

I N D E X

1. COMUSMACV	070148Z	
2. CINCPAC	261001Z	
3. III MAF	270945Z	
4. CTF 76	281200Z	
5. COMUSMACV	291115Z	
6. CINCPAC	292109Z	
7. CINCPACFLT	300127Z	
8. CINCPAC	300230Z	
9. COM SEVENTH FLT	300816 Z	- INITIATING DIRECTIVE
10. COMSEVENTH FLT	311108Z	
11. CINCPACFLT	010847Z	
12. CTD M6.9.6	02 0400Z	PRINCETON ETA CHU HAI
13. CINCPAC	022313Z	Execute
14. CG FMFPAC	022305Z	
15. CINCPAC	03 0100Z	
16. MACVCC	050844Z	DETAILS
17. CG III MAF	03 0940Z	
18. USS PRINCETON	051333	
19. MACV	061707Z	1st Hour CHANGED TO 060630H
20. NMCC	062330Z	(Release to White House & State)
21. NMCC	031701Z	
22. USS Whitfield CG	060745Z	
23. FLT-7	060110Z	
24. USS Reyfield	070130Z	
25. FONCON FMFPAC	061915Q	(1ST ELEMENTS HIT BEACH)

26	Force FMFPAC CC	062225Q	
	CORRECTION TO ABOVE	070016Q	
27	Force J Gen Kaulak	070241Q	
28	Force FMFPAC CC	070322Q	
29	76.3 sitrep	070435Z	
30	Force FMFPAC CC	070508Q	
31	76.3	062202 Z	
32	CG III MAF	070220Z	SPECIAL Sitrep #1
33	CTG 76.3	071038Z	
34	CTG 76.2	071618Z	
35	CG III MAF	071510Z	
36	MACV	071917Z	
37	CTG 76.3	072230Z	
38	III MAF	080046Z	
39	MACV	080925Z	
40	CG III MAF	081055Z	
41	CG III MAF	081540Z	
42	MACV	090658Z	
43	CG III MAF	091630Z	
44	CG III MAF	090611Z	
45	CG III MAF	091550Z	SPECIAL Sitrep #5
46	CG III MAF	090628Z	
47	MCCC LETTER	3 SEPT 1965	
48	MCCC LETTER	6 SEPT 1965	

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- 49. MCCC LETTER 6 Sept 1965
- 50. MEMORANDUM MAJ TIEDE  
TO ASS'T DIRECTOR MCCC 6 Sept 1965
- 51. MCCC LETTER MAJ BEDWELL 7 Sept 1965
- 52. MCCC LETTER LTGEN KRULAK 7 Sept 1965
- 53. MCCC LETTER MAJ BEDWELL 7 Sept 1965
- 54. MCCC LETTER 7 Sept 1965
- 55. MCCC LETTER 8 Sept 1965
- 56. (5) FIVE MAPS INDICATING LANDING ZONES "OPERATION PIRANHA"
- 57. "RESUME OF "OPERATION PIRANHA" (See Press Releases attached)
- 58. INDEX LISTING OF "OPERATION PIRANHA" (See TABS Numbered 1 thru 55)
- 59. OVERLAY PHASE I LANDING OPERATIONS "OPERATION PIRANHA"

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~~TOP SECRET~~  
SENSITIVE

OPERATION "PIRANHAA"

MARINE CORPS  
JOINT HEADQUARTERS  
AUG 30 11 53 '65

1. INTELLIGENCE

THE CAPE BATANGAN AREA IS SUSPECTED TO BE A MAJOR VC INFILTRATION POINT FOR LOGISTICS AND PERSONNEL. SIGINT INDICATED ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA AS EARLY AS 14 AUGUST. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY HAS INDICATED CONSIDERABLE FORTIFICATIONS ARE PRESENT IN THIS AREA.

INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATES CARRY THE VC QUANG NGAI PROVINCIAL HQS WITH LOCAL FORCE ELEMENTS AS BEING LOCATED IN THE AREA. IN ADDITION, THE 90TH BN OF THE 1ST VC REGIMENT MAY HAVE MOVED INTO THIS AREA FROM THE VAN TUONG PENINSULA PRIOR TO THE MARINE ASSAULT ON 18 AUGUST. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT THE 3D CO, 80TH BN, AS WELL AS 600 TO 1,000 LOCAL VC IRREGULARS ARE IN THE AREA.

THE ARVN HAVE NOT OPERATED IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA FOR 6 MONTHS.

2. MISSION AND CONCEPT

COMMENCING AT H HOUR, D DAY (BETWEEN 1 AND 5 SEPTEMBER) III MAF AND ARVN FORCES WILL LAND OVER DESIGNATED BEACHES AND IN LANDING ZONES IN THE CAPE BATANGAN AND AN KY PENINSULA TO CONDUCT SWEEP AND DESTROY OPERATIONS TO ELIMINATE THE VIET CONG IN THE AREA.

HELO FORCES WILL LAND IN THESE ZONES AND ESTABLISH BLOCKING POSITIONS.

LANDING FORCES WILL COME ASHORE BY AMPHIBIAN TRACTORS ALONG THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF NIS BEACH # 12 WITH THE MISSION OF

~~TOP SECRET~~  
SENSITIVE

- 57 -

~~TOP SECRET~~OPERATION "PIRANHIA" (CONTINUED)

MOVING SOUTH AND EAST TO SWEEP AND CLEAR THE CAPE BATANGAN PENINSULA.

SIMULTANEOUS WITH THE HELIBORNE AND NIS #12 LANDING, LAND FORCES BY LANDING CRAFT AND NIS BEACH #13 WITH THE *COMBINED!* MISSION OF CLEARING AN KY PENINSULA. *POW 24 DEC 68*

TOTAL FORCE REQUIREMENTS ARE 3 MARINE BLTs AND 2 ARVN BNs. THE SLF WILL NOT PARTICIPATE.

3. APPROVAL

COMUSMACV AND CINCPAC HAVE APPROVED THE SELECTED OBJECTIVE AREA, TENTATIVE MISSION, CONCEPT AND DATE.

4. SHIPPING

CINCPACFLT HAS REQUESTED THAT COMSEVENTHFLT MAKE AVAILABLE THE FOLLOWING NAVAL UNITS:

4 LST  
2 LSD  
2 LCU  
2 LCM  
2 DD  
1 CL

*4.3 flt  
1. 12/12/68*

5. COORDINATION

COMUSMACV HAS BEEN REQUESTED TO ESTABLISH THE ENTIRE AREA AS A RESTRICTED AIR SPACE FROM D-1 TO CONCLUSION OF THE OPERATION FOR CONTROL OF SUPPORTING ARMS, NAVAL GUNFIRE, AND AIR SUPPORT.

~~TOP SECRET~~

**TOP SECRET**  
**SENSITIVE**

OPERATION "PIRANHIA" (CONTINUED)

6. DETAILED CONCEPT

UPON APPROVAL, AND AS PLANNING PROGRESSES, A DETAILED  
CONCPET OF OPERATION WILL BE PROVIDED BY III MAF.

**SECRET**  
**SENSITIVE**

CMC	HAS	
ACMC	HAS	
MILSEC		
CofS	HAS	
DC/S(P&P)	HAS	
SGS		

113

VIET NAM (TOPS 55)

SAIGON, VIET NAM (AP)-U. S. MARINES SWEEPING ACROSS SOUTH VIET NAM'S BATANGAN PENINSULA BLEW UP A TUNNEL TODAY, KILLING 66 UNIFORMED VIET CONG HIDING FROM THE AMERICANS, A MARINE SPOKESMAN SAID.

IT WAS THE BIGGEST BLOW AGAINST THE ENEMY MADE BY THE ESTIMATED 5,000 MARINES SINCE ASSAULT ON THE PENINSULA 330 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON BEGAN AT DAWN TUESDAY.

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS EARLIER INDICATED AS MANY AS 1,000 GUERRILLAS HAD BEEN IN THE AREA. AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER SAID HE BELIEVED THE VIET CONG BEGAN PULLING OUT OF THE AREA THREE DAYS AGO.

MAJ. GEN. LEWIS W. WALT, THE MARINE COMMANDER IN VIET NAM, CONFIRMED THE COUNT OF VIET CONG DEAD, WHICH RAISED THE TOLL OF ENEMY KILLED IN THE TWO-DAY OPERATION TO 146.

LATEST REPORTS FROM THE PENINSULA, 20 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI ALONG THE SOUTH CHINA SEA, SAID THE MARINES KILLED SIX VIET CONG EARLIER AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS REPORTED THEY KILLED 74 GUERRILLAS.

THE VIET CONG IN THE TUNNEL WERE WEARING FIELD PACKS, LOADED CARTRIDGE BELTS AND OTHER COMBAT EQUIPMENT. THE MARINES BLEW UP THE UNDERGROUND COMPLEX WITH TNT AFTER ADVANCING TO THE HOLE IN

PURSUIT OF A LONE VIET CONG SNIPER.

SR207PED 9/8

57 d35 8

## BULLETIN

HERE IS A BULLETIN FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS:

(DA NANG, VIET NAM)--U-S MARINES AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAVE STORMED ASHORE TOWARD VIET CONG POSITION 20 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI (CHOC LY) IN A NEW MAJOR ATTEMPT TO WIPE OUT A COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD.

IT WAS IN A SIMILAR DRIVE AT CHU LAI LAST MONTH THAT MARINES WON THEIR FIRST MAJOR VICTORY IN VIET NAM.

DM942PED 6

(VIET NAM)  
UNITED STATES MARINES AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS HAVE STORMED ASHORE TOWARD VIET CONG POSITIONS 20 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI (CHOC LY). THE ACTION IS DESCRIBED AS ANOTHER MAJOR ATTEMPT TO SMASH A COMMUNIST STRONGHOLD.

--DASH--

(A U-S SPOKESMAN SAYS THE ALLIED FORCES STRUCK BY LAND AND SEA IN AN ASSAULT SIMILAR TO THE SUCCESSFUL ATTACK ON THE VAN TUONG PENINSULA ON AUGUST 19TH.

(IN THE AUGUST OFFENSIVE NEARLY 600 VIET CONG WERE KILLED. IN THE LATEST ACTION, NO CONTACT WAS REPORTED WITH THE ENEMY ONE HOUR AND 20 MINUTES AFTER THE LANDING. A SPOKESMAN SAID THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF VC WAS SOME LIGHT FIRING.

(AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL SAID THE OPERATION IS CALLED "PIRANHA" IN A HELI-COPTER LANDING ZONE. (PEE-RAHN'-YUK) AFTER THE MAN-EATING SOUTH AMERICAN FISH.

(SEVERAL BATTALIONS OF TROOPS ARE INVOLVED.

(RELIABLE SOURCES HAD REPORTED STRONG VIET CONG POSITIONS IN THE AREA, ABOUT 340 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON. THE TROOP CONCENTRATIONS HAD BEEN GROWING CONSIDERABLY IN RECENT WEEKS.)

(VICT)

U-S MARINES AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS MADE AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING IN SEARCH OF VIET CONG CONCENTRATIONS 20 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI (CHOC LY) TODAY. BUT THREE HOURS LATER A U-S SPOKESMAN SAID NO CONTACT HAD BEEN MADE. THE ALLIED FORCE OF SEVERAL BATTALIONS WERE LANDED BY BARGES AND HELICOPTERS ABOUT TEN MILES SOUTH OF THE DANANG PENINSULA WHERE U-S MARINES THREE WEEKS AGO KILLED ALMOST 600 GUERRILLAS IN A SIMILAR ASSAULT.

--DASH--

(THE LANDINGS WERE MADE AFTER INTELLIGENCE REPORTS OF STRONG VIET CONG POSITIONS IN THE AREA SOUTH OF THE U-S BASE AT CHU LAI ON THE COAST OF THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS. SOURCES SAID AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS SHOWED THAT VIET CONG CONCENTRATIONS IN THE AREA HAD BEEN GROWING IN RECENT WEEKS.

(VIETNAMESE RANGERS WERE DROPPED IN THE MEKONG DELTA 135 MILES SOUTHWEST OF SAIGON IN AN ATTEMPT TO TRAP ABOUT 100 GUERRILLAS BUT THE VIET CONG FLED BEFORE CONTACT COULD BE MADE.)

(MARINES)

DEFENSE SOURCES IN WASHINGTON SAY THE MARINE CORPS IS SERIOUSLY--ALTHOUGH RELUCTANTLY--CONSIDERING USE OF THE DRAFT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE KOREAN WAR. ALTHOUGH RECRUITING IS UP, THERE IS A QUESTION AS TO WHETHER THE CORPS CAN GET THE 65,000 RECRUITS THEY NEED WITHOUT TAKING SOME DRAFTEES.

--DASH--

(THE MARINE CORPS CONSIDERS ITSELF AN ELITE ORGANIZATION AND WOULD RATHER NOT RESORT TO THE DRAFT. A SPOKESMAN SAYS NO DECISION HAS YET BEEN MADE ON THE MATTER ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT IS BEING CLOSELY STUDIED. THE MARINES NEED ABOUT 35,000 NEW MEN TO MAKE UP FOR JOURNAL LOSSES THROUGH ATTRITION. IN ADDITION, THE CORPS HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED TO INCREASE ITS SIZE BY 30,000 MEN AS PART OF THE GENERAL BUILDUP OF U-S FORCES IN CONNECTION WITH THE WAR IN VIET NAM.)

AP47

VIET (NEW TOP)

(SAIGON)--U-S MARINES AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS MADE A MAJOR ASSAULT ON THE DATANGAN PENINSULA 20 MILES SOUTH OF CHU LAI TODAY, AND A VIETNAMESE UNIT WAS REPORTED IN HEAVY CONTACT WITH THE VIET CONG. HELICOPTERS WERE FERRYING WOUNDED VIETNAMESE TO THE DA NANG MILITARY HOSPITAL.

THE AMERICANS OPERATING NORTH OF THE VIETNAMESE DREW SMALL ARMS SNIPER FIRE AND MADE ONLY LIGHT CONTACT AFTER STRIKING BY LAND, SEA AND AIR.

U-S CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

22653AED 7

(SAIGON)--U-S MARINES AND VIETNAMESE TROOPS ARE ATTACKING COMMUNIST POSITIONS IN A LAND-AND-SEA OPERATION NEAR CUE LAI (CHOO LY) IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

AMERICAN MARINES AND SOUTH VIET NAM TROOPS -- SEVERAL THOUSAND STRONG -- HAVE MADE A COORDINATED ASSAULT BY LAND AND SEA ON A REPORTED VIET CONG STRONGHOLD IN CENTRAL VIET NAM. THE ASSAULT TOOK PLACE ON CAPE DATANGAN, TEN MILES SOUTH OF THE VAN TUONG PENINSULA, WHERE NEARLY 600 VIET CONG WERE REPORTED KILLED IN A SIMILAR ACTION ON AUGUST 19TH. BUT AN HOUR AND 20 MINUTES AFTER THE LATEST ASSAULT, THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF THE ENEMY WAS SOME LIGHT FIRING ON A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE.

IN SOUTH VIET NAM U-S MARINES AND VIETNAMESE ASSAULT TROOPS ARE ENGAGED IN A MAJOR EFFORT TO WIPE OUT A SUSPECTED COMMUNIST CONCENTRATION ON THE CENTRAL COAST. THE ACTION IS TEN MILES SOUTH OF THE VAN TUONG PENINSULA WHERE MARINES LAUNCHED A MAJOR OFFENSIVE AGAINST THE VIET CONG IN MID-AUGUST, KILLING SOME 600 GUERRILLAS. IN TUESDAY'S ACTION, THE ONLY EVIDENCE OF THE ENEMY ONE HOUR AND 20 MINUTES AFTER THE LANDING WAS SOME LIGHT FIRING OF A HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE.

A COMBINED U-S MARINE AND VIETNAMESE SEARCH OPERATION LAUNCHED TODAY HAS BEEN FUTILE IN ITS EARLY HOURS. THE LEATHERNECKS AND GOVERNMENT TROOPS STORMED A CAPE ON THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IN CENTRAL VIET NAM BY LAND AND SEA. BUT THE OPERATION--NAMED PIRANHA, AFTER THE MAN-EATING FISH--HAD NO CONTACT WITH COMMUNIST FORCES THERE. THE ATTACK SITE WAS ABOUT TEN MILES SOUTH OF WHERE U-S MARINES KILLED ABOUT 600 VIET CONG IN A SIMILAR ASSAULT THREE WEEKS AGO.

**TOP SECRET**  
WHEN FILLED IN

MARINE CORPS  
 COMMAND CENTER  
 AUG 7 03 59 '65

TOP SECRET FOLLOWS

7ZCZLWNN634CA234CZCPHOAYPSVB093PH0077 MAH031

FP RUEGER

3DE RUMSMA 2843U 2190205

ZNY TTTT

REF ID: A670148Z

FM COMUSMACV

TO RUHKA/CINCPAC

INFO: RUHPB/CINCPACFLT

RUCKDA/JCS

RUECH/CNO

ERJECFM/CMC

RUHPG/CS FMFPAC

REFUGAR/CG III MAF

RET

TOP SECRET 27635 FROM: MAC J-311

SUBJ: DEPLOYMENT OF USMC UNITS (U)

REF: A. COMUSMACV 260820Z JULY

1. IN PARA 7 OF REF A COMUSMACV ADVISED THAT IF CINCPAC CONCURRED COMUSMACV WOULD INITIATE ACTION TO OBTAIN COUNTRY CLEARANCE FOR A MAB.

2. IN-COUNTRY CLEARANCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED FOR THE DEPLOY-  
MENT INTO RVN OF THE MAB.

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7-107 (R7. 12-63)

TOP SECRET

WHEN C-1

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TOP SECRET

WHEN FILLED IN

22021000035200 YYNAS0200 PBA340  
P WND  
DE YYNB 2361 2082332  
ENY TTTT  
P 262332Z  
FM CINCPACFLT  
INFO MMSB/CTF SEVEN NINE  
DDKUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
WVNA/CNO  
WVND/CMC  
DDKLAQ/NCC (CG III MAF)  
FFNUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
DDKUU/CTF SEVEN EIGHT  
P 261201Z  
FM CINCPAC  
TO CINCPACFLT  
COMUSMACV  
INFO JCS  
CINCPACAF  
CINCUSARPAC  
CG FMFPAC  
ADMINO CINCPAC  
BT

III MAF

210300 03072

ACT

INFO

Aug 26 23 59 '67

MAINTAINED  
COM SEVENTH  
FLT

1. O P S E C R E T TANGO TEN FOR ADMINO CINCPAC  
DEPLOYMENT OF BLT 3/7 (U)

- A. COMUSMACV 29757/241100Z NOTAL *NH*
- B. COMUSMACV 29888/251117Z NOTAL *NH*
- C. COMUSMACV 27635/070148Z NOTAL *HEDD*

1. CINCPAC CONCURS WITH REQUEST CONTAINED REF A TO LAND BLT 3/7  
AS PLANNED AT CHU LAI ABOUT 1 SEP TO BE EMPLOYED BY III MAF. FURTHER  
CONCUR WITH POSITIONING RECONSTITUTED SLF WITHIN 6 HOUR REACTION  
TIME OFF QUI NHON BY 11 SEP AS REQUESTED REF B. REF C STATES  
COUNTRY CLEARANCE HAS BEEN OBTAINED FOR DEPLOYMENT OF MAF WHICH  
INCLUDES BLT 3/7.

2. FOR CINCPACFLT:

- A. LAND BLT 3/7 AT CHU LAI O/A 1 SEP. RETAIN SLF HMM SQDN  
ON BOARD LPH.
- B. COORDINATE LANDING BLT 3/7 WITH COMUSMACV.
- C. WHEN BLT 3/7 ESTABLISHED ASHORE CHOP TO COMUSMACV.
- D. RECONSTITUTE SLF WITH OKINAWA BASED BLT AND SAIL TG 76.5 TO  
POSITION WITHIN 6 HOUR REACTION TIME VIC QUI NHON BY 11 SEP.  
ADVISE ALCON ETA SLF.
- E. UPON ARRIVAL TG 76.5 VIC QUI NHON, BE PREPARED, ON ORDER,  
TO LAND SLF, OR ELEMENTS THEREOF, TO PROVIDE SECURITY FOR DEBAR-  
ATION OF 1ST CAV DIV (AM) DURING PERIOD 10-22 SEP.

3. FOR COMUSMACV:

- A. ASSUME OPCON BLT 3/7 WHEN ESTABLISHED ASHORE AT CHU LAI.
- 4. FOR BOTH: DIRLAUTH. AMPHIBIOUS OPDS CONDUCTED BY TG 76.5  
WILL BE IAW NWP 22(A) FM31-11.

GP-4

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TOP SECRET

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26

10

21 10 012

DECLASSIFIED

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET C L O W S / / / / / VZCZIWVN769VV Y

NA937VV Y PBA597  
PP WND  
DE YNB 5993 2411851  
ZNY TTTT  
F 291851Z

FM CINCPACFLT

INFO WNA/CNO

WNA/CMC

O 290722Z

FM ADMNO CONSEVENTHFLT

INFO CINCPACFLT

O 280952Z

FM ADMNO CONSEVENTHFLT

TO COMNA3BASE SUBIC

O 280350Z

FM CG III MAF

INFO CG FMFPAC

CG THIRD MARDIV

CG FIRST MAW (ADV)

CONSEVENTHFLT

CTF SEVEN SIX

CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)

O 270942Z

FM CG III MAF

TO COMUSMACV

BT

TOP SECRET

OPERATION ELZANHA PIRANHA

1. INTELLIGENCE SITUATION:

CAP BATANGAN AREA BOUNDED BY (BS 750875), (BS 792860), (BS 795852), (BS 782823), (BS 742802) IS SUSPECTED TO BE A MAJOR VC INFILTRATION POINT FOR LOGISTICS AND PERSONNEL. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY INDICATES CONSIDERABLE FORTIFICATIONS IN AREA. A SPAR REPORT INDICATED ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA ON 14 AUGUST. RVN FORCES HAVE NOT OPERATED IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA FOR OVER 6 MONTHS. INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATED CARRY THE VC QUANG NGAI PROVINCIAL HQS

PAGE 2 YNB 5993 TOP SECRET.

