Marines AO and recent reports and indications of enemy intent to employ large caliber rockets against the Phu Bai Vital Area confirm the sightings. Enemy presence in the objective area is estimated to be of company strength with reinforcing capabilities.

b. Friendly.

(1) Air. Elements of the 1st MAW provides fixed and rotary wing and AO support.

(2) Artillery.

(a) Battery D, 2nd Battalion, 11th Marines

(b) Battery L, 1st FAG GS

(3) Engineer. Det, Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion will provide support for demolition of enemy positions and clearance of LZ's.

c. Attachments and Detachments

(1) 1st Platoon, Company H, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines CHOP to Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines L-16 hours.

(2) Company C, 1st Force (Recon) CHOP to Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines L-16 Hour. Remain in AO following termination of the operation. OPCON reverts to Company C, 1st Force Recon upon withdrawal of Company A from the LZ.

2. MISSION. On D-Day at L-Hour land in designated LZ and attack to seize and destroy enemy rocket launcher site, weapons, equipment, and supporting troops and facilities.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (5)
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3. EXECUTION

a. Concept. On D-Day at L-30 minutes, helicopter force without troops makes feint at LZ KIWI, returns to LZ 1st Battalion and embarks assault force of one rifle company (Rein). At L-Hour, 1 rifle company (Rein) lands in LZ Sparrow and attacks to seize Regimental objective #1. On seizure of Objective #1 assault force conducts detailed search of area to locate and destroy rocket launcher site, weapons, equipment, and supporting troops and facilities. If a large enemy force is located and the opportunity for a decisive engagement presents itself, up to 2 additional rifle companies may be committed within 2 hours. In this event, control of the operation will pass from 1st Battalion, 5th Marines to another battalion.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein).

(1) Assault force.

(2) Will be under command and control of 1st Battalion Command Group.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein). Continue present mission in assigned AO.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein). Continue present mission in assigned AO.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines (Rein).

(1) Continue mission as Bald Eagle.

(2) Be prepared to displace to SOA on order to reinforce assault force.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) D-Day and L-Hour: 080730H May 1968.

(2) SOA, LZ's, Thrust Points, and Objectives. See (Operations Overlay).

(3) SOA FFZ for assault force FFZ all others.

SECRET

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS.

a. 5th Marines CEOI.

b. Report establishment and changes of CP locations as occur.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Carry additional 2-day supply of dry cell batteries.

(2) Be prepared to utilize VHF equipment and close air support.

(3) Maximum utilization of RC-292 is required.

(4) In case of communication difficulties Company Commanders may enter Regimental TAC Net # 1.

(5) Following Recon Inserts near SOA.

(a) Spillway 04-08 May

(b) Lunchmeat 08-12 May

(c) Achilles 03-07

(d) Crochet 04-08 May

(6) Red Devil Battalion conducting operation Tennessee Grove in adjacent SOA: Battalion call sign Red Devil. Company D call sign Water Bird.

(7) Hq Company be prepared to install and operate retransmission station on Hill 230 on order.

(3)

ENCLOSURE (5)
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(8) Radio relay and teletype circuits will not be operated in SOA.

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:

JA Operation Overlay

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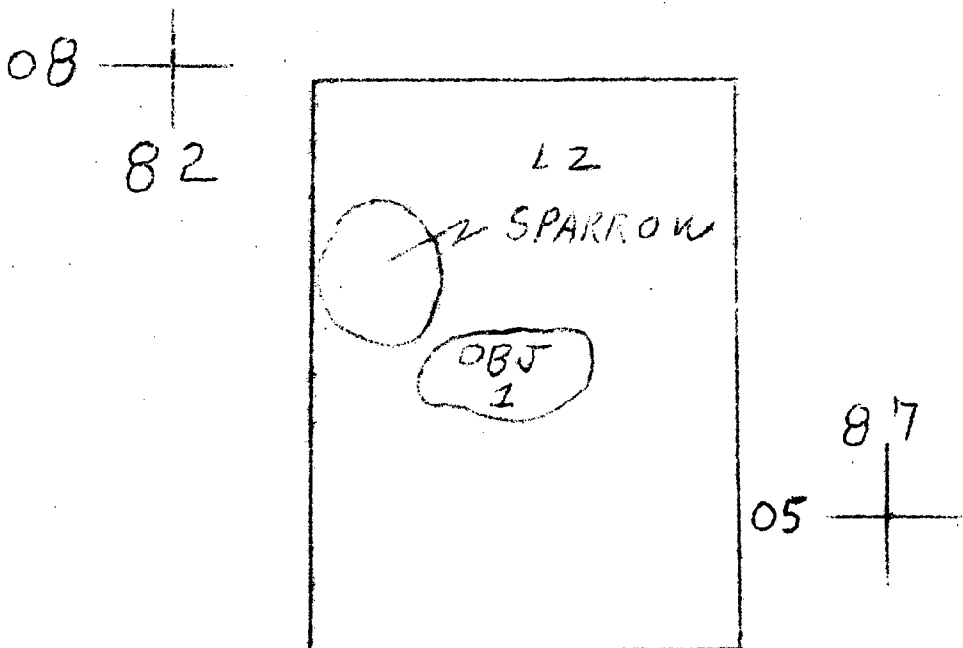
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
7 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operations Overlay) to
Frag Order 69-68

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



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ENCLOSURE (5)
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SECRET

1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
11 May 1968

Frag Order 70-68

Ref (a) Maps RVN: 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No change

2. MISSION No change.

3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continues present mission of providing security for the MSR and vital bridges in its TAOR.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue to carry out mission as Bald Eagle.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridges #2 and 3.
(See Operations Overlay).

(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO for rice and weapons storage and to detect the presence of the enemy.

(3) Be prepared to provide a reaction force for CAP 3-2-2 and other nearby friendly forces.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridges #5, 6 and 7.
(See Operations Overlay).

(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO for rice and weapons storage, and to detect the presence of the enemy.

(3) Be prepared to provide a reaction force for CAP 3-2-8 and other nearby friendly forces.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (6)
SECRET

SECRET

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridge #4. (See Operations Overlay).

(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO for rice and weapons storage, and to detect the presence of the enemy.

(3) Be prepared to provide a reaction force for CAP3-2-3 and other nearby friendly forces.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Coordinate all activities with adjacent units.

(2) Report to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, positions of planned activities by 2000H each day.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS No change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS No change.

R. H. THOMPSON
Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:

✓A Operation Overlay

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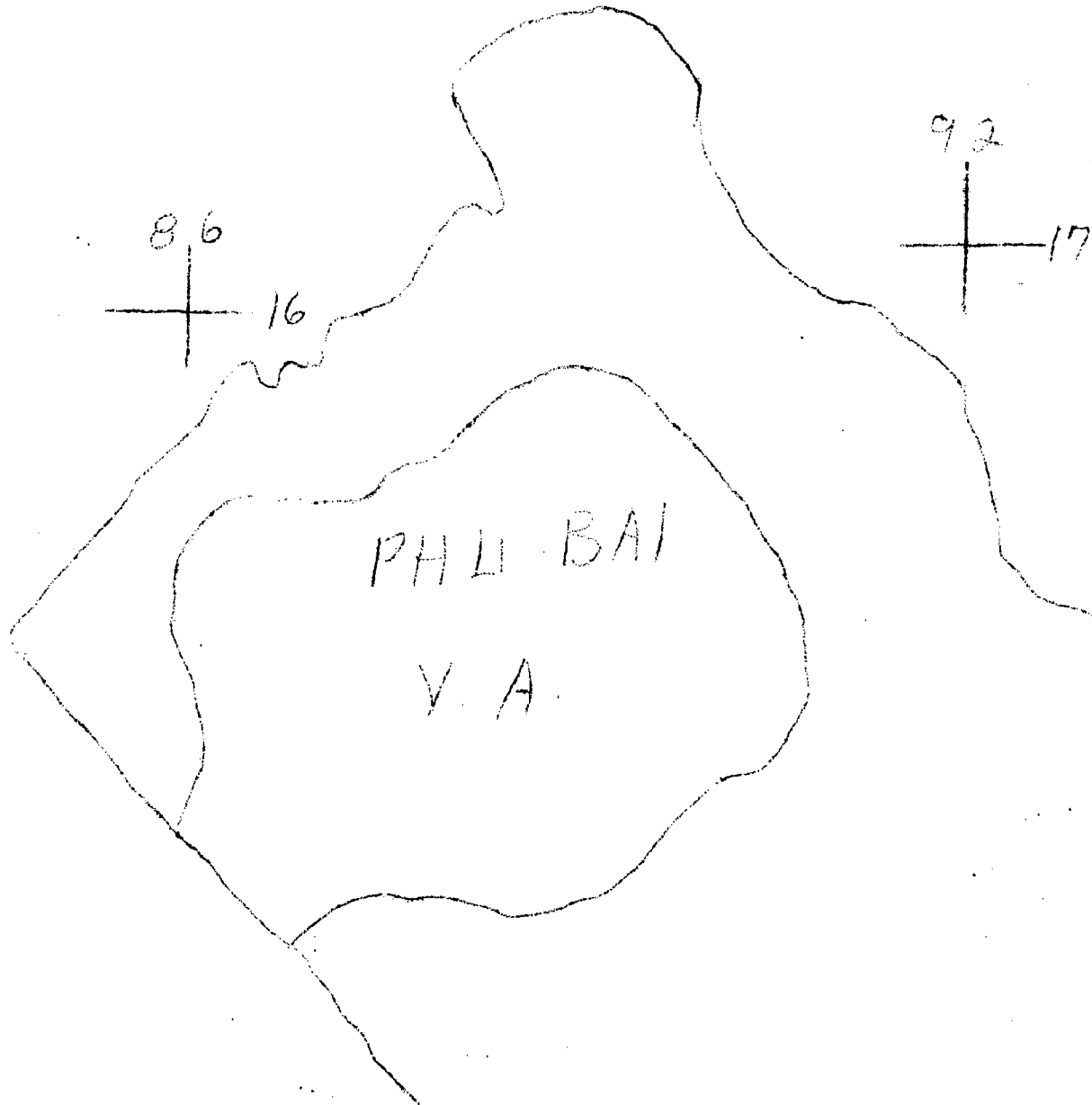
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
11 May 1968

