

**UNCLASSIFIED**

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

3:RAG:dfv  
5750  
1 Aug 1972

**[REDACTED]**

From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 31st Marine Amphibious Unit  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 July through 31 July 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:  
CO, MAG-36

HMM-164

Jul 1972

UNCLASSIFIED

COMMAND CHRONOLOGY  
1 July to 31 July 1972

INDEX

	<u>PAGE</u>
PART I - ORGANIZATIONAL DATA	1 & 2
PART II - NARRATIVE SUMMARY	2 & 3
PART III - SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS	3 & 4
PART IV - SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	4

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>STAFF OFFICERS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Commanding Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	LTCOL E. C. HEERTBERG
Executive Officer	1-16 Jul 1972 17-31 Jul 1972	MAJ D. J. MOORE MAJ H. A. MAKEEVER
Operations Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	MAJ D. C. BRODIE
Administrative Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	CAPT J. B. MURRAY
Personal Affairs	1-31 Jul 1972	CAPT R. L. CALLIHAN
Maintenance Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	MAJ F. S. BELL
Logistics Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	MAJ T. W. TOLER
Intelligence Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	1STLT J. W. BERGMAN
Personal Services Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	1STLT R. H. DOUGHERTY
NATOPS Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	CAPT R. T. SARLES
Safety Officer	1-16 Jul 1972 17-31 Jul 1972	MAJ H. A. MAKEEVER CAPT W. A. MURPHY

Location: 1-2 July, enroute Hong Kong.  
 3-8 July, Hong Kong.  
 9-10 July, enroute and arrive MR-1 RVN.  
 11-31 July, MR-1 RVN.

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>
	58/246	1/2	0/0	59/248

Important Visitors: Major General L. E. BROWN, CG, 1STMAW, 1 July 1972.  
 Brigadier General E. J. MILLER, CG, 9TH MAB, 1 July 1972.  
 RADM W. D. TOOLE Jr., COMPHIBGRUONE 11 July 1972.  
 Brigadier General E. J. MILLER, CG, 9TH MAB, 11 July 1972.  
 LtGen. L. METZGER, CG, 3D MAF, 18 July 1972.  
 Major General J. C. FEGAN, CG, 3D MARDIV, 27-28 July 1972.

Awards: Silver Star - One  
 Purple Heart - One  
 Navy Achievement - One  
 Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry - 1st Class - One  
 2nd Class - Seven  
 3rd Class - One

Air Combat Crew Wings - Fifty-Three

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

Promotions: To Sergeant - One  
To Corporal - One  
To Lance Corporal - Ten

PART II  
NARRATIVE SUMMARY

- 1 Jul - Two CH-46's carried MajGen BROWN, CG, 1st MAW and BrigGen MILLER, CG, 9th MAB from USS DENVER to USS OKINAWA and then on to DaNang. Squadron aircraft escorted an Army UH-1, which landed aboard ship the previous evening with two medevacs, back to Tan My. The two medevacs were taken to DaNang after initial medical treatment aboard ship. The squadron, aboard USS OKINAWA (LPH-3), departs MR-1 RVN for Hong Kong.
- 3 - 9 Jul - Arrived Hong Kong. The squadron hosted officers and enlisted personnel from the 28th Squadron, RAF for a tour of the ship and squadron aircraft. The British Forces hosted squadron personnel to several functions which included; tours of their installations in the New Territory and a 28th Squadron Dinner Party.
- 10 Jul - Arrived MR-1 RVN. Commanding Officer of the 31st MAU and squadron representatives were flown to Blue Ridge and Tripoli for briefing on operation Lam Son - 72 (Phase 2).
- 11 Jul - Operation Lam Son - 72 (Phase 2), commenced on 11 July with a helo assault involving HMM-164/HMM-165, "F" Troop, 4th Air Cav. and two battalions from the First VNMV Div., supported by NGF, VNMV Arty., and U. S. Air Force B-52 strikes and close air support. Twelve CH-46's, three CH-53's and one UH-1 participated in the operation. Squadron aircraft lifted a total of 368 troops into two zones compiling 34 sorties and 18.3 flight hours. Two CH-46's had to be abandoned along the retirement route due to heavy enemy fire. The crews were picked up safely and returned to the ship. The two downed aircraft were lifted aboard ship later in the day by two CH-53's. A third CH-46 had to be lifted aboard ship after it encountered transmission difficulties while flying a recovery team ashore.
- 14 Jul - An awards ceremony was held at which 42 Air Combat Crew Wings were presented to HMM-164 enlisted personnel. In addition, the Purple Heart was presented to an enlisted crew member and the Navy Achievement Medal was awarded to an officer of the squadron. Also nine officers and one enlisted man were awarded Vietnamese awards at a ceremony held at the 1st VNMV Div. HDQTRS. The squadron flew General MILLER and his party to the awards ceremony.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

- 17 Jul - RADM W. D. TOOLE Jr. was flown to various ships in vicinity of USS OKINAWA. Newsmen were flown from DaNang to USS NEWPORT NEWS.
- 17 - 18 Jul - Conducted VIP mission carrying LtGen. L. METZGER, CG, 3d MAF to various ships in the local area and a visit with HMM-164. Aboard the USS BLUE RIDGE, LtCol. E. C. HERTBERG was presented the Silver Star for heroic achievement on 11 July 1972 by LtGen. METZGER. One UH-1E and one CH-46 carried newsmen on a photo recon of the Hue and DaNang area.
- 20 Jul - MAU and Squadron personnel attended a planning conference in Hue.
- 21 Jul - MAU and Squadron personnel were flown to Huong Dien for a planning conference. A jeep and communications gear was also flown to Huong Dien in preparation for LamSon - 72 (Song Than 9A-72).
- 22 Jul - HMM-164 continues it's support of the Lam Son - 72 operations by participating in Song Than 9A-72, lifting a total of 704 VNMIC troops into two separate zones in two waves. Again HMM-164 had the support of NGF, VNMIC Arty., Air Force B-52's and TAC air, and gunships from "F" Troop, 4th Air Cav. Ten CH-46's four CH-53's and two UH-1E's participated in the operation. These aircraft flew a total of 81 sorties, compiling 28.6 total flight hours. All aircraft returned to the USS OKINAWA undamaged. Two squadron aircraft picked up a jeep and communications gear from VNMIC CP and conducted a Medevac mission of a Vietnamese fisherman from the USS DAVIS (DD-937) to DaNang.
- 25 Jul - One routine Medevac was flown from the USS VESUVIUS (AE-15) to LPH-3. The squadron also conducted night operations placing emphasis on night landings and instrument flying.
- 27 - 28 Jul - MajGen. J. C. FEGAN, CG, 3d MARDIV was flown to USS OKINAWA from DaNang. After visiting HMM-164 he was transported to visit Marines stationed aboard other ships in the ARG. The General and his staff were then returned to DaNang.
- 29 Jul - The squadron hosted members of "F" Troop, 4th Cav. and 11th CAG for a tour of the ship and a luncheon.
- 31 Jul - The ready aircraft was launched to assist in picking up a man overboard off the USS ST. LOUIS.