29 AUG 55 22 41Z  
ACT  
INFO  
JUL 29 20 41'65  
MARINE CORPS  
COMVAC CENTER

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PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGE

COPY 2 OF 14

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C-200-35

TOP SECRET

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WITH LOCAL FORCE ELEMENTS AS BEING LOCATED VIC (BS 755855). IN ADDITION DISTRICT REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE 90TH BATTALION MAY HAVE MOVED SOUTH FROM THE AN TUONG COMPLEX PRIOR TO USMC OPERATION ON 18 AUG ALSO THAT THE 3RD CO 82TH BATTALION MAY BE LOCATED IN THIS GENERAL AREA. IN ADDITION TO REGULAR FORCES SOME 600 TO 1000 GUERRILLAS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE AREA.

BASED ON INTELLIGENCE OUTLINED ABOVE THE HEADQUARTERS HAS COMMENCED PRELIMINARY PLANNING FOR AN AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION IN THE CAP BATANGAN AND AN KY AREA, WITH A TARGET DATE OF 1 TO 5 SEPTEMBER. IN ORDER TO MEET THIS DATE, IT IS NECESSARY TO EXPEDITE PARALLEL AND CONCURRENT PLANNING BETWEEN THE MARINES AND NAVAL FORCES.

3. THE FOLLOWING MISSION AND CONCEPT ARE SUBMITTED:

- A. MISSION: COMMENCING AT H HOUR ON D-DAY, III MAF AND ARVN FORCES LAND OVER THE BEACH AND IN LZ'S IN THE CAP BATANGAN AND AN KY PENINSULA, CONDUCTS SWEEP AND DESTROY OPERATIONS TO ELIMINATE VIET CONG FROM THIS AREA.
- B. PRELIMINARY CONCEPT: LAND HELICOPTER - BORNE FORCE IN LANDING ZONES TO BE ESTABLISHED VICINITY (BS 7283) (BS 7284), (BS 7285) AND ESTABLISH BLOCKING POSITION

PAGE 3 YYNB 5993 T O P S E C R E T

LAND FORCES BY AMPHIBIAN TRACTORS OVER THE SOUTHERN

PORTION OF BEACH NIS 12 WITH MISSION OF MOVING SE TO SWEEP AND CLEAR CAP BATANGAN PENINSULA.

SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE HELIBORNE AND NIS 12 LANDING,

LAND FORCES BY LANDING CRAFT AND AMPHIBIAN TRACTOR

OVER BEACH NIS 13 WITH MISSION OF CLEARING AN KY PENINSULA.

TOTAL FORCE REQUIREMENTS:

THREE MARINE BNT TWO ARVN BNT TOTAL FIVE BNT

ANTICIPATE USING FOUR BNT IN ASSAULT ONE RESERVE

4. REQUEST YOU APPROVE THE SELECTED OBJECTIVE AREA, TENTATIVE MISSION, CONCEPT AND DATE.

5. IF YOU APPROVE, REQUEST FOLLOWING ACTION BE TAKEN:

A. REQUEST AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE COMMANDER BE DESIGNED ASAP.

B. REQUEST FOLLOWING NAVAL FORCES AND SHIPPING BE MADE AVAILABLE:

SLF, 4 LST, 2 LSD, 2 LCU, 2 LCM, 3, 2 DD, 1 CL,

C. REQUEST DIRECT LIASON BE ESTABLISHED BETWEEN III AND AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE COMMANDER.

D. ESTABLISH RESTRICTED AIR SPACE FROM (BS 3792) TO (BS 8492) TO (BS 8445) TO (BS 6775) FROM D-1 THROUGH CONCLUSION OF OPERATION FOR CONTROL OF SUPPORTING ARMS, NAVAL GUNFIRE, AND AIR SUPPORT.

6. UPON APPROVAL AND AS PLANNING PROGRESSES A DETAILED CONCEPT OF OPERATION WILL BE FORWARDED.

GP-4

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\* GPO 1957 O-715-008

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WVN767 1

VV YYN3271VV PBA598  
 PP WND  
 DE YYNB 5995 2411853  
 ZNY TTTT  
 P 291853Z  
 FM CINCPACFLT  
 ICO WNA/CNO  
 WND/CMC  
 YNA/CG FMFPAC  
 O 290720Z  
 FM ADMINO COMSEVENTHFLT  
 INFO CINCPACFLT  
 O 281200Z  
 FM CTF SEVEN SIX  
 TO COMSEVENTHFLT  
 COMUSMACV  
 BT

TOP SECRET

OPERATION PIRANHA

A. CINCPAC 261001Z

B. ANZL 41-1 FLT 270737Z CINCPACFLT

C. CG III MAF 270945Z

1. SLF PREVIOUSLY COMMITTED TO OPERATIONS AT CHU LAI IAW REFS A AND B. IF BLT 3/7 LANDED CHU LAI 32-3 AUG AND BLT 2/1 EMBARKED OKI 4-6 SEPT AS NOW SKED, EARLIEST SLF COULD ARRIVE QUI NHON IS 11 SEP.
2. EARLIEST AVAILABILITY LST'S/LSD'S REQUESTED PARA 53 REF C AS FOLLOWS:

PAGE 2 YYNB 5995 TOP SECRET

A. 4 LST'S 5/6 SEPT

B. 2 LSD'S SHIPS SAILED SAILING ORDERS

3. NUMBER OF YN1210 DEPARTED REF C APPROPRIATE EXCESS OF THE SCOPE OF THE PROPOSED OPERATION. REQUESTED APPEARS

GP-4 PROPOSED

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FROM: FONCON FMFPAC CG 292158G

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3 GPO : 1963 O-218-004

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VZCZIWVN793VV YVNA951

PGB870

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C WND

DE YVNA 4282 2420453

MARINE CORPS  
COMMAND CENTER

ZNY TTTTT

O 300458Z

AUG 30 02 55 '65

FM CG FMFPAC

INFO WND/CMC

Z O 291115Z

FM COMUSMACV

TO RUHKA/CINCPAC

RUMFUAQ/CG III MAF

RUMSAL/CG 2/ AIR DIV

INFO RUHP3/CINCPACFLT

RUMFUAL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMFUD/CTF 76

RUMFUD/CTF 78

RUABSL/CTF 79

RUHKA/CG FMFPAC

BT

TOP SECRET 30392 FROM: MACJ311

SUBJECT: OPERATION PIRANHA

REF A. CG III MAF 2770945Z (NOTAL)

B. CTF 76 281200Z (NOTAL)

1. BY REF A, CG III MAF PROPOSED OPERATION PIRANHA  
SE CHU LAI INVOLVING UNITS OF SEVENTH FLEET. TARGET DATE  
1-5 SEPT. REF A PESEP TO CINCPAC BY TELECON.

2. BY REF B CTF 76 STATES THAT 4 LSTS ARE AVAILABLE  
5/6 SEPT. 2 LSDS AVAILABLE BY SAILED PLUS TWO DAYS.

3. COMUSMACV APPROVES FOR PLANNING THE SELECTED OBJECTIVE

PAGE 2 RUMSMA 3115U TOP SECRET

AREA, TENTATIVE MISSION, CONCEPT AND TARGET DATE.

4. TELECON WITH MAF G-3 INDICATES SLE NOT NECESSARY.

THEREFORE SLE PLANNED SCHEDULE IS NOT REPEAT NOT INVOLVED.

5. REQUEST CINCPAC APPROVE AND TAKE ACTION ON REQUEST  
CONTAINED PARA 5, REF A.

A. DESIGNATE TASK FORCE COMMANDER EARLSET.

B. REQUEST FOLLOWING CRAFT BE MADE AVAILABLE: 4 LST,  
2 LSD, 2 LCU, 2 LCM's, 2 DD AND 1 CL, OR AS REQUESTED BY CG  
III MAF.

C. REQUEST DIRLAUTH BETWEEN III MAF AND CATF TO  
EXPEDITE.

6. FOR CG 2D AIR DIV: TAKE ACTION TO ESTABLISH RESTRICTED  
AIR SPACE FROM (BS 6792) TO (BS 8492) TO (BS 8475) TO (BS 67715)  
FROM 0-1 THROUGH CONCLUSION OF OPERATION FOR SUPPORTING ARMS  
AND AIRCRAFT. DIRLAUTH III MAF THIS SUBJECT. COORDINATE INITIAL  
RELEASE OF INFO TO VNAF WITH CG III MAF IN ORDER MAINTAIN MAX  
SECURITY.

7. FOR CG III MAF: MAKE CG, 2D AIR DIV INFO ADDEE ON  
MESSAGES THIS SUBJECT.

GP-4

BT

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NATIONAL MILITARY COMMAND CENTER  
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25364

D152/30/CS007/R-2  
VV PHW262AVV KAF994  
OO RUEKDA  
DE RUHKA 3909 2412137  
ZNY TTTT  
O 292109Z  
FM ADMINO CINCPAC  
TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
RUHPB/CINCPACFLT  
RUMJDH/USNLO HONG KONG  
INFO RUEKDA/JCS  
RUMGCR/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
RUMFUAQ/CG III MAF  
RUMGCR/CTF 76

AUG 30 00 28 '65

CALL 53337  
FOR NMCC/MC  
SERVICE

830 0141Z

**IMMEDIATE**

BT

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USNLO HONG KONG NOT ADDEE PASS INFO ADM SHARP AS ALFA NR 309.  
OPERATION PIRANHA

A. COMUSMACV 291115Z (PASEP)

B. CG III MAF 270945Z (PASEP)

1. BY REF A COMUSMACV HAS APPROVED THE OBJECTIVE AREA, MISSION, CONCEPT AND TARGET DATE FOR OPERATION PIRANHA PROPOSED BY CG III MAF IN REF B. OPERATION PIRANHA IS THE CONDUCT OF AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT IN THE CAP BATANGAN AREA TO LOCATE AND DESTROY VIET CONG FORCES BELIEVED TO BE IN THE AREA. TARGET DATE 1-5 SEPT.

2. FOR COMUSMACV: AS TIMING BETWEEN YOUR REQUEST AND ACTUAL INITIATION OF OPERATION IS SO SHORT, THIS MESSAGE IS IMMEDIATE INTERIM APPROVAL TO TAKE THE ACTIONS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT REF A. FINAL APPROVAL WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM CINCPAC SHORTLY.

3. FOR CINCPACFLT: EXECUTE REQUEST CONTAINED IN REF A. DESIGNATE ATF COMMANDER EARLIEST AND PROVIDE FORCES AS REQUIRED.

4. FOR BOTH: DIRLAUTH ALCON. GP-3.

BT

INFO: CJCS-1(1) DJS-3(2-4) SJCS-1(5) J3-8(6-13) J5-2(14-15) SACS-5

(16-20) SECDEF-5(21-25) ASD/ISA-5(26-30) NMCC-1(31) JRC-2(32-33) ASD/PA-1

(34) DIA-4(35-38) CSA-2(39-40) CSAF-2(41-42) CNO-2(43-44) CMC-5(45-49)

FILE-1(50)YJS/RAD

REF NOT IDENTIFIED

ADV CY TO NMCC

PAGE 1 OF 1

48

-6-

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VZCZIWVN786ZCZCICA241ZCZCPHO765VV PBK220

WHEN FILLED IN

OO RUECEM

DE RUHLHL 6026 2420127

ZNY TTTT

O 300127Z

FM CINCPACFLT

TO RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

JUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

JABGL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFG/CG FMFPAC

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMFUAQ/NCC (CG III MAF)

RUMW/CNO

RUECEM/CMC

BT

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OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMUSMACV CITE 30392 DTG 291115Z PASEP

B. CG III MAF 270945Z PASEP

C. CTF 76 281200Z PASEP

D. ADMVO CINCPAC 2921090 PASEP

I. REF A, INTER ALIA, REQUESTED CINCPAC APPROVAL OF  
AND ACTION ON THE REQUEST CONTAINED IN PARA 3 OF REF B  
WHICH PROPOSED THE SUBJECT OPERATION INVOLVING UNITS OF  
THE SEVENTHFLT WITH A TARGET DATE OF 1-5 SEP. REF A

PAGE 2 RUHLHL 6026 TOP SECRET

FURTHER REQUESTED THAT:

A. THE AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE COMMANDER BE DESIGNATED EARLIEST.

B. THE FOLLOWING NAVAL UNITS BE MADE AVAILABLE:

(1) 4 LST

(2) 2 LSD

(3) 2 LCU

(4) 2 LHM

(5) 2 D

(6) 1 CL

C. DIRECT LIAISON BE AUTHORIZED BETWEEN III MAF AND THE COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE.

2. PARA 3 OF REF A NOTED THAT CTF 76, BY REF C, HAD  
INDICATED THAT 4 LSTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY 5/6 SEP, AND  
THAT 2 LSDS WOULD BE AVAILABLE BY SAILORD PLUS TWO DAYS.

3. BY REF D CINCPAC, INTER ALIA, DIRECTED ACTION NECESSARY  
TO IMPLEMENT REF A.

4. TAKE PARA 3 OF REF D FOR APPROPRIATE ACTION.

5. DIRLAUTH. SUBMIT SITREPS AS APPROPRIATE TO ALCON.

GP-THREE

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AUG 30 02 51 '65

0ZCZ1WWN790VV YYN0949VV P63868

1 WWND

DE YYN0 4281 2420456

ZNY TTTT

O 300456Z

FM CG FMFPAC

INFO WWND/CMC

O 300230Z

FM CINCPAC

TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMHQB/ADMINO CINCPAC

RUMHQB/CINCPACFLT

INFO RUEK3A/JCS

RUMPL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMPG/CG FMFPAC

RUMFUAQ/CG III MAF

RUMFUA/CTF 76

BT

T O P S E C R E T

TANG032 FOR ADMINO CINCPAC

OPERATION BIRANHA (U)

A. ADMINO CINCPAC 292109Z

1. REF A APPROVED FOR EXECUTION.

2. ADMINO CINCPAC PASS CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS AND FORCE  
COMPOSITION TO JCS. SP-3

ACT

INFO

30 AUG 65 08 07Z

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VZCZINWN818VV YYN9880V P3D564  
 00 WND  
 DE YNA 4323 2421739  
 ZNY ITTT  
 O 301739Z  
 FM CG FMFPAC  
 INFO WND/CMC  
 O 300816Z  
 FM ADMINO COMSEVENTHFLT  
 TO CTF 76  
 CTG 76.3  
 CG III MAF  
 INFO CINCPACFLT  
 CG FMFPAC  
 CGFMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 CTF 79  
 COMUSMACV  
 COMPHIBRON SEVEN  
 CTG 76.4  
 CTF 77  
 CTG 77.3  
 BT

*IT MAF*

31 AUG 65 19 25 Z  
 AUG 30 21 50 '65  
 COMNAV CENTER

TOP SECRET

OPERATION PIRANHA-INITIATING DIRECTIVE (U)

A. CINCPACFLT 300127Z NOTAL

B. ADMINO CINCPAC 292129Z NOTAL

C. ARWP 22(A)

1. THIS INITIATING DIRECTIVE PROMULGATED IAW REF A AND B FOR SEVENTHFLT

FORCES PARTICIPATION IN OPERATION PIRANHA.

2. FOR CTF 76, COMPHIBRON SEVEN IN BAYFIELD IS DESIGNATED CTG 76.3 AND  
 COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS TASK FORCE FOR THIS OPERATION. SAIL FOUR LST, TWO  
 LSD, 2 LCU, 2 LCM TO CHU LAI. ALL SHIPPING TO ARRIVE CHU LAI NLT FOUR

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TWO RUMFUL 3382 T O P S E C R E T

EXCEPT WASHTENAW CTY ARRIVE FIVE SEP. ARRIVAL DATES MAY BE ADVANCED

WHERE POSSIBLE. INCREASED SOA AUTHORIZED.

3. FOR CTG 76.2. ASGN TWO DD AND ONE CLG TO PROVIDE NAVAL GUNFIRE SUP-  
PORT.

4. FOR CG III MAF: REQUEST YOU DESIGNATE COMMANDER LANDING FORCE.

5. MISSION. TG 76.3 CONDUCT AN AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT IN THE CAP BATANGAN  
AREAS RVN, TO LOCATE AND DESTROY VIET CONG FORCES BELIEVED TO BE IN THE

AREA.

6. COMMAND RELATIONSHIP:

A. CTF 76 AND CTG 76.3 DIRLAUTH CG III MAF FOR PLANNING AND EXECUTION  
THIS OPERATION.

HV SHIPS ASGN NGFS CHOP TO CTG 76.3 FOR THIS OPERATION.

7. COORDINATING INSTRUCTIONS:

A. FOR PURPOSE OF DEFINITION, THIS OPERATION IS AN AMPHIBIOUS OP-  
ERATION AS DEFINED PARA 101A REF 8.

B. CATF TO SUBMIT SITREPS DAILY UNTIL COMMENCEMENT THIS OPERATION  
AT WHICH TIME SITREPS TO BE SUBMITTED AT SIX HOUR INTERVALS. ALL SIT-  
REPS TO BE IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE.

C. SUBJ LINE OF ALL COMMUNICATION MESSAGES CONNECTED WITH THIS  
EXERCISE TO BE UNCLASSIFIED AND IDENTIFY OPERATION AS QUOTE OP-  
ERATION PIRANHA UNQUOTE.

PAGE THREE RUMFUL 3382 T O P S E C R E T

8. PUBLIC INFORMATION: NEWS RELEASES. BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS WITH NEG-  
ATIVES AND CAPTION MATERIAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED DIRECT TO CTE 70.2.1.1  
BY FASTEST MEANS INCLUDING COURIER, IF PRACTICABLE, FOR RELEASE BY  
COMUSMACVCE INFO CINCPACFLT, COMSEVENTHFLT, CG II MAF AND CTF 76.  
FORWARD COLOR STILLS AND ALL MOPIK UNPROCESSED WITH CAPTIONS DIRECT  
NAVPHOTOLAB, NAVSTA, WASH D.C., INFO CHINFO, CINCPACFLTNO COMSEVEN-  
THFLT, CG III MAF AND CTF 76. MAILING ADDRESS FOR CTE 70.2.1.1 IS:  
2ND AIR DIVISION, BOX 2123, APO US FORCES 96307.

GP-3

BT

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VZCZ WVN222VV YVNA077VV PBA763

OO WND

DE RUHLHL 0149 2440847

ZNY TTTT

O 010847Z

FM ADMIRAL CINCPACFLT

TO DOKUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO RUHKA/CINCPAC

WVNA/CNO

DDKUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

DDKUU/CTF SEVEN EIGHT

MNSB/CTF SEVEN NINE

YVNA/CG FMFPAC

RUE SMA/COMUSMACV

RUMFUA0/NCC (CG III MAF)

WVND/CMC

BT

**TOP SECRET**

OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 311108Z PASEP

1. REF A PROPOSED THE USE OF PRINCETON FOR OPERATION PIRANHA SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY COMUSMACV OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE OFF-LOAD OF ARMY HELOS AT VUNG TAO ON 3 SEP. FURTHER, REF A INDICATED THAT UNLESS OTHERWISE DIRECTED PRINCETON WOULD BE SCHEDULED FOR OPERATION PIRANHA.

2. CINCPACFLT CONCURS IN THE EMPLOYMENT OF PRINCETON IN THE SUBJECT OPERATION AS DESCRIBED IN REF A.

GP-A

BT

ACT

INFO

1 SEP 65 11 12 Z

SEP 1 08 11 '65

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NNNNKKKKKKKKKKKKKKQTZ

OEMA3240CD735

RR RUECEM  
 DE RUWSPG 079 2450807  
 ZNY SSSSS  
 R 020740Z  
 FM MRC SFRAN  
 INFO RUWDP/COMPHIBPAC  
 RUECEM/CMC  
 RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV REIN  
 RUWDFL/CG FORTRPS FMFPAC  
 P 020400Z  
 FM CTU 76.9.6  
 TO AIG 60  
 INFO RUWSCR/COMPHIBRON THREE  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUMGCR/CTG SEVEN SIX PT THREE  
 RUMGCR/CG III MAF  
 BT

**SECRET**

SECRET, PPP MOVREP 020400Z6 CTU 76.9.6, 01//  
 ORG TU 76.9.6, SP PRINCETON LPH-5, RG MAG 36, UC CTU 76.9.6, 02//  
 CHG SBT 020900Z1 03//  
 ETC P CHU LAI, 021000Z3 CO 025.0K7 05//  
 ETA P VUNG TAU, 030400Z7 06//  
 MOD LOC 030400Z7 VUNG TAU, UXX  
 ETD P VUNG TAU, 031000Z4 CO 025.0K7 08//  
 ETA P CHU LAI, 040400Z8 09//

PAGE TWO RUMGUAC 086 **SECRET**

CHG CHP 040400Z8 CTG 76.3, 10//

BCT C 3 BG GOLF ROMEO TANGO TANGO GOLF ROMEO OSCAR TANGO, PRINCETON LIA

CFN 020400Z6, 020900Z1, 021000Z3, 025.0K7, 030400Z7, 030400Z7,  
 031000Z4, 025.0K7, 040400Z8, 040400Z8, 12//END

GP-4

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(REV. 7-62)

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 00 - COG  
 00 - ACTION  
 0 - INFO

UNCH CODE:	NNN	G-1	G-2	G-3	G-4	CH	D	AA	AB	AD	AG	AQ	AS	AT	AX	NOBN
		02						24						02		

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3 1 5 5 8

A403/02/JCS905/R2  
PHP240VV AMZ709

OO RUEKDA  
DE RUHKJ 011 2452319

ZNY TTTT

O 022313Z

FM CINCPAC

TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

INFO RUHKA/ADMINO CINCPAC

RUMSAG/CG III MAF

RUMFCR/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMFCR/CTF 76

RUMFCR/CTF 78

RUMFCR/CTF 79

RUEKDA/JCS

RUHPG/CG FMFPAC

BT

T O P S E C R E T TANGO 49 FOR ADMINO CINCPAC  
OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMUSMACV 021005Z NOTAL

B. CINCPAC 300230Z NOTAL

1. REF A REQUESTS CONFIRMATION APPROVAL FOR EXECUTE  
OF OPERATION PIRANHA PREVIOUSLY STATED REF B.

2. EXECUTE OPERATION PIRANHA. TIMING AT YOUR DISCRETION. GP-3  
B.

INFO: CJCS-1(1) DJS-3(2-4) SJCS-1(5) J3-8(6-13) SACS-5(14-18)

NMCC-1(19) DIA-3(20-22) CSA-2(23-24) CNO-2(25-26) CSAF-2(27-28)

CMC-2(29-30)FILE-1(31) (31) T/DT

REF A NOT IDENTIFIED

REF B IS 25438

ADV CY TO NMCC

PAGE 1 OF 1 PAGE

CALL 53337  
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SERVICE

9 03 00 16Z

**IMMEDIATE  
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SEP 22 20 65  
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VZCZIWVN513V SSN3093MDA964  
PP RUECEM  
DE MMDC 2460016  
ZNY TTTTT  
P 022305Z  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO RUECEM/CMC  
INFO RUHFG/ADMIN FMFPAC  
BT

TOP SECRET

1. HAVE REVIEWED THE ARRAY OF MESSAGES EXCHANGED THUS FAR ON PIRANHA. WHILE THERE IS NO HARD BASIS FOR ANALYSIS, THERE IS JUSTIFICATION FOR DEDUCTION THAT THERE HAS BEEN TOO MUCH TALK, AND THAT THE LIKELIHOOD OF COMPROMISE HAS BEEN CORRESPONDINGLY INCREASED.
2. IT IS NOT JUST THE COMINT HAZARD, WHICH HAS INCREASED BECAUSE OF THE MANY ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSIONS. OF EQUAL CONCERN IS THE LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT MANY LEVELS WHO KNOW THE HUMAN PREDILECTION TO DISCUSS, AND THE CONSEQUENT

ACT

INFO

3 SEP 65 01 46Z

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DANGER OF A WORD GETTING TO THE WRONG EARS.

