

UNCLASSIFIED

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164
Marine Aircraft Group 36
1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac
FPO San Francisco, 96602

3:DCB:dfv
5750
1 Jun 1972

From: Commanding Officer
To: Commanding Officer, 33rd Marine Amphibious Unit
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 May through 31 May 1972

Ref: (a) FMFPACO 5750.8_

Encl: (1) HMM-164 Command Chronology

1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.
2. This letter is downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

E.C. Hertberg
E. C. HERTBERG

Copy to:
31st MAU (1)
File

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ENCLOSURE (3)

HMM-164

2261 hmt

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COMMAND CHRONOLOGY
1 May to 31 May 1972

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PART I
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>STAFF OFFICERS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Commanding Officer	1-31 May 1972	LTCOL E. C. HERTBERG
Executive Officer	1-31 May 1972	MAJ D. J. MOORE
Operations Officer	1-31 May 1972	MAJ D. C. BRODIE
Administrative Officer	1-31 May 1972	CAPT J. B. MURRAY
Personal Affairs	1-31 May 1972	CAPT R. L. CALLIHAN
Maintenance Officer	1-31 May 1972	MAJ F. S. BELL
Logistics Officer	1-31 May 1972	MAJ T. W. TOLER
Intelligence Officer	1-31 May 1972	1STLT J. W. BERGMAN
Personal Services Officer	1-31 May 1972	1STLT R. H. DOUGHERTY
NATOPS Officer	1-31 May 1972	CAPT R. T. SARLES
Safety Officer	1-31 May 1972	MAJ H. A. McKEEVER
Location: 1-29 May 1972, USS Okinawa (LPH-3) MR-1 RVN, and Gulf of Tonkin. 30-31 May 1972, USS Okinawa (LPH-3), enroute and arrive Subic Bay		

Average Monthly Strength:	<u>USMC</u>	<u>USN</u>	<u>OTHER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>	<u>OFF/ENL</u>
	58/254	1/2	0/0	59/256

Important Visitors: None during this reporting period.

PART II
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 3-4 May - SAR operations were conducted for fixed wing pilots down at sea in the Northern SAR area, Gulf of Tonkin (GOT). A total of 49.4 hours were flown with negative results.
- 5 May - Two AH-1J's were transferred to HMM-165 aboard the USS Tripoli while receiving two H-53's and two UH-1E's. CHOP from 33d MAU to Prov. MAG-10 effective 052400Z May 72. Initiated daily mail and logistics runs to FASU, Danang, RVN.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

26 May - Two aircraft assisted in transporting an air conditioning unit from Danang to the USS Coral Sea (CVA 43) via the USS Diluth (LPD 6).

29 May - Transferred 31st MAU to USS Tripoli (LPH 10). Detached two CH-53's to HMM-165, aboard USS Tripoli (LPH 10) while HMM-164 and USS Okinawa departed for in-port period at Subic Bay. CHOP from 31st MAU to 33d MAU at 290600Z May 72. Commanding Officer HMM-164 also assumed command of 33d MAU.

31 May - Arrived Subic Bay, Phillipines.

PART III SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

1. Significant Events

- 3-4 May 72 - SAR operations, GOT.
- 5 May 72 - Aircraft transferred, OPCON to Prov Mag 10.
- 6 May 72 - Medevac
- 7 May 72 - Danang MARLOG initiated. CHOP from Prov. Mag to 31st MAU.
- 7-12 May 72 - Detachment for naval gun fire spotting.
- 12-14 May 72 - Operation "Song Than 5-72".
- 15 May 72 - Planning conference at HUE CITADEL.
- 20-23 May 72 - Planning for Operation "Song Than 6-72" at HUE CITADEL.
- 23 May 72 - Increase in aircraft assets.
- 24-25 May 72 - Operation "Song Than 6-72".
- 26 May 72 - Cargo transport to USS Coral Sea.
- 29 May 72 - Transfer of 31st MAU to Tripoli, OPCON CHOP to 33d MAU. Commanding Officer HMM-164 assumed command 33d MAU.

