

Copy 1 of 14 Copies
4-3 Inf
LZ THUNDER (BS874325) RVN
231400H Oct 68
7MP7

OPORD 12-68 (VERNON LAKE I) Hqs, 4-3 Inf

Reference: a. Maps, South Vietnam 1:50,000, Series L7014

b. FRAGORD 41-68 to OPORD 15-68 (Operation VERNON LAKE I) Hqs 11th Inf Bde (LT), 220800H Oct 68.

Task Org:

Co A 4-3 Inf (2) TMS 11th IPSD (4) PRVs (Quang Ngai)	Co D (2) TMS 11th IPSD Co E(-)	Bn Control D/6-11 Arty (DS) Sqd/C-26 Engr (OPCON) (Eff 270700H Oct 68)
Co B (2) TMS 11th IPSD	HHC (-)	
Co C Recon Plat (2) TMS 11th IPSD		

1. (C) SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces: a. Current INT SUM
b. Annex A, Intelligence Overlay.

b. Friendly Forces:

(1) 11th Inf Bde (LT) continues missions in the DUC PHO AO, releases S. CHU LAI AO to 198th Inf Bde (LT) and realigns forces to provide for the employment of 1-20 Inf in the DUC PHO AO; Two (2) Bns establish FSBs and conducts air assaults and combat sweep operations, commencing 250700H Oct 68, in the LON Mountains and Song Ve Valley to locate and destroy elements of the 2d NVA Regiment.

(2) 3-1 Inf relinquishes responsibility for N DUC PHO AO to 1-20 Inf effective 240700H Oct 68; conducts air assault operations commencing 250800H Oct 68 into designated LZs in area N 4-3 Inf AO and establishes contact with and destroys elements 2d NVA Regiment in zone; prepares to resume operations in the N DUC PHO AO following termination of Operation VERNON LAKE I.

(3) 1-20 Inf relinquishes responsibility for S CHU LAI AO to 198th Inf Bde (LT) effective 231200H Oct 68; assumes responsibility for S DUC PHO AO from 4-3 Inf effective 231500H Oct 68; assumes responsibility for N DUC PHO AO effective 240700H Oct 68 and prepares to resume operations in S CHU LAI AO upon termination of Operation VERNON LAKE I.

(4) 4-21 Inf: OPCON 196th Inf Bde (LT)

c. Attachments and Detachments: Task Organization.

2. (C) MISSION

4-3 Inf relinquishes responsibility for S DUC PHO AO to 1-20 Inf effective 231500H Oct 68; upon relief of AO responsibility establishes staging area vic LZ BRONCO and prepares to conduct extended ground operations in assigned portions of VERNON LAKE I AO; conducts air assault operations commencing 250700H Oct 68 in sequence prescribed (See Annex C Sequential Airlift Schedule) to establish contact with and destroy elements of 2d NVA Regiment.

3. (C) EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation

(1) Maneuver: 4-3 Inf command elements and one (1) rifle company conducts air assault commencing 250700H Oct 68 and secures FSB DANCER vic BS 673401. Upon securing of FSB one (1) 105mm How Btry (LZ DOTTIE), HHC(-), and Co E(-) 4-3 Inf (LZ THUNDER) commence airlift to FSB. Upon completion of 3-1 Inf air assault, morning 25 Oct 68, into AO N two (2) rifle Cos conduct air assault into LZ LONGHORN vic BS665475 or ALT LZ AGGIE vic BS672490, commence offensive search operations to NW and SW in zone and seize assigned objectives; One (1) rifle Co with Recon Plat OPCON conducts air assault into LZ RAZORBACK vic BS636444, commences offensive search operations to S and N in zone and seizes assigned objectives. Upon completion of Phase I of operation 4-3 Inf prepares to commence offensive operations to W or South of PHASE I Operational area or terminate Operation VERNON LAKE I and return by airlift to S DUC PHO AO and relieve 1-20 Inf of responsibility for AO.

