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By AT NARA Date 9-18-91

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Headquarters, 196th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division  
APO San Francisco 96256

AVDF-BBSO

23 August 1970

SUBJECT: Promulgation of 196th Bde OPLAN 7-70 (PW RECOVERY OPERATIONS) (U)

SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. (U) Transmitted herewith is 196th Bde OPLAN 7-70 (PW RECOVERY OPERATIONS) (U).
2. (S) This plan provides for the rapid reaction by the 196th Bde to exploit credible intelligence reports on the location of US Prisoners of War.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl  
196th Bde OPLAN  
7-70 (U)

*James F. Humphries*  
JAMES F. HUMPHRIES  
Major, Infantry  
Adjutant

DISTRIBUTION: Special

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year intervals;  
Declassified after 12 years.

REGRADE TO: CONFIDENTIAL

EFFECTIVE: 30 JAN 72

AUTHORITY: DA FORM 1515, HQ, 196th  
INF BDE, 30 JAN 72

BY: W. I. SCHUBER, NIAS, AEST 5-3

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Hqs, 196th Inf Bde  
HAWK HILL (BT226319), RVN  
221800 Aug 70  
RRC

OPLAN 7-70 (PW RECOVERY OPERATIONS) (U)

Reference: MAP VIETNAM, 1:50,000

Task Organization. Current Task Organization.

## 1. (C) SITUATION:

## a. Enemy forces.

- (1) Current INTSUMS.
- (2) Annex A, Intelligence.

## b. Friendly forces.

- (1) Americal Division continues current operations.
- (2) 7th Mar Regt continues current operations.
- (3) 196th Inf Bde continues current operations.
- (4) 5th ARVN Regt continues current operations.

## c. Attachments and Detachments. Task Organization.

## d. Assumptions.

- (1) Intelligence sources will report locations of US Prisoners of War or suspected PW camps in 196th Bde TAOI.
- (2) The enemy will not voluntarily release all Prisoners of War in his control.

## 2. (S) MISSION:

On order the 196th Bde conducts immediate recovery operations to exploit credible intelligence reports on the location of US Prisoners of War in the 196th Bde TAOI.

## 3. (S) EXECUTION:

## a. Concept of Operation.

(1) Maneuver. Upon receipt of credible and timely intelligence information, giving the locations of US prisoners or PW camps, 196th Bde immediately commences recovery operations. Operations will be directed toward exploitation of the intelligence information with sufficient forces committed or prepared for commitment to insure location and extraction of prisoners. An air cavalry troop with aero rifle platoon will be dispatched immediately to the reported prisoner location to search and gain contact with enemy security units. The Inf Bn in whose TAOI the prisoners are reported will provide one infantry company as a standby reaction force. Reaction force will be prepared for immediate combat assault to assist air cavalry troop in recovery operations. Upon commitment of the reaction force, Bn will assume OPCON of air cavalry troop.

- (2) Fires. Annex B, Fire Support.

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b. 4/31, 2/1, 1/46, 3/21 Inf Bns:

- (1) Continue current operations.
- (2) Provide one rifle company as standby reaction force.
- (3) On order reinforce reaction force with one infantry battalion (-).
- (4) Be prepared to assume command of recovery operations and to receive ORCON of one air cavalry troop.

c. A Co 26th Engr Bn:

- (1) Continue current operations.
- (2) Be prepared to provide an engineer A team for construction of LZ's in support of PW recovery operations.

d. 48th IPSD: Continue current operations.

e. Coordinating Instructions.

(1) This plan is effective for planning upon receipt and execution on order.

(2) This plan gives authority for the conduct of PW recovery operations throughout 196th Bde TAOI only.

(3) Intelligence information concerning location of US PW's will be transmitted to Bde by using FLASH precedence.

4. (U) SERVICE SUPPORT: Current SOP.

5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Signal. Current SOI Index in effect.

b. Command. Bde CP at HAWK HILL.

Acknowledge:

*Kennedy*  
 KENNEDY  
 COL

Appendixes: A - Intelligence  
 B - Fire Support

DISTRIBUTION: Special.