2. Marine of the Month for May, 1972: Corporal Kelly M. NEIDIGH.

PART IV SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

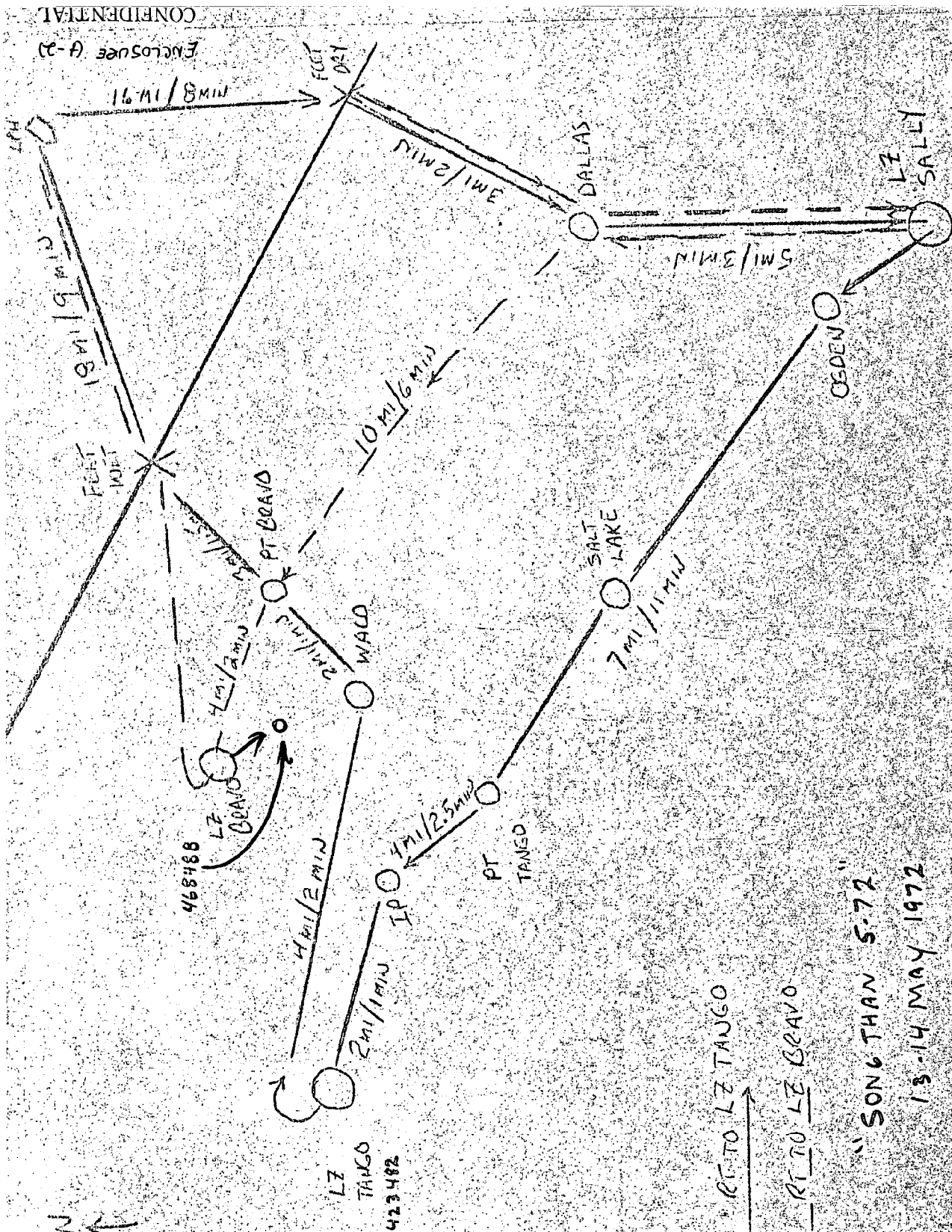
- 1. Enclosure (1-1), Map of Operation area and assault landing zones for "Song Than 5-72 and 6-72".
- 2. Enclosure (1-2), Route Structure and Congratulatory comments for "Song Than 5-72" *Press Release*
- 3. Enclosure (1-3), Route Structure and Congratulatory comments for "Song Than 6-72" *Press Release*
- 4. Enclosure (1-4), Statistical Summary 1-31 May 1972.

ENCLOSURE (1)

3

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CONFIDENTIAL



SONG THAN 5-72
13-14 MAY 1972

CONFIDENTIAL

ZNY EEEEE

O 130550Z MAY 72

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONETO ZEN/CTU SEVEN NINE PT ONE PT SIX

INFO RUACAJA/CTG SEVEN NINE

RHARSGG/CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE

RUMGPHA/CTU SEVEN NINE PT THREE PT FIVE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O FOUO //N03300//

1. PERFORMANCE YOUR COMMAND THIS DATE OUTSTANDING. REFLECTS
HIGH PROFESSIONAL COMPETENCE OF ALL INVOLVED IN EFFECTIVE
PLANNING, COORDINATION, AND EXECUTION ON EXTREMELY SHORT
NOTICE.

2. WELL DONE.

DEAN F. J. MILLER SENDS.

BT

0617

TOK 130605

NYNR

ENCLOSURE (2)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PZNY-EEEE

O 130050Z MAY 72

FM CIG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

TO CEN/CTE SEVEN NINE PT ONE PT SIX PT THREE

INFO RUSCAJA/CTE SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RNASOG/CTE SEVEN NINE PT THREE

RUMOPHA/CTE SEVEN NINE PT THREE PT FIVE

ZEACTU SEVEN NINE PT ONE PT SIX

BT

U CLAS E F T O FCUO//M03002//

1. OPERATIONS CONDUCTED THIS DATE AGAINST THE ENEMY REFLECT GREAT CREDIT UPON ALL MEMBERS YOUR COMMAND. FLIGHT CREWS, MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY PERSONNEL AND ALL HANDS DEMONSTRATED DISTINCTIVE WORK OF TRUE PROFESSIONALS.