## PART III

SEQUENTIAL LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS1. Significant Events

- 1 Jul - VIP and Medevac mission. Depart for Hong Kong.

UNCLASSIFIED

3

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 - 9 Jul - In port period - Hong Kong.
- 10 Jul - MAU and Squadron briefing on Blue Ridge and Tripoli.
- 11 Jul - Operation Lam Son - 72 (Phase 2).
- 14 Jul - Awards ceremonies and VIP mission.
- 17 Jul - VIP and news media missions.
- 17 - 18 Jul - VIP and photo recon mission, award ceremony.
- 20 Jul - Planning conference in Hue.
- 21 Jul - Planning conference in Huong Dien.
- 22 Jul - Lam Son 72 (Song Than 9A-72) and civilian Medevac.
- 25 Jul - Medevac and night operations.
- 27 - 28 Jul - VIP mission.
- 29 Jul - "F" Troop Luncheon.
- 31 Jul - Man overboard assistance given to USS ST. LOUIS.
- 2. Marine of the Month for July 1972 - Sgt. Michael McCURRY.

PART IV  
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

- 1. Appendix A - Congratulatory Message for "Lam Son - 72" (Song Than 9-72) 29 June 1972.
- 2. Appendix B - Award nomination and Change of Command messages. (2)
- 3. Appendix C - Congratulatory Messages For "Lam Son - 72" (Phase 2). (4)
- 4. Appendix D - Schematic of Pickup Zone and Map of Operation Area, Assault Landing Zones, and Route Structure; Helo Timetable, Flight Schedule and Congratulatory Messages for "Lam Son - 72" (Song Than 9A-72). (10 pt)
- 5. Appendix E - Statistical Summary for 1-31 July 1972.

ENCLOSURE (1)  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

## APPENDIX A

OYUW RUMOGPA 2476 1900140-EEEE-RUMCOM.

ZNY EEEEE

RUMOGCA -T- MOTU 13

P. 080140Z JUL 72

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

TO TG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RUMOGCA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN

BT

UNCLASE F T O FOUO //NO0750//

SUBJ: COMBAT SA

BT

1. FOL IS CONTENTS OF RECENT LETTER SENT TO BOEN MILLER FROM LTGEN NGO QUANG TRUONG COMMANDING GENERAL, I CORPS - MR 1. QUOTE: "DURING THE PRESENT OFFENSIVE TO DRIVE THE INVADING NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FROM QUANG TRI PROVINCE, THE COMBAT SUPPORT PROVIDED BY YOUR UNIT HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY WAS THE HELICOPTER SUPPORT PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF THE COMBAT ASSAULT ON 29 JUNE 72. THIS COMBAT ASSAULT HELPED THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS ACHIEVE VICTORIES EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE ASSISTANCE AND SKILL OF YOUR UNIT IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THIS COMBAT ASSAULT WAS EXEMPLARY. I SINCERELY THANK YOU FOR THE ASSISTANCE YOU HAVE GIVEN I CORPS IN THIS OPERATION. PLEASE PASS ON TO THE MEN OF YOUR COMMAND MY PRAISE AND ADMIRATION FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE". UNQUOTE

2. REQ ABOVE BE PUBLISHED TO ALL HANDS.

BT

2476

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Appendix-A

CONFIDENTIAL

ZNY EEEEE

APPENDIX B

P 092741Z JUL 72

FM MAG THREE SIX FUEMA CMI

TO R HARSOG/CG FIRST MAW IWAKUNI JAPAN

RUMGOKA/MARNED MELRON ONE SIX FOUR

BT

UNCLASE FT O // NO1652//

AVIATION AWARDS

A. CG FIRST MAW MSG 280133Z JUN72

B. MAG-36 LTR 3:AWV RT OVEGBGETCP OF 28 JUN 72

1. THIS MSG IN REPLY TO REF A. ROBERT G. RYSINSON AND ROBERT M. HANSON AWARDS NOT APPLICABLE. REF B NOMINATED MMH-462 FOR THE COMMANDANT'S EFFICIENCY TROPHY. A.H. CUNNINGHAM AWARD NOMINATION FOLLOWS.

2. MAG-36 TAKES PLEASURE IN NOMINATING LTCOL E.C. HERTBERG, COMMANDING OFFICER OF MMH-164, FOR THE AAC AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO MARINE AVIATION DURING FISCAL YEAR 72. LTCOL HERTBERG'S CONTRIBUTION IS REFLECTED IN THE UNIQUE AND EXEMPLARY ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS SQUADRON, THE FIRST COMPOSITE MMH TO CONDUCT JOINT COMBAT OPERATIONS FROM A MOBILE SEABASE. WHILE ASSIGNED AS THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTA-

PAGE TWO RUMGOKA 2414 UNCLASE FT O

TION OF MARINE CORPS HELICOPTER BORNE OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS LTCOL HERTBERG PLANNED THE SONG THONG SERIES OF OPERATIONS (5-72 OF 13 MAY, 6-72 OF 24 MAY, AND 7-72 OF 24 JUN) WHICH ACHIEVED NOTABLE TACTICAL SUCCESS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, STRENGTHENED THE RESOLVE OF A BELEAGUED AND

COURAGEOUS VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. NUMEROUS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM BOTH ALLIED AND U. S. COMMANDERS ATTRIBUTE THE SUCCESS OF THESE OPERATIONS TO LTCOL HERTBERG'S EXTRAORDINARY ABILITY AS PLANNER, COORDINATOR, AND COMBAT LEADER.

THE SUCCESS OF THE LOW LEVEL TACTICS EMPLOYED IN THESE OPERATIONS TO COUNTER THE ENEMY'S ANTI-AIR WARFARE THREAT HAVE THEIR ORIGINS IN LTCOL HERTBERG'S FAR SIGHTED AND EFFECTIVE PREPARATION OF HIS SQUADRON FOR COMBAT.

UPON ASSUMING COMMAND OF MMH-164 ON 26 OCT 71, LTCOL HERTBERG EMBARKED ON AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM TO ENHANCE BOTH THE COMBAT READINESS AND WELFARE AND MORALE OF HIS COMMAND. HIS OMNIPRESENT, VIGOROUS PERSONAL LEADERSHIP ESTABLISHED THE FOUNDATION ESSENTIAL TO THESE LATTER SUCCESSES. HIS INITIATIVE LEAD TO THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF SEVERAL JOINTLY CONDUCTED HELICOPTER BORNE OPERATIONS WITH BATTALIONS OF THE THIRD MARINE

PAGE THREE RUMGOKA 2414 UNCLASE FT O

DIVISION. THIS REPRESENTATIVE ACTION IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BRAND OF PERSONAL PERFORMANCE AND LEADERSHIP WHICH ESTABLISHED MMH-164 AS THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED, COMBAT READY COMPOSITE SQUADRON TO BE DEPLOYED BY MAG-36.

