

**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

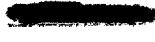
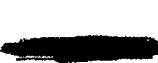
From: Commanding Officer  
To: Commanding Officer, 31st Marine Amphibious Unit  
Subj: Command Chronology for the Period 1 July through 31 July 1972  
Ref: (a) FMFPACO 5750.8  
Encl: (1) HMM-164 Command Chronology  
1. In accordance with reference (a), enclosure (1) is submitted.  
2. This letter is downgraded to Unclassified upon removal of enclosure (1).

*E.C. Hertberg*  
E. C. HERTEBERG

Copy to:  
CO, MAG-36

AMM-164

Jul 1972

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PART I  
ORGANIZATIONAL DATA

<u>STAFF OFFICERS</u>	<u>PERIOD</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Commanding Officer	1-31 Jul 1972	LTCOL E. C. HERTBERG
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> 58/246	<u>OFF/FNL</u> 1/2	<u>OFF/ENL</u> 0/0	<u>OFF/ENL</u> 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

ENCLOSURE (1)

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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 VNMC Div., supported by NGF, VNMC 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 VNMC Div. HQTRS. The squadron flew General MILLER and his party to the awards ceremony.

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- 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 VNMC troops into two separate zones in two waves. Again HMM-164 had the support of NGF, VNMC 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 VNMC 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 EVENTS

1. Significant Events

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

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- 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.<sup>(2)</sup>
3. Appendix C - Congratulatory Messages For "Lam Son - 72" (Phase 2).<sup>(4)</sup>
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).<sup>(opt)</sup>
5. Appendix E - Statistical Summary for 1-31 July 1972.

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## APPENDIX A

OYEW RUONG PVA 2476 1900143-EEEE - R UNCOM

ZNY EEEEE

RIMOGA -P- MOTU 15

P. 080140Z JUL 72

FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

TO TG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RUONGA/CIO SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN

BT

UNCLAS E F T O FOUG // N05750//

SUBJ: COMBAT SA

BT

1. PQ. IS CONTENTS OF RECENT LETTER SENT TO BGEN MILLER FROM LT GEN NGO QUANG TRUONG COMMANDING GENERAL, I CORPS - MR I. QUOTE: "DURING DAJ PRESENT OFFENSIVE TO DRIVE THE INVADING NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY FROM QUANG-TRI PROVINCE, THE COMBAT SUPPORT PROVIDED BY YOUR UNITS HAS PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLE. PARTICULARLY NOTEWORTHY WAS THE HELICOPTER SUPPORT PROVIDED IN SUPPORT OF THE COMBAT ASSAULT ON 29 JUN 72. THIS COMBAT ASSAULT HELPED THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS ACHIEVE VICTORIES EARLY IN THE CAMPAIGN. THE ASSISTANCE AND SKILL OF YOUR UNITS IN THE PLANNING AND EXECUTION OF THIS COMBAT ASSAULT WAS EXEMPLARY. I SINCELY 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 FURNISHED TO ALL HANDS.

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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Appendix-A

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## APPENDIX B

ZNY EEEEEE

P 090741Z JUL 72

FM MAG 366 SIX RUMEMA CKI  
TO R HAR SGG/CG FIRST MAW IWAKUNI JAPAN  
RUHGOKA/MARNE MELRON ONE SIX FOUR

BT

UNCLAS E F T O //N01652//

AVIATION AWARDS

A. CG FIRST MAW MSG 030133Z JUN 72

B. MAG-36 LTR 3:AWW RT OWEGBETOP 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 HMH-462 FOR THE COMMANDANT'S EFFICIENCY IN OPHY. A. H. CUNNINGHAM AWARD NOMINATION FOLLOWS.

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

PAGE TWO RUMEMA 0414 UNCLAS E F T O  
 TION OF MARINE CORPS HELICOPTER BORNE OPERATIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS LT COL 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 BELEAGURED AND COURAGEOUS VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. NUMEROUS CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES FROM BOTH ALLIED AND U. S. COMMANDERS ATTRIBBLE THE SUCCESS OF THESE OPERATIONS TO LT COL 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 LT COL HERTBERG'S PARASIGNED AND EFFECTIVE PREPARATION OF HIS SQUADRON FOR COMBAT.