Annex: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 70-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV



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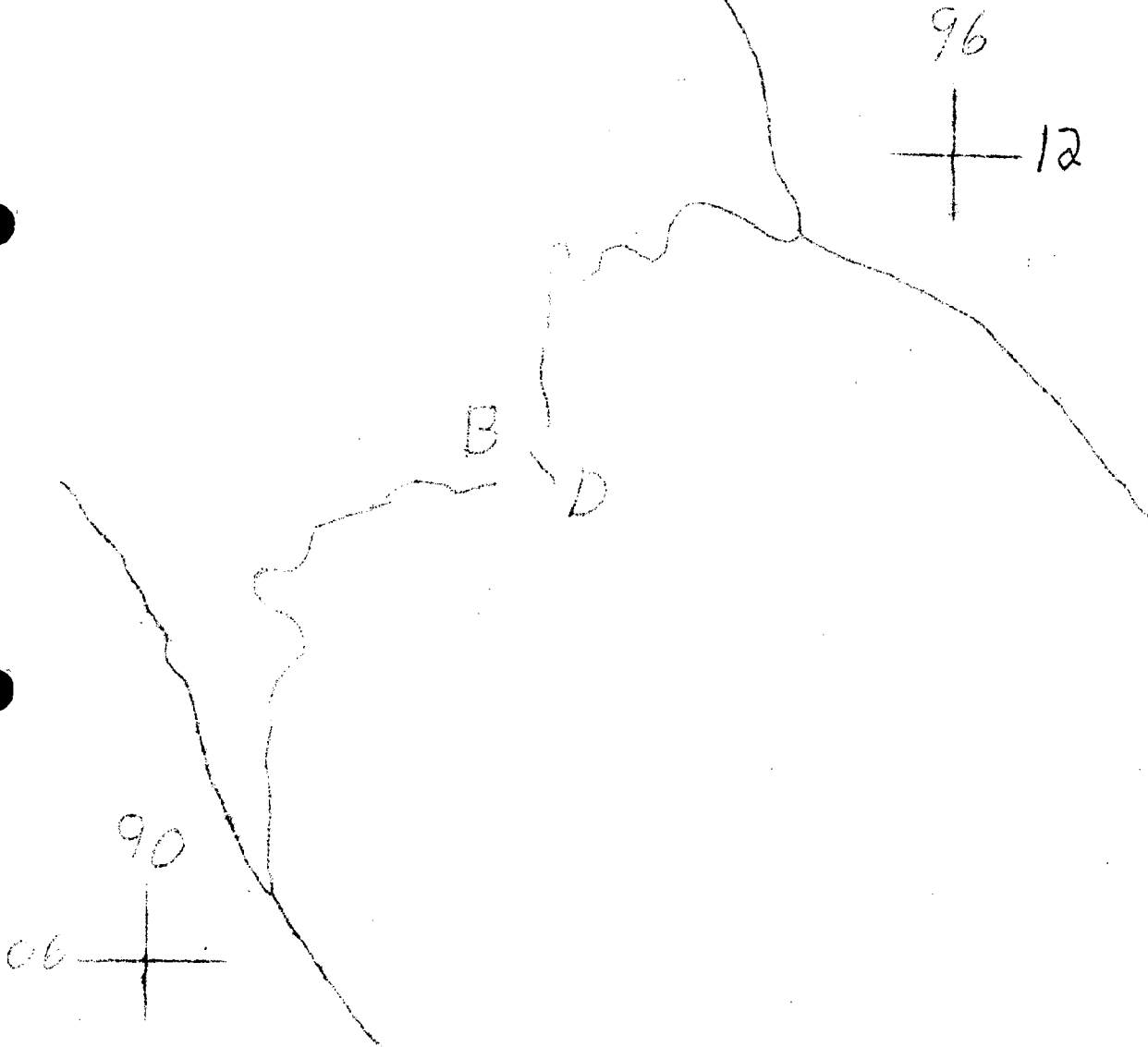
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
11 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 70-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000, Series L70114, Sheets 6541 I-IV



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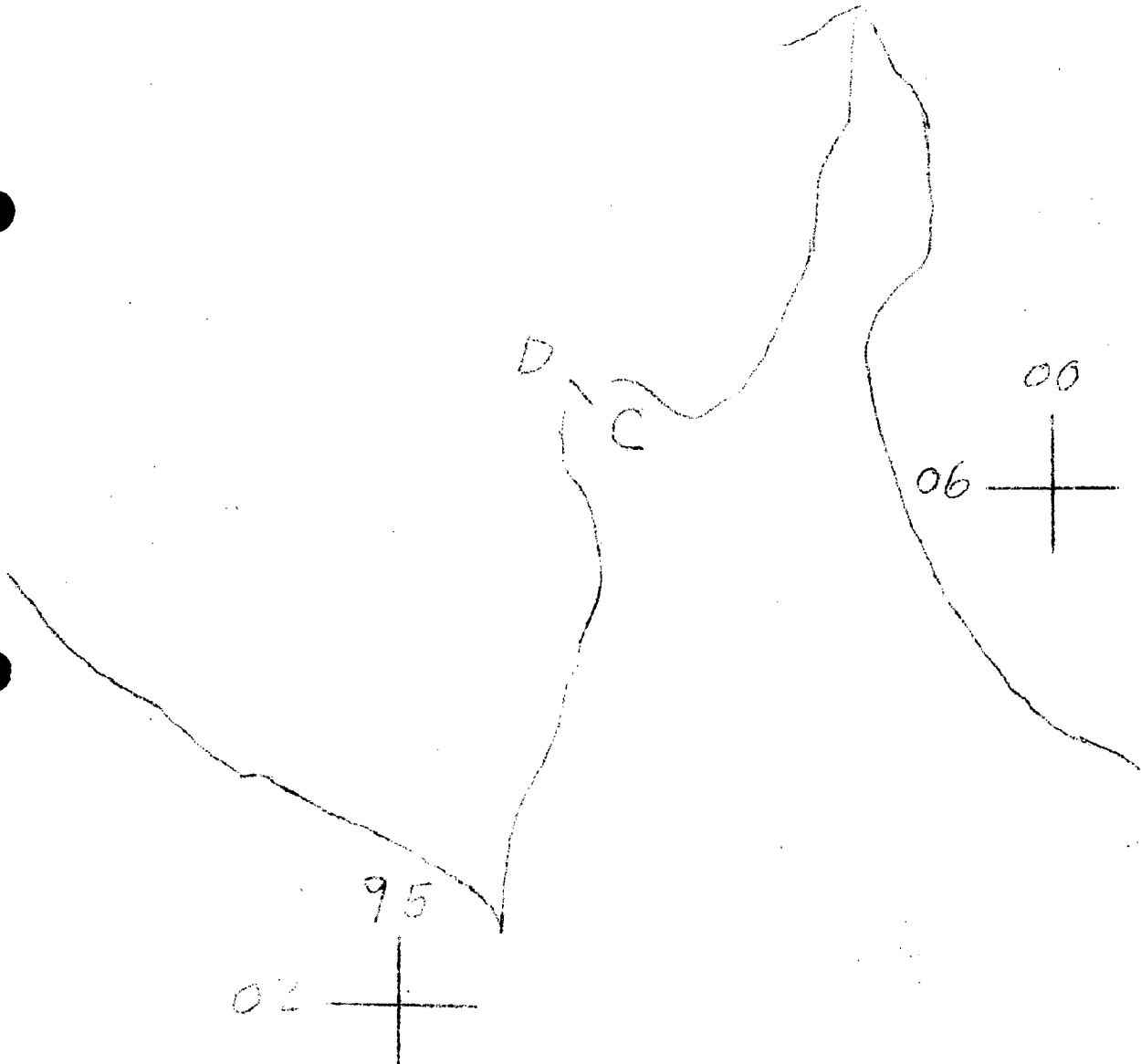
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
11 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 70-68

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



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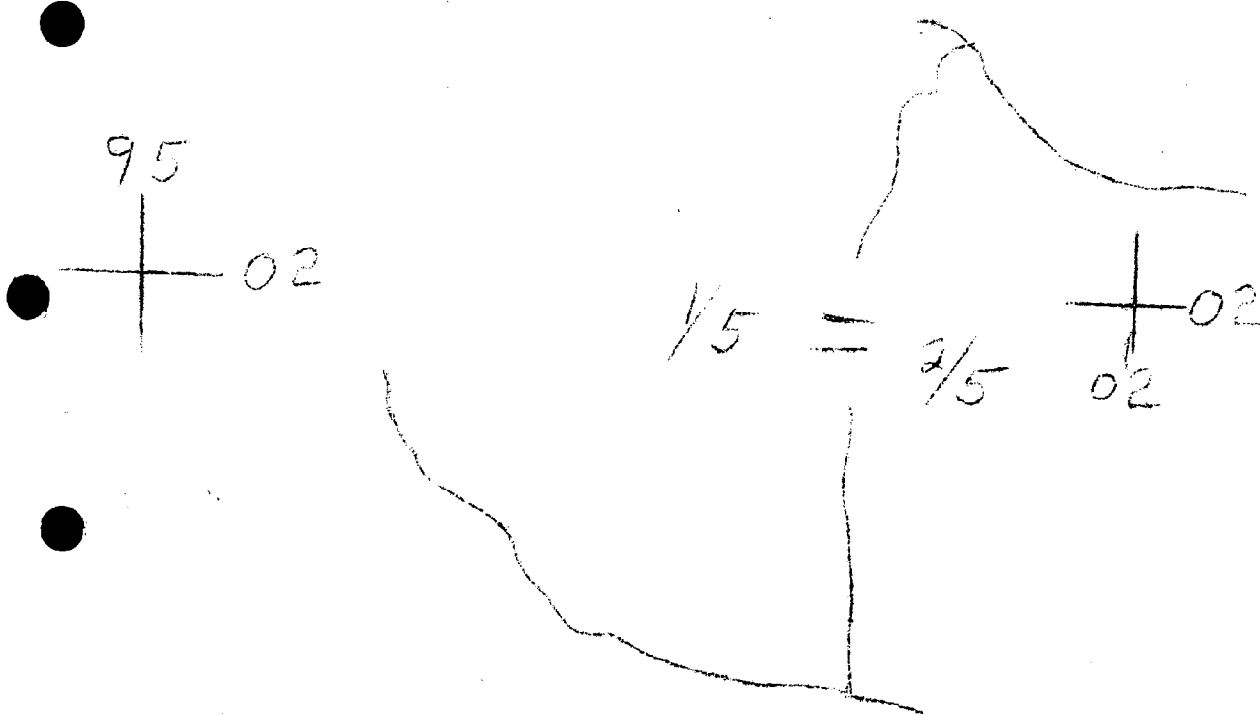
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
11 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operations Overlay) to
Frag Order 70-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV



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(6) ENCLOSURE (6)
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
13 May 1968

Frag Order 71-68

Ref (a) Maps RVN: 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No change.