3. NOT MENTIONED ABOVE IS THE FACT THAT, UNLIKE STARLITE, PIRANHA HAS BEEN IN PLANNING FOR ABOUT TWO WEEKS. EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT, VIETNAMESE FORCES ARE TO TAKE PART, AND SOME VIETNAMESE COMMANDERS HAVE INFORMATION ON THE PROJECT. THE VIETNAMESE ARE NOT NOTED FOR SECURITY CONSCIOUSNESS.

4. THIS ADDS UP TO AN ESTIMATE THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF SURPRISE, AT THE STARLITE LEVEL, IS NOT LIKELY, AND THAT PIRANHA MAY WELL:

- A. COME UP EMPTY, THE VC HAVING MOVED OUR OR
- B. ENCOUNTER AN ALERTED FORCE, CONSTITUTED AND PREPARED TO DEFEND THE AREA VIGOROUSLY.

5. IN THE FIRST CASE, OUR EFFORT IS PARTIALLY WASTED, BEING CONFINED TO MORAL EFFECT AND THE DISRUPTION OF VIETCONG PLANS.

6. IN THE SECOND CASE WE WILL SUFFER GREATER LOSSES. THERE IS NO APPREHENSION AT ALL THAT THE VC WOULD WIN JUST BY VIRTUE OF BEING ALERTED INDEED, IF THEY WILL JUST STAND AND FIGHT, I KNOW WE WILL CUT THEM UP.

PAGE THREE MMDC TOP SECRET

VICTORY WILL COME, HOWEVER, AT A GREATER PRICE, THOUGH THERE IS NO WAY TO QUANTIFY THE INCREASE.

7. OUT OF ALL THIS, I DISTILL TWO POINTS:

- A. THE WHOLE MATTER OF PLANNING SECURITY FOR OPERATIONS OF THIS SORT HAS TO BE REVIEWED, IN TURNS OF REDUCING THE TIME INVOLVED AND REDUCING THE NUMBERS WHO HAVE A NEED TO KNOW. THE LATTER STEP PROBABLY IS BEST INITIATED BY A SPECIFIC JCS DIRECTIVE.
- B. THOSE WHO MAY BE ANTICIPATING A REPETITION OF STARLITE (FROM WHICH THE NUMBER OF COUNTED ENEMY KIA NOW NUMBERS OVER 900). SHOULD BE ADVISED, IN ADVANCE, OF THE UNLIKELIHOOD OF ITS HAPPENING. ON JUDGEMENT ALONE, I ESTIMATE IT ABOUT LIKE THIS:

- A. ACHIEVE COMPLETE SURPRISE, STARLITE LEVEL 13 PERCENT.
- B. FIND MOST OF THE ENEMY GONE - 75 PERCENT.
- C. FIND A WELL-HEELED RECEPTION COMMITTEE, READY AND WAITING - 15 PERCENT.

GP-4  
ST

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SEP 4 02 01 85  
ACT  
AC  
INFO

4 SEP 85 05 52Z

VV CWM136  
PP RUECEM  
ZNY TTTT ZFH2 RUEKDA  
RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
RUECEM/CMC COMD CENTER  
TELECON ITEM  
P 030100Z  
FM CINCPAC  
TO NMCC  
BT

TOP SECRET *BLACK FOREST - LIM DIST*

FOR VADM MUSTIN FROM LGEN EMRICK. DELIVERY DURING DUTY HOURS.

SUBJ: OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

1. CONCURRENT AND PARALLEL PLANNING BETWEEN III MAF AND NAVAL FORCE

FOR OPERATION PIRANHA IS BEING CONDUCTED. D-DAY IS NOW TENTATIVELY SET FOR 7 SEP. CINCPAC HAS APPROVED EXECUTION OF THE OPERATION AND SET TIMING AT MACV'S AND PACFLT'S DISCRETION.

2. INITIAL CONCEPT IS TO LAND HELICOPTER-BORNE FORCE IN LANDING ZONE S

VIC (BS7283), (BS7284), (BS7285) AND ESTABLISH BLOCKING POSITIONS ALONG THIS LINE. LAND FORCES BY AMPHIB TRACTORS OVER THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF BEACH NIS 12 WITH MISSION OF MOVING SE TO SWEEP AND CLEAR

CAP BATANGAN PENINSULA. C/S I CORPS HAS AGREED TO PARTICIPATION OF 2 ARVN BATTALIONS. BASIS OF PARTICIPATION IS COORDINATION NOT TACTICAL DIRECTION BY CO RLT-7. ZONE OF ACTION FOR ARVN BATTALIONS WILL BE THAT AREA SOUTH OF SONG CHAU ME DONG RIVER (BS715820) TO (BS763834) TO INCLUDE AN KY PENINSULA. ARVN BNS WILL BE INTRODUCED INTO OBJECTIVE AREA FROM LANDWARD OR BY HELICOPTERS.

3. COMPHIBRON SEVEN IN BAYFIELD HAS BEEN DESIGNATED CATF (TG 76.3) AND CO RLT-7 IS COMMANDER LANDING FORCE. TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENT OF SHIPPING IS AS FOLLOWS: 1 LPH (PRINCETON), 1 APA, 4 LSTS, 2LSDS, 3 LCUS AND 2 LCMS. 2 DDS AND 1 CLG WILL PROVIDE NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT.

5 BATTALIONS, 3 U.S. MARINE AND 2 ARVN, ARE TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED TO

BE EMPLOYED IN THE OPERATION.

4. WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED AS PLANS ARE FURTHER DEVELOPED. GP-3.

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OO 050844Z

FM MACVOCSEP 5 08 54'65

TO CINCPAC

INFO NMCC

BT

TOP SECRET

SUBJ: OPERATION PIRANHA DETAILS *BLACKFOREST LIMDIST*

FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING OPERATION PIRANHA WAS OBTAINED FROM BRIEFING BY 3D MAR DIV G/3 AND G/2 AND 1ST MAW G/3 AT 051130H.

A. FRIENDLY FORCES: 7TH MAR HQ - 1/7, 3/7 WITH 3 CO'S 3/3 ABOARD PRINCETON IN RESERVE. TWO BN RVN TROOPS, ONE WILL BE 3D RVN MAR BN, OTHER MAY BE 1ST OF 51ST REGT.. OTHER RVN UNITS MAY BE ADDED. AIR SUPPORT PROVIDED BY 1ST MAW, ARMY AVN HELICOPTERS AND RECON WITH AF C-130'S USED FOR FLARE AIRCRAFT. FORTY (40) HELICOPTERS FROM HMM 161, HMM 261, HMM 361 PROVIDE TROOP LIFT. MAG 11 AND MAG 12 PROVIDES CAS. NGF PROVIDED BY DD 886, ORLECK, DD 561 PRITCHETT AND CLG 5 OKLAHOMA CITY.

B. ENEMY SITUATION: GENERAL AREA USED BY VC AS LOGISTICS INFILTRATION AND STORAGE AREA. QUANG NGHI PROVINCE VC HQ REPORTED THIS VICINITY. THE 52 BN AND 3D CO 80TH BN REPORTED THIS VICINITY. ESTIMATE 104 VC IN GENERAL VICINITY OF PENINSULA WITH ADDITIONAL 100 WITHIN 24 KILOMETERS. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY INDICATES FORTIFICATIONS MADE OF EARTH THROUGH OUT AREA WITH WORK CONTINUING.

C. COMMAND RELATIONS: CONTROLLING HQ IS 7TH MAR HQ, COL PETROS USMC IS CO. US FORCES DO NOT HAVE TACTICAL DIRECTION OF RVN FORCES. THIS IS COORDINATED OPERATION. CG ARVN 22D DIV BRIEFED BY 7TH MAR LIAISON PARTY ON 5 SEPT. AREAS OF OPERATION ARE: USMC NORTH OF SONG CHAU ME DONG RIVER. RVN SOUTH OF SONG CHAU ME DONG RIVER TO INCLUDE AN KY PENINSULA.

D. CONCEPT OF OPERATION: OPERATION TO BE CONDUCTED IN TWO PHASES:

PHASE ONE: 070600H ONE SLANT ONE LANDS OVER BEACH WHITE CENTERED BS759867. TWO LVT'S SUPPORT. 070620H THREE SLANT SEVEN LANDS IN LZ OAK VIC BS725843 TO ESTABLISH BLOCKING POSITION. FORTY (40) HELOS USED BY 3/7 FIRST LIFT. TWENTY-FOUR (24) HELOS CONTINUE BUILD UP OF 3/7. SIXTEEN (16) HELOS COM-MENCE LIFT OF RVN BN'S TO LZ'S VIC BS723816 AND BS750820.

PHASE TWO: ABOUT D PLUS ONE RVN BN'S CONTINUE TO SWEEP RE

MAINDER OF AREA SOUTH OF SONG CHAU ME DONG AND AN KY PENINSULA. ONE/SEVEN SWEEPS REMAINDER OF BATANGAN PENINSULA TO SE. THREE/SEVEN SWEEPS NE TOWARD AREA OF WHITE BEACH UNLESS ENGAGED FROM WEST.

GP-4

BT

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U CWM278

CRS364

PP RUECEM  
 ZNY SSSSS ZFH2  
 P 051821Z  
 FM NMCC  
 TO CMC (BLACK FOREST LIMDIS)  
 P 040805Z  
 FM COMUSMACV  
 INFO CINCPAC  
 NMCC  
 1 030940Z  
 FM CG III MAF  
 TO CG THIRD MARDIV  
 CG FIRST MAA  
 INFO COMSEVENTHFLT  
 COMUSMACV  
 CG FMFPAC  
 CTF SEVEN SIX  
 CTG SEVEN SIX PT THREE  
 CO RLT SEVEN  
 CO TWELFTH MARINES  
 BT

**SECRET** *BLACKFOREST - LIMDIST*

SUGA: CIVILIAN POPULACE IN OPN PIRANHA OBJECTIVE AREA

1. POPULATION CENSUS SVTATISTICS INDICATE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 CIVILIANS IN AND NEAR OBJECTIVE AREA.

2. THIS SITUATION DEMANDS FIRM CONTROL OF ALL COMBAT ELEMENTS AND IN PARTICULAR FIRE SUPPORT UNITS TO INSURE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF TARGETS AS HOSTILE BEFORE THEY ARE TAKEN UNDER FIRE. INDISCRIMINATE DESTRUCTION OF VILCLAGES OR HAMLETS ABSOLUTELY FORBIDDEN.

3. EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO SEPARATE WOMEN, CHILDREN AND

PAGE 2 RUMSMA 514J **SECRET**

OLD MEN FROM VC/VCS AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN THE OPERATION WITH THE FORMER GIVEN ALL HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATION POSSIBLE

CONSISTENT WITH OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

BT

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 A04  
 A02

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MARINE CORPS  
COMVARD CENTER

SF

KKKKKKKKEMA8490CD733  
 PP RUECEM  
 DE RUMGUAC 169 2481333  
 ZNY CCCCC  
 P 051333Z  
 FM USS PRINCETON  
 TO RUMPG/CG NMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHL/CINCPACNLT  
 RUWUAV/COMPHIBPAC  
 RUMGUAL/ CTG 76.2  
 RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MAF  
 RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUMFUAQ/CO THIRD MARINES  
 RUMNUAQ/CO SEVENTH MARINES  
 BT

SEP 5 13 00 '65

5 SEP 65 15 36Z

ACT

INFO

C O N F I D E N T I A L

AILING REPORT (C)

1. USS PRINCETON 050900H SEPT 1965; 051100H SEPT GOOYT
2. ETD, 051600H SEPT 19 5 ETA, 070400; 305 1965 DESTINATION  
AN KY PENINSULA  
GOV ORGANIZATION FOR ENOARKATIONGM

A. OLT 3/3

MARINES ONNICKERS MARINE ENLISTED NAVY OFF. NAVY ENL.; 525-2  
829 491 3 23 546

4. LTCOL MUIR

5. 6 81MM MORTARS

PAGE TLO RUMGUAC 169 C O N F I D E N T I A L

14 M-60 MG'S

93.5 RL'S

V6.; NGMVA

7. N/A

8. N/A

9. ; ,/A

10. SUPPLIS

A.; CLASS I

100 CS MCI

500 GAL WATER

585 CU FT

7,500 LBS

CO OLT GEXE SENDS

GP-4;

95

CLASS II

N/A

CLASS III

N/A

CLASSIV

N/A

CLASS V

30 CU FT

840

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● TOP SECRET ●

WHEN FILLED IN

O 061707Z

V 000012CR5507  
 OO RUECEM  
 ZNY TTTT ZFM2 RUEKDA  
 RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
 RUECEMCNC COMD CENTER  
 TELECON ITEM

FM: NMCC  
 TO: FLAG PLOT  
 AWR  
 AFOP  
 MARCOR COMMAND CENTER  
 NMCC MSG CENTER

TOP SECRET BLACK FOREST LIMDIS

VV ACN 271  
 TELECON ITEM  
 O 061707

FROM: MACVCC  
 TO: NMCC  
 INFO: CINCPAC  
 BT

TOP SECRET

ITEM ONE: (TS) REF OPERATION PIRANHA. H HOUR HAS BEEN TENTATIVELY CHANGED TO 062230Z. LOADING OF PRINCETON, TOM GREEN COUNTY AND WASHTENAW COUNTY COMPLETED 06 SEP AND REHEARSAL LANDING WAS SCHEDULED AT CHU LAI 060700Z WITHOUT LOADING TROOPS INTO LVT'S. NO REPORT OF THIS REHEARSAL HAS BEEN RECEIVED. PRE H HOUR PREPARATORY AIR STRIKES ON LANDING BEACH ARE SCHEDULED BETWEEN H-35 AND H-15.

ITEM TWO: (S) THE NAME OF THE HWY 19/AN KHE SECURITY OPN HAS BEEN CHANGED FROM RAMROD TO HIGHLANDS. RATIONALE: RAMROD HAS BEEN OVERWORKED AND IT WAS FEARED THAT CONTINUED USE COULD COMPROMISE THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE 1ST CAV AIRMOBILE FROM QUI NHON TO AN KHE.

ITEM THREE: (C) THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT SURFACE OPNS INITIATED IN

RVN ON 06 SEP. OPN STOMP CONTINUES. CASUALTIES AS OF 060845H. FRD: USMC 1 KIA, 3 WIA, CIDG 2 WIA. VC: 28 KIA, 3 VCC, 150 REFUGEES INCLUDING AN UNREPORTED NUMBER OF VC SUSPECTS RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

ITEM FOUR: (C) AT APPROX 060800H 2 PLATOONS OF THE 932 RF CO ON PATROL WERE AMBUSHED VIN BINH DINH PROV, VIC BS 610055. FIRE FIGHT LASTED APPROX 90 MINUTES. RESULTS: FRD: 11 KIA, 11 WIA 2 MIA. LOST 1 BAR, 3 TSMG, 2 CARBINE, 1 .45 CAL PISTOL. VC: UNK.

GP-4  
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ACT  
 AC  
 INFO

SEP 6 15 43Z

SEP 6 15 19'65

MACVCC  
 COMMAND CENTER

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\*\*\*\*\*Z RUECEM  
ZY TTTTT ZFM2 RUEKDA  
RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
RUECEMCHC COND CENTER  
GDAB98  
\*\*\*\*\*Z  
TELECON ITEM  
2 052330Z  
FM NGCC  
TO WHITE HOUSE  
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A03  
1 SEP 65 08 17Z

SOUTHEAST ASIA  
6 SEPTEMBER 1965

OPERATION PIRANHA, A MAJOR COORDINATED US AND ARVN SWEEP AND DESTROY OPERATION AGAINST A SUSPECTED VIET CONG PROVINCE HEADQUARTERS, STORAGE AREA AND REINFORCED BATTALION, GOT UNDERWAY AT 6:35 PM EDT, 6 SEPTEMBER. US FORCES ARE UNDER CONTROL OF THE 7TH MARINE REGIMENTAL HEADQUARTERS. A US MARINE BATTALION MADE AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING ON THE NORTH OF THE CAP BATANGAN PENINSULA 20 NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHEAST OF CHU LAI. AN ADDITIONAL US MARINE BATTALION WAS LIFTED BY HELICOPTER TO A LANDING ZONE 3 NM WEST OF THE BEACH TO ESTABLISH A BLOCKING POSITION TO PREVENT WITHDRAWAL TO THE WEST OF SUSPECTED VIET CONG FORCES FROM THE CAP BATANGAN AREA. SIMULTANEOUSLY TWO ARVN INFANTRY BATTALIONS WERE HELILIFTED TO LANDING ZONES TO THE SOUTH, TO SWEEP TO THE EAST AND CLEAR THE SOUTHERN PORTION OF THE SUSPECTED VIET CONG AREA AND TO TRAP THE ENEMY BETWEEN US AND ARVN FORCES. NAVAL GUN FIRE SUPPORT IS BEING PROVIDED BY ONE LIGHT CRUISER AND TWO DESTROYERS. CLOSE AIR SUPPORT IS PROVIDED BY US MARINE AIRCRAFT FROM DA NANG AND ARMED US ARMY HELICOPTERS. AN ADDITIONAL BLT EMBARKED IN USS PRINCETON IS AVAILABLE AS ON-CALL RESERVE FOR THE OPERATION.

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CMC	Hard
ACMC	Hard
MILSEC	
CofS	Burn
DC/S(P&P)	Burn
SGS	

NNNNQVV CWN109  
 OO RUECEM  
 ZNY SSSSS ZFH2 RUEKDA  
 RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
 RUECEM/CMC COMD CENTER  
 T E L E C O N I T E M  
 O 031701Z  
 FM NMCC  
 TO ARMY WAR ROOM  
 AF COMMAND POST  
 NAVY FLAG HLOT  
 MARCORPS CMDCTR  
 BT

33305 21 452

ACT  
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 INFO  
 A03

S E C R E T /BLACK FOREST/LIMDIS

THE NMCC TELECONFERENCE CIRCUITS TO CINCPAC, MACV  
 AND OTHER HEADQUARTERS ARE FREQUENTLY USED TO EXCHANGE CLOSELY HELD

OPERATIONAL PLANNING INFORMATION BETWEEN J-3 OF THE JOINT STAFF  
 AND THE OPERATIONAL PLANNING STAFFS OF THESE HEADQUARTERS. NORMALLY

NO DISTRIBUTION IN THE ORIGINAL FORMAT HAS BEEN MADE OF THIS  
 TRAFFIC OUTSIDE OF SELECTED INDIVIDUALS OF THE JOINT STAFF  
 WHO HAVE AN ABSOLUTE "NEED TO KNOW". FREQUENTLY, IT IS ESSENTIAL  
 THAT THIS INFORMATION BE RELAYED TO THE SERVICES IN A TIMELY MANNER

O I  
 FACILITATE THEIR PLANNING.

WHEN NMCC PASSES THIS TYPE OF TRAFFIC TO THE SERVICE WAR  
 ROOMS, IN EACH CASE IT WILL BE SPECIALLY FLAGGED,  
 "BLACK FOREST MESSAGE - LIMDIS." THIS TRAFFIC SHOULD BE GIVEN  
 ONLY VERY LIMITED DISTRIBUTION WITHIN THE SERVICES, ON A  
 STRICTLY NEED-TO-KNOW BASIS SINCE, IN EACH CASE, IT WILL PERTAIN  
 TO, FUTURE OPERATIONS. SERVICE WAR ROOMS CHIEFS ARRR  
 INSURE THAT DISTRIBUTION IS CLOSELY HELD AND CONTROLLED.  
 BT

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ZEN/RLT - SEVEN

BT

SECRET

SECRET

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EMA00

ERRA REPORT (U)

CO TROOPS, CMDR 3RD BN, 11TH MAR SENDS

1. USS WHITFIELD COUNTY, LST 1169

2. 051630H SEPT - COMMENCED.

061430H SEPT - COMPLETED.

