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Copy No. 1
4-3 Inf
Carenten (84337) SVN
190800 Dec 67
Omg

OPORD 20-67

Reference: Maps, S Vietnam 1:50,000: Sheets, Mo Duc (67381); An Lac (67382);
Can Qua n(6838III); Thanh Gieng (6838IV).

Task Organization.

Co A	Co D	Bn Control
Co B	Co E (-)	Hv Mort Platoon
1 Tm Gd Surv		
Co C		
1 Tm Gd Surv		

1. SITUATION.

a. Enemy Forces (Annex B Intelligence)

b. Friendly Forces

(1) 11th Inf Bde establishes, occupies and defends Fire Base Carenten; conducts intensive CI oriented training and prepares for the early relief of the 3-4 Inf Div for the purpose of conducting extended search and destroy operations within the Duc Pho AO.

(2) 3-4 Inf conducts S&D operations in Duc Pho AO, provides 11th Inf Bde limited troop lift, logistical and training support.

(3) 3-1 Inf

(a.) Occupy and defend assigned sector

(b) Establish roadblock vic coord 050373 during hours of darkness.

(4) 1-20 Inf

(a) Occupy and defend assigned sector

(b) Establish and occupy outpost on Hill 163

(5) 6-11 Arty. GS

(6) Trp E, 1st Cav (-)

(a) Occupy and defend assigned area.

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(b) Be prepared to furnish troop (-) on order within 15 mins as Bde reaction force.

(7) 6th Engr Co. GS

c. Attachments: Task Organization

2. MISSION

Bn occupies and defends assigned sector upon closure of main body and on order, conducts individual and oriented CI training vic Caranten in preparation for extended combat operations within the Duc Pho AO.

3. EXECUTION

a. Concept of Operation (Annex A, Op Overlay)

(1) Maneuver. 4-3 Inf occupies and defends assigned sector with Co A on the right, Co B in the center and Co C on the left and Co D reaction/catk force vic coord 844368. On order units conduct individual and unit oriented CI training IAW established directives and commence preparations for extended combat operations in Duc Pho AO.

(2) Fires

(a) One 4.2" Mort Barrage Co C

(b) Priority of fires to Co C to Co D upon commitment as Bde reaction/catk force.

(c) All 81mm and 4.2" Mortar H&I must be cleared by the 11th Inf Bde Arty LNO.

(d) Before any 81mm & 4.2" Mortar fire missions are fired, ie, H&I, defensive fires, or contact missions, the air advisory must be called to the 11th Inf Bde Arty LNO.

(e) Annex C Fire Support (TBP)

b. Co A

c. Co B

(1) Establish roadblock at bridge vic coord 838864 during hours of darkness.

(2) Secure bridge located vic coord 838364.

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(3) Secure sanitary fill

(4) On order attach one platoon to Co E (Bn Reaction Force)

(5) Employ radar via bridge coord 838364 for the purpose of maintaining surveillance of road from Garenten to Bronco.

d. Co C

e. Co D

(1) Be prepared for commitment as Bde reaction force within 15 mins after notification.

(2) Be prepared to catk, in 3-1 and 1-20 areas with priority sector 3-1.

(3) Prepare blocking position X. Occupy on order.

f. Co E

(1) Secure Bn CP Area

(2) Be prepared for attachment of one platoon Co B and for commitment as Bn reaction/catk force. Priority sector Co C.

g. Hvy Mort Platoon: GS

h. Coordinating instructions

(1) Bn boundaries are FCL's

(2) Coordination between commanders is directed

(3) All units construct defensive fortifications within assigned sector.

(4) Insure adequate protective bunkers for all assigned personnel

(5) Unidentified personnel with weapons outside the perimeter or attempting to come into the perimeter will be taken under fire immediately. During the hours of darkness all unidentified personnel may be taken under fire.

(6) Spot reports will be submitted ASAP after each engagement or suspected sighting. Sitreps will be submitted every 2 hrs. Neg reports required.

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- (7) Perimeter bunkers will maintain 50% alert during hours of darkness.
- (8) Use of lights during the hours of darkness will be held to a minimum. During hostile action all lights will be blackened out.
- (9) Movement during hostile action will be held to an absolute minimum except designated reaction forces which will move IAW established plans.
- (10) All movement during the hours of darkness outside the Carentan perimeter is prohibited unless cleared by this headquarters.
- (11) This OPGORD effective upon closure of main body.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE AND LOGISTICS

Annex D, Admin Log

5. COMMAND AND SIGNAL

a. Signal

- (1) Wire will be the primary means of communications between units and with the Bn CP. Bn Fm net will be utilized as a back up. Line checks will be made daily at 1630 hours. Repairs required will be accomplished prior to 1800 hours.
- (2) Minimum radio transmission all unit not in contact. Restrictions removed upon hostile contact.
- (3) Current SQI- SSI in effect.