2. FOR YOUR SUPERLATIVE ACHIEVEMENT, WELL DONE.

3. REQUEST THIS INFO BE PASSED TO EACH MEMBER YOUR COMMAND.

W E. JO. MILLER, SENDS.

BT

0616

For
130615Z MAY 72
(Signature)

NNNN

DE TWC QSL UR TO EEE NR 014/13 NNNN

ENCLOSURE (4)

CONFIDENTIAL

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0012Z J9XU DE C706

ZOC

P 142324Z MAY 72
FM CTF SEVEN SIX

INFO CTG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN

O 141130Z MAY 72

FM CTF SEVEN SIX

TO CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT ONE

INFO COMSEVENTHFLT

CINCPACFLT

CHINFO

COMPHIBPAC

CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

CTF SEVEN NINE

CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N05720//

PRESREL (U)

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 131310Z MAY 72

B. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IS PROPOSED FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE
AND RELEASE AND IS IN AMPLIFICATION OF REF (A).

A. QUOTE: "WITH U. S. SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE OFF THE COAST

142324Z PAGE 2

PAGE TWO RUMFUA C O N F I D E N T I A L

OF SOUTH VIETNAM 14 MAY 72, TODAY SAW THE COMPLETION OF A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL HELIBORNE ASSAULT CONDUCTED BY TWO BATTALIONS OF THE RVN 369TH MARINE CORPS BRIGADE, SUPPORTED BY UNITS OF THE U. S. SEVENTH FLEET.

B. UNITS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE UNDER THE COMMAND OF RADM W. D. GADDIS, OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, PROVIDED THE SEAGRING AIRFIELDS. HELICOPTERS FROM U. S. MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164 ABOARD THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP USS OKINAWA, PROVIDED THE TRANSPORTATION. MARINE UNITS WERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF BGEN E. J. MILLER, USMC, OF ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA, COMMANDING GENERAL NINTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE. AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS WHICH ACTED IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATION WERE THE AMPHIBIOUS COMMAND SHIP USS BLUE RIDGE, COMMANDED BY CAPT K. J. CARROLL OF CASSOPOLIS, MICHIGAN; USS OKINAWA, COMMANDED BY CAPT W. A. SCOTT; THE ATTACK CARGO SHIPS USS MOBILE UNDER CAPT F. J. BURKE AND USS ST LOUIS UNDER CAPT W. K. GREEN; LANDING SHIPS TANAMANTOVOC UNDER CDR. G. D. BESS AND USS CAYUGA UNDER CDR W. W. MCLENBACH AND LANDING SHIP DOCK PT DEFIANCE UNDER CAPT M. W. GORDER. THE AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS WERE UNDER THE COMMAND OF CAPT J. L. MERRICK OF LONG BEACH, CALIF. AND THE PROVISIONAL MARINE AIR GROUP IS COMMANDED BY COL W. C. KELLY, USMC.

C. THE OPERATIONS WERE CONDUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF THE COAST OF

ENCLOSURE (11)

PAGE THREE RUMFUFAC C O N F I D E N T I A L

9. MARINE CORPS HELICOPTERS FROM USS OKINAWA PICKED UP ABOUT 1100 VN MARINES FROM FIRE BASE SALEY NEAR HUE AND DELIVERING THEM TO LANDING ZONES BEHIND ENEMY LINES SOUTH OF QUANG TRI. FROM THE LANDING ZONES THE AGGRESSIVE AND HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL VN MARINES SWIFT SOUTH DRIVING A SURPRISED AND APPARENTLY CONFUSED ENEMY BEFORE THEM.

10. THREE CH-46 HELICOPTERS WERE HIT BY ENEMY FIRE BUT RETURNED SAFELY TO USS OKINAWA. ONE CH-53 WAS DAMAGED WHILE EVADING ENEMY FIRE DURING LANDING AND HAD TO BE DESTROYED ON THE GROUND BY FRIENDLY FORCES. THERE WERE NO U. S. CASUALTIES IN THE OPERATION.

11. THE U. S. MARINE HELICOPTER PILOTS WERE HIGHLY ENTHUSIASTIC IN THEIR PRAISE OF THE PERFORMANCE OF THEIR VIETNAMESE LEATHERNECK COUNTERPARTS. CAPT TREV SARLES OF SEATTLE, WASHINGTON, A CH-46 PILOT, REPORTED "VIETNAMESE MARINES ARE THEIR HIGHEST CALIBER FIGHTERS. WE HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH GETTING THEM OUT AND GETTING WITH IT. THEY DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB. THE FIRST LANDING WAS OUT OF THE BOOK, PICTURE-SQUE, BEAUTIFUL...JUST WHAT EVERYONE PLANS AND HOPES FOR." CPL MICHAEL R. EASTEP, OF ALBUQUERQUE, N. M., A CREW CHIEF OF A CH-46, "VIETNAMESE MARINES WERE WELL DISCIPLINED AND SEEMED TO BE UP TO DATE ON...PROCEDURES. I'D LIKE TO WORK WITH THEM AGAIN." FIRST LT BERNARD J. NOWNES, OF VAN NUYS, CALIF., A CH-46 CO-PILOT, REPORTED "THAT WAS

PAGE FOUR RUMFUFAC C O N F I D E N T I A L

A PRETTY GOOD OUTFIT WE LIFTED IN YESTERDAY."