2. MISSION No change.

3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continue present mission of providing security for the MSR and vital bridges in its area.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridges #2 and 3.
(See Operations Overlay).

(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO to deny rice from enemy and to detect his presence.

(3) Be prepared to provide a reaction force for CAP's 3-1-3, 3-2-1, 3-2-3 and other nearby friendly units.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Assume Bald Eagle and carry out missions as required.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridges #5, 6 and 7.
(See Operations Overlay).

(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO to deny enemy rice and to detect his presence.

(3) Be prepared to react to CAP's 3-2-3, 3-2-8 and other nearby friendly units.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR and bridge #4. (See Operations Overlay).

(1)

ENCLOSURE (7)
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(2) Conduct search and clear operations within assigned AO to deny enemy rice and to detect his presence.

(3) Be prepared to react to nearby friendly units.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Coordinate all activities with adjacent units.

(2) Report to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines, positions of planned activities by 2000H each day.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS. No change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS. No change.

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Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:

✓ A Operation Overlay

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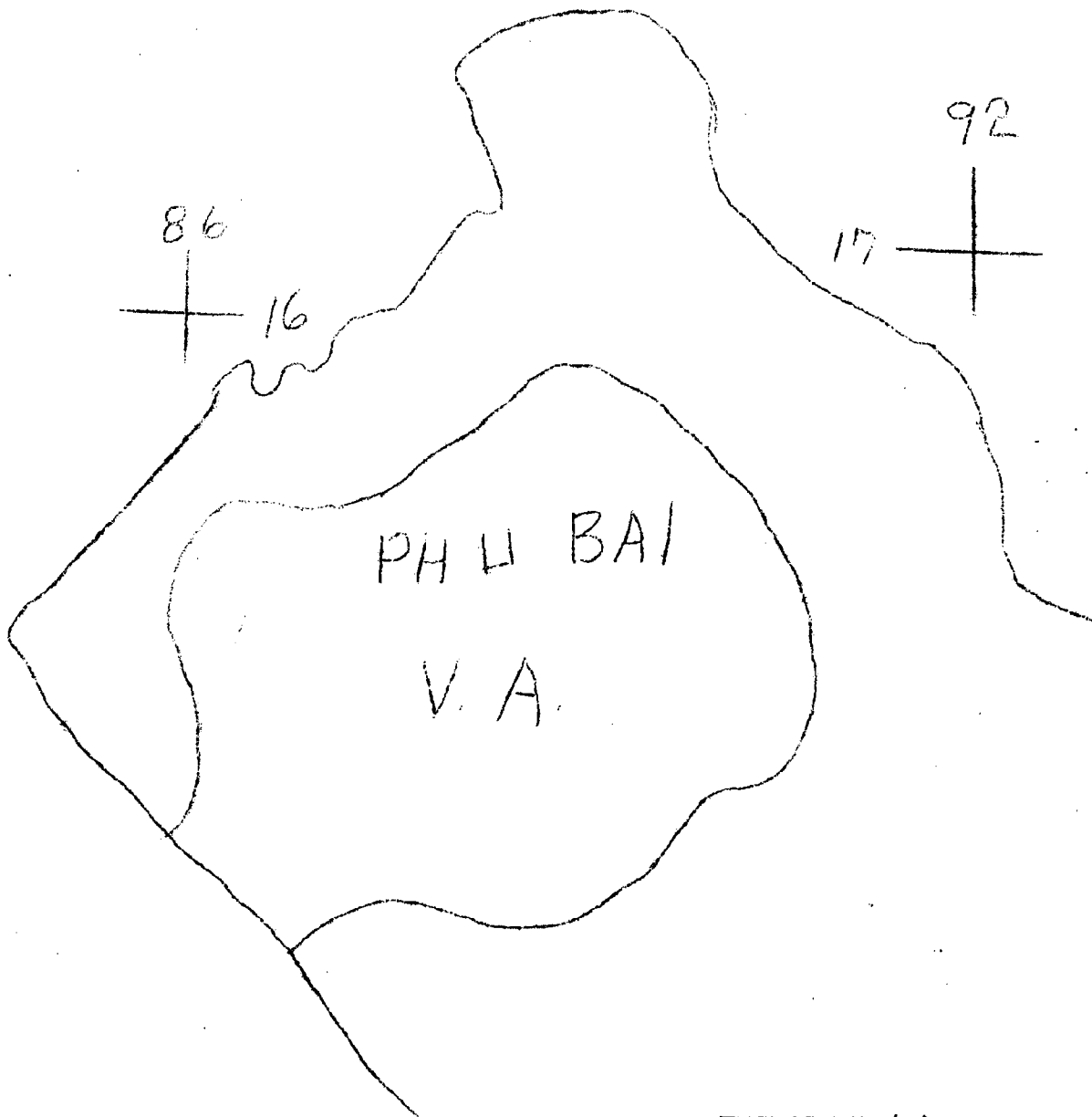
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
13 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 71-68