(2) Fires:

a. LZ preps and fire support for LZ DANCER from LZ LIZ and LZ BRONCO.

b. D/6-11 Arty (DS) provides fire support for LZ prep on LZs LONGHORN (ALT LZ AGGIE) and RAZORBACK from FSB DANCER.

c. 7th USAF provides air support as requested and conducts TAC air strikes vic FSB DANCER, LZ LONGHORN, (ALT LZ AGGIE) and RAZORBACK commencing 30 minutes prior to LZ times.

d. Helicopter gunships and AC 47 gunships (SPOKY) as requested.

b. Co A:

(1) Conducts air assault from PZ Airfield LZ BRONCO into LZ LONGHORN (ALT LZ AGGIE); PZ Time 251013H Oct 68 and LZ Time 251025H Oct 68.

(2) Secures LZ for Co D.

(3) Conducts offensive search operations in zone and seizes assigned objectives.

(4) Conducts intensified search for reported VC base camps vic BS657470 and BS627487 and Regimental Hqs reported vic BS629492 and BS635493.

(5) Prepares to assist, on order, other Cos 4-3 Inf or 3-1 Inf.

(6) Prepares to continue offensive operations, on order, or return by airlift to S DUC PHO AO, location TBA.

c. Co B:

(1) Conducts air assault from PZ Airfield LZ BRONCO into FSB DANCER; PZ Time 250650H Oct 68 and LZ Time 250700H Oct 68.

(2) Secures FSB; prepares defensive positions; establishes fields of fire and wire obstacles around periphery of FSB, and conducts local patrols beyond perimeter out to a radius of 600 meters from FSB.

(3) Assists other units occupying FSB in preparation of positions.

(4) Prepares, on order, to send combat patrol to vic BS663404 and BS 660400 and conduct intensified search for VC base camps reported at those locations.

(5) Prepares, on order, to assist other Cos 4-3 Inf.

(6) On order, assumes mission other Cos 4-3 Inf or 3-1 Inf.

d. Co C (Recon Plat OPCON)

(1) Conducts air assault from PZ Airfield LZ BRONCO into LZ RAZORBACK; PZ Time 251057H Oct 68 and LZ Time 251109H Oct 68.

(2) Conducts offensive search operations in zone and seizes assigned objectives.

(3) Conducts intensified search for reported VC base camp vic BS630480.

(4) Prepares to assist, on order, other Cos 4-3 Inf or 3-1 Inf.

(5) Prepares to continue offensive operations on order, or return (Mimus Recon Plat) by airlift to S DUC PHO AO, location TBA.

e. Co D:

(1) Conducts air assault from PZ Airfield LZ BRONCO into LZ LONGHORN (ALT LZ AGGIE); PZ Time 251035H Oct 68 and LZ Time 251047H Oct 68. LZ will be secured by A Co.

(2) Conducts offensive search operations in zone and seizes assigned objectives.

(3) Conducts intensified search of enemy base camp vic BS662464.

(4) Prepares to assist, on order, other Cos 4-3 Inf or 3-1 Inf.

(5) Prepares to continue offensive operation, on order, or return by airlift to S DUC PHO AO, location TBA.

f. Co E:

(1) Recon Plat:

(a) OPCON Co C for PHASE I.

(b) Upon termination of operation, moves, on order, by airlift to LZ THUNDER.

(2) Hvy Mort Plat:

(a) Moves by CH-47B morning 25 Oct 68 to FSB DANCER; establishes firing positions and bunkers and provides indirect fire support, on call, units 4-3 Inf.

(b) Upon termination of operation, moves on order, by airlift to LZ THUNDER.

(3) GS Section:

(a) Moves by CH-47B morning 25 Oct 68 to FSB DANCER; establishes positions initially to cover area to NW and N of FSB.