12. ONCE IN THE LANDING ZONE, THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES ACTED SWIFTLY AND AGGRESSIVELY. MAJOR JIM JAY, A SENIOR USMC ADVISOR, GRINNED AND REPORTED "IT LOOKS JUST LIKE WE JUMPED RIGHT INTO THEIR RESERVE AREA." INITIAL REPORTS INDICATED THE ENEMY WAS ON THE RUN AND FOLLOW-UP REPORTS OF DESTROYED TANKS AND LARGE AMOUNTS OF CAPTURED EQUIPMENT BOLSTERED THIS BELIEF. THE 66TH NVA REGIMENT WAS SWEEPED FROM THE FIELD AND RETREATED TO THE NORTHWEST, DRIVEN BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES AND NAVAL GUNFIRE FROM DESTROYERS AND CRUISERS OFFSHORE.

13. MARINE HELICOPTERS RETURNED FROM HM-164 AGAIN DURING THE DAY SEVERAL TIMES TO PROVIDE MEDIVAC FOR THE ATTACKING SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES. RECOVERY OF THE MARINE HELICOPTERS WENT WITHOUT INCIDENT AND THE OPERATION WAS CONCLUDED AT 141200H MAY 72.

14. THE SUCCESS OF THIS MISSION WAS DIRECTLY DUE TO THE FINE TEAMWORK AND AGGRESSIVE SPIRIT EXHIBITED BY THE SVN MARINES, MARINE HELICOPTER PILOTS AND CREWS, THE AIR FORCE AND ARMY TACTICAL AIR SUPPORT, AND ALL THE SEVENTH FLEET SHIPS WHO PARTICIPATED.

GP-4

BT

K

DECLASSIFIED

RUMFUFAC

ENCLOSURE 

DECLASSIFIED

OC A 151200Z MAY 72
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE
 TO TG SEVEN NINE PT ONE
 P 142358Z MAY 72
 TO TG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN
 TG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE
 ZEN/USC BLUE RIDGE
 XMT USS TUSCALOOSA
 R 141554Z MAY 72
 FM COMSEVENTHFLT
 TO CTF SEVEN SIX
 CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE
 INFO CTF SEVEN NINE
 VOMPHIBRON SEVEN
 COMPHIBRON FIVE
 CTG SEVEN NINE PT THREE
 CG FMFRAC
 COMPHIBPAC
 CINCPACFLT
 CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT ONE

JOR/1322
 PL/CFR

PAGE TWO C O N F I D E N T I A L
BT

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

OPERATION SONG THANH 5/72 (U)

1. YOUR QUICK RESPONSE AND PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT IN SUPPORT OF OPERATIONS FOR SONG THANH 5/72 WAS IN THE FINEST TRADITION OF THE NAVY-MARINE AMPHIBIOUS TEAM AND A VISIBLE DEMONSTRATION OF SEVENTH FLEET READY POWER FOR PEACE. THE VERTICAL ASSAULT CARRIER OUT BY HMM 169 SUPPORTED BY THE SHIPS OF THE AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUPS, WAS THE FIRST SUCH OPERATION IN VIETNAM SINCE 1969. AT THIS CRITICAL TIME IN THE VIETNAM WAR IT MAY MARK THE TURNING POINT FOR THE RVN FORCES TO RETAKE THE INITIATIVE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR MRI.

2. THE THE BRAVE CREWS OF THE HELOS WHO CARRIED THE VMCC BRIGADE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE ENEMY, THE STAFFS OF CTF 76 AND CTG 79.1, AND TO THOSE MEN OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE WHO SUPPORTED THEM, I SEND MY CONGRATULATIONS ON A JOB WELL DONE. VADM W.P. MACK, COMMANDER SEVENTH FLEET.

CP-4

BT

K

DE TMC AND GSI UR NR 02415 NKK

ENCLOSURE (1)

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RUMHRA 5736 UNCLAS E F T O

RUMHRA/USC

RUMHRA/USC

RUMHRA/USC BLUE RIDGE

RUMHRA/USC OKINAWA

RUMHRA/USC MOBILE

RUMHRA/DET ALPHA WML THREE SIX SEVEN

RUMHRA/DET BRAVO WML THREE SIX SEVEN

RUMHRA/WML ONE SIX FOUR

RUMHRA/CTF SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RUMHRA/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUMHRA/PROV MAG TEN