3. FOR MMH-164: REQUEST REEVALUATE ASPECTS OF PAR 2 BY PRI MSG TO CG 1ST MAW, INFO MAG-36.

BT

2414

FOR 10/10/24

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

Appendix B-1

CONFIDENTIAL

ZNY EEEEE  
P 111225Z JUL 72  
FM MARMEDELRON ONE SIX FOUR  
TO CG FIRST MAW  
INFO MAG THREE SIX  
BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N01650//  
AVIATION AWARDS

A. MARAIRGRUTHEE SIX MSG 090741Z JUL 72

1. CORRECTION TO PARA 2, REF A, AS REQUESTED,  
FOLLOWS:

A. PARA 2, LINE 9: "SONG THAN" VICE "SONG THONG".

B. PARA 2, LINE 10: "AND LAM SON-72 (SONG THAN 9-72)  
OF 29 JUN" VICE "AND 7-72 OF 24 JUN".

BT

~~TOP~~ 111245Z  
267 PL#014

HAS  
BEEN  
SENT

ENCLOSURE (1)  
CONFIDENTIAL

(S)

## APPENDIX B

CONFIDENTIAL

ZVY CCCCC

P 190400Z JUL 72

FM MAG THREE SIX OKI

VTO RUMOKA/MARRED WELRON ONE SIX FOUR

BT

TOR/2129/19 JUL 72/PL# 055

(R67)

CONFIDENTIAL //N1333//

PERSONAL FOR LTCOL HEATERS FROM COL KALCNEY

1. (U) PLEASE TELL YOUR SUPERB MARINES HOW PROUD WE ARE OF THEIR PERFORMANCE THESE PAST WEEKS, ITS GREAT TO BE ON YOUR TEAM.

2. (C) LTCOL DON SCHNEIDER IS ENROUTE VIA MARRED WELRON ONE SIX FIVE AND USS TRIPOLI TO RELIEVE YOU AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. RECOGNIZING THE SHOES HE WILL HAVE TO FILL - CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE MORE QUALIFIED.

3. (C) CAPT TOM SCHMIDT IS ENROUTE TO TALK IR WITH YOU. SIMPLY INFORMAL STAFF VISIT SO WE ARE ALL ON SAME FREQ. PLEASE HAVE

HIM CARRY BACK ANY INFO YOU THINK WE NEED TO HAVE.

4. (C) WILL TRY TO SEE YOU NEXT TIME YOU VISIT SUBIC.

WARM REGARDS..

DECLASS SEPT 72

BT

1353

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE (1)

(B)<sup>2</sup>

## APPENDIX C

W RUMFUF0972 1 3635-CCCC-RHMSMVA RUHGOA/ RUWJMSA.

ZN ... CC  
O 113605Z JUL 72  
FM CTF SEVEN SIX  
TO RHMSMVA/CHFLICORDGRU SAIGON  
INFO RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFL  
RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC  
ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX P1 FOUR  
ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX P1 FIVE  
ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX P1 SEVEN —

TO: 0805C/115017Z/15/21

FLAG Roh

BT

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

PRESREL LAM SON 72 (U)

1. THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IS PROPOSED FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE AND RELEASE.

A. WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCES AND FROM THE AMPHIBIOUS COMMAND SHIP, USS BLUE RIDGE. QUOTE. ON A CLOUDY, WINDY DAY WITH THE RUMBLE OF NAVY GUNFIRE IN THE BACKGROUND AND ARMY COBRA GUNSHIPS FLYING COVER, U.S. MARINE HELICOPTERS, FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN THE LAST THREE MONTHS, LIFTED SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEATHERNECKS INTO LANDING ZONES BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

PAGE TWO RUMFUF0972 C O N F I D E N T I A L

B. CH 46 AND 53 HELICOPTERS FROM MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRONS 164 AND 165, OPERATING OFF THE HELICOPTER LANDING SHIPS USS OKINAWA AND USS TRIPOLI, LOADED 850 SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES AND LIFTED THEM INTO LANDING ZONES BEHIND ENEMY LINES TWO AND ONE HALF MILES NORTHEAST OF QUANG TRI CITY.

C. THE LANDING ZONE HAD BEEN HEAVILY PREPARED BY B52 STRIKES, GUNFIRE FROM SEVENTH FLEET DESTROYERS AND CRUISERS AND BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES. HEAVY CLOUDS OF DUST AND SMOKE SWIRLED AROUND THE LANDING ZONE AS THE CHOPPERS TOUCHED DOWN AT ABOUT NOON LOCAL TIME. THIS HELICOPTER ASSAULT WAS A CONTINUING PART OF THE LAM SON 72 CAMPAIGN, A DRIVE TO PUSH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE FROM THE QUANG TRI AREA.

D. OTHER SHIPS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE SAILED CLOSE OFF THE COAST PROVIDING READY HELICOPTER PLATFORMS AND MEDIVAC DECKS THAT MIGHT BE REQUIRED FOR RESCUE OPERATIONS.

E. ON THE AMPHIBIOUS COMMAND SHIP USS BLUE RIDGE. RADM WYCLIFFE D. TOOLE, JR., COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, SEVENTH FLEET AND BGEN E.J. MILLER COMMANDING GENERAL, NINTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, DIRECTED AND COORDINATED THE OPERATIONS OF

ENCLOSURE (1)  
110605Z  
Appendix - C-1

PAGE THREE RUMFUFAD972 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 THE U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS UNITS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION.  
 F. THIS WAS NOT THE FIRST TIME INTO BATTLE FOR THE PILOTS  
 OF HMM 164 AND 165. IN MANY WAYS THIS OPERATION WAS A REPEAT  
 OF THE THREE PREVIOUS OCCASIONS IN WHICH SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES  
 HAD BEEN LIFTED INTO BATTLE BY THEIR COUNTERPARTS FROM THE  
 UNITED STATES. THE U.S. MARINE PILOTS REPEATED THEIR EARLIER  
 OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN FLYING INTO THE LANDING ZONE THROUGH  
 AA AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE INITIAL OPPOSITION WAS MODERATE  
 IN THE LANDING ZONE AND ONE U.S. MARINE CH-53 HAD TO BE LEFT IN  
 THE BATTLE AREA AND TWO MORE WERE LANDED INSIDE FRIENDLY LINES  
 AFTER BEING DAMAGED IN COMBAT. INITIAL ACTION ON THE GROUND WAS  
 HOT AS THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES MOVED OFF THE HELICOPTERS  
 AND ON TO THE OFFENSIVE. UNQUOTE.