(b) Upon termination of operation moves, on order, by airlift to LZ THUNDER.

g. HHC (-):

(1) Hq Sec(-), Comm Plat(-), Med Plat(-), and SVC Plat(-) move by CH-47B morning 25 Oct 68, to FSB DANCER; prepare required positions and installations.

(2) Upon termination of operation moves, on order, by airlift to LZ THUNDER.

h. D/6-11 Arty:

(1) Moves by CH-47B commencing 250700H Oct 68 from LZ DOTTIE to FSB DANCER; prepares firing positions and bunkers.

(2) DS 4-3 Inf upon arrival.

i. Sqd/C-26 Engr:

(1) OPCON 4-3 Inf eff 240700H Oct 68.

(2) Conduct air assault with Co B into FSB DANCER.

(3) Provides supervisory personnel and equipment to expedite construction of FSB and wire defenses.

(4) Released control parent unit upon completion of operation.

j. 11th IPSD

(1) Provides eight (8) scout dog teams 4-3 Inf (two (2) per rifle company) for PHASE I Operation VERNON LAKE I.

(2) Released control parent unit upon four (4) day period or termination of operation (dependent on which occurs first).

(3) If operation continue beyond four (4) days duration, provides (8) more scout dog replacements to 4-3 Inf.

k. Coordinating Instructions:

(1) Co personnel will be present and broken down according to UHLH aircraft ACL of 6 NLT 30 minutes prior to pick up time.

(2) Cos will conduct ID card and Dog Tag musters afternoon 24 Oct 68.

(3) Attached personnel will join respective units prior 241800H Oct 68.

(4) Each Co will have one (1) VN interpreter and minimum one (1) KCS assigned.

(5) Field Cos will schedule resupply during period 1200-1500H. Units should NDP at least one (1) hours marching time away from resupply drop area.

(6) All ambushes will be at least platoon sized. Night ambush patrol will be emplaced, at discretion of unit commander, prior to main body closing into NDP.

(7) Cos will prepare defensive positions according to SOP in NDP so as to afford protection against enemy direct fire weapons.

(8) Area around NDPs will be searched out to a radius of 400 meters from perimeter prior to unit moving out.

(9) In densely vegetated areas and other possible enemy ambush sites "marching or walking fires" by supporting artillery will be employed at the discretion of the unit commanders.

(10) Protective vests (flak jackets) will be worn at the discretion of unit commander.

(11) M-17 Protective mask will be carried by all personnel.

(12) Units maintain and update airlift requirements for personnel and equipment and submit report to S3 every twelve (12) hours until H-Hour, D Day; thereafter between 1800H - 2000H daily.

(13) All rifle companies will carry minimum one (1) 81mm mortar. 81mm Mort Plat of rifle company conducting initial CA into FSB DANCER will be airlifted in with all three (3) mortars and equipment plus minimum 60 rds HE and 40 rds illumination.

(14) Rifle Cos carry, as a minimum, the following quantities of special equipment:

- (a) One (1) flashlight per squad (min)
- (b) two (2) LAWS per rifle plat
- (c) two (2) machetes per sqd.
- (d) 150' nylon rope and six (6) snap links per rifle plat.
- (e) one (1) signal mirror per rifle plat.
- (f) one (1) grappling hook per rifle plat.
- (g) two (2) smoke gren per man.
- (h) Four (4) lbs C-4 per rifle plat.

4. ADMINISTRATION AND LOGISTICS: Annex E (Administration and Logistics).

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL:

a. Signal:

- (1) Current SOI in effect.
- (2) Emergency signal for units under enemy attack(either stand-off or ground):
 - (a) Day: Red Smoke grenade
 - (b) Night: Red Star Cluster.
- (3) VHF Equipment moves from LZ DOTTIE, morning 25 Oct 68, to FSB DANCER.
- (4) Command frequency (62.00) will be used during conduct of combat assaults; alternate freq Air/Ground (30.30).
- (5) All companies will call in SITREP and location report every 30 minutes.

b. Command:

- (1) Command group airborne in C&C helicopter initially.