RUMHRA/USC OKLAHOMA CITY

RUMHRA/USC NEWPORT NEWS

RUMHRA/USC PROVIDENCE

RUMHRA/USC BROWNS

RUMHRA/USC DAVIDSON

RUMHRA/USC HULL

RUMHRA/USC MCCAIN

INFO RUMHRA/C IG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN

RUMHRA/CTF SEVEN NINE

JOR/1316
 PL/CTR

PAGE 2 RUMHRA 5736 UNCLAS E F T O

RUMHRA/COMPHIBPAC

RUMHRA/CG FMFPAC

RUMHRA/CG FIRST MAW

RUMHRA/C IG SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN

RUMHRA/COMSEVENTHFLT

RUMHRA/COMCRUSPAC

RUMHRA/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUMHRA/CINCLANTFLT

RUMHRA/CNO

BT

UNCLAS E F T O//005722//

RUMHRA/COM

1. OPERATION SONG THANH 5-72 HAS PROVIDED A RESOUNDING AND WELCOME VICTORY IN THE GROUND WAR IN VIETNAM. WHILE THE LION'S SHARE OF THE CREDIT BELONGS TO THE VIETNAMESE MARINES, I KNOW THAT EACH OF YOU MADE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS SIGNIFICANT OPERATION. AS USUAL, THE GUNFIRE SHIPS WERE ON TARGET AND THE INTENSE VOLUME OF FIRE LAID THE GROUNDWORK FOR THE LANDING AND ULTIMATE SUCCESS. FOR THE AMPHIBIOUS UNITS INVOLVED AND PARTICULARLY THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF USS 164 AND WML 367 WHO FLEW INTO THE THICK OF

PAGE 3 RUMHRA 5736 UNCLAS E F T O

THE BATTLE, I AM SURE THAT THE RETURN TO ACTIVE COMBAT WAS REWARDING. YOU PROVED THAT YOU HAVEN'T LOST THE KNACK OF MAKING THINGS TOUGH ON THE ENEMY. MY CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOU FOR A JOB WELL DONE. ADMIRAL B. A. CLAREY, USN, COMMANDER IN CHIEF U. S. PACIFIC FLEET.

BT

5736

ENCLOSURE
 DECLASSIFIED
 CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

0402Z J9XU DE C70G
 J9XU -I- USS ST LOUIS
 USS PT DEFIANCE
 USS MANITOWOC
 USS CAYUGA
 USS MOBILE

ZOC
 R 150240Z MAY 72
 FM CTF SEVEN SIX
 TO ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE
 TG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR
 ZEN/USS BLUE RIDGE
 ZEN/USS MOBILE
 ZEN/USS CAYUGA
 ZEN/TACRON TWELVE
 INFO RUAOAJA/CTF SEVEN NINE
 RUHGOGA/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR
 RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N05720//

OPERATIONS SONG THANH 5/72 (U)

1. (C) THE SUPERB PERFORMANCE OF ALL UNITS PARTICIPATING IN
 OPERATION SONG THANH 5/72 RESULTED IN ITS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL
 COMPLETION. THIS OPERATION WAS THE FIRST VERTICAL ASSAULT
 CONDUCTED IN VIETNAM SINCE 1969 AND COULD MARK THE BEGINNING
 FOR RVN FORCES TO PUSH THE ENEMY BACK ACROSS THE DMZ. THE

PAGE TWO RUMFUGA0716 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 ABILITY OF ALL UNITS TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO THIS COMBAT SUPPORT
 OPERATION IS INDICATIVE OF YOUR HIGH STATE OF COMBAT READINESS,
 DEDICATION TO DUTY AND PROFESSIONALISM. THE SUPERB PERFORMANCE
 OF MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON ONE SIX FOUR IS ESPECIALLY NOTED
 WITH GREAT PLEASURE AND PRIDE. THE TEAMWORK DISPLAYED IN PLANNING
 AND CONDUCTING SONG THANH 5/72 WAS IN THE FINEST TRADITIONS OF
 THE NAVY-MARINE AMPHIBIOUS TEAM. I EXTEND TO ALL HANDS, SAILOR
 AND MARINE, MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

GADDIS.

GP-4.

BT

ENCLOSURE (52)

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DE MCC NR 04722

J9XU DE 0700

ZCC

P 220158Z MAY 72

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

TO CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE SIX

P.F. 200033Z MAY 72

FM CC FMFPAC

TO RUHQPTA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

INFO RUEOFIA/OMC

RUAOAJA/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUAOAJA/VTF SEVEN NINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //K05060//

OPERATION SONG THANH 5/72

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 141554Z MAY 72 (C)O

1. VICE ADMIRAL W. P. MACK'S WARM COMMENTS CONTAINED IN REF A CONCERNING THE ROLE CTF 79.1 GENERALLY, AND MMK 164 IN PARTICULAR, PLAYED IN OPERATION SONG THANH 5/72 HAVE BEEN NOTED WITH GREAT PRIDE. TO THEM, I ADD MY OWN HEAVY "WELL DONE."

2. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE U.S. MARINES EXECUTING THE OPERATION'S VERTICAL ENVELOPMENT PERFORMED IN A MANNER WHICH

PAGE TWO E F T O

REFLECTED GREAT CREDIT ON THEMSELVES AND ON OUR CORPS. THEIR ACTIONS DEMONSTRATE THE VALIDITY AND MEANING OF THE EXPRESSION "A FORCE IN READINESS."