UPON ASSUMING COMMAND OF HMH-164 ON 26 OCT 71, LT COL HERTBERG EMBARKED ON AN AGGRESSIVE PROGRAM TO ENHANCE BOTH THE COMBAT READINESS 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 RUMEMA 0414 UNCLAS E F T O  
 DIVISION. THIS REPRESENTATIVE ACTION IS CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BRAND OF PERSONAL PERFORMANCE AND LEADERSHIP WHICH ESTABLISHED HMH-164 AS THE MOST HIGHLY TRAINED, COMBAT READY COMPOSITE SQUADRON TO BE DEPLOYED BY MAG-36.  
 3. FOR HMH-164: REQUEST APPROVAL ASSETS OF PAR 2 BY FRI MSG TO CG 1ST MAW, INFO MAG-36.

BT

0414 TOR 1010 2428

*mcg*

ENCLOSURE (1)

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*Annex B-1*

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

UNCLAS E F T O //N01650/1  
AVIATION AWARDS

A. MARAIRGRU THREE SIX MSG 090748Z 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

~~TOD 111245Z~~  
~~R67 PL#9314~~

HHS  
been  
sent

ENCLOSURE (1)  
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## APPENDIX B

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ZVV OCCCCC

P 190400Z JUL 72  
FM MAG THREE SIX OKI

TO RUMGOKA/MARINE HELRON ONE SIX FOUR  
BT

TOR/3129/19 Jul 72/210005Z

(RGA)

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PERSONAL FOR LT COL HEAT BORG FROM COL KALCNEY

1. (C) PLEASE TELL YOUR SUPERB MARINES HOW PROUD WE ARE OF THEIR PERFORMANCE THESE PAST WEEKS, ITS GREAT TO BE ON YOUR TEAM.
2. (C) LT COL BOY SCHNEIDER IS ENROUTE VIA MARINE HELRON ONE SIX FIVE AND USS TRIPOLI TO RELIEVE YOU AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. RECOGNIZING THE SHOES YE WILL HAVE TO FILL - CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE MORE QUALIFIED.
3. (C) CAPT TOM SCHMIDT IS ENROUTE TO TALK IRW 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 WEST TIME YOU VISIT SUBIC.

WARM REGARDS,  
DE CLASS SEPT 72  
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ENCLOSURE (1)

(BT)<sup>2</sup>

## APPENDIX C

W RUMFUFA0972 1 3635-CCCC--RHMSMVA RUHGOA/ RUWJMSA.

ZN CC  
 O 110605Z JUL 72  
 FM CTG SEVEN SIX  
 TO RHMSMVA/CHFL/COORDGRU SAIGON  
 INFO RUHGOAA/COMSEVENTHFL  
 RUWJMSA/COMPHIBPAC  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PI FOUR  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PI FIVE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN SIX PI SEVEN  
 BT

C O D F I D E N I 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 RUMFUFA0972 C O D F I D E N I 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 CLIFFE D. TOOLE, JR., COMMANDER AMPHIBIOUS FORCE, SEVENTH FLEET AND BGEM B. J. MILLER COMMANDING GENERAL, NINTH MARINE AMPHIBIOUS BRIGADE, DIRECTED AND COORDINATED THE OPERATIONS OF

ENCLOSURE (1)  
 110605Z  
 Appendix - C-1

PAGE THREE RUMFUFAB972 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
THE 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  
DA AND SMALL ARMS FIRE. THE INITIAL OPPOSITION WAS MODERATE  
ON 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-10)  
USS ST. LOUIS (LKA 116)  
USS PT. DEFIANCE (LSD 31)

PAGE FOUR RUMFUFAB972 C O N F I D E N T I A L

USS MANITOWOC (LST 1189)  
USS MOBILE (LKA-115)  
USS SCHENECTADY (LSD 1185)  
USS DULUTH (LPD-6)  
USS JUNEAU (LPD-10)  
USS ALAMO (LSD 33)

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

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ENCLOSURE (1)

(C)

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## APPENDIX C

ZNY EEELE  
 P 110702Z JUN 72  
 FM THREE THREE MAU  
 TO KHM ONE SIX FIVE  
 KHM ONE SIX FOUR  
 INFO THREE ONE MAU  
 ET