(2) Bn CP displaces from LZ THUNDER morning 25 Oct 68. Fwd CP will be established as soon as situation permits at FSB DANCER.

Acknowledge:

RUSSELL
LTC

ANNEX A - Intelligence Overlay
ANNEX B - Operations Overlay
ANNEX C - Sequential Airlift Schedule
ANNEX D - Fire Support Plan
ANNEX E - Administration and Logistics.

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4-3 INF
12 Division (45070325)
23 March 1968
SS2

ANNEX A (Intelligence Overview)
TO OPORD 12-68 4-3 INF

CONTACT
• 18VC KIA

50
60

50
70

URG
• REGT SIZE UNIT

• O BASE CAMP

250 VC w/ GRAY Uniforms
• BASE CAMP

REC AWC (SOCAL)
GIV 18 OCT.

RUSSELL
ITC

Q85

DEPARTMENT HOLE

PRIOR
52

• FOX HOLE
• BUNKERS

30 FOX HOLES
• BUNKERS

• FOX HOLE
• BUNKERS

15 FOX HOLES
• BUNKERS

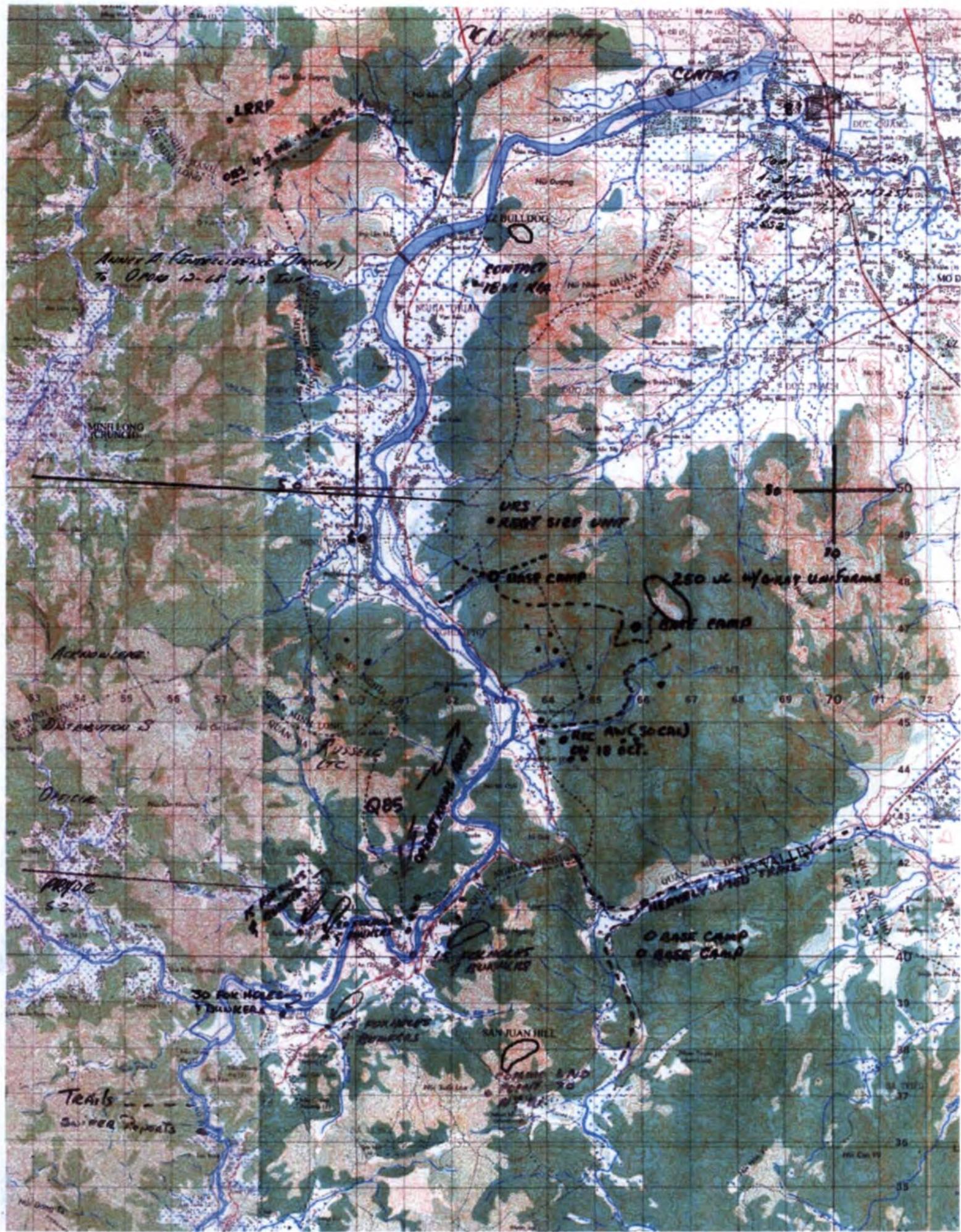
• O BASE CAMP
• O BASE CAMP

HEAVILY USED TRAIL

COMMAND LND
POINT 70
N 30 W.

TRAILS ---
SNIPER REPORTS

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Annex C (Sequential Airlift Schedule)
to OPORD 12-68Copy ~~4~~ of 4 Copies
4-3 Inf
LZ THUNDER (BS6743250) 231400H Oct 68
4MP

AMPTG LAC BISSEL			SEQUENTIAL AIRLIFT SCHEDULE			MISSION COORDINATOR MAJ SMITH, AVN OFF 174 AVN Co				
