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HQ 4-3 Inf
LZ BRONCO
011400 May 1971
GFD-48

OPORD 6-71

Reference: Maps, South Vietnam: 1:50,000; Series L7014: Sheets 6639I, 6640II, 6739IV and 6740III.

(C) TASK ORGANIZATION:

A 4-3 Inf	Bn Control
B 4-3 Inf	Recon
C 4-3 Inf	4.2
D 4-3 Inf	C 1-14 Arty (DS)

1. (C) SITUATION:

a. Enemy Forces: Annex A, Intelligence.

b. Friendly Forces:

- (1) 198th Bde conducts combat operations to locate, destroy VC forces, interdict enemy movement in the AO and maintain liaison with local Vietnamese forces.
- (2) 5th ARVN Regt conducts combat operations north of the Bn AO.
- (3) 1-6 Inf (US) conducts combat operations south of the Bn AO.

2. (C) MISSION: 4-3 Inf moves from LZ Bronco to Tam Ky, upon arrival at Tam Ky passes OPCON to 198th Bde, Bn stages at Tam Ky for combat assaults into AO; upon completion of CA, Bn assumes responsibility for AO from 5-46 Inf, establishes a forward fire base at FSB Professional and conducts search and ambush patrols in Bn AO.

3. (C) EXECUTION:

a. Concept of Operation. Annex B, Operations Overlay.

(1) Maneuver. 4-3 Inf conducts air move from LZ Bronco commencing 020800 May 71 to Tam Ky, RVN; upon arrival at Tam Ky Bn prepares for and conducts combat assaults vicinity FSB Professional. Order of move will be A, B, Bn Fwd CP and E, C and D Co's.

(2) Fires:

- (a) All LZ's will receive an Arty prep prior to the insertion of troops.
- (b) Priority of fires will be to the unit involved in air move.

b. A Co:

(1) Conducts air move to Tam Ky, RVN beginning at 020800 May 71.

(2) Conducts CA from Tam Ky, RVN to LZ1 (BT141088) and LZ2 (BT137078); conducts squad-size search and ambush patrols in AO thereafter.

c. B Co:

(1) Conducts air move to Tam Ky, RVN following move of A Co.

(2) Conducts CA from Tam Ky, RVN to LZ3 (BT236054) and LZ4 (BT231061); conducts squad-size search and ambush patrols in AO thereafter.

d. C Co:

(1) Conducts air move to Tam Ky, RVN following move of Bn Fwd CP and E Co.

(2) Conducts CA from Tam Ky, RVN to LZ6 (BT210088), LZ7 (BT206098) and LZ3 (BT 225097); conducts squad-size search and ambush patrols in assigned AO thereafter.

e. D Co:

(1) Conducts air move to Tam Ky, RVN following move of C Co.

(2) Conducts CA from Tam Ky, RVN to LZ9 (BT168083); conducts local security patrols thereafter.

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(3) On order moves to FSB Professional by foot movement, assumes responsibility for FSB security.

f. Recon:

- (1) Conducts air move to Tam Ky, RVN following move of B Co.
- (2) Conducts CA from Tam Ky, RVN to LZ5 (BT187050); thereafter conducts team-size recon and ambush patrols in AO.

g. 4.2 Heavy Mortar: Conducts air move to Tam Ky initially then on to FSB Professional; upon arrival at FSB Professional platoon will be in GS.

h. Coordinating Instructions:

- (1) Order of movement is A, B, Bn Fwd and E Co, C and D Co's.
- (2) All personnel will fill out an emergency data card prior to loading air craft; to be provided by S-3.
- (3) First company in order of move will arrive at Bronco air strip no later than 020700 May 71.
- (4) Combat assault aircraft will be 10 slicks, 2 gunships and 1 AMC. Planning ACL will be 5.

4. (C) SUPPLY AND SERVICES:

a. Supply:

- (1) 3 day resupply cycle in effect. Units will limit resupply requests to ammunition, rations, water and emergency items only.
- (2) Forward resupply area will be established at FSB Professional, rear will be at Bn rear area, Chu Lai.
- (3) Resupply schedule to be published.
- (4) Bn rear will close out of Bronco and move to Chu Lai on order.

b. Services:

- (1) Adequate supply of malaria tablets and salt tablets will be carried and consumed in accordance with Bn SOP and Div regulations.
- (2) S-4 has staff responsibility for close out of rear area, rear detachments coordinate directly with Bn S-4.
- (3) Mess will provide coffee at Bronco air strip.