TOP 110702Z  
 06110702Z

UNCLASSIFIED  
 PERFORMANCE OF COMBAT DUTY

1. THE PERFORMANCE TODAY OF YOUR SQUADRONS ADDS LUSTER TO YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS EXPLOITATION AND NOSES TO YOUR REPUTATIONS AS INT-2 PTD FIGHTERS. YOU FIRED NONE, IN THE FACE OF RAPIDLY INCREASING ENEMY FORCES, THE VERTICAL ASSAULT NEEDED BY THE VNAF 101 DIVISION TO OPEN THE TACTICAL FIELD. SUCH A DISPLAY OF ENDURANCE WILL GO DO THE JOB AS A CREDIT TO YOU AND TO YOUR COMPS. THE CONDITION OF YOUR A/C IS HUMBLE TESTIMONY OF THE FIERCENESS OF THE ENEMY'S RESISTANCE.
2. I SALUTE YOU ALL, AND I FING YOU AS YOUR NOSES AND PRAYERS FOR THE EARLY AND SAFE RETURN OF THE CREW OF THE DOWNED CH-53 IN RECOVERY OF LOST HIGHWAY.
3. WELL, DONE, MAH 3 & 2.

PERIOD

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ENCLOSURE (1)

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(C-2)

## APPENDIX C

ZNY CCCCC  
 0 120100Z JUL 72  
 FM SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR  
 TO CTF 76  
 CTG 79.1  
 CTU 79.1.6  
 CTU 79.8.9  
 CO 11TH CAG  
 INFO CMC  
 CINCINNATI  
 MACV  
 COMSEVENTHFLT  
 CG FIFPAC  
 CTF 79/III MAF  
 FRAC (HUE)  
 CHNAVADURY (SMA)  
 CTG 78.8  
 BT

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1. THE COMMANDANT, VMAC, EXPRESSES HIS MOST SINCEREST APPRECIATION FOR THE HEROIC SUPPORT PROVIDED TO THE VIETNAMESE MARINE CORPS ON 11 JUL 72 IN THEIR CONTINUED PROSECUTION OF OPERATION STONG THANG 2.
2. THE SUCCESS OF THIS HELICOPTER BORNE ASSAULT EXECUTED BY THE 1ST BATTALION, VMAC WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE GALLANT AND COURAGEOUS EFFORTS OF THE SEA LAD AND 11TH CAG HELICOPTER FORCES WHICH PROVIDED SUPERIOR SUPPORT IN THE FACE OF HEAVY ENEMY COUNTERACTIONS. THE COURAGE AND PROFESSIONALISM OF THE HELICOPTER PILOTS AND CREWS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THIS OPERATION IS BOTH ADMIRED AND APPRECIATED.

## PAGE TWO CONFIDENTIAL

3. ALSO, CONTRIBUTING TO THE SUCCESS OF THIS OPERATION AS THE ACCURATE DELIVERY OF NAVAL GUNFIRE SUPPORT WHICH APPRACTICALLY ELIMINATED THE ENEMY THREAT AND MATINALLY AIMED IN THE SUCCESSFUL INSURVIVAL OF THE 1ST BATTALION, VMAC.
  4. THE COMMANDANT EXTENDS WELL DONE TO ALL WHOSE EFFORTS MADE THIS OPERATION POSSIBLE AND REQUESTS THAT HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCE 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

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ENCLOSURE (1)

(C)3

## APPENDIX C

## CONFIDENTIAL

0 121421Z JUL 72  
 FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
 TO CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 CTG SEVEN NINE VT SEVEN  
 CTU SEVEN NINE PT FOUR PT TWO  
 CTU SEVEN NINE PT SEVEN PT TWO  
 HI

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1. (C) ON 11 JULY PILOTS AND AIR CREWS OF HMM-165 AND HMM-164 ALSO SUPPORT MISSIONS FOR OUR BROTHER MARINES OF THE REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM. 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 HELP THEM.

THE MISSION ALSO DEMONSTRATED YOUR PROFESSIONALISM. I WOULD LIKE ON 11 JULY, THERE WAS CONCERN ABOUT AVAILABILITY OF AEROMARINE THAT COULD BE COMMITTED TO THE OPERATION. I WANT TO COMMEND THE CREW OF THE AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE CREWS AND OTHER SUPPORT PERSONNEL. ON HMM-165 AND HMM-164 WHO WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK TO SET A FULL DISPOSITION OF AIRCRAFT "UP" FOR USE. 3A OF 72 OF THEM ARE IN AIR AND THE REST

PAGE TWO RUMGHTA 1171 CONFIDENTIAL  
 ON BOARD SHIP. IT WAS A SUPERIOR DEMONSTRATION OF TEAMWORK AND TEAM 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 AIR CREW MEMBERS FROM HMM-165. JOHN E. J. MILLER 22 NC S.