UNIT	PZ TIME	PZ COORD	(P) (62.00)		LZ COORD	(P) (62.00)		PREP TIME	AC	PAY
			PZ CONTACT	LZ TIME		LZ COORD	LZ CONTACT			
(A) (30.30)			(A) (30.30)			(A) (30.30)				
B 4/3	0650H	Airfield LZ BRONCO	DUCAN YEGMAN 96G	0700H	(BS673401)	SHADED LEDGER FSB DANCER	ARTY 96	TAC AIR GNSHP	0630-0650 0652-0657 0658-0700	21 106 UHM
A 4/3	1013H	Airfield LZ BRONCO	MAIN VODKA 96G	1025H	(BS665475) LZ LONGHORN or (BS671490)	SHADED LEDGER LZ AGGIE	ARTY 96	TAC AIR GNSHP	0955-1015 1017-1022 1023-1025	22 113 UHM
D 4/3	1035H	Airfield LZ BRONCO	SLOUCHY HUMPS 96G	1047H	SAME	MAIN VODKA	ARTY 96G	TAC AIR GNSHP	- - -	15 88 UHM
C 4/3	1057H	Airfield Recon LZ BRONCO	HARPER GRIPS 96G	1109H	LZ RAZORBACK (BS636444)	SHADED LEDGER 96	ARTY GNSHP	TAC AIR GNSHP	1039-1050 1109-1105 1107-1109	20 124 UHM

CH-47B Airlift

Co E (-)	Morning	VIP Pad	SHADED LEDGER	-	FSB DANCER	SHADED LEDGER	-	-	4 CH47B
HHC (-)	25 Oct 68	LZ THUNDER	HM (30.30)			39 (30.30)			12 sorties
4-3 Inf									
HHC 4-3	nf Morning	Budweiser Pad	SHADED LEDGER	FSB DANCER	SHADED LEDGER	-	-	-	4 CH47B 7
	25 Oct 68	LZ BRONCO	9AG (30.30)		(30.30)				Sorties
D/6-11	0700H	LZ DOTTIE	NEWP GRT STUFFER HOTEL (56.75)	FSB DANCER	DUCAN YEGMAN 96G (30.30)	-	-	-	4 CH47B 13
ARTY									Sorties