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



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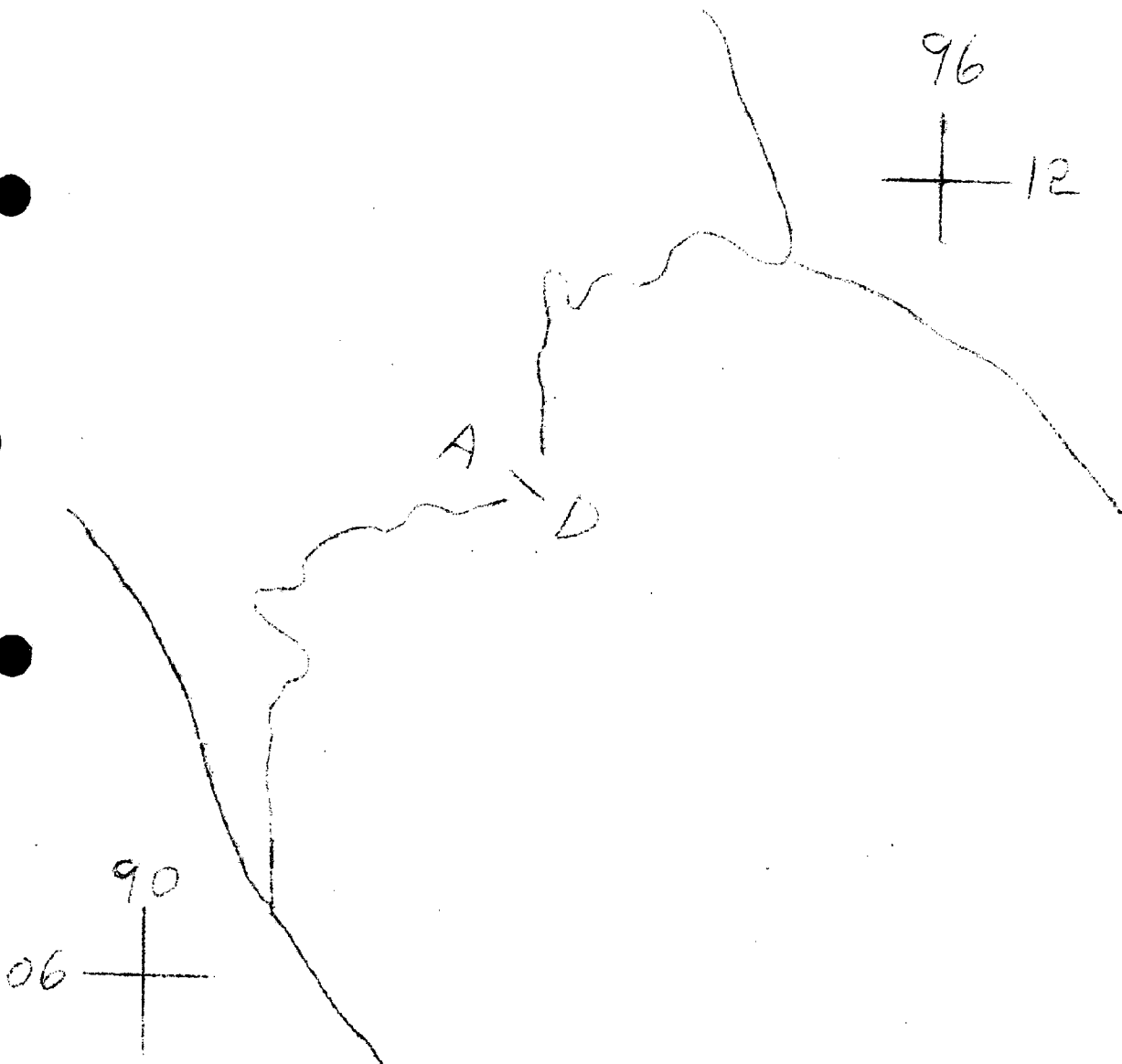
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
13 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
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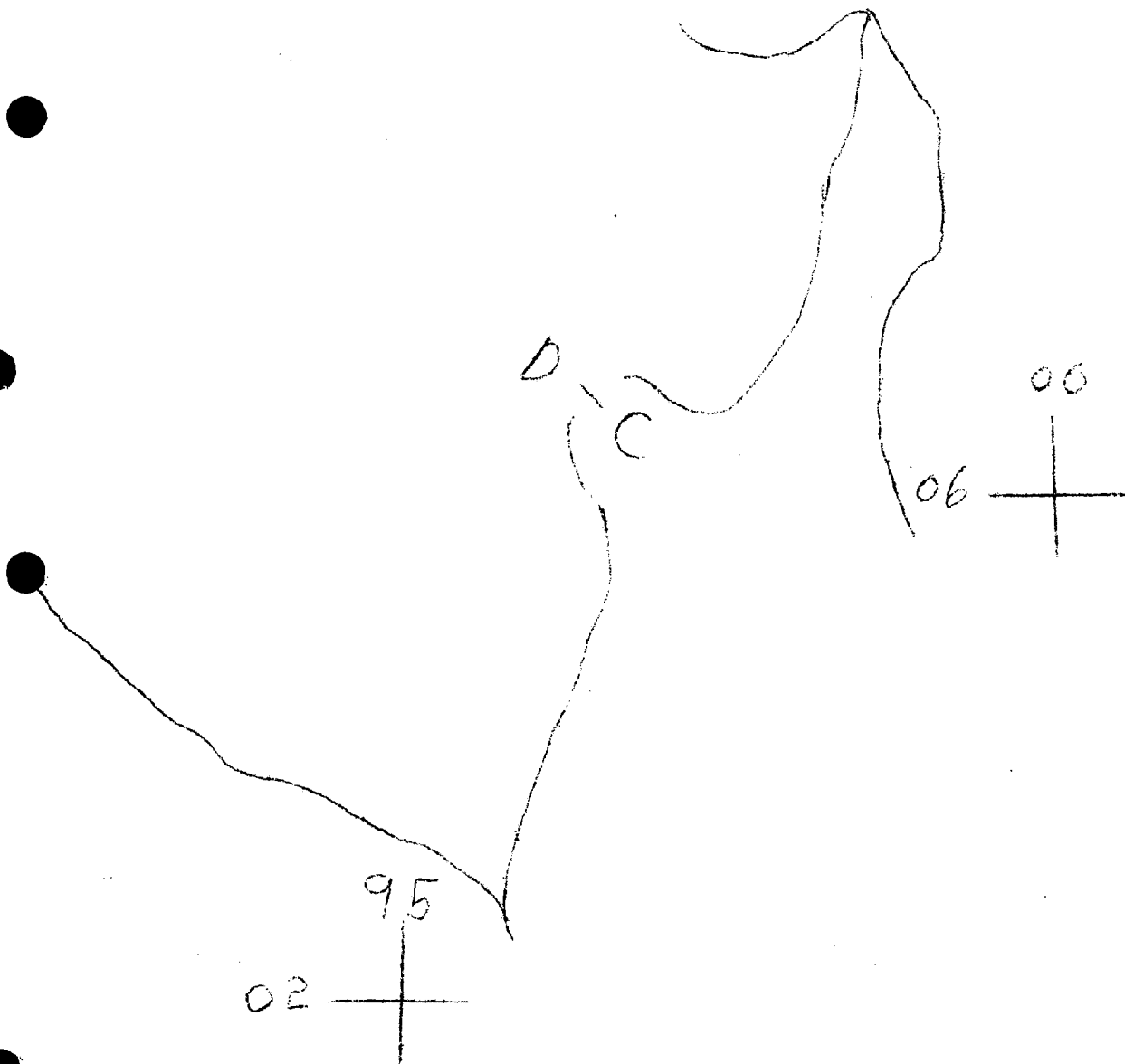
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Phu Bai, RVN
13 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

Frag Order 72-68

Ref: (a) Maps, RVN: 1:50,000, Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No change.
2. MISSION No change.
3. EXECUTION

a. Concept. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines continue to provide security for the MSR, support friendly installations, units and convoys, and conduct offensive operations to destroy enemy forces, material and positions.

b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Provide security for MSR in assigned AO and bridges #2 and 3.

(2) Be prepared to react to CAP's 3-1-2 and 3-1-3 and other nearby friendly units.

(3) Conduct offensive operations to interdict enemy supply, deny his access to rice and destroy the enemy.

c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines.

(1) Establish holding position in the vicinity of Phu Loc to defend the rock crusher, Cau Doi ISA and Phu Loc Fire Base.

(2) Keep route #1 and all supporting bridges open.

(3) Conduct offensive operations in assigned AO to destroy enemy forces, materiel and positions.

(4) Plan for and be prepared to support and assist the Phu Loc District Headquarters, CAP 3-2-4 and 3-2-5 and all other friendly forces and installations in the event of enemy attack.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (8)
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(5) Retain responsibility as Bald Eagle. Comply with Battalion Order 003000.3. Be prepared to furnish for extended operations one platoon on one-hour notice and entire company on two hour notice.

(6) Section 81mm Mortar Platoon, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines attached.

d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

(1) Provide security for MSR in assigned AO and protect bridges #5, 6 and 7.

(2) Be prepared to react to CAP's 3-2-3, 3-2-6 and friendly units in the area.

(3) Conduct offensive operations to interdict enemy supply and deny him food, and destroy the enemy.

e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

(1) Provide security for MSR in assigned AO and bridge # 4.

(2) Be prepared to react to other friendly units in area.

(3) Conduct offensive operations against the enemy to interdict his supplies and destroy him.

f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Company B establish a Liaison NCO with CAPS 3-2-4 and 3-2-5 and the Phu Loc District Headquarters; and establish liaison with other friendly units in the area.

(2) Coordinate activities with adjacent units.

(3) Report scheduled day and night activities 2000 one day in advance to MB 3.

(4) Attachment effective 171200H.

(2)

ENCLOSURE (6)
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4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS No Change.
5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS . No Change.

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Lieutenant Colonel
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A Operation Overlay