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b. Command. Bn CP vic coord 042368

ACKNOWLEDGE:

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ANNEXES: A - Op Overlay
B - Intelligence
C - Fire Support(TBP)
D - Administrative and Logistics (TBP)
E - OPLAN - 21 Black
F - OPLAN - 22 Gold

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Annex B (Intelligence) to OPORD 20-67

References: Maps, S Vietnam 1:50,000; Sheets, Mo Duc (6738I); An Lac (6738II);
Can Quan (6838III); Thanh Gieng (6838IV).

1. Summary of Enemy Situation.

a. Current Intsums, Americal Div and 3 Bde, 4th Inf Div

b. Enemy Forces:

(1) Approximately 2,600 enemy troops are known to be operating in the Mo Duc/Duc Pho districts. This figure does not include part time village and hamlet guerrillas and supporters. The following locations are of the units operating generally around the 11th Bde defensive area (Carentan).

97th VC Main Force Bn	BS 7341
83d VC Local Force Bn	BS 6255
C-219 VC Local Force Co	BS 7058

(2) 97th VC Main Force Bn

The 97th Bn infiltrated SVN from Feb - Jul 1964 as the 703d Infiltration Group with a total strength of 600. The battalion was trained by the 338th NVA Brigade and cadre from the 308th NVA Division prior to each infiltration. Each company of the battalion infiltrated separately leaving at three day intervals; each group taking the designation of 703, 703A, etc. The battalion was designated the 97th upon its arrival in SVN and was assigned to the 2d VC regiment. The current strength of the battalion is estimated at 350-400. A summary of its engagement is contained in Appendix 1 to Annex B (Intelligence).

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(3) 83d Local Force Bn

The 83d (also known as the 38th) was formed in Tu NGHIA, Quang Ngai in 1964. One-third of the strength of the battalion consisted of North Vietnamese including cadre and soldiers and the remainder were South Vietnamese. The battalion is well-trained and has received many awards and promotions. The 83d is trained in raid, ambush and attack tactics. The battalion has received training in various night tactics involving raiding, harrassing and sabotage of bridges and friendly installations. Members of the battalion have attended various training courses conducted by the Quang NGAI province Politico - Military Training School headed by Tran Mat, former commander of the 48th LF Infantry Battalion, located north of Duc Pho. Squad and platoon level courses at the school consists of teaching fire and maneuver and basic combat tactics. The battalion will normally deploy its companies to operate independently to harrass friendly outposts and installations. At times the battalion will assemble the units to conduct a coordinated attack using indirect fire to cover their approach and then attack from two to three sides at once. Companies of the battalion will at times coordinate with supporting units and local force elements in the area to conduct attacks on villages, outposts, and friendly installations. Its estimated strength is now 350. A summary of its engagements is contained in Appendix 1 to Annex B (Intelligence).

(4) C-219 LF Company

Information concerning tactics, history and current engagements TBP.

2. EEI and Other Intelligence Requirements

a. EEI

(1) Are VC elements in vicinity of defensive area, if so, where and in what strength?

(2) Do VC elements have the capability of launching harrassing mortar attacks? If so, when and to what extent.

b. Other Intelligence Requirements

Are mines and booby traps being utilized in area? If so, where, how many and what type?

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3. Orders and Requests for Information

a. Orders to attached and subordinate units

(1) A, B, C companies, 4th Bn 3d Inf

(a) Report as obtained identification strength and disposition of VC units in sector; special attention to regular NVA or main force VC combat units.

b. Patrol and ambush reports to Bn S2 as soon as practicable.

c. Disposition of PW and documents per SOP

d. Spot reports per SOP

(2) GS Platoon

(a) One section attached to B Co and one section to C Co.

(b) GS area coverage plans to Bn S2 prior to 1600 hrs daily.

4. All units report information as obtained. Negative reports required every 2 hours.

a. Strength, location, activity, unit identification and armament of VC units in contact.

b. Condition of roads, trails in sector

c. Location of tunnels, holes or caches in sector

d. Mines, booby traps and unusual devices in sector

5. Miscellaneous

a. Handling of civilian personnel. Captured civilians (detainees) will be processed as PW's until status has been verified.

b. Maps

(1) Automatic issue of prescribed allowances (basic load) of maps will be made by Bn S2.

(2) Units submit requests for map coverage in excess of allowances to this Hq, ATTN: S4.

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6. Counterintelligence

- a. Disseminate information of all operations only to those whose assigned duties require it, and then only to the extent necessary to accomplish a specific task.
- b. Establish secure planning areas and restrict entry to key personnel.
- c. Challenge and password for SOP.

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Appendix: 1. Enemy Engagements
 2. Light Data

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Appendix 1 (Enemy Engagements) to Annex B
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1. 97th Main Force Bn

A document captured during Malheur I indicated strength of the battalion was 424 in January 1967 and that the battalion consisted of the Hqs Co, three infantry companies and a combat support company. The battalion was in heavy contact with U.S. Forces during Operations Malheur I and II during April - July 1967.