3. 070100H SEPT - ETD

070530H SEPT - ETA

DESTINATION - CAP BATANGAN, AN KY PENINSULA

4. MARINES NAVY OTHER TOTAL

HO, 3/11	7/47	0/2	0	7/45
107 MM HORT BTRY, 3/11	4/75	0/2	0	4/77
DET "A" CO 3RD AMTK	1/38	1/0	0	1/38
DET "C" CO 1ST AT	1/21	0/0	0	1/21
"A" CO 1/7	6/135	0/8	0	6/143
ZC" CO 1/7	8	5/128	0/5	0
				5/133

GRAND TOTAL: 24/461

5. CO OF TROOPS CMDR 3RD BN, 11TH MAR LT COL WILLIAM H. PECK

6. (1) M60 MG

(4) 50 CAL MG

(10) 30 CAL MG

(6) 3.5 ROCKET LAUNCHERS

(10) M9 PYROTECHNIC LAUNCHERS

(2) FLAME THROWERS

(10) LVTP-5

(1) M50A1 (ONTOS)

(1) M98 (HOWTARS)

(2) M35

(1) M49

(3) M422

(1) AN/MRC 36 (RADIO JEEP)

(1) AN/MRC 37 (RADIO JEEP)

(1) AN/MRC83 (RADIO JEEP)

(3) M37

8. N/A

9. N/A

10. 5709 SQ FT

11. CLASS I - 3 MIC PER MAN (ISSUED)

CLASS III - 1M49 TANKER 1100 GAL MOGAS

CLASS V - HE - 401 ROUNDS (4.2 MORTAR AMMO)

72 ROUNDS (106 R R AMMO)

BASIC ALLOWANCE PER MAN OF FRAG AND RIFLE GRENADES

PYRO - 24 INCENARY GRENADES

10 M9 PYROTECHNIC FLARES

SMALL ARMS - BASIC ALLOWANCE PER CREW SERVED AND T/O

WEAPONS.

OTHER - 50 ROUNDS (4.2 ILLUMINATION FOR MORTAR)

70 ROUNDS (4.2 WHITE PHOSPHORUS FOR MORTAR)

12. N/A

GP-4

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 ZNY SSSSS  
 P 060745Z  
 FM USS WHITFIELD COUNT  
 TO RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC

6 SEP 65 13 22Z

ACT

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INFO  
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AS  
AH  
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SECRET RRR 060110Z8 10 GR RLT SEVEN, 01//  
ORG GR RLT SEVEN, CO HQ CO (-) 7TH MAR, GM DET HQ BN THIRD MARDIV  
GM DET COMM CO HQ BN, GM DET ITT, GB BLT 1-7, GB BLT 3-3,  
GN THIRD BN(-) (REIN) 11TH MAR, GC CO B (-)(REIN), 1ST TANK BN,  
GC CO A (-)(REIN) THIRD AMTRAC BN, GC CO C (-)(REIN) 1ST ENGR BN,  
GM DET FIRST LOG SUPPORT UNIT ONE, 02//  
CHG SFT 061000Z7 CHU LAI RVN, TO BAYFIELD APA 33, 03//  
CPN 060110Z8 061000Z7, 06//END  
CP-4

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YVAGEMA133JCA658

RR RUECEM

ZNY CCCCC ZFH-1

CCSB502ZCNQA553

ZCNQA553UAL206

RR RUECEM RUWDG

DE RUMGUAL 206 2500140

ZNY CCCCC

R 070130Z

FM USS BAYFIELD

TO RUMPG/CG FMFPAC

RUECEM/CMC

RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUWDG/COMPHIBPAC

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV

ZEN/CO UTH MARDIV

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L SVC

ZUI MY 196 2491318 061208Z

CTF SEVEN NINE TAKE FOR FIRST TIME. ALL OTHERS CORRECT INFO TO BT

L196

RR RUECEM RUMPG RUHLHL RUMFUAQ RUABQL RUWDG

DE RUMGUAL 196 2491318

ZNY CCCCC

R 061208Z

FM USS BAYFIELD

TO RUMPG/CG FMFPAC

INFO RUECEM/CMC

RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUWDG/COMPHIBPAC

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV

ZEN/CO 7TH MARDIV

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L

SAILING REPORT

AM MCO 3000.2

B. FMFPACO P4600.1F

1. USS BAYFIELD, 0700 6 SEPT. 1965H TO 1300 6 SEPT. 1965H

2. N/A

3. COL. 1

HQ CO. RLT-7

DET. CO. C, 1ST ENG. BN

DET. CO. C, 1ST AT BN

COL. 2

25/95

1/3

1/3

COL. 3

2/1

0/1

0/1

COL. 4

0/4

0/0

0/0

COL. 5

129

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SEP 7 01 30 '65

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DET. CO. B, 1ST TANK BN	1/1	0/0	0/0	2
DET. CO. D, 1ST BN 7TH MAR.	7/169	0/8	0/0	184
DET. H&S CO. 1ST BN 7TH MAR.	R/31	0/0	XI	R3
DET. MAAS Z	5/3	0/0	0/0	8
DET. HQ BN	3/3	0/0	0/0	6
DET. TACRON 13	0/0	13/6	0/0	19
DET. EOD	0/0	1/2	0/0	3
DET. JO/PH&MOPIX	0/0	6/5	0/0	11

4. COL. O. F. PEATROSS
5. NINE M-60 MACHINE GUNS, THREE 3.5 ROCKET LAUNCHERS
6. NONE
7. NONE
8. NONE
9. NONE
10. NONE
- GP-4
- BT

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

6 September 1965

Subj: OPERATION PIRANHA

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. First elements hit White Beach at 0635H. Bravo 1/7 on the left and Alpha 1/7 on the right.
2. LVTE fired line charge at 0625H.
3. First landing zone preparation began at 0620H.
4. First elements of 3/7 commenced landing in assigned landing zone at 0647H.
5. No opposition at this time.

FONCON FMFPAC CC  
061915Q (TS)

*C. D. Warfield*  
C. D. WARFIELD  
Watch Officer

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

6 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. As of 0820H 3/7 preparing position. At this time 3/7 receiving small arms fire from BS 755842, BS 728865, and BS 739859.
2. At 0930H, an UH-1E was reported hit at BS 723818. The aircraft landed safely. Another UH-1E was hit at BS 752818, suspect 50 Cal AA position in this location. Aircraft proceeded to destination and then landed safely at Quang Ngai. Two H-34D's are temporarily out of action due to engine failure. Both landed in a secure area.
3. At 0900H one AA gun was reported located at BS 755855.
4. At 0940H 1/7 was reported receiving small arms fire from BS 737873.
5. All ARVN elements scheduled to land in LZ BIRCH landed by 0805H and made contact at 0807H.

FONCON FMFPAC CC  
062225Q

*C. D. Warfield*  
C. D. WARFIELD  
Watch Officer

26

06 22 25

-26-

**SECRET**MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

## 1. Correction to 062225 information:

a. As of 0820H 3/7 CP located 731842. 3/7 now preparing position at this time. 3/7 receiving small arms fire from coordinates BS 755842, BS 728865, and BS 739859.

b. Reports received at 0930H, one UH1E hit at BS 723818. One crewman WIA, transported back to the LPH. Aircraft landed safely. (Underlined portions added.)

2. As of 1130H, 1/7 CP located BS 758856. 7th Marines CP was last located BS 781863 but is moving forward.

3. Report on activities of LVT-E as of 0910H: Dug up 3 AP mines which exploded on being dug. Only damage was to blade but was repairable in the field.

4. No personnel figures as to casualties as yet.

FONECON FMFPAC CC  
070016Q

*J. K. Griffiths, Jr.*  
J. K. GRIFFITHS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: LtGen KRULAK

1. He had received the following relayed report between one to one and one half hours after the action.
2. The assault was smoothly executed according to time and tactics. Essentially, there was no opposition on the beach or Marine Corps Landing Zones.
3. The ARVN Landing Zone had very light resistance, snipers only. Probably because of the later landing time than Marines.
4. In the principle village behind the beach, the Marines found about 40 civilians of whom two were found to be wounded and were evacuated to the Princeton for medical treatment.
5. Marine troops are moving forward North and West of our landing zones.
6. Tactical Air Observers sited and attacked light anti-aircraft positions.
7. 1st Bn 7th Mar and 3d Bn 7th Mar report only light sniper fire.
8. There were mines on the landing beach. An LVT-E cleared a lane with a line charge. Additionally, 3 beach mines were uncovered and exploded.
9. Gen THI, CG I Corps arrived in the 1st Bn 7th Mar area at 0830 and Gen THROCKMORTON arrived at 1000 and stayed until about 1200.
10. Gen KRULAK estimates that the operation will run into relatively little opposition, but it is hard to tell until later.

FONECON LTGEN KRULAK  
070241Q

J. K. Griffis  
J. K. GRIFFIS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. ARVN casualties on Eastern portion of Landing Zone Birch:  
1 KIA, 3 WIA. (Upon being queried as to location of Landing  
Zone Birch, Maj BEDWELL reports that he is still trying to  
find out.)

(28)

FONECON FMFPAC CC  
070322Q

*J. K. Griffis Jr.*  
J. K. GRIFFIS, JR.  
Watch Officer

28

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RUECM/CMC 1000 CMC  
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INFOO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
RUMFUI/CG III MAF  
RUMFUA/CG THIRD MARDIV  
RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/ I MAC(FWD)  
RUMFUB/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
RUECW/CNO  
RUHLHL/CINCPAC  
RUEKDA/JCS  
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
RUECM/CMC  
RUMFKE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
RUWDP/COMPHIBPAC  
RUMGUX/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
RUMFCF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
RUMFUP/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE  
BT

S E C R E T

OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 300316Z AUG (NOTAL)

1. SITREP NR EIGHT AS OF 171230H

2. SITUATION: TG 76.3 AND SUPPORTING FORCES REMAIN CAP BANGAM AREA

3. STATIFY

A. SCHEDULED WAVES COMPLETED LANDING AT 070650H

B. NO NGFS MISSIONS HAVE BEEN CALLED

C. RVN JUND DIV 15 CAPTURED ONE POSSIBLE VIET-CONG BOAT AND 25 SUSPECTED VIET-CONG. RVN JUNK DIV 16 CAPTURED FOUR VIET-CONG.

D. WEATHER-NO CHANGE

E. COMMAFDER LANDING FORCE IS ASHORE BUT HAS NOT ASSUMED CONTROL CONTROL AS OF THIS SITREP.

PAGE TWO RUMGUAL 208 S E C R E T

4. ENEMY RESISTANCE: NO INDICATION OF AIR OR SURFACE RESISTANCE. GROUND OPPOSITION RESTRICTED TO SPORADIC SHOTS.

5. INTENTIONS: SUBMIT NEXT SITREP 071630H

6. ACTION REQUIRED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY:

NONE

GP-4

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Maj BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. The following are points made by Gen WALT to Gen KRULAK.

a. The landing was smoothly executed. All Marine Corps elements reached the first day's objectives without casualties and under nothing more than long range continuous sniper fire.

b. ARVN forces met considerable resistance from the start. They report that the VC departed the Marine area this morning and moved into the ARVN area.

c. During the advance our forces encountered many caves, tunnels and emplacements and are searching them all out now. (30)

d. They encountered many civilians who are being cared for by civic action teams with food and medical treatment.

e. Gen THI, I Corps Commander visited the area and spoke to several civilian groups. (30)

f. Tomorrow the Marines will ~~continue~~ the advance and will close the gap between the Marine and ARVN forces.

g. Gen WALT makes no estimate as to what they will find tomorrow but considers the operation thus far to be an excellent exercise in coordination.

h. Will continue to keep you advised.

FONECON FMFPAC COMMAND CENTER  
070508Q

*J. K. Griffis*  
J. K. GRIFFIS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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NAVY COMMAND CENTER

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RUMFULXCOMSEVENTHFLT  
INFO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV  
RUMFUAQ/CG III MAF  
RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
RUMFUB/CTF SEVEN SEVEN  
RU W/CNO  
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
RUEKDA/JCS  
RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
RUECEM/CMC  
RUMFKE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE  
RUWDP/COMPHIBPAC  
RUMGUX/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT  
RUMFCF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
RUMFUP/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE  
BT

**SECRET**

OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

- COMSEVENTHFLT 300816Z AUG (NOTAL)

1. CTG 76.3 SITREP NO 7 AS OF 070630H

2. SITUATION: TG 76.3 CONSISTING OF LAYFIELD (CTG 76.3) COMPHIBRON SEVEN EMBARKED, CABILDO, BELLE GROVE, TOM GREEN CTY, WHITFIELD CTY, WASHTENAW CTY WITH BLT 1/7 AND RLT-7 HQS EMBARKED, ARRIVED CAP BATANGAN AREA RVN AT 070400H FOR ASSAULT LANDING OF EMBARKED UNITS. ORDERED ZLAND THE LANDING FORCE" AT 070430HM H-HOUR IS P70630H TROOP LANDING CONSISTS OF 4 WAVES OF LVT

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FOLLOWED BY 1 BOAT WAVE. FIRST WAVE TOUCHED DOWN AT 070629H.  
WHEN ESTABLISHED ASHORE RLT-7 HQS AND BLT 1/7 WILL OP TO OPCON OF  
CG III MAF.

## 3. RESERVE FORCES

A. BLT 3/3(-) EMBARKED IN PRINCETON ARRIVED 070530H

## 4. SUPPORTING FORCES

OKLAHOMA CITY, ORLECK, PRICHETT, AND DIACHENKO PRESENT  
AND PROVIDING NGFS AND PROTECTION AGAINST ESCAPE OF VIET CONG  
BY SEAM

B. CAS PROVIDED BY MAG-11 AND MAG-12

## 5. STATUS:

A. LANDING OPERATIONS PROCEEDING AS SCHEDULED

B. WEATHER CONDITIONS AT HANOUR SCATTERED CLOUDS 2500 FEET AND  
7000 FEET VISIBILITY UNRESTRICTED. WIND 245 DEG E KNOTS TEMP  
12 DEG. HUMIDITY 80 PERCENT SWELL NONE - SURF 2 FEET

C. RVN JUNK FORCE CAPTURED SIX SUSPECTED VIET CONG DURING  
PRE H-HOUR OPERATIONS OFF WHITE BEACH

6. ENEMY RESISTANCE: NO INDICATION OF GROUND, AIR OR SURFACE  
RESISTANCE APPARENT

## 7. INTENTIONS

HGE THREE RUMGUAL 205 S E C R E T

A. NEXT SITREP TO BE SUBMITTED AT 071230H

B. UPON COMPLETION OF LANDING EMBARKED UNITS WITHDRAW TRANSPORT  
UNIT AND FLAGSHIP UNIT TO SEAWARD.

8. ACTION REQUIRED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY : NONE

GP-4

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MILSTC <i>M/H</i>	<i>Quinn</i>
CG <i>CG</i>	<i>Quinn</i>
DC/S(P&P)	<i>Quinn</i>
SGS	

OO RUECEM  
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 O 070220Z  
 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHFG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
 RUABQLBACG FMFPAC/1 MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCFYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMSBJ/COMDR SECOND AIR DIV  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV GRP  
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*III MAF*  
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S E C R E T SECTION ONE OF TWO SECTIONS  
 III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 1 PERIOD 280854Z AUG TO 071000H  
 SEP FOR OPERATION PIRANHA GKCAP BATANGAN)  
 Q. GENERAL. OPERATION PIRANHA IS A COORDINATED USMC/ARVN OPERATION IN  
 THE CUY BATANGAN AREA, UTILIZING BOTH HELO ESSAULT AND AMPHIB  
 LANDINGS.  
 R. CONCEPT AND GENERAL SCHEME OF MANEUVER. A COORDINATED OPERATION  
 INVOLVING A TOTAL OF THREE USMC DLTS AND TWO ARVN INFANTRY BATTALIONS.  
 1/7 CONDUCTS AN AMPHIBIOUS LANDING OVER WHITE BEACH VIC COORD  
 738868) SWEEPS SOUTH AND WEST TO CHAU THUAN (1) (CBS 785861)

**SECRET**

(When filled in)

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(When filled in)

AND CHAU THUAN (2) (BS 772848). ONE COMPANY (LESS ONE PLATOON FURNISHING SECURITY TO THE BSA) SWEEPS NORTHEAST AND SEIZES AN THINH (2) (BS 731891). BLT 3/7 LANDS BY HELO AND SEIZES THE HIGH GROUND (BS 732840) (BS 729849) (BS 727858) TO ESTABLISH A BLOCKING POSITION AND TO PROTECT THE RLT WEST FLANK. BLT 3/3(-) REMAINS AFLOAT IN REGIMENTAL RESERVE. THE THIRD ARVN MARINE BATTALION EXECUTES A HELIBORNE LANDING AT VIC GKBS 722149) AND SECURES THE CAUSEWAY AND BRIDGE (BS 7382) AND IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE THE ATTACK ON ORDER. THE 2ND BN, FOURTH ARVN REGT EXECUTES A HELIBORNE LANDING VIC (BS 750819) TO CONDUCT A SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATION ON KY PENINSULA AND SECURE THE CAUSEWAY (BS 7480). /

## 3. USMC TASK ORGANIZATION FOLLOWS:

RLT-7	COL PEATROSS
HQH., (-) (REIN) 7TH MAR	CAPT THOMAS
BLT 1/7	LCOL KELLY
BLT 2/7	LCOL BODLEY
3RD BN (-) (REIN) 11TH MER	MAJ ALEXANDER
CO B (-) (REIN) 1ST TANK BN	CAPT LAMB
CO A (-) (REIN) 3RD AMTRAC BN	CAPT BAIR
DET, FLSU 1	MAJ POPPE

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 031 S E C R E T

CO C (-) REIN 1ST ENGR BN CAPT RENNER

RLT RESERVE

BLT 3/3 (-) LTCOL MUIR

## 4. OTHER III MAF UNITS SUPPORTING OPERATION PIRANHA:

FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING

NCB-10 MEDICAL SECTION

CO B, THIRD MED BN, THIRD MARDIV

CO C, THIRD MED BN, THIRD MARDIV

## 5. NAVAL FORCES INVOLVED IN OPERATION PIRANHA:

K1.048749, 7 (DESIGNATED CTG 76.3)

USS BAYFIELD

USS CABILDO

USS BELLE GROVE

ISS TOM GREEN COUNTY

USS WHITFIELD COUNTY

USS WASHTENAW COUNTY

USS DIACHENKO

USS PRINCETON

USS PRITCHETT

ORLECK

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USS OKLAHOMA CITY

TG 76.4 (LCM/LCU'S)

6. US ARMY AND ARVN FORCES:

US ARMY AO-1A MOHAWK - W/INFA-RED CAPABILITY

US ARMY I CORPS ADVISORS

3RD MARINE BN (ARVN)

2ND BN, 4TH REGT (FORMERLY 3RD BNN 51ST REGT) (ARVN)

7. APPROXIMATE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OPN PIRANHA:

III MAF

INFANTRY 3000

SUPT ARMS 450

COMBAT SERV SUPT 800

TOTAL GROUND 4250

AVIATION 2500

NAVAL MEDICAL 250

TOTAL III MAF 7000

USN (SHIPBOARD) 3700

US ARMY AND ARVN (EST)/ 800

GRAND TOTAL 11500

8. CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS TO DATE:

PAGE FIVE RUMFUAG 031 S E C R E T

ABM 270854Z. CG THIRD MARDIV PREPARED OUTLINE PLAN FOR OPERATION PIRANHA.

B. 270945Z. CG III MAF SUBMITTED CONCEPT TENATIVE MISSION AND DATE TO COMUSMACV FOR APPROVAL AND REQUESTED ASSIGNMENT OF AMPHIB TASK FORCE COMMANDER AND NECESSARY AMPHIB SHIPPING.

C. 291115Z. COMUSMACV APPROVED FOR PLANNING THE SELECTED OBJECTIVE AREA, TENATIVE MISSION AND DATE. DIRECTED COMDR 2ND AIR DIV TO ESTABLISH RESTRICTED AIR SPACE OVER OBJ AREA.

D. E00230Z. CG THIRD MARDIV REQUESTED PARTICIPATION OF TWO RVN INF BNS IN OPN PIRANHA.

E. 300230Z. *In-LAB APPROVED ACTIONS NECESSARY TO CONDUCT* OPN LIRANHA.

F. 300816Z. COMPHIBRON SEVEN DESIGNATED AS ATF COMMANDER, CTG 76.3.

G. 302315Z. CG III MAF SUBMITTED THE FOLLOWING NAVAL FORCE REQUIREMENTS:

1 APA, 2 LSD, 4 LST, 3 LCU, 2 LCMS, 1 LPH IF AVAILABLE, 1 CL AND KWGFDDBQ RL7 7 DESIGNATED AS LANDING FORCE COMMANDER. ONE LST LATER DELETED FROM REQUIREMENTS.

H. 311044Z. CTG 76.3 (ATF COMMANDER) ARRIVED DANANG AND COMMENCED PLANNING WITH CG III MAF/THIRD MARDIV. PLANNING BT

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N. 070600H TO 070620H. BEACH AND LZ (BS 725850); 0430 :9, \$7:53\$.

O. 070635H. LINE CHARGES WERE FIRED ONTO WHITE BEACH (BS758868) BY TWO LVTE-1.

P. 070635H. ASSAULT ELEMENTS OF BLT 1/7 LANDED OVER WHITE BEACH. NO REPORT OF RESISTANCE.

Q. 070645H. ASSAULT ELEMENTS OF BLT 3/7 LANDED IN LZ OAK.

R. 070755H. ALL ELEMENTS OF BLT 1/7 ASHORE AND THE ADVANCE ECHELON OF BLT 7 HEADQUARTERS COMMENCED MOVEMENT ASHORE.

S. 070752H. 1 UH1E REC SUSP 50 CAL DAMAGE VIC LZ PINE (BS U52818). PROCEEDED TO QUANG NGAI. ONE UH1E REC SA FIRE VIC (BS 723818). ONE CREWMAN WIA. EVEC TO USS PRINCETON.

T. 070820H. CP 3/7 (BS 731848). 3/7 REC SA FIRE FR VIC (BS 755842) (BS 728865) (BS 738859).

9. AIR ACTIVITY DURING PERIOD 070600H TO 071000H

A. FIXED ING. MISSIONS-45, SORTIES-15

1 C130 AIRBORNE DASC

1 C123 FLARE PLANE

8 A-4 BEACH PREP (STRAFING)

2 A-4 SMOKE LZ

12 F-4, 8 A-4 LZ PREP

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 032 S E C R E T

6 A-4 LZ VSP

4 A-4, 2 F-4 ACGXTPQ-10 AIRBORNE ALERT

1 AO-1A MOHAWK INFRA-RED RECON (USA)

B. HELICOPTER OBSNM MISSIONS-76, SORTIES-10

40 US-34 AIR LANDED ASSAULT

16 UH-1E ESCORT

2 UH-1E PSYWAR

4 UH-1E TAC (AIRBORNE)

4 UH-34 LIAISON

2 O1B AIR OBS

PATROLO1B DAW

6 UH-34 GENERAL SUPPORT

10. ARVN ACTIVITY. ALL ELEMENTS LANDED BY 070805H. CONTACT MADE IN LZ BIRCH (BS 724816) AT 070807H. FR CASUALTIES, 1 KIA, 2 WIA. NO REPORT OF VC LOSSES.