THE FOLLOWING AMPHIBIOUS FORCE SHIPS PARTICIPATED IN THE  
 OPERATION:

- USS BLUE RIDGE (LCC 19)
- USS OKINAWA (LPH-3)
- USS TRIPOLI (LPH-13)
- USS ST. LOUIS (LKA 116)
- USS PT. DEFIANCE (LSD 31)

PAGE FOUR RUMFUFAD972 C O N F I D E N T I A L

- USS MANITOWOC (LST 1180)
- USS MOBILE (LKA-115)
- USS SCHEMECTADY (LSI 1185)
- USS DULUTH (LPD-6)
- USS JUREAU (LPD-13)
- USS ALAMO (LSD 33)

THIS CONSTITUTES INITIAL RELEASE OF AMPHIBIOUS FORCE PARTICIPATION  
 IN PHASE II OF OPERATION LAM SO. 72.

DS-78

BT

3972

ENCLOSURE (1)

(C)

CONFIDENTIAL

## APPENDIX C

ZNY BEALE

P 11055Z JUL 72

FM THREE THREE MAU

TO MM ONE SIX FIVE

MM ONE SIX FOUR

INFO THREE ONE MAU

BT

UNCLAS F T O//H41512//

PERFORMANCE OF COMBAT DUTY.

1. THE PERFORMANCE TODAY OF YOUR SQUADRONS ADDS LUSTRE TO YOUR DISTINGUISHED RECORDS AND HONOR TO YOUR REPUTATIONS AS INTERPRED FIGHTERS. YOU METSED HOME, IN THE FACE OF RAPIDLY INCREASING ENEMY FORCES, THE VERTICAL ASSAULT NEEDED BY THE VMFA DIVISION TO OPEN THE TACTICAL FIELD. SUCH A DISPLAY OF INDOMITABLE WILL TO DO THE JOB IS A CREDIT TO YOU AND TO YOUR CORPS. THE CONDITION OF YOUR A/C IS WIDE TESTIMONY OF THE RESISTANCE OF THE ENEMY'S RESISTANCE.

2. I SEND YOU ALL AND I THINK YOU IN YOUR HOMES AND PRAYERS FOR THE EARLY AND SAFE RETURN OF THE CREW OF THE DOWNED CH-53 TO THE RECOVERY OF LGE AIRCRAFT.

3. WELL DONE, MARINES.

FERRIS

BT

0737

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

(2)

## APPENDIX C

ZNY CCCCC  
 O 120100Z JUL 72  
 FM SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR  
 TO CTF 76  
 CIG 79.1  
 CTU 79.1.6  
 CTU 79.8.9  
 CO 11TH CAG  
 INFO CMC  
 CINCPACFLT  
 MACV  
 COMSASVENTH FLT  
 CG FMFPAC  
 CTF 79/III MAF  
 FRAC (HUE)  
 CHNAVALVRY (SMA)  
 CIG 79.8

BT

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

1. THE COMMANDANT, VMAC EXPRESSES HIS MOST SINCERE APPRECIATION FOR THE HEROIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS ON 11 JUL 72

IN THEIR CONTINUED PROSECUTION OF OPERATION STONG THAN 9/72.  
 2. THE SUCCESS OF THE HELICOPTER BORNE ASSAULT EXECUTED BY THE 1ST BATTALION, VMAC WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GALLANT AND COURAGEOUS EFFORTS OF THE SEA MAR AND 11TH CAG HELICOPTER FORCES WHICH PROVIDED SUPERIOR SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ENEMY COUNTERACTION. THE COURAGE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE HELICOPTER PILOTS AND CREWS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THIS OPERATION IS BOTH ADMIRABLE AND APPRECIATED.

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

3. ALSO, CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION AS THE ACCURATE DELIVERY OF NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT WHICH APPRECIABLY REDUCED THE ENEMY THREAT AND MATERIALLY AIDED IN THE SUCCESSFUL INSERTION OF THE 1ST BATTALION, VMAC.

4. THE COMMANDANT EXTENDS WELL DONE TO ALL WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THIS OPERATION POSSIBLE AND REQUESTS THAT HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES BE RELAYED TO THOSE WOUNDED DURING THIS ACTION AND THAT HIS HEARTFELT SYMPATHY BE CONVEYED TO THE FAMILIES OF THOSE CURRENTLY LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION.

BT

UNCL

ENCLOSURE (1)

②<sup>3</sup>

## APPENDIX C

CONFIDENTIAL

O 12142Z JUL 72  
FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
TO CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
CTG SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN  
CTU SEVEN NINE PT FOUR PT TWO  
CTU SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN PT TWO  
BT

*FOR DIS 300  
207 200 200*

CONFIDENTIAL//NOBAC//

1. (C) ON 11 JULY PILOTS AND AIRCREWS OF HHN-165 AND HHN-164 AER SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR OUR BROTHER MARINES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM FOR THE FOURTH TIME IN THE PAST EIGHT WEEKS, WE AGAIN DEMONSTRATED THE VERSATILITY AND RESPONSE OF MARINE AIR. WE AGAIN SHOWED OUR ALLIES THAT WE ARE STILL STANDING READY AND WILLING TO ASSIST THEM.

THE MISSION HAD DEMONSTRATED YOUR PROFESSIONAL ABILITY. ON 11 JULY, THERE WAS CONCERN ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF AIRCRAFT THAT COULD BE COMMITTED TO THE OPERATION. I WANT TO COMMENT ESPECIALLY ON THE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CREWS AND OTHER SUPPORT PERSONNEL OF HHN-165 AND HHN-164 WHO WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK TO GET A FLEET OF AIRCRAFT "UP" FOR USE. 34 OUT OF 35 OF THESE AIRCRAFT ARE THE BACK

PAGE TWO RUMSFTA 1171 CONFIDENTIAL  
ON BOARD SHIP. IT WAS A SUPERB DEMONSTRATION OF "TROUBLESHOOTING" ON THE PART OF THESE MECHANICS. TODAY'S MARINE CORPS DEMANDS THE BEST.... AND THEY ARE THE "VERY BEST".  
2. (C) I SHARE WITH YOU THE DEEP LOSS OF TWO AIRCREW MEMBERS FROM HHN-165. BOB E. J. MILLER SERGS.