Q  
 S-72  
 SC  
 1171

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ENCLOSURE (1)

(C)

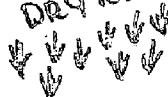
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APPENDIX D

PICK-UP ZONE  
"LOAD-OUT" SCHEME

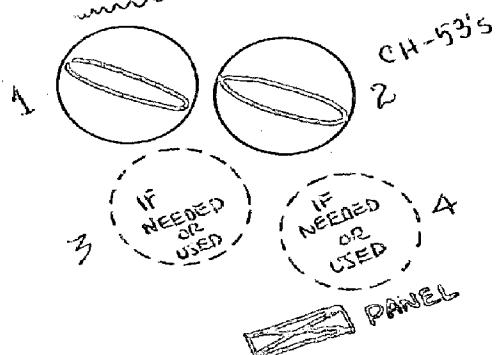
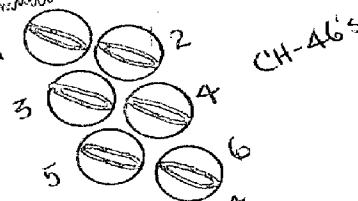
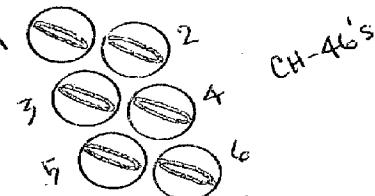
DIRT ROAD

DRY RICE PADDY

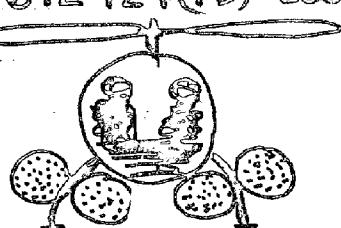


ELLOS LAND IN  
COCKED POSITION  
FOR FASTER T/O

"CENTER OF MASS"

YD: 468515  
P/U COORD

"BAG PIPE CHARLIE" CONTROLS ON 57.45 FM

THE 2 H-1's GO TO DIVISION COMMAND POST  
AT 642424(YD) SOUTH OF HUONG DIEN

4 EACH (PODS) 200 ROCKETS 10# HEAD

2.75 FFAR 6/2 HEAD



17# HEAD

HVAR

HIGH VELOCITY AIRCRAFT ROCKETS

HEAT HEADS/AP HEADS/"NAILS"