GP-4

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O 071038Z

FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT THREE

TO RUXUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUHFGXCG FMFPAC

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUAQ/CG III MAF

RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/ I MAC(FWD)

RUMFUB/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUECW/CNO

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

RUEKDA/JCS

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUECEM/CMC

RUMFKE/CTE SVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE

RUWDP/COMPHIBPAC

RUMGUX/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUMFCF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUMFUP/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE

BT

**SECRET**

OPERATION PIRANHA (UL)

COMSEVENTHFLT 300816Z AUG (NOTAL)

1. SITREP NR NINE AS OF 071830H

2. SITUATION: TG 76.3 AND SUPPORTING FORCES REMAIN VICINITY  
CAP BATANGAN.

3. STATUS

A. THE LANDING FORCE COMEANDER ASSUMED COMMAND ASHORE INCLUDING  
CONTROL OF NGFS AT 071345H.

B. ALL TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT ARE ESTABLISHED ASHORE EXCEPT FOR

PAGE TWO RUMGUAL 214 **SECRET**RESERVE FORCE BLT 3/3(-) ABOARD PRINCETON AND ON CALL RESUPPLY  
ABOARD CABILDO AND BELLE GROVE.

C. COMMENCED RESUPPLY OF UNITS ASHORE VIA LVT AND HELO AT 071420H.

D. WEATHER CONTINUES FAVORABLE

E. NGFS NOT YET EMPLOYED.

4. ENEMY RESISTANCE: NO INDICATION OF AIR OR SUFACE RESGISTANCE.  
GROUND RESISTANCE APPEARS TO BE SPORADIC.

5. INTENTIONS:

A. SUBMIT NEXT SITREP AT 080030H

6. ACTION REQUIRED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY: NONE

GP-4

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00 RUECEM

DE RUMAL 219 2501625

ZNY SSSSS

O 071618Z

FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT THREE

TO RUMFUUXCTF SEVEN SIX

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUHPG/CG FMFPAC

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUI/CG III MAF

RUMFUAQ/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUABOLXCG FMFPAC/ I MAC(FWD)

RUMFUB/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUECW/CNO

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

RUEKDA/JCS

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUECEM/CMC

RUMFKE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE

RUWDP/COMPHIBPAC

RUMGUX/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUMFCF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUMFUP/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE

BT

**SECRET**

OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 300816Z AUG (NOTAL)

Q. SITREP NR TEN AS OF 080030H

2. SITUATION: NO CHANGE.

3. STATUS: ORLECK EMPLOYED IN NGFS FOR RVN BLT

4. INTENTIONS: SUBMIT NEXT SITREP AT 080630H

5. ACTION REQUIRED BY HIGHER AUTHORITYC NONE.

GP-4

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COMNAV CENTER

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III MAF

MARINE CORPS  
COMM. CENTER

SEP 7 17 51 '65

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 OO RUECEM  
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 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHFG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUMHNG/CINCPAC  
 RUHLNL/CINCPACFLT  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAF  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTFLT  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMSBJ/COMDR SECOND AIR DIV  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/CO ICROPS ADV GRP  
 BT

**SECRET**

III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 2 PERIOD 071000H SEP TO 072200H  
 SEP FOR OPERATION PIRANHA (CAP BATANGAN)

## 1. CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

- A. 070910H. ONE LVTE-1 MOVING THROUGH AREA WHERE LINE CHARGE FIRED  
 DUG UP AND EXPLODE THREE AT MINES VIC COORD (BS 758865). NO CASUAL-  
 TIES. NO DAMAGE TO LVTE-1 OTHER THAN TO REPLACEABLE TEETH ON BLADE.  
 B. 071215. RLT-7 ASSUMED COMMAND ASHORE. CP LOCATED (BS 761863).  
 C. 071745. BLT 1/7 REPORTED IN CONTACT WITH VC. THREE VC KIA,  
 SIX VCC. NO USMC CASUALTIES. NO FURTHER CONTACT.

7 SEP 65 17 41 Z  
 ACT  
 AC  
 INFO  
 A-1 AA  
 A-2 AS  
 A-3 AG  
 A-4 AD  
 008 AK  
 CN- AR

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NAVMC HQ 348-ADM (CONT'D) (1-65)

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## 2. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

A. BLT 1/7 CP LOCATED (BS 759843)

CO A SIEZED 1ST OBJ (BS 759857) WITHOUT CONTACT. MOVED INTO RESERVE VIC (BS 758858) TO VIC (BS 751873).

CO B SECURED CHAU THUAN (1) (BS 778860)!! 285# ,9 :9,5ACT. NOW LOCATED VIC (BS 783361).

CO C ESTAB BLOCKING POSIT ON HIGH GROUND FROM VIC (BS 773851) TO VIC (BS 774859)

CO D CONDUCTED SEARCH AND CLEAR OF CHAUME (1) (BS 755851) NO RESISTANCE.

B. BLT 3/7 CP LOCATED (BS 728851)

CO I INRESERVE IN LZ OAK (BS 729849)

CO K ESTABLISHED BLOCKING POSIT VIC (BS 718833) UNTIL 071700H THEN RETURN TO DEFENSIVE POSIT IN LZ OAK. (BS 732840).

CO L CONDUCTED SEARCH AND CLEAR FROM (BS 718845) TO (BS 727843) AT 071400H. PRESENT POSIT (BS 724853).

CO M HELILIFTED TO (BS 742882) TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND CLEAR TO (BS 843883) TO (BS 738869). REMAIN OVERNIGHT VIC (BS 728858).

## 3. INTENTIONS.

A. BLT 1/7 WILL CONTINUE SWEEP THROUGH CAP BATANGAN AREA TO SSW.

B. BLT 3/7 WILL ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS AND AMBUSHES DURING NIGHT AND

CONTINUE SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATIONS TOMORROW.

## 4. AIR.

A. FIXED WING. AN AVERAGE OF TWO A4 OR F4 WERE MAINTAINED ON AIRBORNE ALERT STATIONS DURING ENTIRE DAY. ADDITIONALLY TWO TO FOUR A4/F4 WERE MAINTAINED ON GROUND ALERT. TWO INTERDICTION MISSIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH TWO A4 AC EACH.

B. ROTARY WING. AC CONDUCTED HELILIFT OF ONE COMPANY WITH 8 UH34 AND THREE MED EVAC MISSIONS UTILIZING FIVE UH 34.

## C. CUMULATIVE TOTALS:

FIXED WING SORTIES 67

FIXED WING MISSIONS 23

ROTARY WING SORTIES 105

ROTARY WING MISSIONS 22

## ORD EXPENDED:

BOMBS 33.5 TONS

NAPALM 2.5 TONS

ZUNI 32

20MM 3175

MK 12 2

275 FJ 152

GP-4

BT

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NAVY CORPS  
73 COMMAND CENTER  
12 RUEKDA 05:05  
SEVY/FRAG PLOT  
CEM/CMC COMD CENTER  
1233  
RUEHCR RUEPW  
SSSSS ZFM2 RUEKDA  
295  
RECON TIME FOLLOWS  
071917Z  
MACV  
NMCC  
CINCPAC

*III MAF*

ACT  
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903-AM  
904-ATH  
AS - AG  
AD

SECRET

ONE: OPERATION PIRACHA. THIS REPORT IS CURRENT AS 080030H.

2. CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY OF EVENTS.

070912H. ONE LVTE-1 MOVING THROUGH AREA WHERE LINE CHARGE  
MINED DUP UP AND EXPLODE THREE AT MINES VIC COORD (BS 758865).

NO CASUALTIES. NO DAMAGE TO LVTE-1 OTHER THAN TO REPLACEABLE  
TETH ON BLADE.

071215. RLT-7 ASSUMED COMMAND ASHORE. CP LOCATED  
(BS 761863).

071745. BLT 1/7 REPORTED IN CONTACT WITH VC. THREE VC  
MA, SIX VCC. NO USMC CASUALTIES. NO FURTHER CONTACT.

3. SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS

BLT 1/7 CP (BS 759863)

A SEIZED 1ST OBJ (BS 759857) WITHOUT CONTACT. MOVED INTO  
RESERVE VIC (BS 756238) TO VIC (BS 751873). CO B SECURED  
THUAN (1) (BS 778360) WITH NO CONTACT. NOW LOCATED VIC  
(BS 733861). CO C ESTAB BLOCKING POSIT ON HIGH GROUND FROM  
VIC (BS 773351) TO VIC (BS 774859). CO D CONDUCTED SEARCH  
CLEARNOF CHAUME (1) (BS 755651) NO RESISTANCE.

BLT 3/7 CP LOCATED (BS 728851)

I IN RESERVE IN LZ OAK (BS 729849). CO K ESTABLISHED  
BLOCKING POSIT VIC (BS 718833) UNTIL 071700H THEN RETURN  
TO DEFENSIVE POSIT IN LZ OAK. (BS 732340). CO L CONDUCTED  
SEARCH AND CLEAR FROM (BS 718845) TO (BS 727343) AT 071400H.

PRESENT POSIT (BS 724853). CO M HELILIFTED TO (BS 742882)

TO CONDUCT SEARCH AND CLEAR TO (BS 843383) TO (BS 738869).

REMAIN OVERNIGHT VIC (BS 728858).

4. INTENTIONS.

A. BLT 1/7 WILL CONTINUE SWEEP THROUGH CAP BATANGAN AREA TO  
391.

B. BLT 3/7 WILL ESTABLISH OUTPOSTS AND AMBUSHES DURING  
NIGHT AND CONTINUE SEARCH AND CLEAR OPERATIONS TOMORROW.

4. AIR.

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**SECRET**

(When filled in)

A. FIXED WING. AN AVERAGE OF TWO A4 OR F4 WERE MAINTAINED ON AIRBORNE ALERT STATIONS DURING ENTIRE DAY. ADDITIONALLY TWO TO FOUR A4/F4 WERE MAINTAINED ON GROUND ALERT. TWO INTERDICTION MISSIONS WERE CONDUCTED WITH TWO A4 AC EACH.  
 B. ROTARY WING. AC CONDUCTED HELILIFT OF ONE COMPANY WITH 8 UH34 AND THREE MED EVAC MISSIONS UTILIZING FIVE UH34.  
 C. CUMULATIVE TOTALS: FIXED WING SORTIES - 67. FIXEDDN

WING MISSIONS

-23. ROTARY WING SORTIES -105. ROTARY WING MISSIONS -22. ORD EXPENDED; BOMBS- 33.5 TONS. NAPALM- 2.5 TONS. ZUNI-32. 20MM-3175. MK12-2. 2.75 FFAR- 52.

ITEM TWO: LIEN KET 8.

THIS IS AN ARVN OPERATION BEING CONDUCTED IN CONJUNCTION WITH OPERATION PIRANHA. FOUR VIETNAMESE BATTALIONS (2/4, 4/3, AND 2/41 ARVN PLUS THE 3RD VN MARINE BATTALION) ARE OPERATING INLAND OF THE PIRANHA BEACH AREA. RESULTS AS OF 080230H ARE: FRD: 3 KIA, 31 WIA. VC: 48 KIA (US CONFIRMED 40 KIA), 7 VCC (US CONFIRMS 1 VCC), 4 VCS, 11 WEAPONS.

ITEM THREE: OPERATION STOMP AS OF 080100H. NO CHANGE, NEGATIVE CONTACT.

GP-4

BT

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(REV. 7-62)

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**SECRET**(When filled in) MARINE CORPS  
COMMAND CENTER

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FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT THREE

TO RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

INFO RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUMPG/CG FMFPAC

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUI/CG III MAF

RUMFUAG/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/ I MAC(FWD)

RUMFUB/CTF SEVEN SEVEN

RUECW/CNO

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

RUEXDA/JCS

RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUECEM/CMC

RUMFKE/CTE SEVEN ZERO PT TWO PT ONE PT ONE

RUMDPXCOMPMBPAC

RUMGUX/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUMFCF/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUMFUP/CTG SEVEN SEVEN PT THREE

BT

**SECRET**

OPERATION PIRANHA (U)

A. COMSEVENTHFLLS300816Z AUG BNOTAL)

1. SITREP NR ELEVEN AS OF 080630H

2. SITUATION: NO CHANGE

3. STATUS: ORLECK EXPENDED 173 ROUNDS 5"/38 IN SUPPORT OF RVN FORCES.  
SPOTTER UNABLE TO OBSERV EFFECT4. INTENTIONS: THIS IS FINAL SITREP THIS DISTRIBUTION. FUTURE SITREPS  
TO BE SUBMITTED EVERY TWELVE HOURS TO LIMITED DISHE

5. ACTION REQUIRED BY HIGHER AUTHORITY: NONE

GP-4

BT

 7 SEP 65 14  
 ACT  
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-37-

(When filled in)

CMC	
ACMC	
MILSEC	
CofS	
DC/S(P&P)	
SGS	

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FM CG III MAF

TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUMPG/CG FMFPAC

INFO RUECEM/CMC

RUHL HQ/CINCPAC

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT

RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWDGL

ZEN/CG THIRD MAR 014

RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)

ZEN/CG FIRST NAW (ADV)

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUCKYM/CMDT MCS

**RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA**

RUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV GROUP

RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SECOND AIRDIV

RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE

BT

S E C R E T SECTION OE OF SIX SECTIONS

USS PAUL REVERE (APA 248) NOT ADDEE PASS TO HQBN (-). REIN

**FIRST MARINE DIVISION**

III MAF SITREP NUMBER 129 061800H TO 071800H SEPTEMBER 1965

## I. INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

A. OPERATION PIRANHA COMMENCED ON SCHEDULE AGAINST LIGHT, SPORADIC VC SMALL ARMS FIRE SIX UH-34D AND UH-1E AIRCRAFT, RECEIVED HITS FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE IN LANDING ZONE BIRCH. LVTE'S EXPLODED THREE MINES ON WHITE BEACH WITH ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO MINE CLEARANCE BLADES.

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B. AS OPERATION PROGRESSED CONTACT WITH VC CONTINUED LIGHT AND INTERMITTENT. NO MAJOR CONTACT HAS BEEN REPORTED. PRELIMINARY REPORTS INDICATE FORTY VCS CAPTURED; HOWEVER, NO WEPAONS REPORTED CAPTURED AT CLOSE OF PERIOD. THIRTY OF THE REPORTED FORTY VCS WERE APPREHENDED BY RVN JUNK FLEET.

C. RAINFALL FROM 060800H TO 070800H SEPTEMBER

1965

PHU BAI - .35 INCHES

DANANG - .20 INCHES

CHU LAI - NONE

## II. III MAF OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## A. OPERATION PIRANHA

1. REINFORCED MARINE INFANTRY REGIMENT LANDED ON BATANGAN PENINSULA SIGNALING OPENING OF OPERATION PIRANHA, A COORDINATED USMC/ARVN OPERATION. LEADING WAVES OF FIRST BN, SEVENTH MARINES WENT ASHORE AT 070630H WITH B COMPANY ON LEFT AND A COMPANY ON RIGHT. MARKED FIRST USE OF LVTE -1 IN COMBAT, A SPECIALLY CONFIGURED LVT WHICH FIRES LINE CHARGE TO CLEAR MINED BEACH PRIOR TO LANDING INFANTRY. HELICOPTERS BEGAN LANDING THIRD BN, SEVENTH MARINES AT 080647H. ALL ASSAULT UNITS ASHORE AND CO, SEVENTH MARINES ASSUMED CONTROL

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 123 S E C R E T

AS LANDING FORCE COMMANDER AT 071215H. NO CONTACT WITH ENEMY UNTIL 1745H WHEN FIRST BN, SEVENTH MARINES LOCATED GROUP OF VC IN CAVE. THREE VC KILLED AND SIX CAPTURED. NIGHT OF 7SEP WILL BE DEVOTED TO PATROLLING AND AMBUSHES. OPERATION PIRANHA WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW TO CLEAR BATANGAN PENINSULA OF ALL REMAINING VC. MARINE POSITIONS FOR NIGHT FOLLOW: SEVENTH MARINES CP AT (BS 743857) AND FIRST BN, SEVENTH MARINE CP AT (BS 759859). COMPANY A, FIRST BN, SEVENTH MARINES IN BLOCKING POSITIONS FROM (BS 750870). TO (BS U55 157) WITH COMPANY D JUST TO SOUTH IN CHAU ME (ONE) KBS 778 859), WHILE COMPANY C OCCUPIES BLOCKING POSITIONS FROM SOUTHERN EDGE OF CHAU THAUEN (ONE) TO (BS 772850). THIRD BN, SEVENTH MARINES CP LOCATED VC (BS 729849). WITH COMPANIES I AND L IN SAME VICINITY. DURING AFTERNOON COMPANY C SITUATED VIC (BS 718835) WITH ORDERS TO PULL BACK TO BN AREA AT 071700H. COMPANY M, THIRD BN, SEVENTH MARINES ESTABLISHED BLOCKING POSITIONS ACROSS NARROW STRIP OF LAND AT (BS 742882) WITH AMBUSHES ESTABLISHED IN NORTHWESTERN CORNER OF GRID SQUARE (BS 7386). THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES REMAINS AFLOAT IN USS PRINCETON (LPH-5) AS LANDING FORCE RESERVE.

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2. SECOND BN, FOURTH REGIMENT (ARVN) WAS LIFTED BY USMC HELOS INTO LANDING ZONE VIC KBS 7281) AT ABOUT 070730H. THIRD RVN MARINE BN WAS HELILIFTED AT ABOUT SAME TIME INTO LANDING ZONE VIC (BS 7477). CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS ENVISIONS THIRD RVN MARINE BN CONDUCTING SEARCH AND CLEAR OF AN KEY PENINSULA WHILE SECOND BN, FOURTH REGIMENT (ARVN) OCCUPIES BLOCKING POSITIONS ON SOUTH WESTERN EDGE OF OBJECTIVE AREA.

3. FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING SUPPORT OF OPERATION PIRANHA BEGAN ABOUT 070520H WHEN ONE KC-130 WITH SPECIAL COMMUNICATION PACKAGE ABOARD REPORTED ON STATION AS AIRBORN DASC. FOR NINE HOURS AIRBORNE DASC HAD COMPLETE CONTROL OF AIR OPERATIONS IN OBJECTIVE AREA, DIRECTING HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT USED FOR BOTH MARINE AND ARVN SUPPORT. AIRBORNE KC-130 ALSO PROVIDED ON STATION IN FLIGHT EMERGENCY REFUELING CAPABILITY. AT 0530H US AIR FORCE C-123 FLARE PLANE REPORTED ON STATION TO SUPPORT PRE-DAWN AIR STRIKE ON WHITE BEACH. UNDER FLARES 8 A4'S CONDUCTED MINE CLEARING BOMB DROP ON WHITE BEACH. FOLLOWING BEACH STRIKE, ONE A4 USED TO PUT TACTICAL SMOKE ALONG LANDING BEACH. MEANWHILE EIGHT F4S AND FOUR A4S EXPENDED EIGHT TONS OF BOMBS ON LANDING ZONE PREP. DAISY CUTTER EIGHTEEN INCH EXTENSIONS AND V.T.

PAGE 123VE RUE R E T

FUSES WERE USED TO EFFECT MAXIMUM SHRAPNEL COVERAGE IN LANDING ZONES WITH MINIMUM CRATER DAMAGE. DURING THIS PHASE OF OPERATION, ONE UMS. ARMY AO-9-1F PLAWL CPNDICTED I.R. MISSIONS IN OBJECTIVE AREA. CONTINUOUS ALERT CAPPED AREA DURING LAYLIGHT HOURS FOR CAS AND TPQ-10 MISSIONS AS DIRECTED. FROM 070630H THRU 071800H, TACTICAL AIRCRAFT COMPLETED NINETY ONE SORTIES, AND EXPENDED THIRTY FOUR TONS BOMBS, THREE TONS NAPALM, THIRTY TWO ZUNI PACKS, 3175 ROUNDS 20MM, TWO M-12, 152 2.75 FFAR. AIRCRAFT OF MAG ONE SIX COMMENCED ASSAULT PHASE WHEN FORTY UH-34D'S LOADED TROOPS AT LANDING ZONE SARDINE (CHU LAI) FOR INITIAL WAVE LANDING AT LZ OAK AT 0650H, WHICH WAS UNOPPOSED. FOLLOWING INITIAL LANDING AT OAK, SIXTEEN AIRCRAFT PROCEEDED TO QUANG NGAI TO LIFT ARVN TROOPS INTO LZ'S PINE AND BIRCH. REMAINING TWENTY FIVE AIRCRAFT CONTINUED LIFTING U.S. MARINES INTO BEDOAE. ENEMY FIRE IN VIC OF LZ'S PINE AND BIRCH DISC MODERATE TO INTENSE. FOUR UH-1E'S AND TWO UH-34JS RECEIVED HITS FROM GROUND FIRE DURING ASSAULT PHASE. ONE WOUNDED CREWMAN EVACUATED TO USS PRINCETON. TWO UH-34D'S MADE FORCED LANDINGS WITHIN CHU LAI TAOR DUE MECHANICAL DIFFICULTIES. UH-37'S UTILIZED TO TRANSPORT ENGINES AND SPARE PARTS FROM DANANG TO CHU LAI TO EFFECT REPAIRS. UH-1E REPORTED SIGHTED SECONDARY EXPLSION IN VIC BT

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FM CG THIRD MAF

TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUHPG/CG FMFPAC

INFO RUENEM/CMC

R MLHQ/CINCPAC

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT

RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWDGL

ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)

ZEN/CG NIRST MAW (ADV)

RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUCKYM/CMDT MCS

RUMSAB/CG TA K FORCE ALPHA

RUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV GROUP

RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SECOND AIRDIV

RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE

BT

SECRET SECTION TWO OF SIX SETIONUB

OF (BS 733836) DURING ASSAULT. FOLLOWING ASSAULT, EIGHT UH-34D'S  
RETURNED TO QUANG NGAI; EIGHT REMAINED AT CHU LAI; AND FOURTEEN  
RETURNED TO US PRINCETON FOR ON CALL MISSIONS IN SUPPORT OF  
OPERATION. UH-1E'S ALSO REMAINED ON CALL. MAG ONE SIX FLEW BNPT  
ORTIES, AND HAULE 120 PAX AND 6.4 TONS OF CARGO DURING OPERATION.