6  
S-72  
BT

1171

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE (1)

④

CONFIDENTIAL

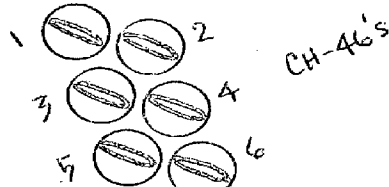
## APPENDIX D

PICK-UP ZONE  
"LOAD-OUT" SCHEME

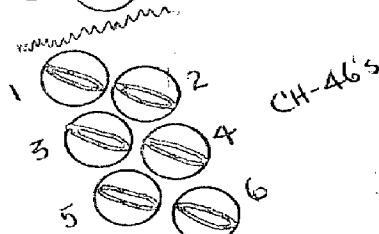
DIRT ROAD

DRY RICE PADDY

PANEL

[ HELOS LAND IN  
COCKED POSITION  
FOR FASTER T/O ]"CENTER OF MASS"  
YD 468515  
P/U COORD

CH-46's



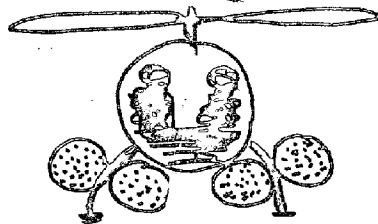
CH-46's



CH-53's

PANEL

"BAG PIPE CHARLIE" CONTROLS ON 57.45 FM

THE 2 H-1's GO TO DIVISION COMMAND POST  
AT 642424(YD) SOUTH OF HUONG DIEN4 EACH (PODS) 200 ROCKETS  
2.75 FFARHVAR  
HIGH VELOCITY AIRCRAFT ROCKETS10# HEAD  
8/2  
17# HEADHEAT HEADS/AP HEADS/"NAILS"  
"BEE HIVE" (FLESHETTS)  
ENCLOSURE (1)CONFIDENTIAL  
Appendix - D



CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

SONG THAN 9-72

22 JULY 72

FLIGHT SEPARATION 24 MIN  
L/H HOUR 0930

FLIGHT	NO. + TYPE A/C	DECK	LAUNCH	DEF ART			FUEL	LZ "L"	ARR WEP	REMARKS
				PZ	NRCH MILES	KNOWA NOES				
SF 1-1	2	12H	0745	0845					1015	SHUT DOWN 30 MIN SHUT DOWN
SF 2-1	6		0820	0920:30	092330		1400	0930	-	COMMENCED 1000 1010
SF 3-1	5		0855	0923	0926		0930	0932:30	-	" " "
SF 4-1	1	LPD	0900	0925:00	0931:30		0932:30	0935	-	" " "
SF 4-2	1	LST	"	"	"		"	"	-	" " "
SF 4-3	1	LKA	"	"	"		"	"	-	" " "
SF 4-4	1	LSD	"	#?	"		"	"	-	REMAINING
2ND LIFT	6		-							
SF 2-1	4		-	0946	0949		0953	0956:30	1004	
SF 3-1	4		-	0944:30	0951:30		0953:30	0958	1008	* UP WTH AC NOT USED
SF 4-1	4		-	0955	0958		1002	1004:30	1014	RTN LSD 1

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

CONFIDENTIAL

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 10  
 Marine Aircraft Group 36  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMEPac  
 FPO San Francisco, 96602

FLIGHT SCHEDULE FOR:  
 SQUADRON DUTY OFFICER:  
 OPERATIONS DUTY OFFICER:  
 DUTY SECTION:  
 READY A/C:  
 SUNRISE/SUNSET:

SATURDAY 22 JULY 1972 (204)  
 LT MURDOCH  
 LT BUTLER/LT GILL  
 ONE (1)  
 CAPT SARLES/LT BELL  
 0625/1924

APPENDIX D

FLT	A/C	MODEX	BRIEF	ETD	ETR	PILOT	CO-PILOT	MSN	POD	DEST	REMARKS
1-1	UH-1E	YT	0630	0745	W/C	MAJ MAKEEVER	LTCOL HEITBERG	600	HO3	HO3	C/C
1-2	"	"	"	"	"	LT GREENE	CAPT PENTZ	"	"	"	C/C STANDBY
2-1	CH-46	"	0705	0820	"	MAJ BRODIE	LT McDOWELL	550	"	"	TROOP LIFT
2-2	"	"	"	"	"	LT BERGMAN	LT BAKER	"	"	"	"
2-3	"	"	"	"	"	LT HINES	LT DURNAY	"	"	"	"
2-4	"	"	"	"	"	MAJ TOLER	CAPT NELSON	"	"	"	"
2-5	"	"	"	"	"	CAPT SARLES	LT BELL	"	"	"	"
2-6	"	"	"	"	"	LT BELLARS	LT LAVOY	"	"	"	"
3-1	"	"	0840	0855	"	CAPT MURRAY	LT DOUGHERTY	551	"	"	"
3-2	"	"	"	"	"	LT GARRETT	LT POST	"	"	"	"
3-3	"	"	"	"	"	CAPT SCHEFFLER	LT CRYDER	"	"	"	"
3-4	"	"	"	"	"	CAPT MURPHY	LT CARUSO	"	"	"	"
3-5	"	"	"	"	"	LT GAGLIARDO	LT PELOSO	"	"	"	"
4-1	CH-53	"	0530	0630/0900	"	MAJ BELL	LT G-12	550	"	LPD/HO3	" " NOTES 4&5
4-2	"	"	"	"	"	LT SIMS	LT BRAEGER	551	"	LST/HO3	" " " "
4-3	"	"	"	"	"	CAPT CALLIHAN	LT GILSON	552	"	LKA/HO3	" " " 4, 5&7
4-4	"	"	"	"	"	LT WONNER	LT FUHRMANN	553	"	LSD/HO3	" " " 4&5
5-1	"	"	1145	1300	1700	LT BAILEY	LT JONES	951	"	HO3	DANANG MARLOG NOTE 6
5-2	CH-46	"	"	"	"	LT PAPINEAU	LT FORD	"	"	"	" " " "
6-1	"	"	TBA	TBA	TBA	CAPT SARLES	LT BELL	700	"	"	READY A/C NOTE 6
6-2	"	"	"	"	"	LT HINES	LT DURNAY	"	"	"	STAND BY A/C NOTE 6
7-1	"	"	0600	0700	0720	LT PAPINEAU	LT FORD	950	"	"	TEST

HOURS FLOWN AS OF 20 JULY 1972: 210.6

HOURS FLOWN ON 21 JULY 1972: 11.5

NOTES ON THE BACK

SUBMITTED BY: J. Q. BUTLER

APPROVED BY: J. R. CAMPOS

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

DECLASSIFIED

- NOTES: 1. PRI-FLY: AM - CAPT CANTOS, PM - CAPT MURPHY.  
2. HDC WATCH: CAPT FINE.  
3. INTEGRITY WATCH: A. LT GAGLIARDO, B. LT WONNER, C. LT GARRETT.  
4. CH-53 DECK ASSIGNMENTS: 4-1, LPD-10; 4-2, LST-1180; 4-3, LKA-116; 4-4, LSD-31.  
5. 4-1 FLIGHT WILL REFUEL PRIOR TO RELAUNCHING AT 0900. UPON COMPLETION OF THE MISSION RETURN TO RESPECTIVE DECKS FOR HOT REFUELING AND WAIT FOR CLEARANCE TO RETURN TO HO3. 4-4 WILL REFUEL ON ANOTHER SHIP THEN RETURN TO LSD.  
6. ARM A/C.  
7. 4-3 P/U FLIES FROM LKA, RETURN OKINAWA THEN RETURN LKA.

