

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

Copy 1 of 8 Copies
HQ 4-3 Inf
LZ BUFF (BS541825) RVN
131400H Feb 69
PAC

FRAGORD 1-69 to OPORD 2-69, HQ 4-3 Inf

Reference: No change.

1. Task Organization:

Co A/4-3 Inf
Tm VN National Police

HHC (-)/4-3 Inf

Battalion Control

Co B/4-3 Inf
Tm VN National Police

Recon Platoon
Platoon H Trp 17th CAV
Tm VN National Police

Co C/4-3 Inf

Co D/4-3 Inf

Co E/4-3 Inf (-)

2. 4-3 Inf conducts cordon and offensive sweep operations vic BS700800 to find and destroy VC main/local force units and VC village infrastructure.

3. Co A:

- a. 140815H Feb 69 conduct CA from coordinates BS530830 to LZ #1 (BS709818) and LZ #2 (BS719811).
- b. Conduct offensive search and sweep operations vic BS709818 and BS719-811 to the South West.

4. Co B:

- a. 140845H Feb 69 conduct CA from LZ BUFF to LZ #1 (BS695801), LZ #2 (BS686785), and LZ #3 (BS682797).
- b. Conduct offensive search and sweep operations vic BS695801, BS686785, and BS682797 to the North East.

5. Co C: Continue present mission.

6. Co D:

- a. Secure PZ (BS530830) for Co A and then close on LZ BUFF morning of 14 Feb 69.
- b. Secure and improve defensive positions on LZ BUFF.

7. Co E (-):

- a. Recon Platoon: Set up blocking force from coordinates BS705784 to

Group 4:

CONFIDENTIAL

Downgrade at 3 yr intervals
Declassified after 12 yrs.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- BS717789 and screen to the North East with APC's from H Trp 17th CAV.
b. Hvy Mort Plat: GS from BS728763. *HVY MORT PLAT (-) support LZ BUFF*
c. GS Sec; GS LZ BUFF.

8. Coordinating Instructions:

- a. Co B will coordinate fires vic NFL.
b. River West of 73 NS grid line belongs to ARVN's. No firing at personnel on river in the area.

Acknowledge.

Davis

DAVIS
LTC

Annex A: Intelligence and Overlay

Annex B: Operations Overlay

Distribution: S

OFFICIAL:

Tully
TULLY
S3

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

Annex A: Intelligence

1. ENEMY SITUATION:

a. **Enemy Military Situation:** Local enemy forces have enjoyed relative freedom of movement except for infrequent friendly operations by ARVN and Americal Division elements, the most recent being RUSSELL BEACH (13 Jan 69 to 8 Feb 69). The area is VC dominated, and their control was uncontested by GVN until operation RUSSELL BEACH. Everyone should be considered as either VC or a sympathizer and all men of military age must be considered as members of VC forces in the area. The AO is the principal operating area of the 48th LF Battalion, and has been the operating area and base camp area for the past two years. This battalion has approximately 200 VC. The battalion is normally deployed by companies within the hamlets and villages in this area.

b. **Air and Air Defense.** The only air defense weapons the VC are known to possess are 30 Caliber machine guns, automatic weapons and small arms.

c. **Availability of Reinforcements.** Enemy forces available to reinforce within 3 hours are the 38th LF Battalion and the T-18 LF company.

d. **Tactics:** The enemy throughout the area can be expected to attack by fire small allied forces, conduct sniper fire on helicopters and employ mines and surprise firing devices in great numbers to harrass friendly units. When large allied units have moved into the area, the VC and local guerrillas have gone into hiding in tunnels and caves or mingle with the local populace, even joining the refugee streams. They do not oppose friendly troops except by mining, ambushes, sniper fire, and occasional mortar attacks. Small patrols are subject to ambushes. If the enemy is surprised, past experience has indicated that his initial confusion and disorganization can result in large numbers of KIA's and PW's, however, he will recover quickly and resort to his evasion practices.

2. ENEMY CAPABILITIES:

a. **Capability #1** Attack within the AO with elements of one local force battalion and one local force company with possible reinforcements by one local force battalion. He would give special consideration to the early stages of the operation concentrating on one weak point in an attempt to break through our lines.

b. **Capability #2** Defend within the AO from prepared trenches, tunnels and fighting holes with all or part of the units mentioned above.

c. **Capability #3** Evade direct or sustained contact with allied forces by mingling with the local populace and hiding in prepared tunnel complexes located throughout our AO and resorting to small actions to include probes, ambushes, mining and surprise firing devices and harrassment with sniper fire and mortar fire.

d. **Capability #4** Withdraw by infiltrating his forces at the begining through

Group 4:

Downgrade at 3 yr intervals
Declassified after 12 yrs.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL

through friendly ground positions, across the rivers or along the heavily wooded areas to undetermined areas under VC control.

3. CONCLUSIONS:

a. The enemy will probably adopt capability #3 Evade. He can conceal himself due to his ability to blend with the local population and have their support. His knowledge of the terrain. His evasion tactics including hiding of weapons not used in harrassing attacks and his knowledge of allied combat operation in which the forces do not remain in the area for long periods of time.

b. The enemy will also probably adopt capability #4 Withdrawal. His knowledge of routes of escape will enable him to reach prepared caves and tunnels if given time and he is patient in waiting underground for sustained periods of time.

c. S-2 Comment: It is felt if trapped the enemy would defend to the last man.

4. TERRAIN STUDY:

a. The AO is predominately flat with an average elevation of 10 to 30 meters and one mountain BS698822 (elevation 108 meters) and one peak BS693797 (elevation 61 meters); Virtually the entire lowland is covered with rice paddies and dryland fields, walled by dikes up to two feet in height. Paddies on sloping ground are characteristically terraced and roughly rectangular in shape.

b. Drainage: The principal drainage media in the AO is the Song Diem River and the Song Ham Giang River. These rivers vary in width from approximately 10 meters to 100 meters and range in depth from 1.2 meters to 2 meters. The bottoms are silty sand or gravel with a few areas of mud. Drainage in this area is excellent.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
CONFIDENTIAL