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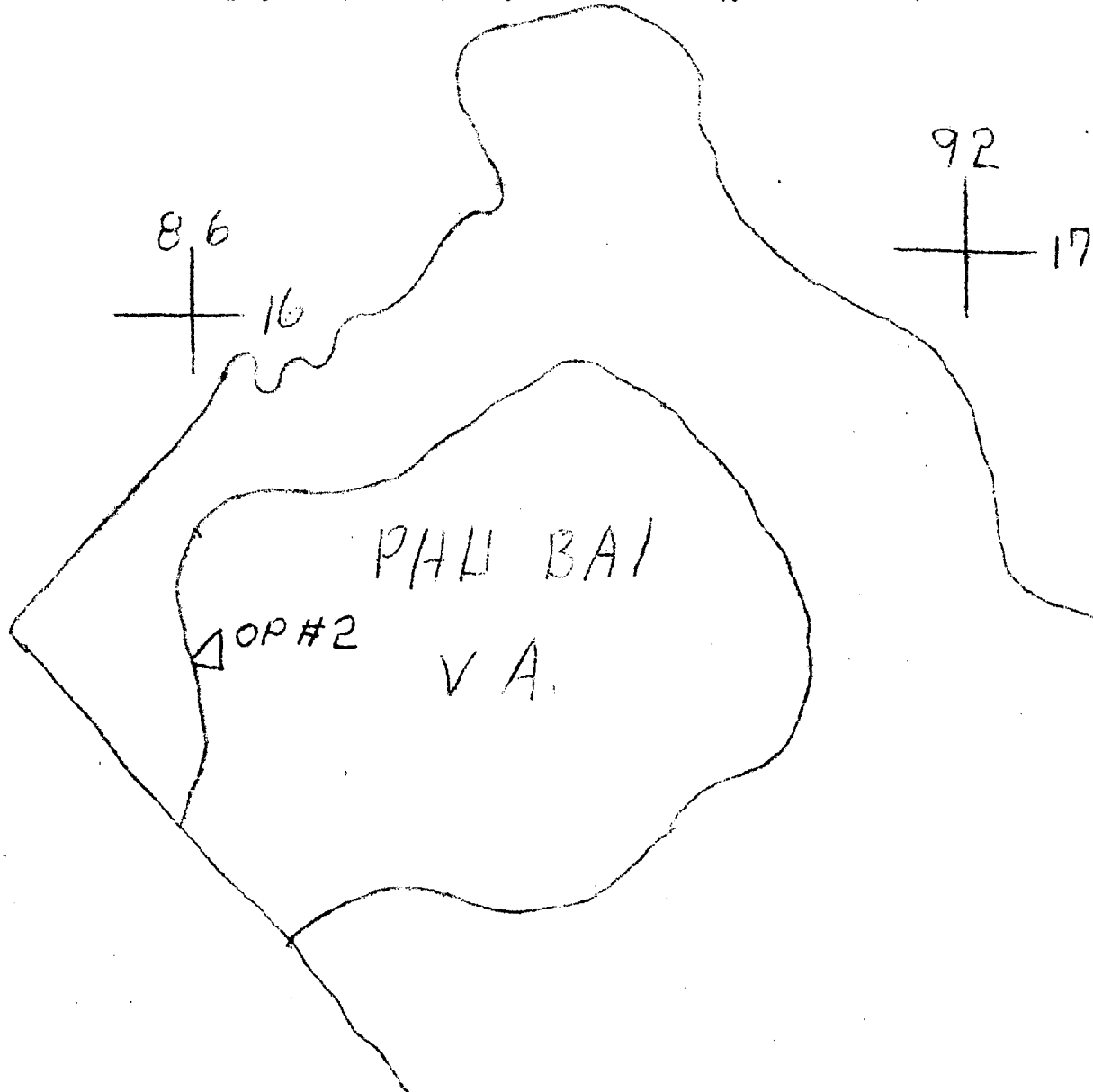
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
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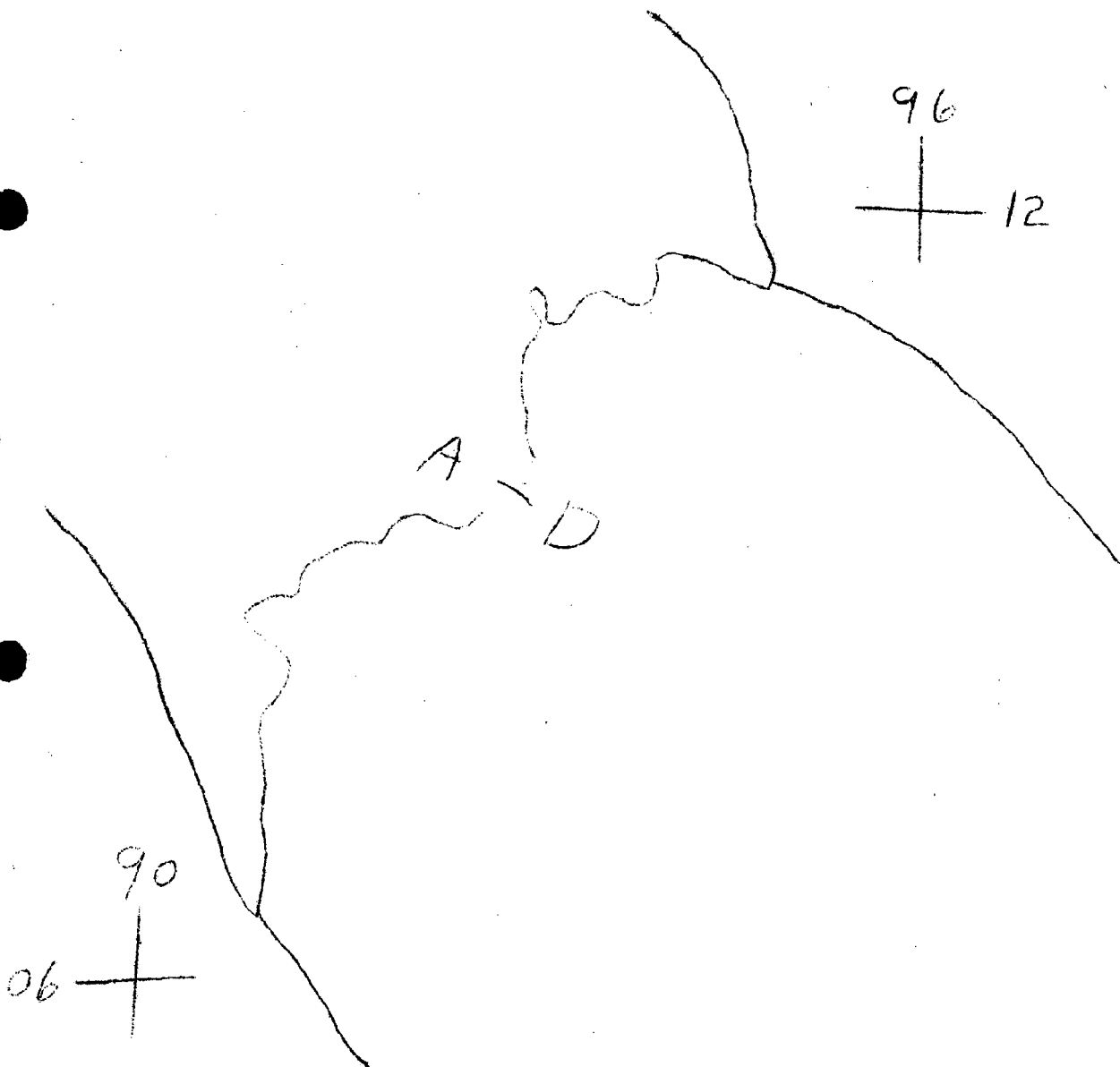
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
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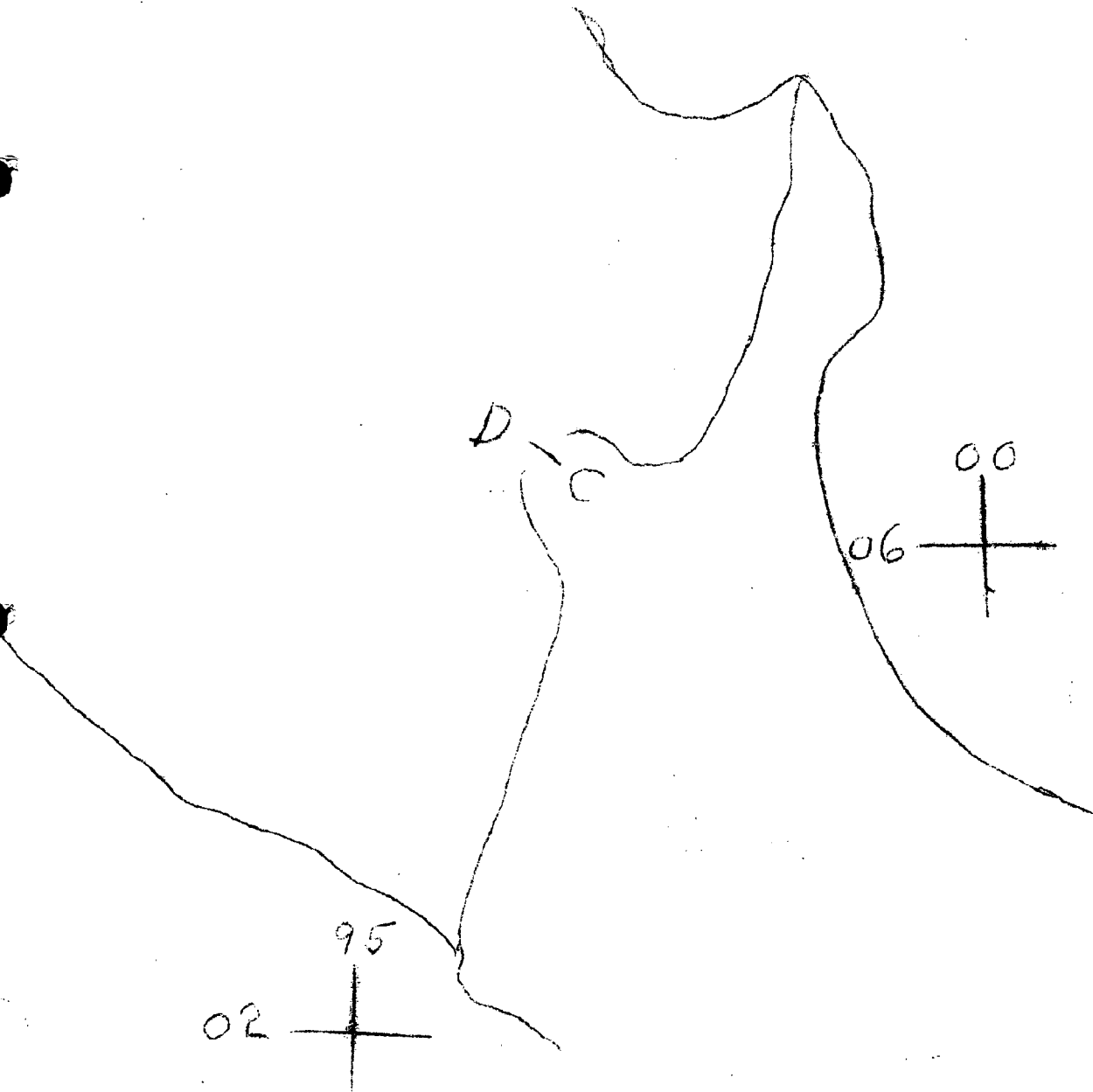
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 72-68