NATOPS: CH-46 - THE MAX APP TAILPIPE TEMPERATURE IS \_\_\_\_°C BUT IT CAN REACH \_\_\_\_° FOR 10 SECONDS.

CH-53 - MAXIMUM NR AT WHICH THE HARD ROTOR BRAKE MAY BE APPLIED IS \_\_\_\_%.

UH-1E - IRREVERSIBLE VALVES ARE INSTALLED ON THE CYCLIC AND COLLECTIVE POWER CYLINDERS TO PREVENT MAIN ROTOR FEEDBACK IN THE EVENT OF A HYDRAULIC SYSTEM MALFUNCTION. TRUE OR FALSE.

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

## APPENDIX D

0 P 221:23Z JUL 72  
 FM CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 TO RHM SMV S/CHFLT COORDGRU SAIGON  
 INFO RUHQAA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUW JMSA/COMPHIBPAC SDIEGO CA  
 RUMFIFA/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUHQTA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 ZEN/JSS DENVER  
 ZEN/JSS WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N25722//

PREREL SONG THANH 9A (U)

1. (C) THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE IS PROPOSED FOR IMMEDIATE CLEARANCE AND RELEASE.

1. QUOTE...22 JUL 72...WITH THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCES OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM...THIS MORNING, FOR THE FIFTH TIME IN THE LAST NINE WEEKS, U.S. MARINE HELICOPTERS FROM FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCES LIFTED SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES IN AN ASSAULT BEHIND ENEMY

PAGE TWO RUHQGA2933 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 LINES IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

3. ON A CLEAR DAY WITH HIGH BROKEN AND SCATTERED CLOUDS, THE RUMBLE OF NAVY GUNFIRE IN THE BACKGROUND, AND ARMY COBRA GUNSHIPS FLYING COVER, U.S. MARINE CH-46 AND -53 HELOS FROM MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164 OPERATING FROM THE AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT SHIP USS OKINAWA, LIFTED A BATTALION OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE MARINES INTO TWO LANDING ZONES BEHIND ENEMY LINES SOME SEVEN MILES NORTH AND EAST OF QUANG TRI CITY.

C. THE LANDING ZONES HAD BEEN HEAVILY PREPARED BY B52 STRIKES, GUNFIRE FROM SEVENTH FLEET CRUISERS AND DESTROYERS, AND BY TACTICAL AIR STRIKES. FOLLOWING CLOSELY BEHIND THE HEAVY PREPARATORY FIRES, THE FIRST WAVES OF CH-46 AND -53 HELOS TOUCHED DOWN AND DISCHARGED THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE LEATHERNECKS ABOUT 0930 LOCAL TIME. HELIBORNE WAVES OF MARINES LANDED IN A SECOND ZONE AT 1000 LOCAL TIME AND MOVED OUT QUICKLY TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY IN THE AREA.

D. THE OPERATION, SONG THANH (TIDAL WAVE) 9A, IS THE THIRD COMBINED HELO ASSAULT CONDUCTED IN THE CURRENT LAMSON 72 COUNTER-OFFENSIVE LAUNCHED TO DRIVE THE ENEMY FROM TERRITORIES CAPTURED IN THE MASSIVE INVASION OF SOUTH VIETNAM SOME FOUR MONTHS AGO. INITIAL REACTION WAS LIGHT AND THE U.S. LEATHERNECK HELOS ENCOUNTER-

ENCLOSURE (1)

PAGE THREE RUHGOGA2923 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 ERRED LITTLE RESISTANCE PRIOR TO RETURNING TO THE SUPPORTING AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS SAILING CLOSE OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

E. CAPT E.C. MAUPIN, COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS READY GROUP ALFA AND COL D.E. NEWTON, COMMANDING OFFICER 31ST MARINE AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, DIRECTED AND COORDINATED THE OPERATIONS OF U.S. NAVY AND MARINE CORPS UNITS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION FROM THE FLAGSHIP USS OKINAWA. LTCOL E.C. HERTBERG, COMMANDED THE OPERATIONS OF MARINE HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164.

F. THE OPERATION WAS EVALUATED AS THE ONE OF THE SMOOTHEST OF THE FIVE JOINT OPERATIONS CONDUCTED BY SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCE UNITS BY THE PILOTS AND CREWMEN OF HMM 164, MANY OF WHOM ARE VETERANS OF ONE OR MORE OF THE PREVIOUS MISSIONS. SAID MAJOR DONALD C. BRODIE, FROM INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA, OPERATIONS OFFICER OF HMM 164, WHO HAS PILOTED A CH-46 HELO IN EACH OF THE FIVE COMBINED HELO ASSAULTS, AND WHO WAS A FLIGHT LEADER IN TODAY'S OPERATION, QUOTE...THE REAL KEY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION WAS THE TIMING AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SUPPORTING ARMS FIRE BY THE 352'S VNMC ARTILLERY, GUNFIRE SHIPS AND THE U.S. ARMY COBRA TEAMS, WHO WERE REALLY ON TARGET. AFTER FIVE OPERATIONS, I HAVE A SPECIAL RESPECT FOR THOSE ARMED COBRAS WHO PROCEED US IN TO CLEAR THE WAY...

PAGE FOUR RUHGOGA2923 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 UNQUOTE.

2. (C) THE FOLLOWING AMPHIBIOUS SHIPS, ALL UNITS OF THE SEVENTH FLEET AMPHIBIOUS FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OF RADM WYCLIFFE D. TOOLE, JR., PARTICIPATED IN THE OPERATION:

USS OKINAWA (LPH-3)  
 USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)  
 USS DENVER (LPH-9)  
 USS ST LOUIS (LHA-116)  
 USS HANITOWOC (LST-1132)  
 USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1157)

MARINE FORCES PARTICIPATING ARE UNITS OF THE NINTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE COMMANDED BY BGEN E. J. MILLER, USMC.

3. (U) THIS CONSTITUTES INITIAL RELEASE OF AMPHIBIOUS FORCE PARTICIPATION IN SONG THANH SA.

GDS-75

BT

2923

*FOR  
 2114/12-197  
 CE*

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

*(5)*

CONFIDENTIAL

## APPENDIX D.

EEEE

P 221417Z JUL 72  
FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
TO RUMGONA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
INFO RUMGCAA/COM SEVENTHFLT  
RLMRA DA/CTF SEVEN NINE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O FOUO

OPERATION SONG THAN 9A-72 (U)

1. CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FAULTLESS EXECUTION OF YOUR ASSAULT HELICOPTER LANDING TODAY. IT IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE FINE OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE WE HAVE COME TO TAKE AS COMMONPLACE FOR THE 31ST MAW AND  
NMM-164.