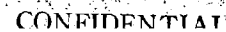
3. PLEASE IDENTIFY THE INDIVIDUAL MARINES TO WHOM ADMIRAL MACK'S COMMENTS WERE DIRECTED, AND ENSURE THAT HIS THOUGHTS, AND MINE, ARE APPROPRIATELY NOTED IN THEIR PERMANENT RECORDS. LTGEN JONES SENDS.

BT

K

TOR 220320Z

ENCLOSURE (2)



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1340Z MBNW J9XU 17EW DE C700
ZOC

PTTCZYUW RUMFUF2192 1451103-CCCC--RUMMRSA RUMGOAA RUMJMSA RUMGOAA
RUACAJA.

ZNY CCCCC

P 241103Z MAY 72

FM CTF SEVEN SIX

TO RUMMRSA/CTU SEVEN EIGHT PT ONE PT ONE

INFO RUMGOAA/CONSEVENTHFLT

RUMJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

RUMGOAA/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUACAJA/CTF SEVEN NINE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN

ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT NINE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L//NO5720//

PRESREL-SONG THANH 6-72 (C)

A. CTF SEVEN SIX 240230Z MAY 72

1. (U) THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE, IN AMPLIFICATION OF REF A, IS
RECOMMENDED FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE AND RELEASE.

A. QUOTE. WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, UNITS OF THE
SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS TOOK THE OFFENSIVE AGAIN TODAY IN A
COMBINED AMPHIBIOUS AND HELIBORNE ASSAULT ON NORTH VIETNAMESE POSITIONS

PAGE TWO RUMFUF2192 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ON THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COAST NORTH OF HUE. LIFTED INTO THE BATTLE
BY U.S. MARINE HELICOPTERS AND LVTs (LANDING VEHICLES TRACKED) THE
TOUGH VIETNAMESE LEATHERNECKS RAPIDLY MOVED OFF THE BEACHES AND
LANDING ZONES. THE SEVENTH VNMC BN WAS LANDED OVER THE BEACH UNDER
CONTROL FROM USS DENVER WHILE THE SIXTH VNMC BN WAS LANDED INLAND BY
HELICOPTERS. ANOTHER VN UNIT PUSHED NORTH BY LAND FROM SOUTH VIETNAMESE
LINES. TO LINK UP WITH THE UNITS MOVING SOUTH.

B. INITIAL REPORTS FROM THE VNMC ASHORE INDICATED THAT THEIR UNITS
WERE MOVING OUT RAPIDLY TO THE SOUTH AND WERE ENCOUNTERING LIGHT TO
MODERATE RESISTANCE. ONE INDICATION OF INITIAL SUCCESS WAS THE REPORT
OF A LARGE AMOUNT OF ENEMY ARMS, AMMUNITION AND FOOD CAPTURED AND TWO
ENEMY TANKS DESTROYED. BY 1800H 190 NORTH VIETNAMESE WERE REPORTED
SLAIN BY COMBAT UNITS AND SUPPORTING ARMS WITH TWO CAPTURED.

C. PRIOR TO THE AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AND HELIBORNE ASSAULT, THE
BEACHES AND LANDING ZONES WERE POUNCED BY NAVY GUNFIRE FROM DESTROYERS
AND CRUISERS COORDINATED WITH B52 AND CLOSE AIR ATTACKS. THE LVTs
LAUNCHED FIRST, WITH THE FIRST WAVE GOING ASHORE AT 0830H 24 MAY.
THE SECOND WAVE HIT THE BEACH SOON AFTER UNDER LIGHT OPPOSING FIRE.
THE LVTs DEBARKED THEIR LOADS OF VIETNAMESE MARINES ASHORE AND
WITHDREW FROM THE BEACH TO RETURN TO THE USS DILLON AND USS CAYUGA

ENCLOSURE (43) 11032

PAGE THREE RUMFUF2192 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 WAITING OFFSHORE. WHEN THE U.S. MARINES MOVED ON THE
 LVT LANDINGS. FROM THE BEACH. THE RVN MARINES THEN DROVE BACK AND FIGHT
 AGAINST INCREASING RESISTANCE AS THEY MOVED.

10. ABOUT 0950H 24 MAY, HELICOPTERS OF USMC HELD SQUADRON 16A
 LIFTED THE WOUNDED OF 6TH VNMC BY INTO THE LANDING ZONE. THE OPPOSING
 FIRE IN THE LANDING ZONE WAS VERY LIGHT AND THE VN MARINES MOVED
 QUICKLY OUT ON THE OFFENSIVE. THERE WERE NO U.S. PERSONNEL CASUALTIES
 IN THE HELIBORNE ASSAULT AND ALL BIRDS RETURNED SAFELY TO THEIR HOME
 BASE ON THE USS OKINAWA (LPH-3). THE HELICOPTERS RETURNED TO THE ASSAULT
 AREA SEVERAL TIMES TO LIFT OUT VN WOUNDED IN MEDEVAC FLIGHTS. UNQUOTE.