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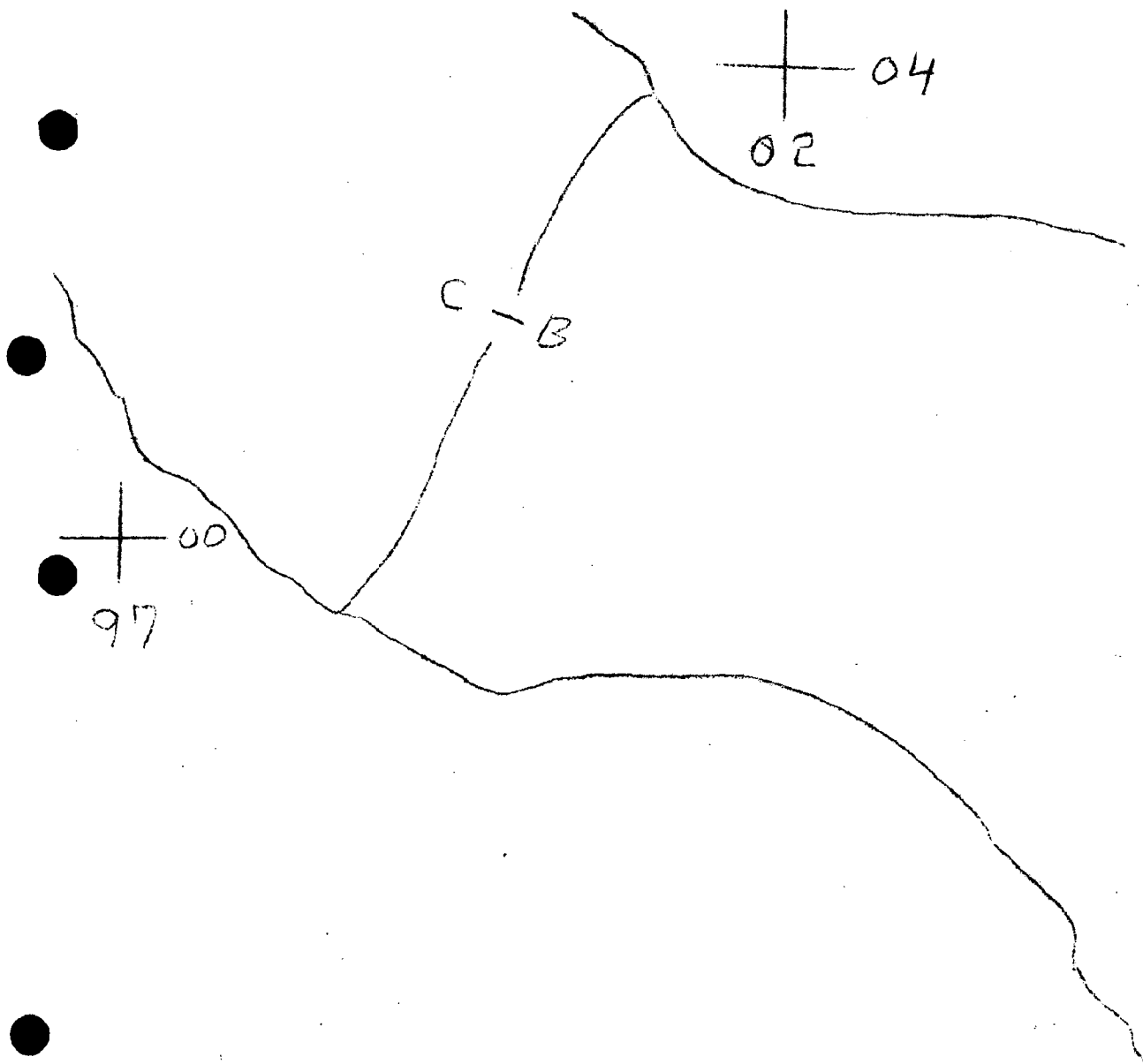
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 72-68

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



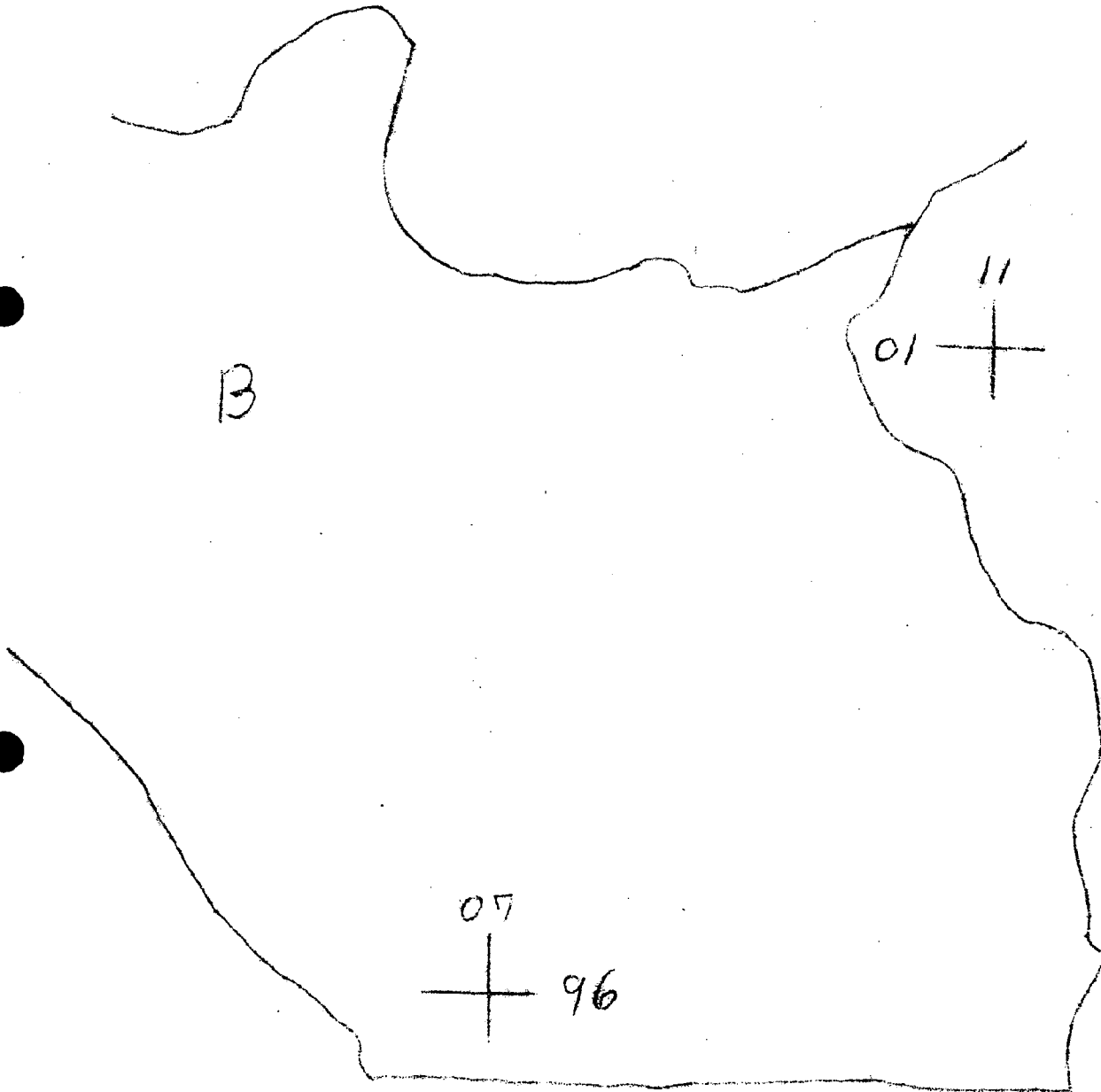
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
16 May 1968

ANNEX: A (Operation Overlay) to Frag Order 72-68
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
23 May 1968

Frag Order 73-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000; Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION No change.
2. MISSION No change.
3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continues mission in TAOR. Conducts one day Cordon & Search rice denial operation in Loc An and Loc Dien villages, supported by two USMC Companies (-), one National Police Field Force Company, two CAP's and two platoons of ARVN and one HB (Propaganda Broadcast) Team. See (Operations Overlay).

b. Company A and Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in assigned AO.

c. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Provide one platoon for Cordon mission on east side of Troui River. See (Operations Overlay)

d. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO. Provide one platoon for Cordon mission on west side of Troui River. Platoon Commander with radio joins combined HQ Group. Be prepared to react with one additional platoon in support of the rice denial operation. See (Operations Overlay).

e. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) HB Team will broadcast from vicinity of Company C Command Post, in support of the operation.

(2) Combined Headquarters groups will be formed to coordinate operations.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (9)
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(3) Aerial observer on station to maintain surveillance over SOA.

(4) D-Day - 23 May 1968. H-Hour 1000. Cordons set by 0600 D-Day.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Evacuation of rice will be accomplished by boat or vehicle when possible. Helicopters will be requested to lift out rice not otherwise accessible.

b. Units will provide sand bags for rice storage and transport, as required.

c. NPFV personnel will bivouac in vicinity of the railway station at Troui Bridge. Rations and water for 90 men for one day will be provided by Company C.

d. Boats will be operated under the control of Company C. Utility boats will be supplemented by sampans to be provided by CVN officials.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. Company C directs and coordinates operations. CP located at Bridge 5.

b. Company C Tactical net will be used by all participating forces.

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ATTACH:

✓ Operations Overlay

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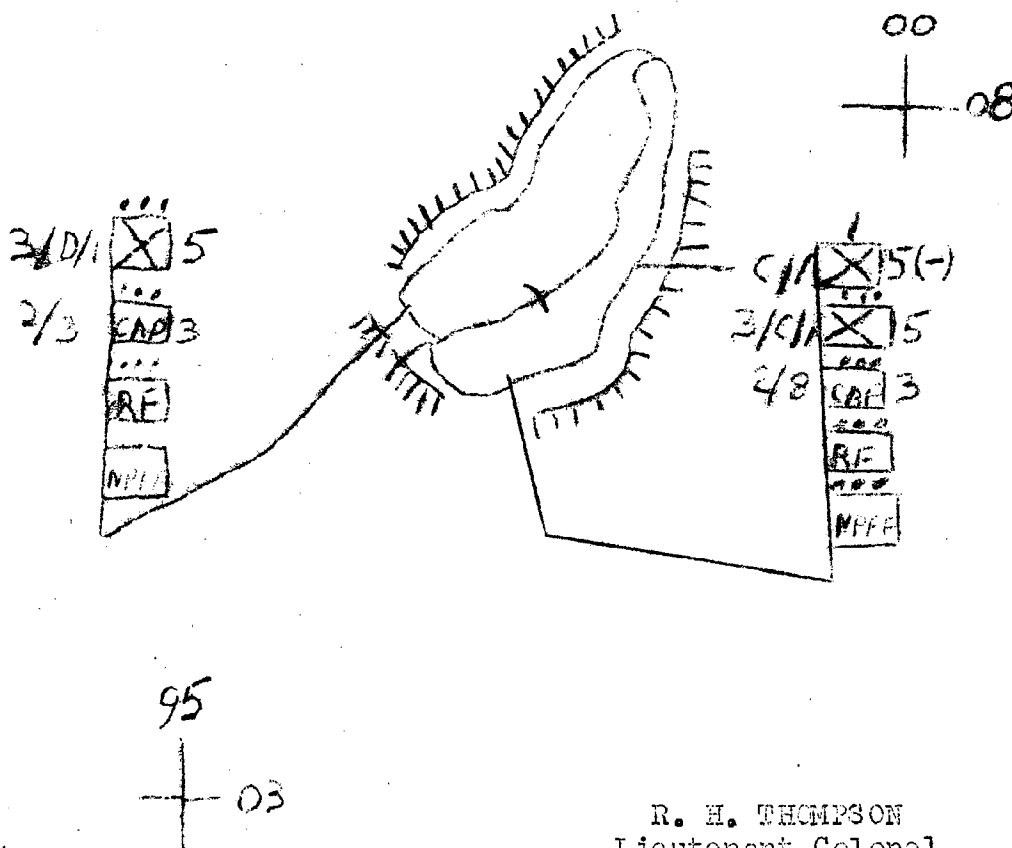
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
23 May 1968

Annex: I. (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 73-68

Ref (a) Maps RVN: 1:50,000 Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV,



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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
28 May 1968

Frag Order 74-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN AMS, Series L7014, 1:50,000 Sheet 6541 IV
(b) 5th Marines Frag Order 43-68 (Operation Houston)

Time Zone: H

TASK ORGANIZATION1st Battalion, 5th MarinesCo D (Rein) 1/5

Co D, 1st Bn, 5th Mar
Prov Plat, CACO 3-2
Det, H&S Co, 1st Bn, 5th Mar
Det, 3rd Plat, Co B, 1st Engr Bn

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy Forces.