BT

2237

*TOR*  
*27/1636750174*  
*[Signature]*

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

*(9)*

## APPENDIX D

ZNY CCCCC

P 23013Z JUL 72  
FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
TO CHFLTCOORDGRU  
INFO COMSEVENTHFLT  
CTF SEVEN SIX  
CTF SEVEN NINE  
CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
BT

Has Been  
Sent

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N35723//

NEWS RELEASE, OPERATION SONG THANH 9A-72

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 22032Z JUL 72 (S)

1. (C) HELICOPTERS FROM MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164 PARTICIPATED IN OPERATION SONG THANH 9A-72 JULY 22, LIFTING A REINFORCED BATTALION OF VIETNAMESE MARINES SOME 7 MILES NORTH OF QUANG TRI CITY, RVN, TO CLOSE WITH ENEMY UNITS  
AVIALLY ENLACED IN THAT AREA.

THE MARINE CHOPPERS, OPERATING OFF THE USS OKINAWA OF THE SEVENTH FLEET IN THE GULF OF TONKIN COMPLETED THE OPERATION SUCCESSFULLY WITH NO CASUALTIES AND RECEIVED NO ENEMY FIRE.

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

THE CH-53S AND CH-46S LIFTED OFF THE DECK FOR PRE-POSITIONING EARLY IN THE MORNING AND SHORTLY PAST 9 AM FLEW INTO THE PICK-UP ZONE NINE MILES SOUTHEAST OF QUANG TRI CITY TO UNLOAD THE VIETNAMESE TROOPS.

"EVERYTHING WENT AS PLANNED", STATED 1STLT JAMES A. SIMS FROM MEMPHIS, TENN., A CH-53 COMMANDER. "EVERYONE TOOK FOR GRANTED THAT THIS WOULD BE A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION."

AS EACH WAVE OF AIRCRAFT MOVED OUT OF THE PICK-UP ZONE, THEY FLEW BACK OUT OVER THE COAST AND, ONCE OVER WATER OFF THE COAST LINE, PREPOSITIONED FOR ASSAULT WAVES.

"IN THIS TYPE OF OPERATION", SAID PILOT, 1STLT WILLIAM F. BRAEGER OF SHEBOYON, WISCONSIN. "PREPOSITIONING AND TIMING ARE THE ESSENCE OF A SUCCESSFUL OPERATION. YOU'RE FIGHTING AGAINST THE CLOCK FROM BEGINNING TO END."

HAVING REACHED A DESIGNATED POSITION OFF-SHORE, THE FIRST WAVE OF CHOPPERS AGAIN HEADED SHOREDWARD AND, UPON CROSSING THE BEACH, WERE BUZZING THE GROUND AT WELL OVER 100 KNOTS, CLIPPING TREETOPS AT 25 AND 15 FEET OFF THE DECK. IN MINUTES, THEY WERE INTO THE LANDING ZONE.

CORPORAL WILLIAM J. DAVIS OF PENSACOLA, FLA., WAS CREW

ENCLOSURE (1)

①

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

CHIEF FOR THE UH1E (HUET) COMMAND HELICOPTER WHICH HOVERED OVERHEAD, CARRYING THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, LTCOL EDWARD C. MERTBERG, A U.S. MARINE ADVISOR AND THE SENIOR VIETNAMESE MARINE COMMANDER. THIS TEAM COORDINATED CLOSE AIR SUPPORT AND DIRECTED THE FLY-INS. "THIRTY MINUTES BEFORE THE LANDING, AIR FORCE B-52S POURED THEIR BOMB LOADS IN AND AROUND THE LANDING ZONES, LEVELING EVERYTHING IN THEIR WAY," SAID CPL. DAVIS. "FROM OUR POSITION, WE COULD OBSERVE THE NAVAL GUNFIRE PINPOINTING ENEMY EMPLACEMENTS INLAND, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY CLOSE AIR SUPPORT JETS, SATURATING SURROUNDING TREELINES AND REMAINING ENEMY POSITIONS." ENTRANCE INTO THE ZONES WAS DISCUSSED LATER THAT

AFTERNOON BY PILOTS AND CREWMEMBERS AS STANDARD PROCEDURE, BUT TO THE LONE UNIDENTIFIED VIETNAMESE SEEN STANDING ON THE BEACH, THE BIG HULK OF A CH-53 DODGING SAND DUNES MUST HAVE BEEN A SPINE-CHILLING EXPERIENCE.

COBRA GUNSHIP HELICOPTERS FROM THE ARMY AIR CAVALRY JOINED THE FIGHT AT THE COASTLINE AND FLEW AT THE MARINES. ROTOR BLADE TIPS, AS IN EACH PREVIOUS OPERATION, SPRAYING THE SURROUNDING TREELINES WITH SUPPRESSIVE GUNFIRE DURING FLIGHT

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

AND WHILE THE MARINE TRANSPORTS WERE IN THE LZ'S.

TOUCHDOWN FOR THE FIRST MISSION WAS AT 9:41 AM IN AN OPEN SANDY AREA INLAND, SPARSELY COVERED WITH BEACH GRASS, FLANKED ON THE RIGHT AND FRONT BY TREELINES.

"I LEARNED FROM THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER THAT THE NOSE WHEEL ON OUR CH-53 WAS NOT OPERATING AND I PASSED THE WORD TO THE VIETNAMESE COMMANDER THAT WE'D NEED TO GET THE TROOPS OUT IN A HURRY BECAUSE OF THE PROBLEM," RECALLED CREW CHIEF SGT. TERRY M. WARNER OF CLAREMONT, MINN. "THE CH-53 CARRIES 60 TROOPS, IN COMPARISON WITH THE CH-46 WHICH CARRIES 20. THE VIETNAMESE, WHO ARE ALWAYS EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE, WERE OFF THE BIRD IN 12 SECONDS, AS THE PILOT JOCKEYED THE AIRCRAFT ON THE REAR WHEELS, KEEPING THE NOSE IN THE AIR."

"LANDING WITHOUT THE NOSE WHEEL WASN'T SO BAD IN THE LZ, BUT ON THE ROCKING DECK OF THE CARRIER, IT WAS A BIT OF A PROBLEM," CONTINUED LT SIMS. "I RE-CYCLED THE GEAR TWICE, BUT GOT NO RESULTS. AS I HOVERED ON TWO WHEELS, MY CREW JUMPED OUT OF THE AIRCRAFT AND PRIED THE WHEEL GEAR LOOSE AND SET IT. I ASKED THE CREW CHIEF HOW HE FELT ABOUT CRAWLING UNDER

ENCLOSURE (T)

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

COVERING, 3,000 POUND AIRCRAFT. HE SIMPLY REPLIED, "THAT'S WHAT WE GET OUR FLIGHT PAY FOR, ISN'T IT?"