E. U.S. SHIPS/UNITS AND COMMANDING OFFICERS PARTICIPATING IN SONG
 THANH 6-72:

COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS FORCES, SEVENTH FLEET
 COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS SQUADRON SEVEN
 CG NINTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE
 31ST MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT
 BLUE RIDGE (LCC-19)
 OKINAWA (LPH-3)
 DENVER (LPD-9)
 MOBILE (LKA-115)

ADM W. D. GADDIS, USN
 CAPT J. L. MERRICK, USN
 BGEN E. J. MILLER, USMC
 COL W. C. KELLY, USMC
 CAPT K. J. CARROLL, USN
 CAPT W. A. SCOTT, USN
 CAPT R. E. BOGANEY, USN
 CAPT E. J. BURKE, USN

PAGE FOUR RUMFUF2192 C O N F I D E N T I A L

ST LOUIS (LKA-116)
 PT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)
 JUNEAU (LPD-18)
 ANCHORAGE (LSD-36)
 SCHENECTADY (LST-1183)
 MANITOWOC (LST-1180)
 TUSCALOOSA (LST-1187)
 ALAMO (LSD-33)
 SUMPTER (LST-1181)
 CAYUGA (LST-1186)
 DULUTH (LPD-6)
 TACRON 12
 HELICOPTER SQUADRON 16A
 GP-4

CAPT W. H. GREEN, USN
 CAPT M. H. GORDER, USN
 CAPT L. H. GUERTIN
 CAPT C. A. RANK, USN
 CDR R. J. CZAR, USN
 CDR G. D. BESS, USN
 CDR H. V. KINSLEY, USN
 CDR R. D. SCHNECKERT, USN
 CDR A. R. KARN, JR.
 CDR W. T. HOLLERBACH
 CAPT J. E. MITCHELL, USN
 CDR J. O. WICK, USN
 LT COL E. C. WENTBERG, USN

BT
 2192

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

0852 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX
 M8NW J9KU DE C700
 M8NW T USS MOBILE
 T USS CAYUGA
 J9KU T USS ST LOUIS
 T USS DULUTH

ZOC

RTTCZYUW RUMFUF2233 1460620-CCCC--RUWJMSA RUAOAJA.

ZNY CCCCC

R 250620Z MAY 72

FM CTF SEVEN SIX

TO ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX FT SEVEN

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE FT FOUR

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE FT ONE

ZEN/HMM ONE SIX FOUR

ZEN/USS BLUE RIDGE

ZEN/USS OKINAWA

ZEN/USS DENVER

ZEN/USS MOBILE

ZEN/USS ST LOUIS

ZEN/USS CAYUGA

ZEN/USS DULUTH

INFO RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

RUAOAJA/CTF SEVEN NINE

BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L // N000000//

FOR DULUTH AND CAYUGA PASS TO CO FIRST AMPHIB TRACTOR BAT

SONG THANH 6-72 (C)

1. (C) MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE UNITS OF SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE

PAGE TWO RUMFUF2233 C O N F I D E N T I A L
 WHO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATED IN THE SUCCESSFUL PLANNING AND EXECUTION
 OF SONG THANH 6-72. YOUR SEAMANSHIP, AIRMANSHIP, AND DEDICATION
 WERE OUTSTANDINGLY DEMONSTRATED IN THIS OPERATION. YOUR ABILITY TO
 CONDUCT THIS TYPE OF AMPHIBIOUS OPERATION ON SHORT NOTICE ABLY
 DEMONSTRATES A HIGH STATE OF COMBAT READINESS OF BOTH
 PERSONNEL AND SHIPS. THE PROFESSIONALISM DISPLAYED BY DULUTH,
 CAYUGA, OKINAWA, HMM ONE SIX FOUR AND FIRST AMPHIBIOUS TRACTOR
 BATTALION IN CARRYING OUT THE SURFACE AND VERTICAL LANDING IS
 ESPECIALLY NOTED WITH PLEASURE. THE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE OF
 BOAT CREWS OF ST LOUIS AND MOBILE IN TRANSPORTING THE VNMC LANDING
 FORCE FROM THE BEACH TO LAUNCHING SHIPS WAS MOST SIGNIFICANT.
 CAYUGA DISTINGUISHED HERSELF AS THE FIRST OF HER CLASS TO
 PARTICIPATE IN A COMBAT AMPHIBIOUS LANDING OF THIS TYPE. THE WARM
 HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THE VNMC LANDING FORCE BY DULUTH, CAYUGA,
 OKINAWA AND BLUE RIDGE WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED BY U.S. ADVISORS. THE
 NAVY-MARINE CORPS AMPHIBIOUS TEAM HAS HELPED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE
 FORCES TAKE THE OFFENSIVE FOR THE SECOND TIME IN ELEVEN DAYS.
 MY PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HANDS FOR A JOB WELL DONE.

GADDIS.