24 Apr 67 Engaged vicinity BS 764 408 sustained 15 KIA
26 Apr 67 Engaged vicinity BS 743 423 sustained 22 KIA
18 Jun 67 Engaged vicinity BS 800 466 sustained 13 KIA, ICL
21 Jun 67 Engaged vicinity BS 741 595 sustained 71 KIA
25 Jun 67 Engaged vicinity BS 785 432 sustained 5 KIA
24 Jul 67 Engaged vicinity BS 782 438 sustained 10 KIA
20 Aug 67 Engaged vicinity BS 812 455 sustained 53 KIA

31 Oct 67 Coordinated with 83d LF Bn to attack Song Vo BS 695 635 and Cay Bua BS 691 647 Bridges. Battalion was ambushed by U.S. Forces while withdrawing and sustained 15 KIA

2. 83d LF Bn

11 Mar 67 Attacked regional force outpost in Mo Duc sustained 73 KIA
Strength 433

5 Apr 67 Engaged in Duc Pho sustained 81 KIA
Jun 67 Engaged in Pho Xuan
Jun 67 Engaged in Duc Pho - 3 KIA
Jul 67 Engaged in Duc Pho - 2 KIA
Aug 67 Engaged in Duc Pho - 2 KIA
9 Aug 67 Engaged in NGHIA THANH - 65 KIA

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1 Sep 67 Engaged in NGHIA HANH - 17 KIA
5 Sep 67 Engaged in NGHIA HANH - 5 KIA
16 Sep 67 Combined with C-19 to attack Duc Hai Op
31 Oct 67 Combined with 97th IF to attack Song Ve - 4 KIA

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Appendix 2 (Light Data) to Annex B
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ILLUMINATION DATA

<u>DATE</u>	<u>BMNT</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>BENT</u>	<u>MR</u>	<u>MS</u>	<u>% ILLUMINATION</u>
18	0615	0703	1819	1907	1924	0809	99
19	0616	0704	1820	1908	2021	0902	96
20	0616	0704	1820	1908	2118	0951	91
21	0617	0705	1821	1909	2215	1037	84
22	0617	0705	1821	1909	2310	1119	75
23	0618	0706	1822	1909	6	1159	66
24	0618	0706	1822	1910	0005	1237	55
25	0618	0707	1822	1910	0100	1316	44
26	0619	0707	1823	1911	0158	1357	33
27	0619	0708	1824	1912	0254	1441	22
28	0620	0708	1824	1913	0356	1531	13
29	0621	0709	1825	1914	0502	1626	06
30	0621	0709	1825	1914	0608	1727	02
31	0622	0710	1826	1915	0714	1831	00

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(d) Increase US/GVN influence over hamlet areas.

(7) Be prepared to conduct psywar operations and civic action activities on order.

e. Co D:

(1) Conduct CA on order 4 Jan 68 and commence S&D operations to destroy enemy units, guerrillas and VC infrastructure in 4-3 AO.

(2) Be prepared to provide tactical security for Hwy 1 in 4-3 Inf AO.

(3) Be prepared to conduct operations to:

(a) Provide support of Revolutionary Development.

(b) Deny needed food stuffs to the enemy.

(c) Protect VN Nationals against reprisals.

(d) Increase US/GVN influence over hamlet areas.

(4) Be prepared to conduct psywar operations and civic activities on order.

f. Co E(-): Organize, coordinate, and rehearse reaction force operation in the CARENTAN perimeter.

g. Recon Plat: Bn reaction force. Be prepared for employment within CARENTAN perimeter as counterattack force within 15 min after notification.

h. Grd Survl: Establish radar sites to scan bridge vic coord 838864; road from bridge to Dronce and beach area vic Troop E(-) sector.

i. 6th Spt Bn (CARENTAN perimeter defense element):

(1) Organize and defend assigned sector with a minimum of 40 personnel effective 2 Jan 68.

(2) Perimeter defense element OPCON 4-3 Inf for security of CARENTAN only.

j. Troop E(-):

(1) Organize and defend assigned sector effective 2 Jan 68.

(2) Elements OPCON 4-3 Inf for security of CARENTAN only.

(3) OPCON one (1) APC to Co C 4-3 for security of CARENTAN Bridge coord 838864 effective 3 Jan 68.

k. HHC, 11th Inf Bde (CARENTAN perimeter defense element).

(1) Organize and defend sector with a minimum of 20 personnel effective 4 Jan 68.

(2) Perimeter defense element OPCON 4-3 Inf for security of CARENTAN only.

l. Coordinating instructions:

(1) Boundaries are FCLs.

(2) Coordination between commanders for defense of CARENTAN is directed.

(3) CARENTAN defense elements render SITREPs every hour on the hour to 4-3 Inf Bn TOC during hours of darkness. Negative SITREPs required.

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