THE FINAL "FEET WET" REPORT CAME AT 1213AM OVER THE RADIO NET AS THE LAST HELICOPTER CROSSED THE BEACH AND HEADED OUT TO THE CARRIER USS OKINAWA.

OPERATION SONG THANH 9A-72, COMPLETED, WITH NO CASUALTIES, GOES ON RECORD AS A FEATHER

IN THE HAT OF MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 164 IN THE U.S. JOINT SERVICES SUPPORT OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE FORCES.

2. (U) SUBMITTED IAW REF A.

DECLASSIFY 31 DEC 72

BT 701 230330-2

1730

ENCLOSURE (1)

(S)

## APPENDIX D

ENY CCCCC

P 200000 JULY 72

FM CG FRAC HUE RVN// MACFR-OP//

TO RUMFUPA//CFT SEVEN SIX//

RUMGPTA//CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE//

RUMGOHA//CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR//

RHMPSKK//CTU SEVEN ZERP PF EIGHT PT NINE//

INFO: RUMH3RA/CINCPACFLT

RUMGOAA/COMSEVENFLT

47.9&(-/CHFLTCOORDGRU SGN RVN//

HUJOGA/COMUSNA CV SGN RVN//

BT

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

MG COCKSEY SENDS

1. (C) ONCE AGAIN YOUR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE TO THE I CORPS COMMANDER IN HIS EFFORTS DEFEAT THE ENEMY IN MR I. ALTHOUGH OPERATION SONG THANH 9A HAD RELATIVELY LIMITED OBJECTIVES IN ITSELF, ITS SUCCESS WILL CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE SUCCESS OF THE OVERALL CORPS PLAN. THE NATURE OF THIS OPERATION AND THE SHORT FUZE UPON WHICH IT WAS REQUESTED REQUIRED EXTRA EFFORT ON THE PART OF ALL CONCERNED. YOUR QUICK REACTION AND PROFESSIONAL APPROACH TO PLANNING, COORDINATION AND CONDUCTION THIS OPERATION FOR THE VNMC DIVISION ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

2. GENERAL TRUONG EXPRESSES HIS THANKS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED.

DS 31 DEC 78

5276

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

## APPENDIX D

ZNY CCCCC  
 O 230855Z 72  
 FM SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR  
 TO RUHGFTA/CTG 79.1  
 RUMGOMA/CTG 79.4  
 RUMGOKA/CTU 79.4.2  
 RHMPSKK/CTU 79.8.9  
 ZEN/11TH CAG  
 INFO REOFIA/CMC  
 RUHHBRA/CINCPATFLT  
 RHM SNVA/MACC  
 RUMGOAA/COM SEVENTHFLT  
 RUHMFMA/CG FMFVAC  
 RUMFUPA/CTF 76  
 RUMRABA/CTF 79/III MAU  
 ZEN/FRAC (HUE)  
 RUMOGKA/CHNAVADVGRP (SMA)  
 RHMPSOO/CTG 76.4  
 RUMFVYA/CTG 72.8  
 BT

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

1. THE COMMANDANT, VMMC EXTENDS A WELL DONE TO THE 31ST MAU,  
 11CAG, AND THE NAVAL GUNFIRE SHIPS OF CTU 79.8.9 FOR THEIR SUPPORT

PAGE TWO RUMHRA5274 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 OF THE HELICOPTERBORNE

ASSAULT CONDUCTED BY THE 5TH BATTALION, VMMC ON 22 JULY 1972.

2. THE HIGH DEGREE OF PROFESSIONALISM, COOPERATION AND DEDICATION

EXHIBITED BY ALL WHO SUPPORTED THIS OPERATION WAS PARTICULARLY  
 NOTEWORTHY AND MATERIALLY CONTRIBUTED TO THE SUCCESS OF THE OPERATION.

3. THE COMMANDANT TAKES PLEASURE IN COMMENDING YOUR EFFORTS AND X  
 EXPRESSES HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND PROFESSIONAL RESPECTS.

DECLASSIFY AFTER 31 DEC 72

BT

5274

TOR 23 1040-8  
 MSR

ENCLOSURE (1)

APPENDIX D

*CONFIDENTIAL*

PTTCZYUW RUHGCAA4632 2053535-CCCC--RUHGOGA RUMGOGA.

ZNY CCCCC

P 240536Z JUL 72

FM COMSEVENTHFLT

TO RUHGOGA/CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUHGOGA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RHMPSKK/CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

INFO RUH4BRA CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

RUHMFMA/CG FMFPAC CAMP SMIB HI

RUMFURA/CTF SEVEN SIX

RUMRA 3A/CTF SEVEN SHINE CAMP BUTLER OKI

RUMFRIA/CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUHGPTA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RHMSMVA/CHFLTCOORDGRP SAIGON RVN

BT

CONFIDENTIAL

SONG THAN 9A-72 (U)

1. (C) THAT PROFESSIONALISM IS STILL THE HALLMARK OF THE NAVY/MARINE AMPHIBIOUS TEAM WAS ONCE AGAIN AMPLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE QUICK ACTION PLANNING RESPONSE TO RVNAF REQUIREMENTS ON SHORT FUSE NOTICE AND BY THE FLAWLESS EXECUTION OF THE AIR-MOBILE ASSAULT OPERATION CONDUCTED ON 22 JUL 72. AS WAS EXPECTED, 974 .4-1 GUNLINE SHIPS DELIVERED THEIR

*TOR/16362/29300/10300*  
*(P12)*

PAGE TWO TRUHGCAA4632 CONFIDENTIAL

ACCURATE FIRES ON TARGETS WPVCH COULD HAVE MATERIALLY EFFECTED THE OUTCOME OF THE ASSAULT HAD THEY NOT BEEN SUPPRESSED. H

COMPLIMENTS ON

A JOB WELL DONE TO THE DEDICATED AND COMQUENT MARINES AND NAVYMEN WHOSE KOVE WORK MADE THE SUCESS OF THE MISSION POSSIBLE.

VADM J. L. HOLLOWAY III.

DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 72

BT

4632

*CONFIDENTIAL*

ENCLOSURE ( )

*(D)*<sup>10</sup>

## APPENDIX E

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1-31 JULY 1972

<u>A/C</u>	<u>TASKS</u>	<u>SORTIES</u>	<u>PAX</u>	<u>CARGO</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
CH-46	<u>185</u>	<u>449</u>	<u>1,555</u>	<u>21.0</u>	<u>244.6</u>
CH-53	<u>58</u>	<u>150</u>	<u>1,240</u>	<u>75.9</u>	<u>95.4</u>
UH-1E	<u>34</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48.5</u>
TOTAL	<u>277</u>	<u>677</u>	<u>2,848</u>	<u>96.9</u>	<u>388.5</u>

ENCLOSURE (1)

UNCLASSIFIED

Appendix - E