GP-1

BT

2235

TOR 08 2/25 May 72 140527/1

TCD

OKIE/771

MC 109022/25 May 72

Flag Ship

TMC

PL/15
 09302

ENCLOSURE (2)

CONFIDENTIAL
DECLASSIFIED

ZNY EEEEE

P 251152Z MAY 72

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONETO TE SEVEN NINE PT ONE PT SIX PT THREE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O SVC

FOR YOUR SUPERB PERFORMANCE AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE DEMONSTRATED
IN OPERATION SONG THAN 6-72 I OFFER MY APPRECIATION FOR A
JOB WELL DONE. BGEN MILLER SENDS.

BT

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (3)
DECLASSIFIED
DECLASSIFIED

BT CZ OVW RUMUGKA5571 1461645-CCCC--RUMGOKA.
ZNY CCCCC ZOV RUMUGKA432

47.7 4-5571 1461402
RUMGPTA-T-RLT-4 CTU 79.1.2
RUMGCKA-T-PROV MAG 12 CTU 79.1.6
MM 164 CTE 7.1.6.3

RUMFPA-T-CTG 70.8

RUMUHA ZFH-2

P 251230Z MAY 72

FM SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR, VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS

TO RUMGOAA/COMPHIBFOR SEVENTH FLT CTF 76

RUMRSA/7TH AIR FBRC

RUMGPTA/CG 9TH MAB CTG 79.1

RUMUGKG/RLT-4 CTU 79.1.2

RUMUGKG/PROV MAG 12 CTU 79.1.6

RUMPSKK/CTU 70.3.9

RUMUGKG/HMM 164 CTF 72.1.6.3

ZEN/CO 11TH CAG

INFO RUEDFIA/CMC

RUMHHQA/CINCPACFLT

RUMSMA/MAGV

RUMGOAA/COM SEVENTH FLT

RUMHHQA/CG FMFPAC

RUMAOAJA/CTF 79/IIIXAF

RUMUGKG/CTG 70.8

ZEN/FRAC (HUE)

RUMUGKA/CHNAV ADVGP (SMA)

BT

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

- 1.. OPERATION SONG THAN 6/72 TERMINATED AS OF 251600H MAY 72.
- 2.. THE COMMANDANT VMFC EXTENDS A HEARTY WELL DONE TO ALL FOR THE OUTSTANDING SUPPORT GIVEN ON SONG THAN 6/72. COMMANDANT VMFC IS GREATLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE SUPERIOR SUPPORT AND COURAGEOUS PERFORMANCE WHICH ENABLED A COMBINED AMPHIBIOUS LANDING AND HELIBORNE ASSAULT TO BE SUCCESSFULLY EXECUTED. (
- 3.. COMMANDANT VMFC EXPRESSES A WARM THANK YOU TO ALL WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THIS OPERATION POSSIBLE.

GP-4

BT

5571

TOR/252010/

ENCLOSURE (3)

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

FLAG
SHIP

4334

0301Z OKIE NR 801
 RTTEZYUW RUHGOKA2503 1470250-EEEE--RUHGOKA RHMPSSM RUWJMSA.
 ZNY EEEEE
 RHMPSSM -T- USS CAYUGA

-T- USS MOBILE
 -T- USS TUSCALOOSA

R 260246Z MAY 72
 FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN
 TO ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR
 TG SEVEN SIX PT FIVE
 ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT SEVEN
 ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT NINE
 INFO ZEN/CTF SEVEN SIX
 RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N03009//
 SONG THAN 6-72

1. ONCE AGAIN UNITS OF THE AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, U.S. PACIFIC FLEET
 HAVE MOST ABLY DEMONSTRATED THAT THEY ARE IN FACT READY. FOR THE
 SECOND TIME IN ELEVEN DAYS SUPPORT OPERATIONS AGAINST HOSTILE FORCES
 WERE PLANNED AND EXECUTED WITH SMARTNESS AND PRECISION. THAT
 THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT LOSS OR INJURY TO ANY OF OUR SHIPMATES,
 NAVY AND MARINE, IS A TRIBUTE TO ALL HANDS. I KNOW OF NO OTHER
 TACTICAL OPERATION WHERE SUCCESS IS SO DEPENDENT ON THE ACTION OF
 EACH OF THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED. ACTION AND ACCOMPLISHMENT SPEAK
 LOUDER THAN WORDS. WELL DONE.

BT

2503

TOU
 OKIE / 4801
 03042 / 26 MAY 72
 100
 15 / 48482
 26 MAY 72
 OKIE / 801
 15 / 03042
 26 MAY 72

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1-31 MAY 72

<u>A/C</u>	<u>TASKS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
CH-46	<u>215</u>	<u>565</u>	<u>2228</u>	<u>53.1</u>	<u>341.9</u>
CH-53	<u>65</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>1950</u>	<u>114.2</u>	<u>136.4</u>
UH-1E	<u>49</u>	<u>73</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>1.5</u>	<u>66.4</u>
AH-1J	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4.1</u>
TOTAL	<u>852</u>	<u>852</u>	<u>4210</u>	<u>168.8</u>	<u>548.8</u>

ENCLOSURE (1-4)

1

UNCLASSIFIED