5. (C) COMMAND AND SIGNAL:


a. Command: FSB Professional (BT172081)

b. Signal:

- (1) Current SOI in effect.
- (2) Reports: SOP.
- (3) CA frequency: Secure plain.
- (4) Contact at Tam Ky for coordination of PZ, Market 88B, S-3 NCO.


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ANNEX A, INTELLIGENCE
ANNEX B, OPERATIONS OVERLAY
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ANNEK A to OFORD 6-71

Reference: Maps, South Vietnam: 1:50,000; Series L7014: Sheets 6639I, 6640II, 6739IV and 6740III.

I. GENERAL INTELLIGENCE:

1. The terrain in the battalion's area of operations (AO) as well as the battalion's Tactical Area of Interest (TAOI) is very similar to that of the Iron Mountain area. It varies from rice paddies in the low lands to double and triple canopy jungle at the higher elevations. It includes brush wood, bamboo and elephant grass and presents no major difficulty for navigation or movement. The dominant terrain features in the AO are: the ridgeline formed by hills 497, 593, 488 and 493 which parallels the southern boundary of the AO along the 03 grid line; the Song Tien, Song Bong Mieu and Suoi Tre stream complexes which provides most of the drainage in the area and also fairly accurately delineates the enemy's infiltration and resupply routes in the area; and the extensive trail network in the AO (see trail overlay) dominated by the trafficable road which runs from the vicinity of LZ Pleasantville (BT0506) east across the AO along the 07 grid line to HT2207 at which point it turns south along the Song Bong Mieu and joins a trail network leading farther east paralleling the Tam Ky-Hay Duc district border, and north, as well, along the Suoi Tre (and continues generally northeast terminating at QL-1 in the populated areas around Tam Ky.) There are relatively few booby traps in the battalion's AO except for on LZ Professional where several booby trap incidents have been reported since the fire base has been reopened. Farther to the east in the more populated areas a greater number of booby traps can be expected. Lead and zinc mines such as the one at Co Bay (BT254035) constitute the chief man-made features in the AO aside from the roads. The mines are French made and largely unplotted even on captured French maps. In the past the enemy has used these mines for caches, base camps, etc. and generally they are well-concealed and well-fortified.

2. The enemy units in the battalion's TAOI are:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>STRENGTH</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
C-7 LF Co	19	BT1615	06 Apr 71	Agent report
C-9 LF Co	12	BT1528	24 Feb 71	Agent report
D-11 LF Bn	174	BT1809	19 Apr 71	Agent report
V-12 LF Co	45	BT1823	17 Feb 71	Agent report
V-14 LF Co	62	BT3014	05 Apr 71	Agent report
V-15 LF Co	15	BT2048	24 Feb 71	Agent report
V-16 Sapper Co	30	HT2212	14 Apr 71	Agent report
V-18 LF Co	40	HT2712	11 Mar 71	Agent report
V-20 LF Co	64	HT3708	14 Apr 71	Agent report
70th LF Bn	211	HT1223	19 Apr 71	Agent report
72nd LF Bn	233	BT1522	19 Apr 71	Agent report
74th LF Hvy Wpns Bn	220	BT1821	04 Apr 71	Agent report
78th MF Rkt (Arty) Co	90	BT3900	18 Apr 71	Agent report
402nd MF Sapper Bn (-)	210	BS4097	17 Apr 71	Agent report
409th MF Sapper Bn (-)	269	BT2301	22 Apr 71	Agent report

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3. The major enemy units in the battalion's AO are the 409th Sapper Battalion, the V-16 Sapper Company and the D-11 Local Force Infantry Battalion.