(1) Reference (a) and current INTSUMS.

(2) Activities in the SOA during the period 10 Apr 68 to 25 May 68 show the enemy is a frequent transient. A total of 10 contacts have been made with enemy units varying in size from 3 to 40 men. Intelligence reports have indicated that the area is a portal from the enemy's mountain bases to the coastal area. The following units have been reported in the SOA at different times:

- (a) Co Binh Company.
- (b) Elements of Hue City Unit.
- (c) Corridor Company.
- (d) CL16 VC LF Company.

b. Friendly Forces.

(1) Air. Elements of the 1st MAW provide fixed and rotary wing and AO support.

(1)

ENCLOSURE (10)
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(2) Artillery.

(a) Btry D, 2d Bn, 11th Marines (DS)

(b) Btry L, 1st FAG GS

(3) Reconnaissance. Lunchmeat recon team, 1st Force Recon Company, will accompany search force into SOA to act as guides, and to remain after completion of the operation.

c. Attachment and Detachment. By prior agreement with Commanding Officer, CAG 3, one provisional rifle platoon composed of CAP Marines and local PF troops will chop to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines at L-Hour minus one hour, and will return OPCON of CAG-3 on completion of operation.

2. MISSION. On D-Day at L-Hour land in designated LZ and conduct search to locate and destroy enemy forces, material and positions in SOA.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept. On D-1 day artillery units concentrate H&I fires on Target Areas A and B. H&I fires to continue to L-45 minutes with final hour of fires concentrating on LZs. Fired wing AC conducts bombing and strafing prep of LZs in coordination with artillery. On D-Day at L-30 minutes the helo force without troops makes feint at LZ KIWI, returns to LZ Delta Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and embarks search force of 1 rifle company(rein). At L-Hour search force lands in LZ WREN and attacks to locate and destroy enemy forces, material, and positions in SOA. Search force returns to LZ WREN for withdrawal from SOA at about L+8 hours.

b. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines

(1) Conduct operation as outlined in concept.

(2) Coordinate and control all operations in SOA.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) D-Day and L-Hour 280730H May 1968.

(2) SOA, C2's and Target Areas: Annex A (Operations Overlay).

(2)

ENCLOSURE (10)
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(3) SOA FF2 for Company D (Rein), CF2 for all others.

(4) Following friendly recon inserts operating near SOA during operations:

(a) DESK WORK: Upper left (YD 8105)
Lower Right (YD 8501)

(b) FLAG DIP: Upper left (YD 9102)
Lower Right (YD 9597)

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Administration. Reports in accordance with SOP.

b. Logistics

(1) One DOA

(2) One DOS Class I

(3) Three canteens water, salt tablets, halizone

(4) Full protective gear

(5) normal arms and equipment

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS/ELECTRONICS

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post at (YD 930073).

b. All recon inserts near SOA on M-396.

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Lieutenant Colonel
Commanding

ANNEX:

✓A Operations Overlay
✓B Trail Overlay

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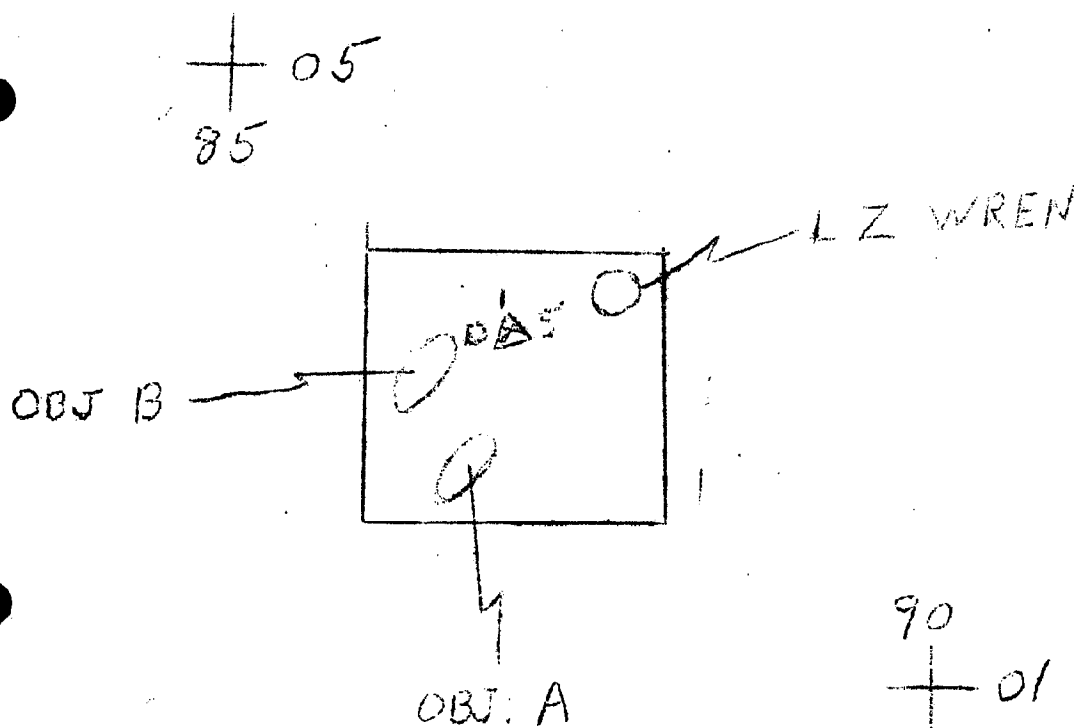
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
28 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
Frag Order 74-68

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



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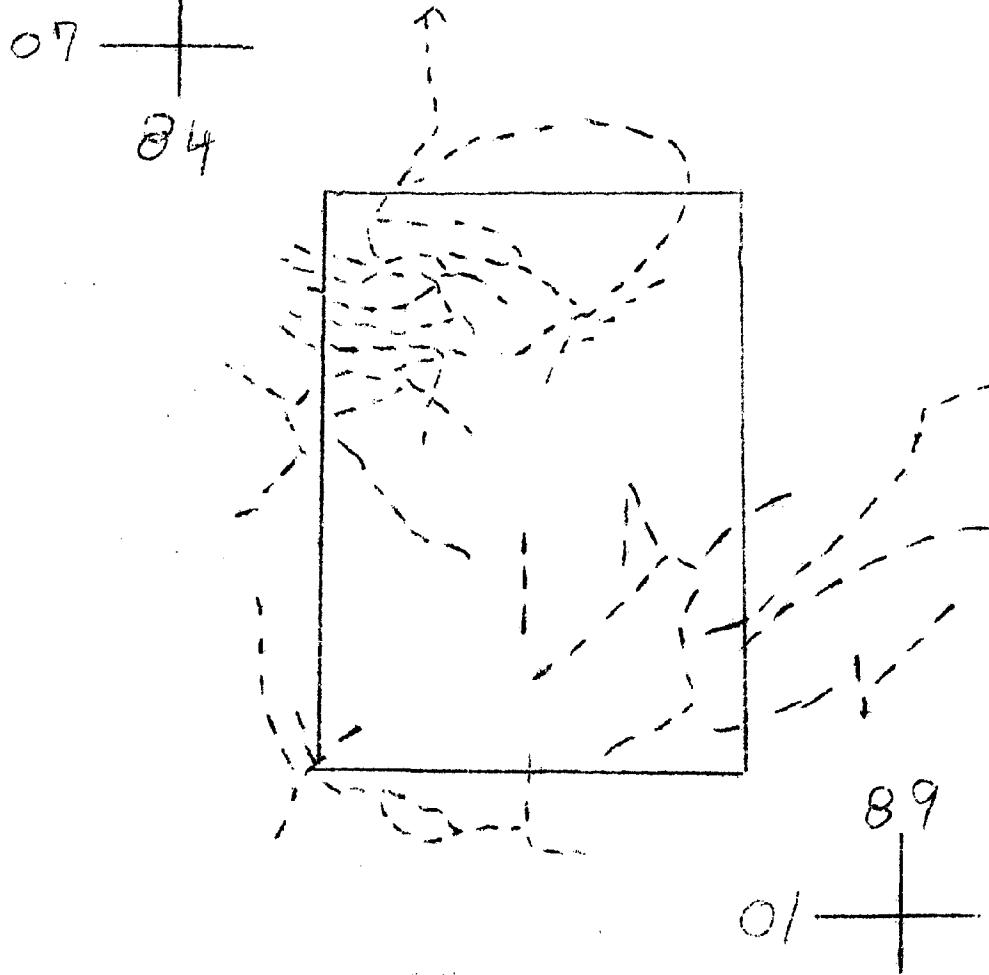
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
28 May 1968

ANNEX B (Trails Overlay) to
Frag Order 74-68

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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
29 May 1968

Frag Order 75-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000; Series L7014, Sheet 6541 I-IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

a. Enemy. No Change.b. Friendly Forces.(1) Air. Elements of 1st MAW.(2) Artillery. Btry D, 2d Battalion, 11th Marines
Direct Support.(3) Tanks. 1st Plat (-) Company A, 1st Anti-Tanks
Direct Support.(4) Ontos. Light Section, 3rd Plat Company A, 1st
Tank Battalion Direct Support.2. MISSION. Destroy or capture enemy forces located in
the vicinity of (YD 9506).