B. THIRD MARINE DIVISION

1. COMPANY C, FIRST BN, NINTH MARINES RECEIVED SMALL  
ARMS FIRE VIC (BT 028672) AND KILLED ONE VC BY FIRE TEAM  
FIRE AND MANEUVER.

COMNOTE:  
CORRECTED COPY WILL BE  
FORWARDED BY AIRMAIL

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2. COMPANY G, SECOND BN, NINTH MARINES KILLED VC AFTER RECEIVING SMALL ARMS FIRE VIC (AT 977673).

3. NO MARINE CASUALTIES DURING PIRANHA GROUND OPERATIONS. IN OTHER SECTORS OF III MAF AREA OF OPERATIONS, ONE USMC KIA AND TWO WIA SUSTAINED FROM BOOBY TRAP/PRESSURE MINE DEVICES. ONE KIA AND ONE WIA SUSTAINED FROM SMALL ARMS FIRE.

C. FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING, OTHER THAN OPERATION PIRANHA, FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING ACTIVITY CONSISTED OF GCI HANDLING, AND ASRT OPERATIONS IN II CORPS. ADDITIONALLY TWO SUPPORT AND EIGHT ECM SORTIES WERE FLOWN IN NORTH VIETNAM.

III. III MAF OPERATIONS

A. THIRD MARINE DIVISION

1. HUE PHU BAI TAOR. THIRD BN, FOURTH MARINES CONTINUED DEFENSE OF TAOR. COND CTED PATROLS AND AMBUSHES.

2. DANANG TAOR

(A) THIRD MARINES

(1) FIRST BN, FIRST MARINES. BN CONTINUED PATROL AND AMBUSH ACTIVITY FORWARD OF MLR. FOUR VC OBSERVED VIC (AT 945711) AT 070320H AND FIRED UPON BY COMPANY D. VC IMMEDIATELY BROKE CONTACT.

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 124 S E C R E T

(2) SECOND BN, THIRD MARINES. BN WAS ACTIVE THROUGHOUT PERIOD CONDUCTING PATROLS AND AMBUSHES. T 070613H FOUR VCS CAPTURED VIC , AT 947787).

(B) NINTH MARINES

(1) FIRST BN, C

V MARINES. BN CONTINUED TO OCCUPY POSIMVONS SOUTH OF CAU DO RIVER IN SOUTHEAST PORTION OF REGIMENTAL TAOR. BN CONDUCTED SEVEN PATROLS AND TWO AMBUSHES AND ESTABLISHED THREE LISTENING POSTS. COMPANY C CONDUCTED SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION IN AREA OF KHAI TAY (THREE), (BT 048639). AT 070930H COMPANY RECEIVED SMALL ARMS FIRE FROM (BT 028672). TWO FIRE TEAMS MANEUVERED TO AREA AND SAW MAN RUNNING ALONG VINH DIEN RIVER. SHOT MAN AND RECOVERED HIS BODY.

(2) SECOND BN, NINTH MARINES. BN CONTINUED TO OCCUPY DEFENSIVE POSITIONS SOUTH OF CAU DO RIVER AND PROVIDED SECURITY FOR FLSG AMMO DUMP (AT 988733), RAILROAD BRIDGE AND WATER POINT (AT 998707). SEVEN PATROLS, FOUR AMBUSHES, FIVE LISTENING POSTS AND TWO SCOUT SNIPER TEAMS SENT OUT DURING PERIOD. AT 061910H DAYLIGHT PATROL RETURNING TO COMPANY G'S POSITION RECEIVED JVNUSRIOTGHCUATU, 2, 3 107ZZEPDI -9& 2&84

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 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW (ADV)  
 RUABQLGXCTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 KMUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV GROUP  
 RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SECOND AIRDIV  
 RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE  
 BT

S E C R ZWT SECTION THREE OF SIX SECTIONS

LISHED CP AT (AT 959745). AT 071000H COMPANY D REPORTED ONE ROUND  
 OF SMALL ARMS FIRE VIC (BT 030575). INDICATED THAT COMPANY'S  
 MISSIONS HAD BEEN COMPROMISED. COMPANY WAS DIRECTED TO SECURE  
 MISSION AND RETURN TO CP AT 071200H. ONE MINOT USMC IAW WAS  
 SUSTAINED. DID NOT REQUIRE EVACUATION.  
 VGR 06) THIRDBN, CONTINUED COMBAT ENGINEER SUPPORT  
 OF DIVISIONS UNITS.

(G) SEVENTH ENGINEER BN, ASSIGNED PROJECTS CONTINUE  
 AS SCHEDULED.

ACT  
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 MARINE CORPS  
 COMMAND CENTER

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(H) BASE DEFENSE COMMAND. THIRD BN, NINTH MARINES.  
CONTINUED TACTICAL DEFENSE OF DANANG AIRFIELD PERIMETER.

## 4. SUMMARY

(A) MAJOR UNIT ACTIONS: OPERATION PIRANHA

(1) TYPE OF OPERATION: AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT

(2) AREA OF OPERATION: QUANG NGAI, EAST OF NORTH  
SOUTH GRID LINE (BS 72). SOUTH OF EAST WEST GRID LINE (BS 90) AND  
NORTH OF EAST WEST LINE (BS 81).

(3) UNITS PARTICIPATING: HUVN SEVENTH MARINE  
REGIMENT; FIRST BN, SEVENTH MARINES; THIRD BN, SEVENTH MARINES.  
AND ATTACHMENTS. THE THIRD BN, THIRD MARINES IS IN FLOATING RESERVE.

XL TIME OF COMMENCEMENT: 070630H

(5) TIME OF TERMINATION: CONTINUING

(6) RESULTS:

FRIENDLY LOSSES

KIA: NONE

WIA: ONE

ENEMY LOSSAC

KILLED: FOUR

VCS: FORTY NINE

1 MAS 36 RIFLE W:

CARTRIDGE BELT

HJ

(B) SMALL UNIT ACONS:

(1) NIGHT CONTACTS: ONE

(2) DAY CONTACTS: SEVEN

(3) TOTAL CONTACTS: EIGHT

(4) ACTION WITHOUT CONTACTS: SEVENTY SIX

(5) BOX SCORES

HV	PROVINCE/ COORDINATES	DATE/ TIME	ACTION	FRIENDLY UNIT/ LOSSES	ENEMY UNIT/ LOSSES
	QUANG TIN (BT 450070)	061805H	PATROL	C/1/4 WIA-1	UNKNOWN NONE
	QUANG TIN (BT 451052)	070805H	PATROL	C/1/4 DOW-1, WIA-1	UNKNOWN NONE
	QUANG TINE (BT 451059)	071025H	PATROL	C1/4 NONE	UNKNOWN KIA-2
	QUANG NGAI (BT 626014)	071330H	PATROLHE	I /E3/3 KIA-1	UNKNOWN NONE
	QUANRUNGAI (BT 625022)	071600H	PATROL	I/3/3 WIA-1	UNKNOWN NONE
	QUANG NAM (AT 947787)	070613H	PATROL	H/2/3 NONE	UNKNOWN VCS-4
	QUANG NAM	061910H	PATROL	G/2/9	UNKNOWN

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(AT 97163)

QUANG N/A

071000H

RECON

NONE

DX3D RECON

VCS- KIA-1

UNKNOWN

(BT 030375)

WIAA1

NONE

**B. FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING****1. MWB ONE**

(A) MACS NINE. UNITS AT CHU LAI AND HUE PHU BAI CONDUCTED SIXTY REPORTED TRACKS, SEVENTY EIGHT DESIGNATED TRACKS, TWENTY GCI/GCA HAND OFFS. TWENTY THREE ASH DEPARTURES, TWENTY THREE PARROT CHECKS, NO HOSTILE OPERATIONS. SEVENTY FIVE PERCENT OF THEIR EQUIPMENT IS OPERATING AND NINETY PERCENT OF CAMP IS COMPLETEDM

(B) MASH TWO. TH AYHT AT CHU LAI AND ONE AT PLEIKU CONTROLLED TWENTY ONE A4 SORTIES IN I AND II CORPS AREA. AN AIRBORNE DASC BECAME OPERATIONAL AT 070520H REMAINING FOR NINE HOURS IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION PIRANHA. THIS AIRBORNE DASC CONTROLLED BOTH HELICOPTERS AND FIXED WING AIRCRAFT IN OBJECTIVE AREA

(C) FIRST MAAM BN. CONDUCTED FOUR AWF EXERCISES: TWO SUCCESSFUL A4 ENGAGEMENTS AND TWO SUCCESSFUL F-104 RIADS. TOTAL LOSS OF COMMUNICATIONS AND LACK OF SUFFICIENT PLOTS PRECLUDED ENGAGEMENTS OF TARGET AIRCRAFT.

PAGE FIVE RUMFUAQ 125 S E C R E T

2. MAG ONE ONE. FLEW TENTY TWO SORTIES AND DROPPED THIRTY TWO TONS OF BOMBS. DURING A FLAMING ARROW MISSION TWO PILOTS REPORTED DAMAGE ASSESSMENT OF SEVEN STRUCTURES DESTROYED AND TWO SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. TWENTY SEVEN SORTIES FLOWN IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION PIRANHA TWELVE LANDING ZONE PREPS AND FIFTEEN CLOSE AIR SUPPORT MISSIONS. BOMBS USED IN PREP WERE EQUIPPED WITH EIGHTEEN INCH EXTENSION DAISY CUTTERS. TWO F4B'S ESCORTED EF-106'S TO NORTH VIETNAM ON AN IRON HAND AND SIX SORTIES FOR ROLLING THUNDER.

3. MAG ONE TWO. FLEW SEVENTY SORTIES. ONE BUNKER, FIVE STRUCTURES DESTROYED AND THREE STRUCTURES DAMAGED WERE REPORTED. TWO SMOKE CONTAINERS USED DURING OPERATION PIRANHA ANBOLAZY DOGS USED AT WHITE BEACH. FOUR AR'S PROVIDED LANDING ZONE PREINWITH VT FUSES. TPQ-10 SORTIES WERE FLOWN THROUGHOUT NIGHT AND EARLY MORNING HOURS IN SUPPORT OF CHU LAI AND PLEIKU ASRTS.

4. MAG ONE SIX. FLEW 446 SORTIES AND CARRIED 3393 PASSENGERS. LARGE PORTION OF SORTIES WERE IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION PIRANHA. ONE CREW MEMBER WAS KIA DURING OPRDVION PIRANHA WHEN UH-1E HIT BY GROUND FIRE. AIRCRAFT CONTINUED TO DESTINATION  
BT

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TKKKKEM A703MCD400  
 OO RUECEM  
 DE RUMFUQ 126 2510046  
 ZNY SSSSS  
 Z O 080046Z ZYT  
 FM CG THIRD MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW (ADV)  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV GROUP  
 RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SECOND AIRDIV  
 RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE  
 BT

S E C R T SECTION FOUR OF SIX SECTIONS  
 AND REW MEMBER WAS TAKEN TO USS PRINCETON ANOTHER UH-1E  
 HIT NEAR LANDING ZONE PINE BUT LANDED SAFETYL ATDESTINATION  
 TWO UH-34D SUFFERED ENGINE FAILURES. BOTH LANDED IN SECURE AREAS  
 AND REPAIRS ARE UNDERWAY. MAG THREE SIX CH-37 DELIVERED  
 ENGINES AND PARTS TO EFFECT REPAIR. TWO ARVNS WOUNDED IN  
 HELICOPTER DURING ASSAULT PHASE OF OPERATION PIRANHA.  
 5. MAG THREE SIX. VMO SIX COMPLETED DAWN/DUSK PATROLS  
 FOR BOTH CHU LAI TAOR AND DANANG TAOR; PROVIDED HELO MED EVAC AND  
 ESCORT; AND VMO SIX PILOTS FLEW EIGHT SORTIES WITH VMO TWO IN SUP-

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PORT OF OPERATION PIRANHA. VMO SIX AIRCRAFT ARE NOT ARMOR PLATED AS YET AND ARE NOT READY FOR COMBAT MISSIONS. MAG THREE SIX UH-34D FLEW 103 SORTIES, CARRIED 187 PASSENGERS AND HAULED TWO POINT FIVE TONS OF CARGO IN SUPPORT OF NORMAL OPERATIONS. HMM THREE SIX THREE ASSUMED MED EVAC AT BOTH DAVANG AND CHU LAI. THREE EVACUATIONS WERE COMPLETED AT DANANG, INCLUDING ARVN VIA AND KIA. WHILE ON MED EVAC AT CHU LAI, HELD SUSTAINED THREE HITS BELIEVED FROM AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE. RESUPPLY FIGHTS PROVIDED FOR THIRD AND NINTH MARINES AT DANANG AND FOURTH MARINES AT CHU LAI.

6. VMGR ONE FIVE TWO. PROVIDED AIRBORNE DASC WITH IN FLIGHT REFUELING CAPABILITIES.

OTHER KC-130 PROVIDED NORMAL LOGISTIC SUPPORT BETWEEN HUE PHU BAI, CHU LAI AND DANANG.

#### V. PLANS SUMMARY

##### A. THIRD MARINE DIVISION INTENTIONS

1. HUE PHU BAI TAOR. THIRD BN, FOURTH MARINES WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND PHU BAI VITAL AREA WITH THREE COMPANIES. COMPANY K WILL ASSUME MISSION OF AIRFIELD DEFENSE. ONE PLATOON WILL OCCUPY OP ON HILL 225. COMPANIES M AND L WILL CONTINUE TO CONDUCT

PATROLS IN ASSIGNED AREAS. BATT

LION HAS PLANNED SEVEN AMBUSHES

DURING NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD.

#### 2. DANANG TAOR.

##### (A) THIRD MARINES

(1) FIRST BN, FIRST MARINES. WILL CONTINUE TO UTILIZE ONE PLATOON EACH FROM COMPANY C AND COMPANY D TO CONDUCT PATROL OPERATIONS IN FRONT OF KLR. COMPANY D WILL CONTINUE TO OPERATE FROM ITS PATROL BASE. AMBUSHES WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON LIKELY AVENUES OF APPROACH INTO BATTALION POSITIONS. BATTALION WILL CONDUCT SIX AMBUSHES DURING NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD.

(2) SECOND BN, THIRD MARINES. WILL CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN ONE PLATOON EACH FROM COMPANIES E, F AND G PATROLLING FROM BASES ON BOTH SIDES OF MSR. COMPANY F WILL COMMENCE THREE PLATOON SIZE PATROL AT 071930H TO INCLUDE GRID SQUARES (AT 9075), (AT 9076), (AT 8976) AND (AT 8875). B

BATTALION HAS SEVEN

AMBUSHES PLANNED FOR NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD.

##### (B) NINTH MARINES

(1) FIRST BN, NINTH MARINES. WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY POSITIONS SOUTH OF DANANG AIRBASE AND SOUTH OF CAU DU RIVER. IN NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOUR PERIOD, BATTALION PLANS TO SEND OUT FOUR

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PATROLS, TWO AMBUSHES, AND ESTABLISH FOUR LISTENING POST.

2) SECOND BN, NINTH MARINESM WILL CONTINUE

TO OCCUPY POSITIONS SOUTH OF CAU DO RIVER AND PROVIDE SECURITY FOR  
 A.SG AMMO DUMP (AT 99733), RAILROAD BRIDGE AND WATER POINT AT  
 AT 997687). AND ENGINEER ELEMENTS IN DUONG SON(ONE) AT (AT 997  
 617), FOUR COMBAT PATROLS, FOUR AMBUSHES, FIVE LISTENING POSTS AND  
 THREE SCOUT/SNIPEER TEAMS PLANNED FOR NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOURS. COM-  
 PANY I WILL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY BLOCKING POSITIONS VIC HA DONG  
 (AT 997644).

KC) THIRD AT BN. CILL CONTINUE NORMAL CP OPERATIONS  
 TO INCLUDE TRAINING AND IMPROVEMNT OF DEFERSIVE POSITIONS.

(D) THIRD RECON BN. COMPANY A WILL COMMENCE RIVER  
 SHORE RECONNAISSANCE OF CA DE RIVER AT 080800H FROM (AT 865  
 854) TO (AT 897829). COMPANY A WILL CONTINUE OPERATIONS AT DONG  
 DE N MOUNTAIN. H AND S COMPANY WILL CONTINUE KOPERATIONS AT OP  
 HOTEL (AT 959745).

(E) FIRST AMTRAC BN. WILL CONTINUE OPERATIONS IN  
 SUPPORT OF THIRD AND NINTH MARINES.

3. C) LAI TAOR

(A) FOURTH MARINES. EXTENSIVE DEEP PATROLLING ACTIONS

PAGE FIVE RUMFUAQ 126 S E C R T

WILL BE CONTINUED, WITH EMPHASIS ON NORTHWESTERN AND SOUTHERN SEC-  
 TIONS OF TAOR. COMPANY B, THIRD RECON BN WILL CONTINUE OPERATION  
 NORTH OF TAOR, VIC (BT 4416).

KEL SEVENTH MARINES. WILL CONTINUE WITH SECOND PHASE  
 OF OPERATION PIRANHA.

4. DURING NEXT TWENTY FOUR HOURS UNITS OF THIRD MARINE  
 DIVISION WILL CONDUCT SIXTY ONE PATROLS AND ESTABLISH TWENTY FO

R

AMBUSHES.

B. FIRST MARINE AIRCRAFT WING INTENTIONS

1. MAG ONE SIX, LOGISTIC, HELO/CAP, RECON-PHOTOGN SPOT,  
 ESCORT AND AO/TAO/RCN - OPERATION PIRANHA

2. MAG ONE ONE. GROUND ALERT, BLUE BLAZER, HELO CAP AND  
 TPQ-10.

3. MAG ONE TWO. BLUE BLAZER, GROUND ALERT, HELO CAP, AND  
 INTERDICTION.

V. MOVEMENT STATUS

A. MAG ONE SIX (REAR). ETA DANANG REMAINS 12SEP.

B. SECOND LAAM BN. ETA REMAINS 12SP CHU LAI

C. MAG THREE SIX. CONTINUES TO OFFLOAD CHU LAI.

VI. CIVIC ACTION

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 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH FLT  
 RUABQL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 RUABQL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW (ADV)  
 RUABQL/CTF SEVENNINE  
 RUMFUU/CTF SVEN SIX  
 RUCKYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA

CO 2 CORPS ADV 0000P

RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SECOND AIRDIV  
 RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE  
 BT

SECRET SECTION FIVE OF SIX SECTIONS

A CAN NE

Q. P.O.A.T. MOVED FROM  
 HOUSE TO HOUSE REQUESTING VILLAGERS MAKE ALLOUT  
 EFFORT WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS TO CLEAR THIER LAND OF  
 BRUSH WHICH PRESENTLY OFFERS HIDING/SNIPING POSITIONS  
 FOR VC.

2. ABOUT FIFTY VILLAGERS FILED CLAIMS.  
 VILLAGE CHIEF ADRESSED THEN AND DISTRIBUTED  
 OPERATION HANDCLASP CLOTHING. OTHER CLOTHING WILL

8 SEP 65 05 20Z 8 03 10'65

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BE GIVEN OUT 00SEPT65 AT ANNUAL MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL.  
 TOO PERSONS EXPECTED TO ATTEND CELEBRATION AT VILLAGE  
 HEADQUARTERS SITE. PLANS BEING MADE TO PROVIDE  
 COOKED RICE AND COOKIES.

3. PROVINCE CHIEF APPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF  
 RELIEF SS. HE WILL SUPERVISE DISTRIBUTION  
 IN NEXT 2-3 DAYS.

3. TWENTY ONE VILLAGERS TREATED IN CAM NE  
 (6) THREE ADULTS (TO MALE, ONE FEMALE) AND  
 EIGHTEEN CHILDREN.

B. HUE PHU BAI TAOR. THID BN, FOURTH MARIN GAVE MEDICAL  
 TREATMENT TO 175 PEOPLE AT THU PHU (YD 905125).

C. DANANG TAOR.

1. THIRD MARINES

(1)  
 ) FIRST BN, FIRST MARINES. EIGHTY FIVE PEOPLE GIVEN  
 MEDICAL TREATMENT. BN DISTRIBUTED TWENTY ZIPPERS TO FAMILIES WITH  
 SEWING MACHINES IN VILLAGE OF PHUOC HUNG (AT 917727) AND  
 DISTRIBUTED THIRTEEN CASES CANNED MEAT AND VEGETABLES TO NEEDY  
 FAMILIES OF AP DAI LA (AT 923744). ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO HOLD SICK  
 CALL EVERY WEDNESDAY AT VILLAGE OF LA CHAU (ONEL (AT 944687)).

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(B) SECOND BN, THIRD MARINES. MARINE DROM COMPANY  
 F IS HOLDING INSTRUCTION SIX HOURS A WEEK IN ENGLISH FOR PEOPLE  
 FROM PHU THUONG KAT 905760. 119 PEOPLE GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT  
 BY BN, THIRTY BAGS OF CEMENT DELIVERED TO HOA LOC VILLAGE CHIEF  
 FOR CONSTRUCTION OF RICE STORAGE BIN.

2. NINTH MARINES

(A) FIRST BN, NINTH MARINES. SIXTY ONE PEOPLE GIVE  
 MEDICAL TREATMENT. BN IS PLANNING OPERATION TO PROVIDE  
 SECURITY FOR RICE HARVEST IN ITS AREA. 200 FOOT EXPANSION  
 BRIDGE OPENED AT HOA HAI (BT 072709). ORIGINAL BRIDGE DESTROYED  
 OVER TWO YEARS AGO.

(B) FIRST BN, NINTH MARINES. SIXTY ONE PEOPLE GIVEN  
 MEDICAL TREATMENT.

3. THIRD

NTITANK BN, FORTY TWO PEOPLE RECEIVED MEDICAL  
 TREATMENT AT YEN BAC (AT 985708).