a. The 409th Sapper Battalion which is directly subordinate to MR-5 is comprised of 4 sapper companies, numbered 1 through 4, and a headquarters company. The 409th is also known as D-68, Bac Song Worksite, Cong Ty, Thon Bung 121, K-5 Sapper Unit, 575 Bn and 307th Bn. The battalion's weapons and equipment include 81 and 82mm mortars, B-40 rockets, 7 60mm mortars, 2 122mm rocket launchers and 3 57mm recoilless rifles.

b. The 409th Sapper Bn was activated in June 1964, in the Nuoc Che area of Kontum Province, II OTZ. It was formed from the 406th and 403rd VC Sapper Companies and was subordinate to MR-5 Headquarters. The unit has operated in Quang Tin Province since it moved from Darlac Province in 1966. In March 1967, the 409th Bn received 200 personnel from the 262nd Infiltration Bn. Shortly thereafter, it detached two companies which formed the nucleus of the 409th VC Sapper Bn. In Oct 1967, the Bn attacked the Binh Son District Headquarters. It remained out of contact from Oct 67 until Jan 1968, when elements attacked the Ly Tin District Hqs. On 31 Jan, the Bn took part in a coordinated attack on Quang Ngai City and sustained heavy casualties. On 6 Jan 1970, the Bn attacked FSB Ross (HT027343) and sustained moderate losses. Prior to attack on FSB Ross the 4th Co was given orders from MR-5 to form the 402nd Bn and told it would operate south of Chu Lai. At present the 409th MF Sapper Bn is located vic north central Quang Tin (P). The 409th is also credited with the recent attack on FSB Maryann and is also known to attack new fire bases and recently reopened ones. The battalion operates throughout the entire province generally supported by a local force infantry unit, acting directly under the control of MR-5.

c. The V-16 Local Force Sapper Company (recently downgraded from a battalion) is subordinate to VC Quang Nam Provincial Headquarters. Little is known about the V-16 Sapper Company except that it is trained by the 409th Sapper Main Force Battalion. However, V-16 was formed in December 1967 from the V-16 Local Force Company and other (GVN) Quang Tin Province forces. Its normal AO is the Thang Binh/Barrier Island area. The weapons and equipment of V-16 include AK-47's, B-40 and B-41 rockets, 57mm recoilless rifles and 1 60mm mortar.

d. Very little is known about the D-11 Battalion except that it is local force (subordinate to VC Quang Nam Province Headquarters), under strength (possibly to a company) and operating just north of LZ Professional.

4. Enemy initiated activity was light during the reporting period and was characterized by SAF, B-40 rocket and mine and booby trap incidents. Most enemy units remained in their normal AO during the reporting period. Numerous agent reports have indicated that at least one company of the 48th Bn is operating in the Batangan and is known to combine with 712 to attack OP's and hamlets in the area on an unknown date. Selected enemy units within the AO commenced the expected highpoint on the morning of 24 April. A continuation of this level of enemy activity is expected to continue through the evening of 24 April with AO wide coordination attacks expected to commence the evening of 25 April. Western Son Tinh and southwestern Binh Son districts are still expected to witness the majority of enemy activity during the highpoint. All district headquarters within the AO have been targeted.

Binh Son District Headquarters and Chu Lai Combat Base have both been heavily targeted. Both installations may very well witness limited sapper attacks along with mortar and rockets prior to the completion of the present enemy surge. Incidents of attempted loc interdiction along QL-1 the entire length of the AO should also be expected during this period.

Phase II of the enemy's B-81 campaign in the battalion TAOI which has its highpoint on 1-2 May is expected to be less severe than Phase I for 2 reasons; first is the intensity of Phase I during which enemy forces used vast quantities of ammunition and supplies (e.g. on Maryann) which they have been unable to replace completely; second is the repositioning

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of many elements of the enemy Quang Tin Province forces north in Que Son and Thang Binh districts of GVN Quang Nam Province thereby greatly diminishing their strength in the Tam Ky District.