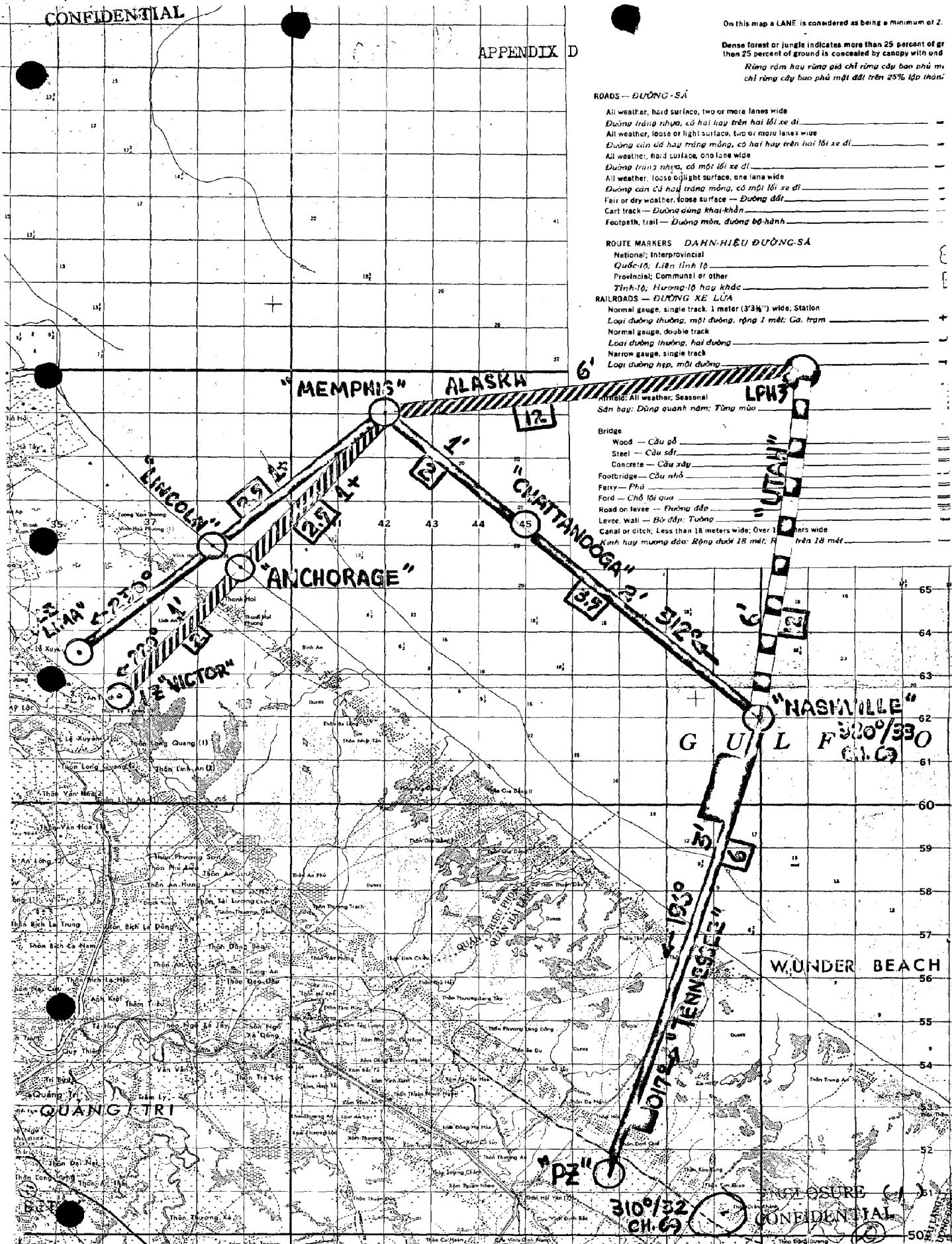
"BEE HIVE" (FLESHERTS)

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL  
Appendix - D

CONFIDENTIAL

## APPENDIX D



## DECLASSIFIED

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SONG THAN 9-72 22 July 72

FLIGHT SEPARATION 2 MIN  
L/H HOUR 0930

NO + TYPE A/C	DECK	LAUNCH	P2	NASH ENGINES REMOVED	FUEL SINCE	IN L2" WRP	REMARKS
						DEF ART	
SF 1-1	2			DIVE CP			
SF 2-1	6	H-46	10320	0745 0845 0720: 30 0923:30	0927:30	1400	0930 - COMMENCE LONO 1010 SHUT DOWN 30 MIN
SF 3-1	5	H-46	10320	0855 0923 0926	0930	0932:30	- " " "
SF 4-1	1	H-53	LPD 0900 0925:30 0931:30		0932:30	0935	- " " "
SF 4-2	1	H-53	LST 11	11 11 11	11	11	- " " " "
SF 4-3	1	H-53	LKA 11	11 11 11	11	11	- " " " "
SF 4-4	1	H-53	LSD 11	# ? 1	11	11	- SONG A/C REMAIN TRAINING
SF 2-1	6	H-46	-	0946 0949	0953	0958:3 1004	
SF 3-1	5	H-46	-	0944:30 0946:30	0953:30	0958	1003
SF 4-1	4*	-	-	0955 0958	1002	1014	* IF NEW A/C NOT USED PTN 150 1

ENCLOSURE (1)

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(D)

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## APPENDIX D

MARINE MEDIUM HELICOPTER SQUADRON 36  
 Marine Aircraft Group 36  
 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, FMFPac  
 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