4. THIRD TANK BN, 100 PEOPLE GIVEN MEDICAL TREATMENT AT  
 HAMLET OF PHONG BAC (ONE).

5. THIRD AMTRAC BN, FIFTY FIVE PEOPLE RECEIVED MEDICAL  
 TREATMENT.

6. DIVISION CNRS OFFICER. 04000 POUNDS OF PROJECT

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HANDCLASP SUPPLIES WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO PHU BAI, DANANG, AND CHU LAI TAORS, 300 BARS OF SOAP GIVEN TO NINTH MARINES FOR DELIVERY TO PEOPLE OF CAM NE.

7. SEVENTH ENGINEER BNN DISPENSARY WAS SET UP IN DA PHOU C V

LLAGE IN A.M. AT 071135H OPERATIONS MOVED TO BUDDHIST SECTOR.

8. THIRD BN, NINTH MARINES. BN MED TEAM ASSISTED AND ADVISED PERSONNEL AT HOA VANG DISPENSARY, TREATING SEVENTY CIVILIANS. COMPANY L CORPSMAN TREATED 232 SCHOOL CHILDREN AT AU HOA. PRIMARILY SKIN DISEASES. GIVE PERSONAL HEGIENE INSTRUCTIONS.

D. CHU LAI TAOR.

1. FIRST BN, FOURTH MARINES. BN CIVIC ACTION TEAM TREATED 170 PEOPLE AT VILLAGE OF XUAM TRUNG (CT 519091). TWO DOZEN KITES GIVEN TO VILLAGE OFFICIALS FROM PENISULA OF KY HA FOR DISTRIBUTION TO CHILDREN OF AREA ON TEN SEPTEMBER. VIETNAMES MID AUTUMN HOLIDAY.

2. SECOND BN, FOURTH MARINES.

KA) AT 070900H OEL, CG I CORPS, CG III MAF, CG SECOND ARV DIVISION, ADC THIRD MARDIV, C/S III MAF, REGIMENTAL COMMANDER FOURTH MARINES, REPRESENTATIVES OF USOM AND JUSPAO

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ATTENDED CERONIES FOR CHU LAI HAMLET VIC (BT 507058).

(B) CERMONEY INCLUDED SPECCHES BY VILLAGES AND DISTRICT CHIEFS THANKING MILITARY AND CIVILIAN AGENCIES FOR MAKING CHU LAI VILLAGE POSSIBLE. AWA

DS WERE PRESENTED TO PERSONNL CONTRIBUTING EFFORTS TO VILLAGE. BATTALION COMMANDER AND VICIL AFFAIRS OFFICER INCLUDED IN AWARDS (GALLANTRY CROSS MEDAL). GENERAL THI, I CORPS COMMANDER PRESENTED AWARDS. THIRD MARDIV BAND PROVIDED MUSIC THROUGHOUT CEREMONY.

VII. I CORPS ACTIVITIES

AM QUANG TRI PROVINCE: OPERATIONS LAM SON Q90 AD HO DAC HANH FIFTY FOUR CONTINU PACIFICATION AND SECURITY ACTIVITIES WITHOUT VC CONTACT.

Q. OPERATION HO DAC HANH FIFTY SIX CONTINUES. AT P61900H CONTACT WAS MADE WITH ENEMY IN VIC COORD (BS 286535). CONTACT RESULTED IN ONE ARVN KIA, THREE WIA AND ONE VC CAPTURED. RESULTS FOR OPER

TION THUS FAR ARE: FRIENDLY; ONE KIA, NINE WIA; ENEMY: / 592 (8-, TWO WEAPONS CAPTUREDN TWO VCC AND TWO VCS APPREHENDED.

B. THUA THIEN PROVINCE: THIRD REGIMENT, FIRST BT

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 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHFGFRG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUMFUL/COMSEVENTH NL  
 RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MRDIV  
 RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW (ADV)  
 RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
 RUMFUU/CTFPEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYM/CMDT MCS  
 RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/CO I CORPS ADV RKOUP  
 RUMSBJ/COMMANDER SCND AIRDIV  
 RUMFCE/NVTM/USS PAUL REVERE  
 BT

SECRET FINAL SECTION OF SIX SECTIONS  
 INFANTRY DIVISION (ARVN) BEGAN OPERATION LAM SON  
 194 AT 070400H AUG. IN AREA TWENTY KM NORTHWEST OF  
 HUE, THIRD HZN, THIRD REGIMENT, FIRST BN, FIRST  
 REGIMENT AND DIVISION MOBILE STRIKE FORCE (BLACK PAN-  
 THERS) ARE CONDUCTING SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATIONS.  
 AREA BOUNDED BY COORD (YD 5036, YD 6128, YD 5521 AND  
 PD 4226). FOUR VC KIA, SEVEN VC AND TWO WEYTONS CAPTURED.  
 1. OPERATION THUA THIEN 130 TERMINATED AT  
 061630H SEP WITHOUT FRIENDLY LOSS. THREE VC KIA,

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ONE WEAPON CAPTURED.

C. QUANG NAM PROVINCE: QUANG NAM SPECIAL SECTOR OPERATION QUYET THANG 10/N CONTINUES WITH SHARP VC CONTACT. ELEVENTH RANGER BN SUFFERED THIRTY NINZLWIA AND TWELVE KIA AT 071415H SEP. ACTION TOOK PLACE NEAR (BT 004585-2 VC EMPLOYED 81MM MORTARS, LIGHT MACHINE GUNS, AND SMALL RMS. MSMC F-4B JETS PROVIDED IMMEDIATE COMSE AIR SUPPORT AGAINST VC CONCENTRATION. NO KNOWN ENEMY LOSSES.)

1. FIRST BN FIFTH REGIMENT, SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION (MKJRVN) OWGAN CLEAVING OPERATIONS THIRTY KM SOUTH OF DANANG. CLARANCE AND PACIFICATION ACTIVITIES BEGAN VIC (BT 1246) AT 070730H SEP. R

D. QUANG TIN PROVINCE: OPERATIONS LIMITED TO SMALL UNIT PATROLS SECURITY ACTIVITIES

1. OPERATION QUYET THANG 315 TERMINATED AT NX061530H.

E. LU

XG NGAI PROVINCE: COND BN FOURTH REGION SECOND INFANTRY DIVISION AND THIRD RVN MARINE BN COORDINATED WITH TWO USMC BNS IN CONDUCTING

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 128 S E C R T

OPERATION LIEN KET EIGHT. OPERATION TAKING PLACE ON AN KY AND CAP BATANGAN PENINSULA TWENTY KM NORTH EAST OF QUANG NGAI. USMC FORCES BEGAN LANDING AT 070630H BY HELICOPTER AND AMPHIBIOUS LANDING CRAFT. VIETNAMESE BN FOLLOWED BY HELICOPTER LANDING ON LT'SRC AT (BS 7281 AND BS 7481). SECOND BN FOURTH REGIMENT MET VC RESISTANCE NEAR (BS 735785). CONTACT CONTINUES. THIRD RVN MARINES HAD LIGHT CONTACT IMMEDIATELY UPON LANDING REPORT CONTINUED SMALL ARMS FIRE. ARVN LOSSES: TWO KIA, EIGHTEEN WIA. VC LOSSES: EIGHT KIA, TWELVE WEAPONS AND THREE VCC.

1. QUYET THANG NINETY FOUR CONTINUES WITH LIGHT VC CONTACT. TWO ARVN WIA NEAR (BS 572726). TWO VC KIA, ONE VCC.

F. FOUR US AIR SORTIES AGAINST IMMEDIATE AIR REQUEST TARGETS IN I CORPS ZONE. UNKNOWN NUMBER NAVAL GUNFIRE MISSIONS FIRED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION LIEN KET EIGHT (BS 7880).

VIII. STATUS OF HIGHWAYS AND RAILROADS. NO CHANGE

XI. FILM COVERAGE

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 6SEP 65 400 3D-35-47-65  
 PATROL A COURIER  
 CO 1/4 CHU  
 LAI AREA  
 VILLAGE OF  
 TIEN XUAN 1

X. AMINISTRATIVE  
 A. MY NEXT SITREP DUE 031800H SEPTEMBER 1965  
 B. DO NOT SERVICE THIS MESSAGE; FOLLOW UP  
 AIR MAIL COPY TO ALL ADDRESSES.  
 GP-4  
 BT

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(REV. 7-62)

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 000 - ACTION  
 00 - INFO

	G-1	G-2	G-3	G-4	CH	D	AA	AB	AD	AG	AQ	AS	AT	AX	HQBN

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(When filled in)

VV CWM646  
 00 RUECEM  
 ZNY CCCCC ZF42 RUEKDA  
 RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
 RUECEM/CMC COMD CENTER  
 FCA074  
 00 RUEPWW RUEHCR  
 ZNY CCCCC ZF42  
 TOACN313  
 TELECON ITEM  
 O 080925Z  
 FM MACV  
 TO NMCC  
 INFO CINCPAC  
 BT

ACT  
 AC  
 INFO  
 A03  
 03765 11 228

*JUL MAF*

C O N F I D E N T I A L

1. OPERATION ~~PIRANHA~~ OPERATION CONTINUES WITH NO FURTHER CONTACT REPORTED AS OF 081600H. ARVN FORCES IN OPERATION ARE 3D MAR BN (LOCATED AT BS7282), 2/4 ARVN BN AND 4/3 ARVN BN (BOTH LOCATED AT BS7480). NO CHANGE IN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED RESULTS.

2. ATTACK ON LONG TAN OP: AT APPROX 071400H A PF PATROL FROM LONG TAN HAMLET ENCOUNTERED AN ESTIMATED 2 VC COMPANIES VIC WR490620, WR494700, WR505645 AND WR490620. THE PATROL WAS FORCED TO WITHDRAW TO THE HAMLET. (OP). THE VC UNITS, REPORTED TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE 506TH BN, PURSUED AND ATTACKED THE HAMLET. AN AERIAL OBSERVER REPORTED THE ATTACK AND IMMEDIATELY REQUESTED AIR STRIKES IN SUPPORT. BETWEEN 071430H AND 071600H A TOTAL OF 14 AIR SORTIES (2 US F100'S & 12 VN A1H'S) WERE FLOWN WITH SOME ORDNANCE EXPENDED IN FRIENDLY AREA. IN ADDITION ARTILLERY AND ARMED HELICOPTERS FLEW SUPPORT. THE OUTPOST ALSO RECEIVED AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MORTAR ROUNDS FROM THE VC. THERE WERE REPORTED 10 CIVILIANS KIA AND 35 WIA AS A RESULT OF THE ATTACK. 31 FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE MED EVAC. THE OUTPOST WAS NOT OVERRUN AND 70 VC WERE ESTIMATED KBA. AN INVESTIGATION IS BEING CONDUCTED AND FURTHER RESULTS WILL FOLLOW.

3. THE 1/51 IN THE QUYET THANG 10/N ARVN OPERATION IN THE DONG NAM PROV (VIC BT0560) CAME UNDER HEAVY ATTACK AT ABOUT 072355H. THE VC USED A 57MM RR IN THE ATTACK. A FLAESHIP WAS SENT AND ALL WAS REPORTED QUIET AT 080124H. CASUALTIES RESULTING FROM THE ATTACK ARE AS FOLLOWS: FRD: 10KIA, 20 WIA; VC: UNKNOWN. THE QUYET THANG OPERATION COMMENCED AT 050300H AND RESULTS TO DATE ARE REPORTED AS FOLLOWS: FRD: 22 KIA, 62 WIA; VC: 4 KIA, 13 WIA (US CONFIRMED). OTHER UNITS INVOLVED IN THIS OPERATION ARE THE 11TH RANGERS, 5 RF CO'S, 7 PF CO'S AND ARTILLERY UNITS.

GP-4  
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 00-ACTION  
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**DECLASSIFIED**

**SECRET**

(When filled in)

NNNNEMA964MCD622  
 OO RUECEM  
 DE RUMFUAQ 207 2511540  
 ZNY SSSSS  
 O 081540Z  
 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHFG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
 JABOL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUABOL/CTF SMESTIINE  
 RUMFULA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYK/COMDT MCS  
 RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMSBJXCOMDR SECOND AIR DIV  
 RUMSVP/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/I CORPS ADV GRP  
 BT

**SECRET**

III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 3 PERIOD 072200Z SEP TO 082200Z  
 SEP FOR OPERATION PIRANHA (CAP BATANGAN)

G. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD.

A. POSITIONS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD

RLT-7 CP (BS 750860)

BLT 1/7 CP (BS 772855)

AA1-7 VIC (BS 784855)

B-1-7 VIC (BS 788860)

C-1BPU VIC (BS 777546)

*This is message that  
was passed by phone for info*

SEP 8 19 46 75  
 MARINE CORPS  
 COMMAND CENTER  
 AC  
 INFO  
 A01  
 A02  
 A03  
 A04  
 A05  
 A06  
 A07  
 A08

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NAVJMC HO 348-ADM (CONT'D) (1-63)

**SECRET**

(When filled in)

NNNNEMA964MCD622  
 OO RUECEM  
 DE RUMFUAQ 207 2511540  
 ZNY SSSSS  
 O 081540Z  
 FM CG III MAF  
 TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV  
 RUHFG/CG FMFPAC  
 INFO RUECEM/CMC  
 RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
 RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
 JABOL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
 ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV  
 ZEN/CG FIRST MAW  
 RUABOL/CTF SMESTINE  
 RUMFULA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUCKYK/CMDT MCS  
 RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV  
 RUMBJXCOMDR SECOND AIR DIV  
 RUMSVP/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
 RUMSVD/I CORPS ADV GRP  
 BT

**SECRET**

III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 3 PERIOD 072200Z SEP TO 082200Z  
 SEP FOR OPERATION PIRANHA (CAP BATANGAN)

C. SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES DURING PERIOD.

A. POSITIONS AT BEGINNING OF PERIOD

1-1-1 OF (BS 700160)  
 2-1-1 OF (BS 700160)  
 3-1-1 OF (BS 700160)  
 4-1-1 OF (BS 700160)  
 5-1-1 OF (BS 700160)

This is message that  
 was passed by phone for FMFPAC

SEP 8 19 46 65  
 MARINE CORPS  
 COMMAND CENTER

ACT  
 INFO

AD1 CH  
 AD2 PX  
 AD3 AM  
 AD4 ATH  
 AD5 AD  
 AD6 OUG  
 AD7

08 SEP 65 19 43Z

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NAVMO HC 348-ADM (CONT'D) (1-63)

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(When filled in)

VV CWM771  
 OO RUECEM  
 NY CCCCC ZFM2 RUEKDA  
 RUECW/NAVY FLAG PLOT  
 RUECEM/CMC COMD CENTER

FCA160  
 OO RUEPWW RUEHCR  
 ZNY CCCCC ZFM2  
 ACN349  
 T E L E C O N I T E M  
 O 090658Z  
 FROM: MACV  
 TO: NMCC  
 INFO: CINCPAC  
 BT

ACT  
 AC  
 INFO  
 A03

**CONFIDENTIAL**

1. REF TELECON 080925Z, PARA 2 (SOURCE: 091045H: CAPT ALLEN:  
 IV CORPS TOC).

ATTACK ON HONG TAN HAMLET (OP). SUBSEQUENT INFOR BASED ON A  
 TERSE INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT THE 10 FRIENDLY KIA AND 35  
 WIA RESULTED FROM VC MORTAR FIRE AND NOT FRIENDLY AIR STRIKES  
 AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED. IT IS UNDETERMINED WHETHER OR NOT  
 CIVILIAN CASUALTIES DID RESULT FROM AIR STRIKES SINCE AREA  
 OF STRIKE IS NOT SECURE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

2. OPN PIRANHA: MARINE CORPS UNITS CONTINUE TO S&C IN ASGD  
 ZONE. AT PRESENT THEY ARE IN THE PROCESS OF CLEARING CAVES AND  
 TUNNELS AND SCREENING THE LOCAL POPULATION. LATEST RESULTS ARE  
 AS FOLLOWS: FRD 1 KIA, 3 WIA, VC: 87 KIA, 4 VCC: 69 VCS, 7  
 WPNS CPTD.

2. OPN LIEN KET 8 (ARVN OPN IN CONJUNCTION WITH PIRANHA)  
 CONTINUES WITH LIGHT VC CONTACT. ARVN LOSSES: 3 KIA, 31 WIA.  
 VC: 56 KIA, 2 WIA, 13 VCC, 4 VCS, 11 WPNS CPTD. THE ABOVE  
 FIGURES ARE CONFIRMED BY US COUNT. A LATER BUT UNCONFIRMED  
 REPORT LISTS THE FOLLOWING RESULTS: FRD: 9 KIA, 33 WIA. VC:  
 9 KIA, 2 WIA, 30 VCC: 63 VCS AND 19 WPNS CPTD.

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**SECRET**

(When filled in)

MARINE JRPB  
COMMAND CENTER

SEP 9 07 22 '65

III MAF

EMA429LPB416  
RUECEM  
DE RUMFUAO 338 2520630  
ZNY SSSSS  
O 090630Z  
FM CG III MAF  
TO RUMSMA/ROMUSMACV  
RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
INFO RUECEM/CMC  
RUHLHQ/CINCPAC  
RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT  
RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
ZEN/CG THIRD MAR DIV  
ZEN/CG FIRST MAW  
RUQBOL/CTF SEVEN NINE  
RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUMFUU/CTF SEVEN SIX  
RUCKYM/COMDT MCS  
RUABOL/CG FIRST MAR DIV  
RUMSBJ/COMDR SECOND AIR DIV  
RUMSAB/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA  
RUMSVD/I CORPS ADV GRP  
BT

**SECRET**

III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 4

9 SEP 65 10 12Z  
ACT  
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INFO  
A01 CH  
A02 AM  
A03 AX  
A04 ATA  
AG AD  
AA  
AS COB

PERIOD 082200H SEP TO 090800H

P FOR PERATIO PIRANHA (CAP BATANGAN)

W. SUBMITTED IN RETPONSE TO QUESTIONS REC FMFPAC CMD CTR.  
W. NIGHT DEF POSITS RPTDSPECIAL STREP 3 CHANGED AS FOLLOWS:

A. BLT 1/7. ALONG COASTLINE FROM VIC (BS 764832) T  
(BS 789824) TO (BS 789836).  
B. BLT 3/7. M-3-7 CONTINUED BLOCKING POSITS (BS 7387)  
REMAINDER 3/7 ALONG LINE FROM VIC (BS 741869) TO (BS 755851).

3. CURRENT OPERATIONS.

A. BLT 1/7 SWEEPING VILLAGES NNE ON CAP BATANGAN. BLOWING  
CAVES, TUNNELS, ETC.  
B. BLT E/7 SWEEPING E TO VIC (BS 7184). DESTROYING  
CAVES, ETC.

4. INTENTIONS. CONTINUE EARCH AND CLEAR OPNS IN CAP  
BATANGAN AREA AND TO DESTROY CAVES AND FORTIFICATIONS.  
ANTICIPATED TERMINATION DATE. CURRENTLY PLANS ARE TO  
CONTINUE OPN UNTIL 11 WEPT.

Y. ARVN INTENTIONS. ARVN CURRENTLY INTENDS TO CONTINUE  
SEARCH AND CLEAR OPNS UNTIL 11 SEPT.

U. CIVIC ACTION. ARVN CA TMS OPERATING IN USMC ZONE SINCE  
071100H. HAS CONTROLLED CIV POPSINCE THAT TIME. FOOD AND  
MED SUPPLIES RE AVAILABLE AT CHU LAI FOR CA TMS.

GPA4

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**SECRET**

(When filled in)

*III MAF**III MAF Sit Sep 103  
Portion pertaining  
to Piranha*

SEP 9 11 29 AM  
MARINE CORPS  
COMMAND CENTER  
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AO4  
AA  
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CH  
CX  
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ATA  
AD

EMA460BPB434  
PP RUECEM  
DE RUHFG 1149 2520611  
ZNY SSSSS  
P R 090611Z  
FM CG FMFPAC  
TO RUECEM/CMC  
INFO RUCKYM/COMDTMCS QUANT  
RUCKHD/CG FMFLANT  
RUABOLXCG FMFPAC/I MAC (FWD)  
RUWDFD/CG THIRD MAF  
RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV (REIN)  
RUWDFJ/CG FIRST MARDIV (REAR)  
RUHPCR/NVTM/HQBN FIRST MARDIV  
BT

**SECRET** SECTION 1 OF 5  
FMFPAC WESTPAC SITREP NO. ONE SIX THREE AS OF 082400Z (C)  
1. THIS SUMMARIZES ACTIONS AND EVENTS REPORTED SINCE 072400Z.  
DATES ARE SPECIFIED WHERE EVENT OCCURRED PRIOR TO 072400Z.  
2. III MAF

## A. HIGHLIGHTS

(1) OPERATION "PIRANHA" IN THE CAP BATANGAN AREA CONTINUES,  
WITH SCATTERED SMALL ARMS FIRE REPORTED. CONFIRMED MARINE  
INFLICTED VC CASUALTIES TO DATE: 72 VC KILLED, FOUR VC CAPTURED  
AND 52 VC SUSPECTS APPREHENDED. FIVE WPNS, SA AMMO, MEDICAL

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SUPPLIES, THREE GRENADES AND ONE MINE HAVE ALSO BEEN CAPTURED.

(2) EIGHTY-FOUR PATROLS/AMBUSHES WERE CONDUCTED WITHIN THE III MAF AREA ON 07 SEPTEMBER, RESULTING IN FOUR VC KILLED AND FOUR VC SUSPECTS APPREHENDED.

BM THIRD MARDIV (OPERATIONS)

(1) HUE PHU BAI (3/4)

(A) CONDUCTED PATROL AND AMBUSH OPERATIONS WITHIN THE TAOR WITH NEGATIVE VC CONTACT.

(B) ELEMENTS OF 3/4 CONTINUE TO OCCUPY BLOCKING POSITIONS FROM VIC (YD 850 194) TO (YD 895 193) IN SUPPORT OF ARVN FIRST DIVISION SEARCH AND DESTROY OPNS APPROX TWENTY KM NORTHWEST OF HUE. ARVN UNITS HAVE REPORTED SOME VC CONTACT, RESULTING IN FOUR VC KILLED, SEVEN CAPTURED AND TWO WPNS CAPTURED.