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AMFT LTC MUSSELL

SEQUENTIAL AIRLIFT SCHEDULE

MISSION COORDINATOR MAJ SMITH

12/6-11	1100H	ME Pad	NEWPORT STUFFER	-	F5B DANCER	NEWPORT STUFFER	-	4 CH47B	9
ARTY		LZ GRANCO	9 (56.75)			HOTEL (56.75)			Sorties

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LZ Thunder (45871329)
231000Z Oct 70
AFST

January 8 (1970) Subject: AFHQN 32-60

MISSION ZONE	REF ID	PREP TIME	PREP A
DA CPT	673401	0652-0657	1
LONGHORN	673475	1017-1022	2
RAZORBACK	673644	1118-1123	3

4B

PREP Z

70

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2311400H Oct 68
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Annex E (Administration and Logistics) to
OPORD 12-68 HQ, 4th BN, 3d Inf

1. General: This Annex provides for the combat support of the deployed units for conduct of operation VERNON LAKE I.

2. Materials and Services

a. Supply

(1) Class I:

- (a) Committed units will deploy with three days rations (Meal, Combat, Individual or LRRP rations) per man.
- (b) Bn S-4 will maintain two (2) rations on forward firebase.
- (c) Heat tablets available from Bn S-4 upon request.

(2) Class II and IV:

- (a) Units will deploy with those items deemed necessary to accomplish the mission. This will include a minimum of three batteries per AN/FRT-25 Radio.
- (b) Each soldier will carry individual weapons cleaning equipment.
- (c) Backup II and IV items will be maintained at LZ BRGMCO and at PSB DANCER.

(d) Bunker Material:

- 1. Bn S-4 will provide the following construction material for firebase construction at PSB DANCER.

ITEMS	QTY
Sandbags	25,000 ea.
Concertina	5 sleeves
Picket 8"	300
Picket 5"	200
Picket 3"	200
Culvert 60" dia	130
Barb Wire	50 reels
Bangalore Torpedos	300
Shaped Charges 4016	50
Shaped Charges 1516	60

2. Additional request through Bn S-4.

(3) Class III: Bn S-4 will provide POL upon request.

(4) Class V:

- (a) Personnel will deploy with 1/2 basic loads of ammunition per individual weapon. (M-16 rifle-6000 rds; M60 MG-1800 rds; M79-36 rds; 45 cal pistol-35 rds.

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- (b) A modified basic load will be maintained on forward firebase.
- (c) An additional modified basic load will be maintained on Bn rear LZ Bronco.
- (d) Emergency resupply in A-22 containers at FSB Dancer.

(5) Water:

- (a) All personnel will carry a minimum of two filled canteens, one bottle each of water purification tablets, insect repellent, leech repellent.
- (b) S-4 will provide two 400 gal. water trailers for FSB Dancer.

(6) Medical:

- (a) Medical Supplies
 - 1. A basic load of emergency equipment and routine medications will be maintained on FSB Dancer.
 - 2. Bn rear LZ Bronco will maintain a modified load for use when needed.
- (b) Resupply:
 - 1. Company aidmen will carry 4 days medical supplies.
 - 2. Bn rear LZ Bronco will operate and maintain all medical resupply to FSB company aidmen.
- (c) Evacuation Plan:
 - 1. Casualties will be evacuated by DUST-OFF to medical facilities located at LZ Bronco.
 - 2. DUST-OFF will be handled on alternate DUST-OFF freq 45.70
 - 3. Minor casualties will be treated on FSB or in rear LZ Bronco if directed by Bn Surgeon.