FLT	A/C	MODEX	BRIEF	ETD	ETR PILOT	CO-PILOT	MSN	POD	DEST	REMARKS	
1-1	UH-1E	YT	0630	0745	W/C MAJ MCKEEVER	LTCOL HERTBERG	600	H03	H03	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 DURNEY	"	"	"	"	
2-4	"	"	"	"	MAJ TOLER	CAPT NELSON	"	"	"	"	
2-5	"	"	"	"	CAPT SARLES	LT BELL	"	"	"	"	
2-6	"	"	"	"	LT BELLARS	LT LAVOY	"	"	"	"	
3-1	"	"	0740	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 GIGLIARDO	LT PELOSO	"	"	"	"	
4-1	CH-53	"	0530	0630/0900	MAJ BELL	LT G-12	550	"	LPD/H03	"	NOTES 4&5
4-2	"	"	"	"	LT SIMS	LT BRAEGER	551	"	LST/H03	"	"
4-3	"	"	"	"	CAPT CALLIHAN	LT GILSON	552	"	LKA/H03	"	" 4,5&7
4-4	"	"	"	"	LT WONNER	LT FUHLMANN	553	"	LSD/H03	"	" 4&5
5-1	"	"	1145	1300	1700 LT BAILEY	LT JONES	951	H03	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 DURNEY	"	"	"	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. R. Butler

HOURS SCHEDULED FOR 22 JULY 1972: 31.0

APPROVED BY: J. R. Camlos

ENCLOSURE (1)

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NOTES: 1. PRI-FLY: AM - CAPT CAMPOS, PM - CAPT MURPHY.  
2. HDC WATCH: CAPT FINE.  
3. INTEGRITY WATCH: A. LT G. GLIARDO, 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 FLARES 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 - INREVERSIBLE 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.

## APPENDIX D

CC.  
 0 0 221823Z JUL 72  
 NM CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 TO RHM SMV S/CHFLT COORD GRU SAIGON  
 INFO RUH GQA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
 RUM JMSA/COM PHIBPAC SDIEGO CA  
 RUM FIFIA/CTF SEVEN SIX  
 RUH GTA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
 ZEN/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
 ZEN/TG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR  
 ZEN/JSS DENVER  
 ZEN/JSS WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
 BT

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N057201//  
 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 RUH GQA 2933 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
 LINES IN THE NORTHERN PROVINCES OF SOUTH VIETNAM.

B. ON A CLEAR DAY WITH HIGH BROKEN AND SCATTERED CLOUDS, THE  
 RUMBLE OF NAVY GUNFIRE IN THE BACKGROUND, AND ARMY COPTER 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 352 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 RUMGOGA2923 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
ERED 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 IN ITS INVOLVED IN THE OPERATION FROM THE FLAGSHIP USS OKINAWA. LTCOL E.C. HERTZBERG, 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 HELICOPTER IN EACH OF THE FIVE COMBINED HELICOPTER 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 352D VNNMC 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 PROCEEDED US IN TO CLEAR THE WAY... .

PAGE FOUR RUMGOGA2923 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 INAWA (LPH-3)  
USS POINT DEFIANCE (LSD-31)  
USS DENVER (LPH-9)  
USS ST LOUIS (LKA-116)  
USS MANTOWOC (LST-1182)  
USS WESTCHESTER COUNTY (LST-1167)

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-76

BT

2923

*FOR 1/14/74  
JK  
1/14/74 (3)*

UNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

*(D)*

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## APPENDIX D.

EREEEE  
P 221417Z JUL 72  
FM CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE  
TO RUNGODA/CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR  
INFO RUNGODA/COMSEVENTHFLT  
RUMRA DA/CTF SEVEN NINE  
BY

UNCLAS E F T O FOUO

OPERATION SONG THAN 9A-72 (U)

1, CONGRATULATIONS ON THE FAULLESS EXECUTION OF YOUR ASSAULT HELICO  
LANDING TODAY. IT IS YET ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF THE FINE OPERATIONAL PER-  
FORMANCE WE HAVE COME TO TAKE AS COMMONPLACE FOR THE 31ST MAU AND  
HMM-164.

BT

2237 7/2

108/163625Z  
47/163625Z  
RCA/SP

NNNN

ENCLOSURE (1)

CONFIDENTIAL

(2)

## APPENDIX D

LNY 2CCCC

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

NAS BEGN  
 SANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L //N3572W//  
 NEWS RELEASE, OPERATION SONG THANH SA-72

A. COMSEVENTHFLT 22032Z JUL 72 (S)

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

HEAVILY ENCLASSED 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 CH53S AND CH-46S LIFTED OFF THE DECK FOR PRE-  
 POSITION IN 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 SHEBOGEN, 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 SHOREWARD 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)

(A)7

## PAGE THREE CONFIDENTIAL

CREW FOR THE UH-1 CHIEF COMMAND HELICOPTER WHICH HOVERED OVERHEAD, CARRYING THE SQUADRON COMMANDER, LTCOL EDWARD C. HERTBERG, 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 ONE 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 CONFIDENTIAL

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 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 10 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 (1)

(2)

DECLASSIFIED

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 1013AM OVER THE  
RADIO NET AS THE LAST HELICOPTER CROSSED THE BEACH AND HEADED  
OUT TO THE CARRIER USS OKINAWA.