3. EXECUTION

a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in
AO. Attacks with elements of three companies to destroy
enemy force located in Loc Son Village.b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue
mission in AO. Be prepared to reinforce Company D, 1st
Battalion, 5th Marines.c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue
mission in AO. Chop one (1) platoon to Company D, 1st
Battalion, 5th Marines on order.d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue
mission in AO. Chop one (1) platoon to Company D, 1st
Battalion, 5th Marines on order.e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue
mission in AO. Assume OPCON of one platoon Company E, 1st
Battalion, 5th Marines and one platoon Company C, 1st
Battalion, 5th Marines. Attack in conjunction with ARVN

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to destroy enemy forces located in Objective Area (See Operations Overlay).

f. Coordinating instructions.

(1) Units OPCON to Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines operate on Company D Tactical Net.

(2) Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines control all air and artillery in AO.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS

a. Units submit Spot and Zulu reports in accordance with SOP, and position reports hourly.

b. Emergency Med-evacs and resupply will be requested through HST and TACP representatives.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines coordinate and control operation in AO.

b. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post located at (YD 949072).

c. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines Command Post located at (YD 928073).

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Lieutenant Colonel
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ANNEX:

A Operations Overlay

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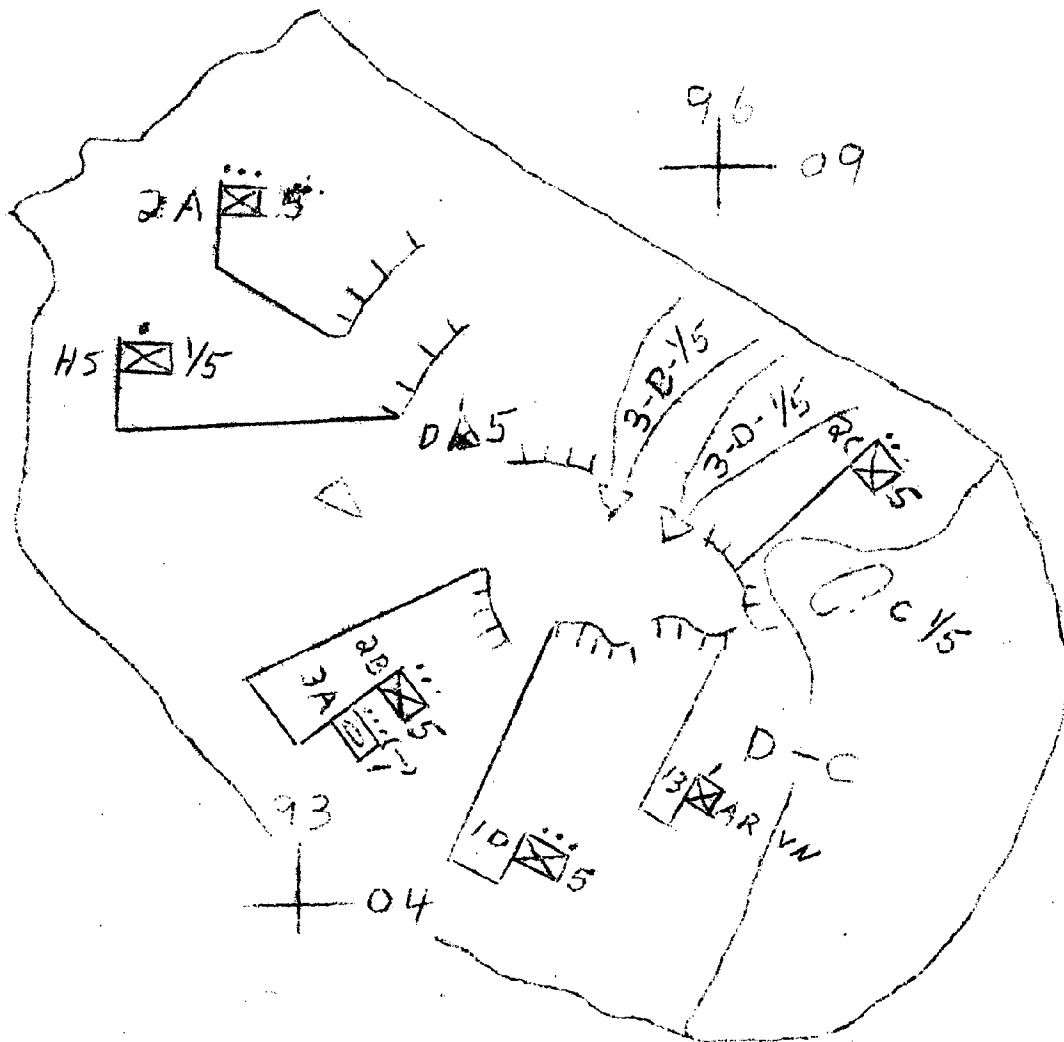
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Phu Bai, RVN
29 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operation Overlay) to
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
30 May 1968

Frag Order 76-68

Ref: (a) Maps RVN, 1:50,000; Series L7014, Sheets 6541 I-IV

Time Zone: H

1. SITUATION

- a. Enemy. No Change.
- b. Friendly. No Change.
- c. Attachments. No Change.

2. MISSION. Destroy or capture enemy forces located in the vicinity of (YD 9506), and conduct search and clear operation in SOA.

3. EXECUTION

- a. 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO. Continue Search and Destroy in Loc An village to find, fix and destroy enemy forces located in AO.
- b. Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO.
- c. Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO. Resume OPCON one (1) platoon Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on order.
- d. Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO. Commencing at 300600H, resume OPCON of one platoon from Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines and conduct a search and destroy operation south along the west bank of the Troui River from night location to find, fix and destroy enemy units and search the battlefield from the engagement of 29 May 1968. (See Operations Overlay)
- e. Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines. Continue mission in AO. Commencing at 300600H, conduct a search and destroy operation in SOA using organic and OPCON units (See Operations Overlay)

(1)

ENCLOSURE (12)
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f. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) Company C, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines platoon
CHOPS from Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines OPCON
at 300600H.

(2) Company B, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines platoon
remains OPCON of Company D, 1st Battalion, 5th Marines until
completion of operation, on order.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS No Change.

5. COMMAND AND COMMUNICATIONS No Change.


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ANNEX:

✓A Operations Overlay

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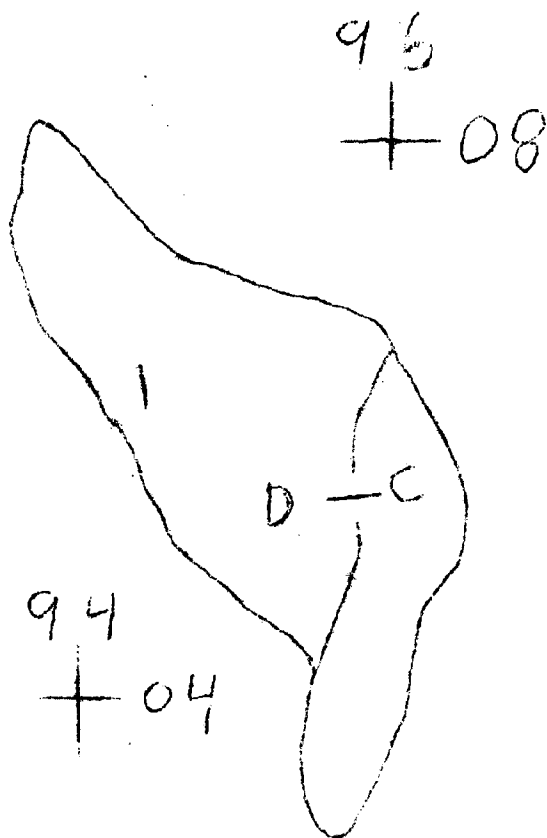
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1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Phu Bai, RVN
30 May 1968

ANNEX A (Operations Overlay) to
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MEDICAL SUPPLY USAGE DATA

FSN	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT OF ISSUE	QUANTITY USED FROM LSA
6505 754-0395	ROBAXIN	BT	1 BT
6505 129-5518	MORPHINE	BOX	1 BOX
6505 889-9026	PLASTIC CONTAINER	BOX	2 BOXES
6505 138-3185	SALT TABS	BT	2 BT's
6505 153-8818	TETRACAINE	TU	12 TU's
6505 104-7990	ALCOHOL	CN	1 CN
6505 656-1612	PENICILLIN VK	BT	2 BTS
6505 153-8480	H202	BT	6 BTS
6505 299-967	KAOPECTATE	GL	26 GLS
6505 128-5705	METHIOLATE TR	BT	2 BTS
6505 100-9985	ASA TABS	BT	3 BTS
6510 526-0162	TAPE 3"	SL	12 SL
6505 074-4702	LOMOFIL	BT	2 BTS
6510 201-7430	MED BATTLE DRS.	BX	1 BX
6510 201-7455	SMALL PATT. DRS	BX	1 BX
6510 597-7469	BANDAIDS	BX	4 BXS
6505 159-6625	BACITRACIN O NT	TU	12 TUS
6510 203-6010	M06 OINT	RL	1 RL
6505 669 4814	UNDECYLENIC ACID	TU	12 TUS
6505 961-5504	MYCOLOG OINT	TU	18 TUS
6505 890-1913	DIHYDROSTREPTOMYCIN	BT	3 BTS
6505 926-2241	TINACTIN	BT	12 BTS
6505 721-9383	NONAVITAMINS	BT	6 BTS
6505 111-1290	CALAMINE LOTION	BT	6 BXS