Acknowledge:

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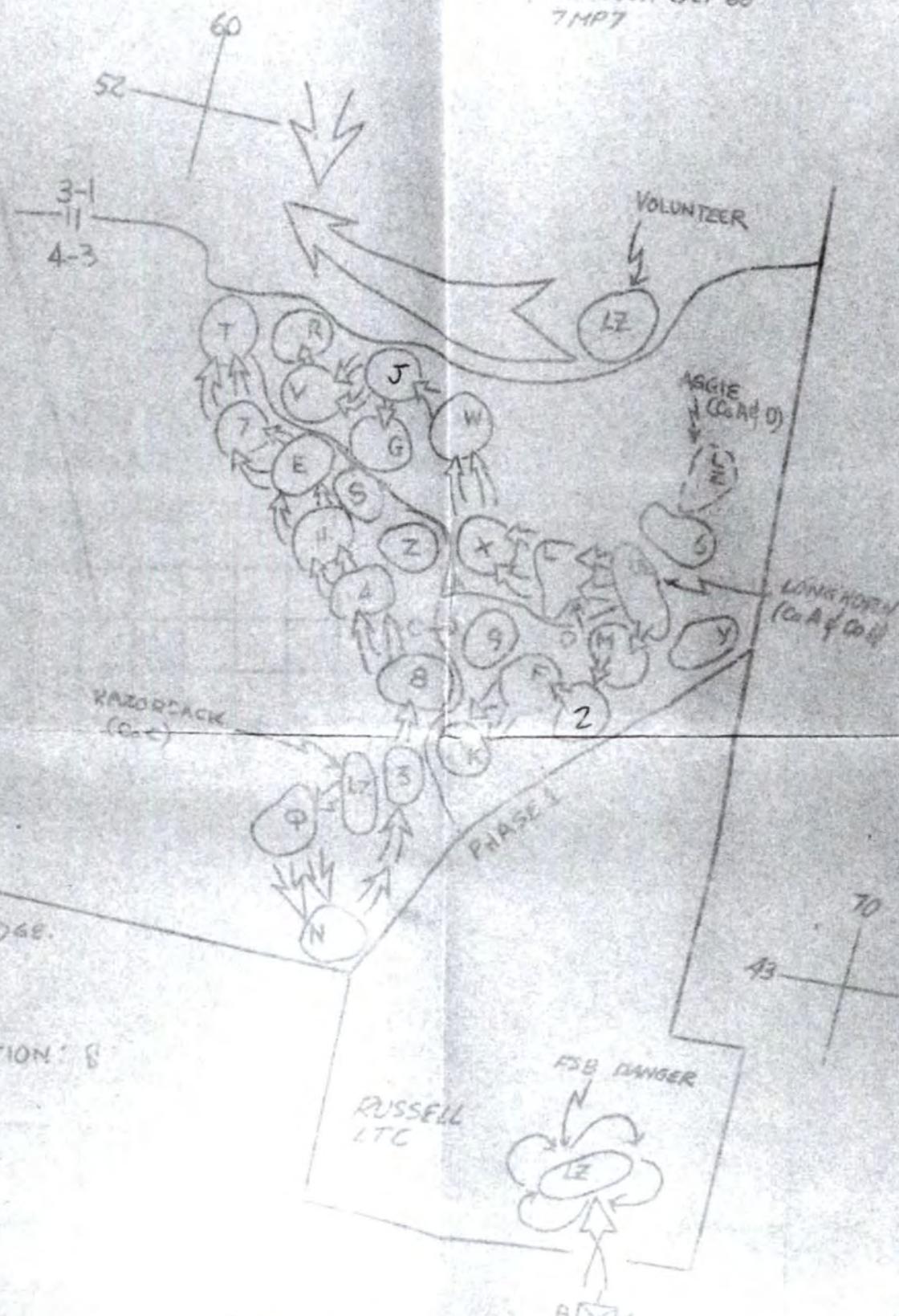
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LTC

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ANNEX B (OPNS OVERLAY) TO
OPORD 12-68

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L- THUNDER (85874325)
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