K::) ONE PLT IS SCHEDULED TO MOVE TO AND OCCUPY AN OBSERVATION POST ON HILL 225 VIC (YD 845 086). NORMAL PATROL AND AMBUSH OPNS SCHEDULED THROUGHOUT THE TAOR.

(2) DANANG TAOR

(A) THIRD MARINES

1. FIRST BN, FIRST MARINES

A. CO D OBSERVED AND ENGAGED BY FIRE FOUR VC MOVING

PAGE 3 RUHFG 1149 S E C R E T

VIC (AT 945 711). VC BROKE CONTACT - NO KNOWN CASUALTIES.

B. KO' C AND D WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ONE PLATOON EACH FOR PATROL OPNS FORWARD OF THE MLR.

V

2. SECOND BN, THIRD MARINES

A. ONE PATROL FROM CO H APPREHENDED FOUR VC SUSPECTS AT 070613H NEAR DA PHUOC VIC KAT 947 787).

B. CO F IS SCHEDULED TO CONDUCT A THREE DAY PLATOON SIZE PATROL THROUGH GS (AT 9075) (AT 9076) (AT 8976) AND (AT 8875).

(B) NINTH MARINES

1. FIRST BN

A. CO C CONTINUED PATROL OPERATIONS IN THE EXTREME SE SECTOR OF THE TAOR. CONDUCTED SEARCH AND DESTROY OPERATION VIC KHAI TAY(3) (BT 048 669) - NEGATIVE VC CONTACT. SMALL ARMS FIRE WAS RECEIVED FROM VIC (BT 028 672) AT 0930H. TWO FIRE TEAMS MANEUVERED TO THE AREA AND KILLED ONE VC AS HE ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE ALONG THE VINH DIEN RIVER.

NORMAL B. REMAINING ELEMENTS OF THE BN CONDUCTE PATROL AND AMBUSH OPNS WITH NEGATIVE VC CONTACT.

2. SECOND BN

A. AT 261910H ONE PATROL FROM CO G RECEIVED ONE ROUND

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**SECRET**

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NNNNXXXXXXXXXXXXXEMA543MCC473

OO RUECEM

DE RUMFUAQ 325 2521550

ZNY SSSSS

O 091550Z

FM CG III MAF

TO RUMSMA/COMUSMACV

RUHFG/CG FMFPAC

INFO RUECEM/CMC

RUHLHQ/CINCPAC

RUHLHL/CINCPACFLT

RUABOL/CG FMFPAC/I KAC (FWD)

ZEN/CG THIRD MARDIV

ZEN/CG FIRST MAF

RUABOL/CTF SEVEN NINE

RUMFUL/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMFUUXCTF SEVEN SIX

RUCKYM/CMDT MCS

RUABOL/CG FIRST MARDIV

RUMSBJ/COMDR SECOND AIR DIV

RUMSVP/CG TASK FORCE ALPHA

RUMSVD/I CORPS ADV GRP

BT

**SECRET**III MAF SPECIAL SITREP NUMBER 5 PERIOD 090800H SEP TO 092200H  
SEP FOR OPERATION PIRANHA (BAP BATANGAN)**1. CURRENT OPERATIONS**

A. 1/7 WITH THREE COMPANIES ABREAST EXTENDING FROM VICINITY (BS 765 829) TO (BS 787829) CONDUCTED A SWEEP NORTHM 38 VC ENGAGED VIC (BS 790841) AT 091721H. 17 VC KIA, 21 VCC. NO USMC CASUALTIES CURRENT POSITION VIC (BS 766839) TO (BS 793846).

B. 3/7 BEGAN A SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION AT 090300H WITH I, K, L COMPANIES SWEEPING LARGE VILLAGE COMPLEX VIC (BS 741853) TO (BS 758

ACT  
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MARINE CORPS  
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**SECRET**

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855). M CO REMAINED VIC (BS U45865).

## 2. INTENTIONS

A. 0/7 CONTINUES SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION IN ASSIGNED ZONE OF ACTION AND WILL BACK LOAD OVER WHITE BEACH BY 101000H SEP.

B. 3/7 WILL CONTINUE SEARCH AND CLEAR MISSION IN ASSIGNED ZONE OF ACTION AND BE HELO LIFTED TO CHU LAI BEGINING 101230H SEP. EXTIMATE COMPLETION OF HELO LIFT 101700H SEP.

C. ALL ATTACHED UNITS WILL BE DETACHED AND RETURN TO BEACH FOR BACK LOADING COMMENCING 100630H SEP.

## 3. SUMMARY OF CASUALTIES TO DATE.

## A. USMC INFLECTED

KIA 106

WIA 4

VCC 25 27

VCS 127

WPMS 13

## B. USMC LOSSES

KIA 1

WIA 12

## ARVN INFLECTED

KIA 81

WIA 2

VCC 24

VCS 41

WPMS 11

## ARVN LOSSES

KIA 10

WIA 33

*Arrested by 100/00 Q  
Call with 7MF Pac CC*

GP-4

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*II MAF*

SEP 9 11 25 '65  
MARINE CORPS  
COMMAND CENTER

NNNNKKKKKKKKKKKKKKLRAZOEMA483000489

P RUECEM  
DE RUMFUAQ 159 2520628  
ZNY EEEEE  
P 090628Z  
FM CG III MAF  
TO RUECEM/CNC  
INFO RUHPG/CG FMFPAC  
BT  
UNCLAS E F T O

ACT  
26  
INFO  
9 SEP 65 14 03Z

A. CMC MSG 031926Z SEP

1. NIGHTLY PRESS BRIEFINGS AND DAILY FILM REPORTS WILL BE INCLUDED INSAME DISPATCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCE A. FOLLOWING THIS FORMAT.INFO COPY TO CG FMFPAC WILL REPLACE DAILY FMFPAC BRIEFING NOW BEING AIR MAILED. FILM REPORTS WILL NO LONGER BE INCLUDED IN SITREP.

2. PRESS BRIEFING GIVEN DA NANG PRESS CORPS AT 2200 ON NIGHT OF SEP 8, 1965. SIXTY-ONE VIET CONG WERE CONFIRMED DEAD TONIGHT WITH 93 SUSPECTS DETAINED AS " OPERATION PIRANHA" WENT INTO NIGHT PERIMETER

DEFENSIVE POSITIONS, 20 MILES SOUTH OF THE STRATEGIC CHU LAI AIRFIELD. AMERICAN MARINES WERE JOINED BY MARINES AND SOLDIERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM EARLY YESTERDAY DURING A COMBINED AIR AND AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT AGAINST THE VC. U.S. MARINES SWEEPING THROUGH VC STRONGHOLDS NEAR THE VILLAGES OF CON CHIEU AND PHY KY ON THE BATANGAN PENINSULA ABOUT MID-MORNING ACCOUNTED FOR ONE KNOWN DEAD, ONE CAPTURED AND 14 SUSPECTS DETAINED. NUMEROUS ENEMY DOCUMENTS, ONE WEAPONN CLOTHING AND AMMUNITION <sup>WAS ALSO SEIZED</sup> ~~WAS~~ VIET CONG WERE KILLED DURING THE FIRST DAY'S ACTION, WITH 48 SUSPECTED ENEMY DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING AS THE MARINES SOUGHT OUT THE ENEMY. A SWEEP THROUGH THE ENEMY VILLAGE OF PHU NHIEU ON THE SECOND DAY ACCOUNTED FOR THREE VIET CONG CAPTURED AND SEVERAL TUNNEL EMPLACEMENTS DESTROYED. VIETNAMESE MARINES AND SOLDIERS WERE CREDITED WITH 56 VC DEAD, 2 WOUNDED, 13 CAPTURED, 4 SUSPECTS DETAINED AND 11 WEAPONS SEIZED. IN OTHER GROUND ACTION TODAY MARINE ARTILLERY DESTROYED A VIET CONG BARGE FLOATING DOWN THE HU TRACH RIVER AT 6 P.M., SOME NINE MILES WEST OF HUE/PHU BAI. THE BARGE LOADED WITH CLOTHING AND FOOD WAS SPOTTED BY MARINE OBSERVERS. PHANTOM JETS FROM MARINE FIGHTERATTACK SQUADRONS (VF) 513 AND 542 WERE CREDITED

PAGE THREE RUMFUAQ 159 UNCLAS E F T O

DAY WITH 15 VIET CONG BUILDINGS DESTROYED, A COVE SYSTEM DEMOLISHED AND THREE SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS OBSERVED.

IN AN EARLY-MORNING ATTACK AGAINST THE VC THE PHANTOMS ACCOUNTED FOR THE CAVE COMPLEX WITH TWO TONS OF BOMBS, 39 MILES SOUTHEAST OF DA NANG. THE TWO SQUADRONS TEAKED IN THE LATE AFTERNOON TO DESTROY 15 ENEMY BUILDINGS WITH SEVEN TONS OF BOMBS AND 40 ROCKETS DURING

THREE MISSIONS, NINE MILES SOUTH OF THE DA NANG AIRFIELD COMPLEX. ALL AIRCRAFT RETURNED SAFELY.

3. FOLLOWING RELEASE MADE ONE HOUR LATER (W300) SAME DATE: A MARINE CORPS SPOKESMAN IN VIETNAM ANNOUNCED THIS EVENING THAT 66 VIET CONG MALES HAD BEEN KILLED AND FOUR CAPTURED IN A TUNNEL ON THE SECOND DAY OF OPERATION PIRANHA SOUTH OF CHU LAI. THE ACTION BEGAN AT 5:30 P.M. WHEN A LONE VIET CONG APPEARED FROM A SPIDER TRAP AND FIRED ON THE ADVANCE PARTY OF A MARINE PATROL. THE RIFLEMEN WERE SWEEPING A KNOWN VC STRONGHOLD AREA NEAR THE VILLAGE OF CHAU THUAN, 10 MILES SOUTH OF THE STRATEGIC CHU LAI AIRFIELD. THE SINGLE VC SNIPER THREW TWO HAND GRENADES AT THE ADVANCING MARINES BEFORE DUCKING BACK INTO HIS HIDE-AWAY. THE SPIDER TRAP WAS COVERED BY A 24-INCH DIAMETER CAMOUFLAGED COVER. AUTOMATIC WEAPONS FIRE KEPT THE VIET CONG UNDER COVER AS THE MAR-

INES ADVANCED AND THREW HAND GRENADES INTO THE HOLE. TWO WOUNDED VC MEN SURRENDERED, FOLLOWED BY TWO UNHARMED VC FEMALE NURSES. ANOTHER VOLLEY OF ENEMY FIRE CAME FROM THE HOLE BEFORE MARINES BLEW THE TUNNEL EMPLACEMENT. FOUR MARINES CRAWLED INTO THE 10-FOOT ENTRANCE WHICH LED TO A SIX-FOOT HIGH, 250-FOOT LONG CAVERN WHICH HARBORED THE ENEMY. THE 66 VIET CONG KILLED WERE FOUND WEARING FIELD PACKS, AMMUNITION LADEN CARTRIDGE BELTS, AND OTHER COMBAT EQUIPMENT. MAJGEN LEWIS W. WALT, COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 31,000 III MARINE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, WAS VISITING HIS MARINE UNITS DURING OPERATION PIRANHA WHEN HIS HELICOPTER LANDED IN THE BATTLE AREA. "I WAS SO PROUD OF MY MARINES I COULD HARDLY TALK," REPORTED GENERAL WALT AS HE EXAMINED THE BATTLE AREA. HE ADDED, "THE VICTORY IS ENCOURAGING, BUT WE'LL NOT REST UNTIL WE SEARCH OUT AND DESTROY ALL THE VIET CONG."

4. DISTINGUISHED VISITORS DA NANG AREA THIS DATE: FRANK STANTON, PRESIDENT CBS; FRANK STARZEL, FORMER GENERAL MANAGER AP; ROBERT AKERS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR USIA; SANDY MARLOWE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR JUST-PAO. MEDIA ARRIVALS: GARRICK UTLEY, NBC; PETER ARNETT, AP; WAR-

PAGE FIVE RUNFUAQ 159 UNCLAS E F TO  
REN ROGERS, HEARST.

5. FOLLOWING MOTION PICTURE FILM DELIVERED TO SAIGON PANAM OFFICE FOR TRANSPORT COMMERCIAL AIR FREIGHT TO WASHINGTON.

DATE	NO.	FOOTAGE	FIELD NO	SUBJECT	ETD SAIGON
9SEP65	1600		3M-16-24-65	OPERATION PIRANHA	PANAM FLT 2, 9SEP65

6. FOLLOWING UNPROCESSED STILL FILM SHIPPED WITH MOTION PICTURE  
 FILM MEDIA  
 9-20 Exposure RMLLS KODACOLOR X 35MM L OPERATION PIRANHAM  
 6-ROLLS B&W PLUS X 35MM OPERATION PIRANHA  
 BT

A	A01	A02	A03	A04	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AP	AQ	AS	AT	AX	AZ	CH	D	DE	DG	DH	DK	DL	DM	DN	DP	DS	MC	HQ

UNCLAS CODE: 000-C06

00-ACTION

0-INFORMATION

GPO : 1963 OF-705-076

NAVJAG HQ 2-ADM (REV 9-6)

CMC	
ACMC	
MLSEC	
TS	
DC S(P&P)	
SGS	

MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D.C. 20380

3 September 1965

Subject: Possible Civil Disorder, MCAS Yuma.

Source: LtCol PERRY, ExO, MCAS, Yuma

1. Sheriff's office and Yuma Police advise 600-1000 members of the Hell's Angels Motorcycle Club are expected to arrive in Yuma tomorrow from Los Angeles. ETD Los Angeles 040200T. The Yuma Chief of Police, Bob MABRY has asked MCAS Yuma whether USMC assistance can be provided if situation gets out of control. Governor of Arizona has alerted 400 National Guard personnel in the area of Parker Dam where the disturbance was first expected.

2. LtCol PERRY requested guidance and advised MCAS is capable of internal security and limited assistance to local authorities.

3. On direction of GDO, BGen ADAMS, W. O. advised LtCol PERRY that he should inform civil authorities that, should situation develop, MCAS cannot provide assistance until an official request from the Governor or the State Adjutant General is made to CO, MCAS, Yuma, CMC or the National Authorities, stating categorically that the situation is beyond state's ability to control, when direction as to USMC action would be forthcoming from HQMC. Also advised LtCol PERRY that if such a request is received at the Air Station it should be passed ASAP to MCCC.

FONECON MCAS YUMA 032310Q  
FONECON BGEN ADAMS 032340Q  
FONECON MCAS YUMA 032342Q

*K. L. Smith*  
K. L. SMITH  
WATCH OFFICER

03

23

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

6 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. As of 0820H 3/7 preparing position. At this time 3/7 receiving small arms fire from BS 755842, BS 728865, and BS 739859.
2. At 0930H, an UH-1E was reported hit at BS 723818. The aircraft landed safely. Another UH-1E was hit at BS 752818, suspect 50 Cal AA position in this location. Aircraft proceeded to destination and then landed safely at Quang Ngai. Two H-34D's are temporarily out of action due to engine failure. Both landed in a secure area.
3. At 0900H one AA gun was reported located at BS 755855.
4. At 0940H 1/7 was reported receiving small arms fire from BS 737873.
5. All ARVN elements scheduled to land in LZ BIRCH landed by 0805H and made contact at 0807H.

FONCON FMFPAC CC  
062225Q

  
C. D. WARFIELD  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

6 September 1965

Subj: OPERATION PIRANHA

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. First elements hit White Beach at 0635H. Bravo 1/7 on the left and Alpha 1/7 on the right.
2. LVTE fired line charge at 0625H.
3. First landing zone preparation began at 0620H.
4. First elements of 3/7 commenced landing in assigned landing zone at 0647H.
5. No opposition at this time.

FONCON FMFPAC CC  
061915Q (TS)

  
C. D. WARFIELD  
Watch Officer

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

*Memorandum*

TO : Assistant Director, MCCC

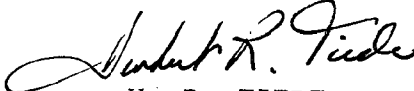
DATE: 6 September 1965

FROM : Major H. R. TIEDE

SUBJECT: Maps of Army Deployments in RVN

1. On the morning run to AWR on 6 September, I saw two maps (8" x 10") which displayed: 1) Army Deployments in RVN and 2) Future Army Deployments in RVN.
2. The maps are up-dated and printed daily for distribution to DCSOPS, DCSLOG and DCSPERS(?).
3. I requested the W.O. (Maj HURLEY) if MCCC could get a copy each day. He said he would check.
4. Recommend AWR be requested, formally if necessary, for a daily copy of the maps as it would greatly simplify status keeping on Army Deployments.

Respectfully,

  
H. R. TIEDE

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Maj BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. The following are points made by Gen WALT to Gen KRULAK.

a. The landing was smoothly executed. All Marine Corps elements reached the first day's objectives without casualties and under nothing more than long range continuous sniper fire.

b. ARVN forces met considerable resistance from the start. They report that the VC departed the Marine area this morning and moved into the ARVN area.

c. During the advance our forces encountered many caves, tunnels and emplacements and are searching them all out now.

d. They encountered many civilians who are being cared for by civic action teams with food and medical treatment.

e. Gen THI, I Corps Commander visited the area and spoke to several civilian groups.

f. Tomorrow the Marines will continue the advance and will close the gap between the Marine and ARVN forces.

g. Gen WALT makes no estimate as to what they will find tomorrow but considers the operation thus far to be an excellent exercise in coordination.

h. Will continue to keep you advised.

PHONECON FMFPAC COMMAND CENTER  
C70508Q

  
J. K. GRIFFITHS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: LtGen KRULAK

1. He had received the following relayed report between one to one and one half hours after the action.
2. The assault was smoothly executed according to time and tactics. Essentially, there was no opposition on the beach or Marine Corps Landing Zones.
3. The ARVN Landing Zone had very light resistance, snipers only. Probably because of the later landing time than Marines.
4. In the principle village behind the beach, the Marines found about 40 civilians of whom two were found to be wounded and were evacuated to the Princeton for medical treatment.
5. Marine troops are moving forward North and West of our landing zones.
6. Tactical Air Observers sighted and attacked light anti-aircraft positions.
7. 1st Bn 7th Mar and 3d Bn 7th Mar report only light sniper fire.
8. There were mines on the landing beach. An LVT-E cleared a lane with a line charge. Additionally, 3 beach mines were uncovered and exploded.
9. Gen THI, CG I Corps arrived in the 1st Bn 7th Mar area at 0830 and Gen THROCKMORTON arrived at 1000 and stayed until about 1200.
10. Gen KRULAK estimates that the operation will run into relatively little opposition, but it is hard to tell until later.

FONECON LTGEN KRULAK  
070241Q

  
J. K. GRIFFIS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. Correction to 062225 information:

a. As of 0820H 3/7 CP located 731842. 3/7 now preparing position at this time. 3/7 receiving small arms fire from coordinates BS 755842, BS 728865, and BS 739859.

b. Reports received at 0930H, one UH1E hit at BS 723818. One crewman WIA, transported back to the LPH. Aircraft landed safely. (Underlined portions added.)

2. As of 1130H, 1/7 CP located BS 758856. 7th Marines CP was last located BS 781863 but is moving forward.

3. Report on activities of LVT-E as of 0910H: Dug up 3 AP mines which exploded on being dug. Only damage was to blade but was repairable in the field.

4. No personnel figures as to casualties as yet.

FONECON FMFPAC CC  
070016Q

  
J. K. GRIFFITHS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

7 September 1965

Subj: Operation Piranha

Source: Major BEDWELL, FMFPAC Command Center Duty Officer

1. ARVN casualties on Eastern portion of Landing Zone Birch:  
1 KIA, 3 WIA. (Upon being queried as to location of Landing  
Zone Birch, Maj BEDWELL reports that he is still trying to  
find out.)

FONECON FMFPAC CC  
070322Q

*J. K. Griffis Jr.*  
J. K. GRIFFIS, JR.  
Watch Officer

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MARINE CORPS COMMAND CENTER  
Headquarters, U. S. Marine Corps  
Washington, D. C. 20380

3 September 1965

Subj: Operation PIRANHA

Source: Maj HAGGERTY, FMFPac Command Center 081850Z

1. Received call from FMFPac Command Center with III MAF report on Operation PIRANHA for period 072200H to 082200H.

Summary of information provided:

a. 1 Bn 7 Mar continued to move South and West to clear Cape Batangan. B Company in clearing a tunnel accounted for 66 VC KIA, captured 2 VC Nurses, 2 VCS. One USMC KIA due to Hydroxia and Hypoxia in tunnel. 9 others overcome by same problem.

b. Total results to date:

72 VC KIA      4 VCC      52 VCS      5 Weapons  
3 ARVN KIA    3 ARVN WIA

FMFPac Command Center

*A. E. Brewster*  
A. E. BREWSTER  
Briefing Officer

CMC	<i>HAS</i>
ACMC	<i>HAS</i>
MILSEC	
CoIS	<i>HAS</i>
DC/S(P&P)	<i>HAS</i>
SGS	
<i>(G-3)</i>	<i>HAS</i>

**RETURN  
TO  
MCCC**

-55-

17  
+ 89

ELEMENTS 1/7 commenced landing 0635H  
Co "B" on left, Co "A" on right. At 0755H 1/7  
entirely 070600H ashore.

1/7 w 2 LVTE's support.

0940H 1/7 Receiving SA  
File # 8573793 WHITE  
BEACH

0830H SA File received  
by 3/7 from  
AS 755842

AS 728865  
AS 739859  
3/7 Sweeps NE to White  
Beach unless engaged  
from West.

LZ Prep. began  
0620H.

ELEMENTS 3/7  
commenced landing  
0647H.

LZO 3/7  
By HELO (LZ 0805H)  
EST BLOCKING  
POSITION

General Area  
VC HQ

52d BN  
3d Co 80th BN

USED AS LOG INFILTR  
STORAGE AREA.

BATANGAN  
PENINSULA

WHIE hit by suspect 50AH.  
AS 752818 landed safely at  
Quang Ngai

KY  
LZO  
ARVN  
BY HELO

0930H 1-WHIE  
hit at 85723818  
LZO (Bireb)  
RVN BN  
BY HELO

0805H  
All ARVN elements  
landed LZ 1300H.  
Contact made at 0807H

Phase 1 070600H  
Phase 2 D+1

80

70