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Annex A (INTELLIGENCE) to 196th Bde OPLAN 7-70 (PW RECOVERY OPERATIONS) (U)

## 1. (C) SUMMARY OF ENEMY ACTIVITY

- a. Current 196th Bde INTSUMS.
- b. Current 5th ARVN Regt INTSUMS.
- c. MACV Specific Intelligence Collection Requirement (SICR), Subject: Prisoner of War Intelligence (U), dated 20 July 1970.

## 2. (C) ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF INFORMATION:

- a. Essential Elements of Information (EEI)
  - (1) Where are the enemy's Prisoner of War (PW) camps located in the Bde Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI)?
  - (2) How many prisoners are in the camps? What is their nationality?
  - (3) What is the NVA/VC policy or guidance on the capture or execution of US personnel?
- b. Other Intelligence Requirements:
  - (1) What security measures does the enemy use for PW camps?
  - (2) What is the physical plan of the enemy PW camps?
  - (3) How often are these camps moved? How far?
  - (4) How accessible are the PW camps to ground forces? Airmobile forces?
  - (5) What is the availability of landing zones (LZ) near the camps? How many helicopters will each LZ hold?
  - (6) What is the physical condition of PW's in the enemy camps?

## 3. (C) INTELLIGENCE ACQUISITION TASKS:

- a. Orders to Subordinate and Attached Units. Report as obtained all EEI by the most expeditious means.
- b. Request to Higher, Adjacent and Cooperating Units. Appropriate information as it becomes available.

## 4. (C) MEASURES FOR HANDLING PERSONNEL, DOCUMENTS AND MATERIAL

- a. Intelligence Annex, 196th Bde.
- b. Americal Division OPLAN 8-70 (EGRESS RECAP) (U) (TRP).

## 5. (C) DOCUMENT AND/OR EQUIPMENT REQUIRED

- a. Maps. SOP.
- b. Photo-mosaic of the TAOI, scale approximately 1:3,000, as approved by G2 Air.
- c. Pictomap, scale 1:25,000, as required.

## 6. (C) COUNTERINTELLIGENCE. Intelligence Annex, 196th Bde SOP.



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7. (U) REPORTS AND DISTRIBUTION

a. Americal Division SOP.

b. Any information on the subject of enemy PW camps will be immediately forwarded to the Bde Tactical Operations Center (BTCC) by the Bde Secure Net using FLASH precedence.

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Annex B (FIRE SUPPORT) to 196th Bde OPLAN 7-70 (PW RECOVERY OPERATIONS) (U)

## 1. (C) SITUATION

## a. Enemy forces

(1) Current INTSUMS

(2) Annex A, Intelligence

## b. Friendly forces: Basic Plan

## c. Attachment and Detachments. Paragraph 3c.

## 2. (S) MISSION:

196th Bde conducts immediate recovery operations to exploit credible intelligence reports on the location of US prisoners of war in the Bde TAOI.

## 3. (S) EXECUTION:

a. Concept of operations. Recovery operations will commence within the 196th Bde TAOI upon receipt of credible and timely intelligence information giving the location of US prisoners or POW camps.

## b. Air Support:

(1) Air request per Bde Combat SOP.

(2) Priority of Bde tactical air assets to Bn conducting recovery operations.

(3) Air cap provided on call.

## c. Artillery Support:

(1) Field Artillery

Organization for Combat:

3d Bn, 82d Arty: DS 196th Bde; Be prepared to support recovery operations in Bde TAOI.

3d Bn, 16th Arty: GSR 3-82 Arty.

(2) Air Defense Artillery

Organization for Combat:

G Btry, 55th Arty: GS

d. Naval Gunfire Support: Available naval gunfire will be employed against appropriate targets.

e. Artillery and Air Strike Warning Control Center Operations: Continue normal operations.

## 4. (U) SERVICE SUPPORT. Current SOP

## 5. (U) COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

a. Signal: Current SOI Index in effect.

b. Command. SOP.

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