OPERATION SONG THAUN 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 REV A.

DECLASSIFY 31 DEC 72

BT ~~TD 830330Z~~

*100*

ENCLOSURE (1)

*(S)*

DECLASSIFIED

## APPENDIX D

ENEMY CCCCC

P 200045 JULY 72

FM CG FRAG HUE RVN// MA CFR-OP//  
 TO RUM FUF// CFT SEVEN SIX//  
 RUM GPTA// CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE//  
 RUM GOHA// CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR//  
 RUM PSKK// CTU SEVEN ZERO PF EIGHT PT NINE//  
 INFO: RUM BRA/CINCPACFLT  
 RUM GOAA/COMSEVENFLT  
 47.9&C-/CHFLT COORDGRU SGN RVN//  
 RUJOKA/COMUSNA CV SGN RVN//  
 BT

CONFIDENTIAL  
 MG COOKSEY SENDS

(C) ONCE AGAIN YOUR ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN INVALUABLE TO THE I CORPS COMMANDER IN HIS EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY IN MR I. ALTHOUGH OPERATION SONG THANH SA 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, COORDINATING AND CONDUCTING 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 00000  
0230055Z 12  
FM SENIOR MARINE ADVISOR  
TO RUH GPTA/CTG 79.1  
RUH GOHA/CTG 79.4  
RUH GOKA/CTU 79.4.2  
RHM PSKK/CTU 79.8.9  
ZEN / 11TH CAG  
INFO RE OF IA/CMC  
RUH H3RA/C INCPATFLT  
RHM SMVA/MACC  
RUH GOAA/C 01 SEVENTH HFLT  
RUH HFMVA/C G FMFVAC  
RUH FUFA/CTF 76  
RUH RABA/CTF 79/ III MAU  
ZEN / FRAC (HUE)  
RUH OGKA/CHNAVADU GRP (SMA)  
RHM PS00/CTG 76.4  
RUH FRYA/CTG 79.8  
BT

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

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

PAGE TWO RUMMHR45274 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
OF THE HELICOPTER BOMBING

ASSAULT CONDUCTED BY THE 5TH BATTALION, VNMC 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  
EXPRESSES HIS PERSONAL APPRECIATION AND PROFESSIONAL RESPECTS.

DECLASSIFY AFTER 31 DEC 72

BT

5274

TO R231040Z

MSK

ENCLOSURE (1)

(D)

## DECLASSIFIED

## APPENDIX D

PTTCZYUW RUHGOAA4632 2060536-0000--RUH GOGA RUM GOMA.

ZNY 00000

P 240536Z JUL 72

FM COMSEVENTHFLT

TO RUH GOGA / CTG SEVEN SIX PT FOUR

RUH GOHA / CTG SEVEN NINE PT FOUR

RHM PSKK / CTU SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT PT NINE

INFO RUH4BRA CINC PACFLT MAKALAPA HI

RUH HFMA / CG FMFPAC CAMP SM 13 HI

RUM FUFA / CTF SEVEN SIX

RUM RA 3A / CTF SEVEN SHINE CAMP BUTLER OKI

RUM FRYA / CTG SEVEN ZERO PT EIGHT

RUH GPTA / CTG SEVEN NINE PT ONE

RHM SMVA / CHFLT COORD GRP SAIGON RVN

BT

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

SONG THAN SA-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

PAGE TWGTRUHGOAA4632 C O N F I D E N T I A L

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

A JOB WELL DONE TO THE DEDICATED AND COURTEOUS MARINES AND NAVY. PLEASE

KNOWN WORK MADE THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION POSSIBLE.

VADM J. L. HOLLOWAY III.

DECLASSIFY ON 31 DEC 72

BT

4632

COMPLIMENTS ON

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE ( )

(A)

## 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