II. RECENT ACTIVITY (07 March 1971 to 28 April 1971):

1. On 21 April 1971 D Company of the 1st Cav at BT242117 engaged 1 VC resulting in one VC KIA (No further information (NFI)).
2. On 21 April 1971 at BT225078 A Co 5-46 engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA. Captured equipment 5 pounds of rice and miscellaneous military equipment.
3. On 22 April 1971 at LZ Professional BT173078 E Co of the 5-46 detonated 1 M-16A1 antipersonnel mine that had a pressure firing device. Results 12 US WIA. Later that day E Co of the 5-46 found another M-16A1 antipersonnel mine at the above location.
4. On 25 April 1971 at BT232042 C/5-46 engaged 1 NVA resulting in 1 NVA KIA. Captured miscellaneous military equipment to include 15 chicom grenades which were destroyed.
5. On 26 April 1971 at BT213056 C/5-46 engaged unknown size enemy force resulting in the capture of 300 pounds of rice, 200 lbs of wheat, 50 lbs of salt, documents and miscellaneous military equipment. All of this was evacuated.
6. On 27 April 1971 at BT228041 C/5-46 had a mech detonate resulting in 1 VC KIA and the capture of miscellaneous military equipment. All of this was evacuated.
7. On 25 April 1971 at BT223037 the 198th Bde 71st Assault Helicopter Company engaged 3 VC resulting in 3 VC KIA.
8. On 25 April 1971 at BT223037 C/5-46 found and destroyed 34 chicom grenades, 1 satchel charge, two structures, 1 bunker and miscellaneous military equipment.
9. On 28 April 1971 at BT234032 C/5-46 engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA.
10. On 10 April 1971 at BT141049 Regional Force #258 engaged 1 VC squad resulting in 3 VC KIA and the capture of 1 AK-47 and 1 M-16.
11. On 9 April 1971 at BT114070 Regional Force #745 engaged 1 squad of VC resulting in 1 M-16 CIA and 2 VC KIA.
12. On 1 April 1971 at BT121057 Regional Force #745 engaged 1 squad of VC resulting in 4 VC KIA.
13. On 24 March 1971 at BT173097 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt found 3,000 rounds of small arms ammunition, 9 B-40's and 82mm mortar round. NFI.
14. On 23 March 1971 at BT174036 the 4th Bn 5th Rgt engaged 2 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA.
15. On 23 March 1971 at BT166080 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt had a mech detonate resulting in 3 VC KIA and miscellaneous military equipment CIA.
16. On 16 March 1971 at BT188017 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt detonated 1 mine resulting in 1 ARVN WIA.
17. On 11 March 1971 at BT187020 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt received sniper fire resulting in 1 ARVN WIA. The element returned fire resulting in 1 NVA KIA.
18. On 9 March 1971 at BT177022 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt ambushed 2 VC resulting in 2 VC KIA.
19. On 7 March 1971 at BT165038 the 4th Bn, 5th Rgt engaged 1 VC resulting in 1 VC KIA and miscellaneous documents CIA.
20. The following URI's have been reported in the battalion AO:

Date	Grid	Proximity
12 Apr 71	BT221020	1000m
21 Apr 71	BT212039	300m
22 Apr 71	BT190009	400m
22 Apr 71	BT253034	1200m
22 Apr 71	BT215123	2150m

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21. On 2 April 1971 at BT200128 D/1-1 Cav observed 1 hut, 1 bunker and 1 VC who attempted to evade. VC was engaged by gunships resulting in 1 VC KIA.

22. On 5 April 1971 at BT206114 D/1-1 Cav observed 6 bunkers and engaged with gunships. Results were unknown.

23. On 5 April 1971 at BT208117 D/1-1 Cav observed and engaged with gunships 8 huts resulting in 5 huts destroyed and 3 damaged.

24. On 20 April 1971 at BT244125 D/1-1 Cav observed 1 hut, 1 bunker and 1 tunnel which were engaged by gunship resulting in 1 bunker and 1 hut destroyed.

25. On 21 April 1971 at BT248118 D/1-1 Cav observed 2 huts and 1 VC who attempted to evade. The VC and the huts were engaged by gunship resulting in 2 huts destroyed and 1 VC KIA.

26. On 22 April 1971 at BT188029 D/1-1 Cav observed fires and numerous cultivated fields.

27. On 25 April 1971 at BT223037 D/1-1 Cav observed 3 VC attempting to evade. The VC were engaged by gunships resulting in 3 VC KIA.



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